

“In the Heart of the Community with the Community at Heart”



May 2011



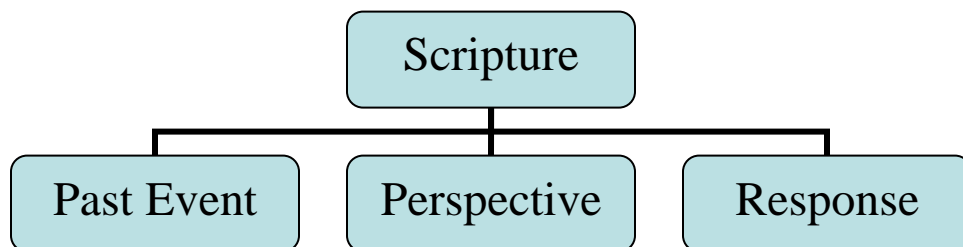
The Biblical Counselor's Corner

“I just can't seem to forget about the past. The things that have happened to me and the things I have done seem to linger over me, even control me. How do I get 'over it' and move on?” Part 3

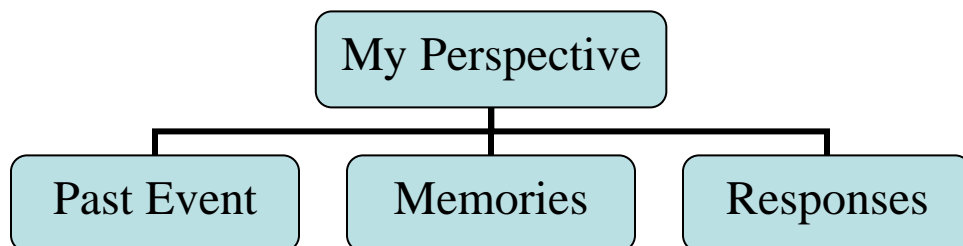
The past 2 months we have seen that the sinful fallen world is obsessed with the past and sees the past as the primary key to unlocking all the “mysteries” and solutions of our troubled present. The Bible says seeing the past through the lens of Scripture is the key to dealing with the past. Last month we learned that to correctly deal with the past we must **see the past as a theological problem**. Our past isn't just our past, but it is also God's past. History is His Story, not only mine. Now secondly to accurately and adequately deal with the past we must **biblically remember the past**. We must start with God and understand what the Bible says about Him. In order to do this we must **learn to ask biblical questions of the past**, not worldly psychological questions. Many Christians wrongly interpret *Romans 12:2* because they detach it from the context of *Romans 12:3*. The two verses say *“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.”* Paul exhorted the Roman Christians not to think of themselves the way the unbelieving world thinks of itself. Worldly thinking about self is inherently self-centered, but Paul's encouragement is to “think biblically” about the self. Why? If the extended context is followed, it is because we are part of a body of believers bigger than ourselves, and self-centered thinking is dangerous and destructive to the Body of Christ. When it comes to the past, worldly thinking asks, “Why wasn't God doing anything for me then? Why did this happen to me?” Insightful biblical thinkers ask “What was God doing then? How was God using what happened to make me more like Christ?” To biblically deal with the past we must ask “What for?” not “Why?” Secondly, to biblically remember the past we **must see the past as a teacher**. The past can teach us four things: 1. About the deceitfulness and danger of sin, (*1 Corinthians 10:6*), 2. About God's grace; 3. About life in a fallen world, and 4. About growth taking place always in the present. The bottom line is that God wants us to remember the past so that we will live for Him today. In the past we can see the themes of our sin and be warned, and we can see the themes of His grace and be encouraged. The significant thing is not that we have suffered or been sinned against, for this is the universal experience of every person living in a fallen world. The significance is that God is in control (we are not “scarred” as the world teaches) of the past and uses it for His glory and for our good. To biblically deal with the past we must believe that God has given His children everything needed to deal with the past, present, and

future. See *2 Peter 1:3-9*. No matter the circumstance we must resolve ourselves to focus on obeying God and not use the past as an excuse (*Psalms 34:12-14*). Perspective of the past is a heart issue. Perspective can be controlled and influenced (*Ezra 7:10; Colossians 3:1-2*). Our perspective reflects how strongly our convictions control our thinking. The struggle is that we often succumb to the temptation to allow our own personal perspective of the past to control our thinking and emotions rather than allowing Scripture to determine our perspective, thinking, emotions, and responses to what has happened in the past.

