

cornerstone news

praises announcements news updates information prayers



Worship the Lord with Us

Sunday Mornings

10:00 Sunday School for All Ages

11:30 Worship Service
(Nursery care is available)

12:30 Lunch & Fellowship

Church Ministries

Cornerstone Connections

Chinese Language Class

Church Choir

Sports Ministry

HUGS (Homes Under God's Spirit)

Fellowship for Families & Young Adults

Men's & Women's Bible Studies

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)

New Life Bible Study for Seniors

Praise Band

Youth Groups: (Jr High & High School)

("AM/PM" A Methodist People Machine)
Ext. 777 (College)



Reaching out to the community

2050 Valencia Ave
Placentia, CA 92870-2040
phone: 714.528.3068
website: c-umc.info

Jerry Owyang, Pastor
Office Hours: Mon. thru Thurs.
9:30 AM to 5:00 PM
cell: 714 287-8221
pastorjko@sbcglobal.net

Karl Freeman, Youth Director
cell: 714-482-7590

Kay Lee, Newsletter Editor
Audrey Yee, Assistant to Editor



Mission News

by Wei-ling Louie, Chairperson

SCHOOL KITS FOR UMCOR

In September, we had quite a few extra school supplies so we purchased enough fabric to make up another 29 school kits which were finished up and then sent to the UMCOR West Office Depot in Salt Lake City for distribution to needy school children around the world.

COVENANT RELATIONSHIP MISSIONARY

Our September Mission offering was directed to our church's Covenant Relationship Missionary Dr. Elma T. Jocson who has finished her pediatric surgery residency and is excited about going to Liberia in West Africa as her next mission assignment.

KYRGYZSTAN ORPHANAGE PRESENTATION



Charlie & Minnie's son and daughter-in-law, Brian and Nicole Lou came to church in

September and gave a very poignant presentation on the plight of the orphans in Kyrgyzstan. We've set up a fund for them to help when they go back again, hopefully to get their adopted son Aiden.

UMCOR DISASTER RELIEF

Several emergency needs became evident when earthquakes, tsunamis and hurricanes damaged areas in the Samoa, Philippines and Indonesia so our October Mission offering was

directed to the UMCOR Disaster Relief Advance # 982450. Our November mission offering will be directed to H.I.S. House in Placentia. H.I.S. House was started by the Placentia Presbyterian Church as the Homeless Intervention Shelter House. It has been providing shelter to families and individuals who are homeless, but have the motivation and capability, with assistance to regain self-sufficiency since 1989. Residents stay from 4-6 months while they develop a source of permanent income and save money for housing. H.I.S. House provides weekly case management meetings, counseling, employment guidance, childcare, classes in finance and other life skills, as well as a homelike environment where residents can live while looking for work.

THRESHOLD MINISTRIES INC. VISIT

Erinn Copeland and several helpers will be coming to church on Nov. 8th to keep us all up to date on the Hope House Orphanage in Linjiang, China. Many of our members have sponsored children and this would be a great time to hear more about the orphanage and all the wonderful things that are happening for these special children.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Selina Yee ordered 100 Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes from Samaritan's Purse and they are ready for you to pick up at church. Connection groups or individuals may contact Selina for the number of boxes they would like to fill and return by NOV. 15th. Several Connection Groups have already made reservations to work at the Orange County distribution center already. Volunteers must be 13 years or older. Groups work in 4 hour sessions. Please contact Selina or Bob Yee for

Continued on page 3 – Missions



Running Downhill

*The Spirit in me greets
the Spirit in you.*

When I was little, my grandfather took me to Portsmouth Square, a park in San Francisco Chinatown, where I loved running to chase pigeons on a grassy knoll! I loved to run as a kid—up and down hilly streets with my cousins; across the street to my friend's house; to home from school. But I can recall never running faster and more effortlessly than when I was running downhill. I can still hear the flapping sound of my PF Flyers tennis shoes on the sidewalk as I crested the top of a hill. No matter how tired I was, it felt like I was running in a different gear. No effort. No strain.

Now that I'm older, I often thought of those times. Wouldn't it be great to have the same effortless feeling when it comes to work or living life? To somehow be able to have that good feeling when life was met with the same "no-problem" mindset as running down a grassy hill! In saying that, though, I am aware that there will be days when the mental and physical output needed to do a job can leave your tank completely empty. The truth is that even running downhill requires a strong effort to stop. But I guess that's my point: having a job or lifestyle that requires more effort to stop at the end of the day is better than one that requires more effort to start at the beginning of the day.

Does such a life exist? Try looking into your heart and ask yourself a few questions like, what gifts, talents and strengths do I possess? What is it that I love to do that, to me, is as enjoyable as running downhill? God gives gifts and graces to enable us to be the best church we can possibly be. By church I mean the people of God living faithfully and fulfilling lives in the world. By gifts and graces I mean the God-given empowerment to make a meaningful difference in the world through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. By connecting with God's will for our lives, we experience a divine

grace to do what we are asked to do—a supernatural anointing, if you will, to do a job well. As a creation of God we need to give expression of the gifting God placed in us. What's with that?

Eric Liddell, the great missionary to China in the early 20th Century knew his calling was to preach the gospel. But he also knew he was fast enough to compete in the 1924 Summer Olympic Games. In the movie Chariots of Fire, he explains to his sister why giving expression to the gifts God had given him was so important. He said, "I know God wants me to preach, but he also made me fast. And when I run, I feel His pleasure." Doing what God puts in your heart to do gives God pleasure. And He shares that pleasure with you because that's the kind of God He is.

Where is it that you feel God's pleasure? If you long to know the grace of running downhill, maybe it's time you ask yourself a few questions and look to God. "All Scripture is inspired by God...so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Maybe then, the experience of running downhill can be yours.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Jerry †



**World
Communion
Sunday,
October 4,
2009**

"Sharing the love of Christ with our world!" was the theme for World Communion Sunday. What an awesome feeling to be connected to every other United Methodist church in the world! According to 2007 Worldwide Council of Churches statistics, there are 12 million United Methodists in 41,826 congregations in the U.S. In addition there are 8 million in Canada, and 3.5 million in Africa, Asia, and Europe! There we were, CUMC and PUMC, two local congre-

gations, breaking bread and sharing Christ's love on the same day as thousands of other congregations and millions of people were doing the same.

CUMC and PUMC went a step further. In true Methodist fashion, we shared our favorite finger foods and enjoyed the fellowship as we lunched together in a harvest-decorated dining hall. There is nothing like a Methodist Potluck!

World Communion Sunday truly reminds us of how the love of Christ touches us all. †



New Church Hours

The Cornerstone Church Campus comes alive at 10:00 A.M.! Whether you're 8 or 80, there is something for everyone. For the past month, that "something" has been a new beginning of enriching our minds, souls, and spirits. YOU are invited to own this enriching experience. Come and find out what's in store for you!

KID'S CLUB: PRESCHOOL TO 4TH GRADE

Matthew Chinn and crew are leading Bible games, activities and lessons with pizzazz. Find the Red Rm.

KFC (KIDS FOR CHRIST): 5TH AND 6TH GRADES.

Sheree Low, Cheryl Hasegawa, and Wendy Wong have things in store in the Green Room.

AMPM (YOUTH): JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL

Karl Freeman is the Christ caffeine for young minds in the Yellow Rm.

777, HUGS AND ADULTS: AKA 18 & ABOVE

Al Wong and Ed Joe are teaching together. Food, Fellowship, and Faith lessons combined in the Purple Room.

It's easy to give God an extra one hour of your Sunday by just getting out of bed an hour earlier! Try it—you'll love it! †



From the Editor

Jesus vs. Santa

Christmas is 55 days away. Yet, there are some thoughts we need to think about before the season begins. Thoughts that should be branded on our brain. Thoughts that should remain in our hearts forever. Thoughts that provoke other thoughts whenever you feel the rush of the holidays overtaking your daily routine. No one has expressed it better than the Rev. James Spellman, a pastor from Ohio. Perhaps you've read this before, but it's worth a second read.

- ♦Santa lives at the North Pole...JESUS is everywhere.
- ♦Santa rides in a sleigh...JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water.
- ♦Santa comes but once a year...JESUS is an ever present help.
- ♦Santa fills your stockings with goodies...JESUS supplies all your needs.
- ♦You have to wait in line to see Santa...JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.
- ♦Santa lets you sit on his lap...JESUS lets you rest in His arms.
- ♦Santa doesn't know your name. All he can say is "Hi little boy or girl, what's your name?"...JESUS knew our name before we did. Not only does He know our names, He knows our addresses too. He knows our history and future and He even knows how many hairs are on our heads.
- ♦Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly...JESUS has a heart full of love.
- ♦All Santa can offer is HO HO HO... JESUS offers health, help and hope.
- ♦Santa's little helpers make toys... JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions.
- ♦Santa may make you chuckle but... JESUS gives you a joy that is your strength.
- ♦While Santa puts gifts under your tree...JESUS became our gift and died on the tree.