Correct Process



Incorrect Process



Each person's history is the story of a Sovereign God who is perfectly good and in control. Change is possible because it always takes place in the present. The Bible says "**Today** if you hear His voice." The Bible does not teach about a subconscious or unconscious, or an emotional pool which drives behavior. We don't need to "re-live" the past or "heal memories." We need the past and our memories to be shaped by Scripture. Christians do not live with a "deficit" from the past because our God is God of the past and He has given us everything we need to triumphantly live in the present! We have not been given more than we can bear; we have been given hope! We are not victims; we are His workmanship! (*1 Corinthians 10:13; Ephesians 2:10*)



11005 Foster Rd.
Norwalk, CA 90650

www.gracelive.com

Join us for our...

Mother's Day Worship Service

May 8, 2011
10:45 am

Our Children's Choir
will be singing two songs.

NO PM SERVICE

MAY 2011 MONTHLY EVENT CALENDAR

The ROCK

Raising Our Children
for the King -
Children's Ministries on
Wednesday evenings at
6:30 pm - Kidmo room
**COME HEAR
MORE ABOUT
MISSIONS.**

College/Young Adult

Small Group

May 7th & 21st

7:30 - 9:00 pm

Room: 6B

DRIVEN NEWS

Our DRIVEN youth
ministries meet
Wednesday evenings
at 6:30 pm in the
Fellowship
Hall. All youth are
welcome to attend.
Please see the
DRIVEN page for
more details.

MOMENTUM
2011
July 12-17
Johnstown, PA

WOMEN OF GRACE

*Join the Women of
Grace for their May
meeting on the 10th at
6:30pm in room 6B
(Lesson: Ch. 17)
*Plan to attend the
WOG District Rally -
May 14 at Bellflower
GBC at 9:45am.

Ladies Ministries
Plan to come to our
May 21th event at 5pm
- Care packages for
our troops & Chili dogs.
See you there!

MISSION NEWS...

WAYNE & ELLEN PATTON

BRAZIL MINISTRY UPDATE

The plans for our home ministry in 2011 are moving forward. We will be visiting 22 churches on this trip and a few individual supporters. Most of our time will be spent in the Ohio area, but there is a special trip planned to take us coast to coast. We will arrive in June and stay to the end of the year.

As missionaries we must keep our cost very low and we do this by borrowing things. Some of the things we need to borrow on this home ministries are the following: automobile, notebook computer, clothing for the boys, bicycles & fishing gear...

Pray for our time back as we travel and share our ministry with people. We are looking to add an additional 100 individual financial partners this year.

(They will be here with us on November 6.)

From PATTON'S EMAIL

PATTY MORRIS

FRANCE MINISTRY UPDATE

Spring is here and the sun is delightful. Although it may be a bit premature, last Friday I planted geraniums in my balcony boxes and in two pots. This last week the "Grand Lyon" cut down all the trees on the street in front of my apartment building. They recently started a project in which they plan to add a bike path, widen the sidewalks and replant trees (they planted them too close to the buildings and they have to trim them too often). Anyway, the new trees won't be planted until towards the end of 2012. In the meantime it promises to be a hot summer, especially since every 10 years the trees are trimmed way back in the garden behind my building... and that also happened a couple of months ago.