It's obvious there is really no comparison! Jesus is still the reason for the season. Yes, Jesus is better, He is even better than Santa Claus.

An early wonderful, joyous Christmas season to you all! †

CUMC'S Biggest Event of the Year



Victory Ranch
in Moreno Valley
February 13-15, 2010

by Celeste Wong

Stay tuned for Cornerstone's own **Amazing Grace All Church Retreat!** The weekend of the President's day holiday (Feb. 13-15, 2010) at Victory Ranch in Moreno Valley will be a memorable time for all. Pastor Ben Yu will be our main speaker during our action packed weekend. Your spirit will be uplifted, your team spirit will soar, and your mind and body will have fun too. There's volleyball, a beautiful play



ground, horse back riding, archery, swimming pool, and a cool game room, not to mention the great fellowship and fun surprises planned just for you.

The registration form is available now! Turn your form in early to reserve your special room and get a free T-shirt while supplies last!

Remember to also come to the Amazing Grace Fund Raising Dinner. All you can eat dinner on November 21st at CUMC. Be ready for fun with our great Flat Screen TV raffle with upgrading DVD player plus many more auction items such as: Professional Teeth Whitening, Gold Coins, Gift Cards, Knott's Berry Farm tickets, Custom Upholstery Services, Slave auction, and more! All proceeds go to making the **Amazing Grace All Church Retreat** a great time for all!! †



(AM/PM)
A Methodist
People Machine

AMPM Youth



AMPM'ers LOVE our Pastor! Fifteen enthusiastic AMPM teens crowded, clapped, and honored Pastor Jerry as they presented him with a gift on October 18, Clergy Appreciation Month. It ended with a group hug that swallowed Pastor Jerry in loving enveloping arms. †

Missions *Continued from page 1*

the boxes and Mabel Joe and Ruth Wong for the connection group schedules for working at the distribution Center.

CHRISTMAS HELP FOR FRIENDLY CENTER FAMILY IN DECEMBER.

We will again help a needy family in the city of Orange, through the Friendly Center. We will be receiving the family's special needs and providing them with some gifts as well as help with food and grocery supplies. Watch the weekly bulletin for updates.

Whew! This has been a busy fall but it just shows what a generous and loving church Cornerstone is to provide for the needs of so many in our community as well as throughout the world. Thank you and blessings to all for your help. †

HUGS

(Home Under God's Spirit)

by Brad Chinn

The HUGS family fellowship group has been busy with the beginning of yet another school year. But, we managed to squeeze-in one last "Adult's Nite Out"! Julie Owyang did an incredible – no...fantastic! – um...un-toppable! – job planning a very special evening for all at the Brea Jazz Festival in downtown Brea on Sept.



Julie Owyang acquires a new title: "Event Organizer"! It turned out to be a very special "Adults' Night Out" before the busy fall schedule began.



Pancho Sanchez drums like no other drummer! His jazzy beat and authentic sounds could be heard through the streets of downtown Brea.

11. Julie, and beautiful husband Pastor Jerry, arrived early in the afternoon to reserve seats for everyone, and about 20+ people eventually came. We listened to the jazzy stylings of Poncho Sanchez, some danced, everyone smiled. After browsing the night



Under a balmy Summer-like night, HUGS enjoy a Jazz Festival. They could hardly keep in their seats with the music urging them to get up and dance!

life and street vendors, we proceeded to the Renaissance Bistro for specially handmade desserts and excellent fellowship. Julie...truly...scrumptious! Thanks for all your hard work! By the time you read this, HUGS would've

held it's annual, Halloween-alternative, Harvest Festival on Sat. Oct 31. Potluck, jump houses, carnival games/booths, costume parades, pastoral story, etc. Many of our kids are now teenagers, so we solicited their help to run booths, and make the event fun for the younger kids in our community. Also new this year was our first "trunk-or-treat", where we opened our car trunks to distribute treats to the festival-goers.