PRAISES:

In my last update I asked you to pray for the church planting points of the Lyon-Villeurbanne church. On April 8, the group in Chazay will host a jazz concert that will be a first contact with some people and follow up for others. They plan to hold

services once a month in April, May and June. There has been a children's club there for several years. Pray for hearts to be reached with the Gospel. On April 17, the group in Pont de Chéruy will also hold a service **(for more details, check out Patty's new newsletter out on the missionary table.)**

^..^
((()))~

From PATTY'S EMAIL

CECIL & DEBBIE O'DELL

TOKYO MINISTRY UPDATE

Today the door has swung wide open again for God's people to once again speak into the broken hearts of the Japanese as they mourn the loss of more than 11,000 loved ones and more than 10,000 still missing. But when you stop and pray for this nation as a whole, this is only a drop in the bucket compared to the 127,000,000 (99% of Japan) who are facing a Christ-less eternity unless they are given ears to hear and eyes to see and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

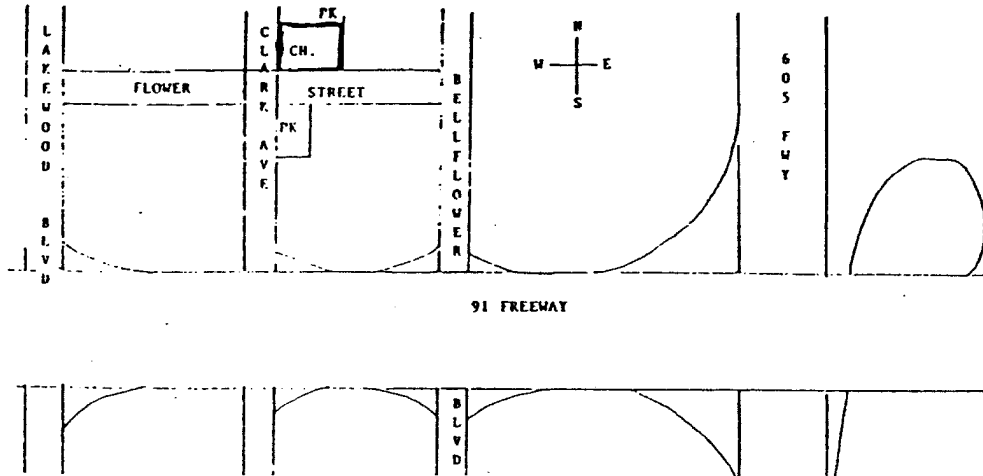
The Japanese need your prayers more than ever before. Pray that the seed (God's Word) will fall on good soil (Japanese hearts that are ready to believe) those *with a noble and good heart*, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop. (Luke 8:15, emphasis added).

God's people in Japan along with many missionaries will need support, prayer and encouragement for many months or years to come as they labor and battle to reach a nation who does not know our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

From O'DELLS EMAIL

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA – ARIZONIA DISTRICT

**WOMEN OF GRACE
SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2011
BELLFLOWER BRETHREN CHURCH
9405 E. FLOWER STREET
(562) 925-6561**



REGISTRATION – 9:30 AM

RALLY BEGINS – 10:00 AM

PROGRAM – DVD's of the work that Jim Hocking and his African helpers in Central Africa are doing through ICDI.

PROJECT – ICDI- Water well drilling projects. Goal \$350

DATES TO REMEMBER;

Momentum July 12-17

National Conference July 24-29

Rally October 1, 2011 Norwalk

Women's Retreat November 11-13

DRIVEN 2011

youth ministries

WE.CARE.2011

Two weeks ago, we wrapped up the Prophecy Conference with Pastor Micah Winefeld and were reminded of the nearness of the rapture and Christ's second coming. I was reminded (and hopefully you were too) of the urgency we should have as Christ-followers to be proclaiming the good news of Christ. For the last four months, we have been building relationships with those on Lefloss Avenue and it is evident that God is preparing the hearts of many for the harvest. If you have not had a chance to join us, then make plans to come on Sunday, May 22nd as we head to Lefloss Ave for WE CARE'S 7-minute servants.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CAME TO OUR SHAVE-IT FUNDRAISER. WE WERE ABLE TO RAISE \$105 TOWARDS MOMENTUM YOUTH CONFERENCE..

TALENT.SHOW

It is finally here again! Our annual DRIVEN Youth Talent Show. Plan to join us on Wednesday, May 25th at 6:30pm as we display our unique talents. Sign up on Wednesday @ DRIVEN.



There's No Substitute For Quality

Join us for our next fundraiser night at THE HABIT Burger Grill in Norwalk. 20% of all sales will go back to the DRIVEN Youth Group. Located at Imperial Highway & San Antonio Drive.

Month @ A Glance

GIRLS' DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

7:00pm - 8:00pm
Every Tuesday Night

DRIVEN WEDNESDAY

6:30pm - 8:00pm
Every Wednesday Night

WORSHIP TEAM PRACTICE

8:00pm - 9:00pm
Every Wednesday Night

DRIVEN LEADERSHIP TEAM

4:00pm - 6:00pm
Sunday, May 1st

"WE CARE" OUTREACH

12:00pm-2:30pm
Sunday, May 22nd

DINNER NIGHT OUT FUNDRAISER

5:00p - 9:00p
Monday, May 23rd
@ "The HABIT" in Norwalk

CRAZY DRIVEN TALENT SHOW

6:30p - 8:00p
Wednesday, May 25th

Important Dates

Friday, June 10th – Fundraiser @ SHAVE-IT ICE in Norwalk

Sunday, June 12th – Final Deadline for Momentum Funds

Saturday, July 9th – Leaving for Momentum Youth Conference

MAY 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
01 9a Children's Choir (New members Sunday School begins today) 4-6p DRIVEN Leadership 6:00p – 1st Qtr. Business Mtg.	02	03 Lilia Gonzalez Robin Predmore 7:00p Girls' Discipleship 7:00p Ladies' study – teacher's lounge	04 FAMILY NIGHT: 6:30p DRIVEN/ROCK & ABS 8:00p Worship Team Practice	05	06 Sabrina Randolph 7:00p Parenting Bible Study – 6B; child care in Music room	07 9:00a – MANDATORY Children's Choir practice 7:30 – 9:00p College/ Young Adult – 6B
08 MOTHERS DAY Jean Heye 9a Children's Choir MOTHERS DAY WORSHIP SERVICE Children's Choir – 2 songs NO PM SERVICE	09	10 Lois Porter 6:30p Women of Grace – 6B 7:00p Girls' Discipleship	11 FAMILY NIGHT: 6:30p DRIVEN/ROCK & ABS 8:00p Worship Team Practice	12	13 Gian Gonzalez (Tim Lansing at CE National Mtgs. 13-15)	14 Steven & Christy Randolph 9:45a Women of Grace District Rally – Bellflower 12-4p Gian's Birthday FH
15 Gian Gonzalez's Baby Dedication 5:00p CE Commission & Fellowship Comm.	16	17 Scott & Caroll Perkins Alyssa Janssen 7:00p Girls' Discipleship 7:00p Ladies' study 7:00p Elder Board	18 Loretta Rose FAMILY NIGHT: 6:30p DRIVEN/ROCK & ABS 8:00p Worship Team Practice	19	20 10:00a Evang./ Missions Comm. Mtg.	21 David Goodwyn 8a-12p CHURCH WORK DAY 5:00p Ladies' Ministries – Care packages – 6B 7:30 – 9:00p College/ Young Adult – 6B
22 Tim & Janine Lansing 12-2:30p – WE CARE Sunday (7 min. servants) 7:00p Deacon Board	23 Stephanie Jones 5-9:00p DRIVEN Fundraiser – “The Habit” in Norwalk (corner of Imperial and San Antonio)	24 7:00p Girls' Discipleship	25 FAMILY NIGHT: 6:30p DRIVEN/ROCK & ABS 8:00p Worship Team Practice	26	27	28
29 Speaker: Jeff Kran 5:00p Care Comm.	30	31 7:00p Girls' Discipleship				FH = Fellowship Hall ** LADIES TEA MOVED TO OCTOBER