Celeste Wong continues to enrich our lives with practical and spiritual teachings as we learn how to raise our teenagers to become young adults that are pleasing to God. These studies are open to everyone! If you have younger children, they will eventually become teenagers. If you have no children, maybe someday you will? Maybe, you just want to hang out with great people. That's fine, too! We meet most Friday nights around 7:30pm. Thanks to Celeste, and husband Al, for all they do...

Our next big event after that will be our final highlight of the year... HUGS Christmas party! The details have yet to be planned. If you'd like to learn more about HUGS activities and studies, please contact Brad at 714-505-4650. †



Cornerstone Connections

Building Bridges in Small Groups

Connections Group Ichiban

by Randy Wong

On Sunday, October 18, a fried chicken lunch was sponsored by the Ichiban Connections Group. As a token of our appreciation, we accepted donations that went to Pastor Jerry's Discretionary Fund which totaled \$155. Pastor Jerry uses this fund to help people and programs at his discretion. This important fund is not replenished every year; therefore, the Group donated time and resources to support it. †

Poker, Anyone?

by Brad Chinn

WANTED: Poker players! Men and Women! Friends welcome!

WHY: Raise money for our all-church retreat on February 13–15, 2010

WHAT: Fun, fellowship, Fun. All for a great cause...

WHEN: Sat Nov 14, 6pm–11pm(ish)

WHERE: TBD (the current plan is Brad Chinn's home)

Let's help make our all-church retreat affordable to all...

Ladies, round up your gal pals. This is NOT a guy's night!

We can make some tables be mah jong (mj) also if you'd like...

How will it work?

- ♦ The game will be Texas Hold'em. NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED. We'll teach you!
- ♦ Each player brings a \$20 entry fee via cash or check payable to "CUMC".
- ♦ This entry fee can be a tax-deductible donation just like any church offering.
- ♦ Each player will get poker chips equal to their donation amount.
- ♦ We'll break-up into separate tables as needed (e.g. max 8-10 per table).
- ♦ When you lose your chips, you're out of the game! Tables combine as needed.
- ♦ Once eliminated, start another table for fun, play mj, foosball, video games, DVD...
- ♦ We'll play until one winner remains, or it gets too late (whichever comes first).

The winner wins "bragging rights". Nobody will win money in this event. 100% of the money will go the church retreat.

The above details are subject to change, but it should give you an idea. Please RSVP promptly for head-count. "Yes" replies only, please.

10 players could raise \$200.
20 could raise \$400.
30 could raise \$600.

Let's do it!...and have fun in the process!! †

A Conversation with Angela, Erick and Vickie

by Cheryl Hasegawa

One of our own Cornerstone families has had quite an eventful year! Here is their candid sharing...

Angela: I grew up in Shanghai China, and came to the United States after graduating high school. I went to CSU Fullerton for my bachelor's degree in finance. If I could go back in my life and choose my major again, I would probably choose Mathematics to become an engineer, or learn about plants to open a flower shop, or learn about photography to take beautiful pictures of weddings and lovely kids. **Erick:** I grew up in Houston, Texas. I attended St. Christopher's Catholic School. Then in 9th grade the Magnet High School for Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice. In 10-12th grade I went to South Houston High in Pasadena, TX. I got my degree in Finance from Sam Houston State Univ in Huntsville, TX.

Angela: I have a younger brother, Q Zhang, who is living in China right now. He and his wife visited us in 2008 for our wedding, and their baby was born here in Garden Grove Hospital during their visit! **Erick:** I have a brother Eddie Canche Jr. who is 5 years older than me and a sister Evonne who is 4 years younger. They live in Houston, TX with their families. I have 2 nieces Morgan & Nicole and 2 nephew boxers Rocky & Apollo.

Angela: Erick and I met at work in 2006. We had worked together in a same office for about a year. I valued Erick mostly for his warm heart, great personality, broad interests, knowledge, and many other attributes. **Erick:** Angela and I were in the same work group at The Boeing Company Huntington Beach. I was very interested in Angela because she is extremely beautiful and bright and I chased her enough for a movie date. We saw "The Breakup" which wasn't the best choice for a first movie date but I asked and

she said yes so I had to go with it!

Angela: I am a financial analyst, who makes sure that we don't spend more than our budget when building planes. Currently, I support Boeing Engineering Operations & Techno-



Erick, Angela and Vickie Canche

logies, who does R&D to advance new technologies. **Erick:** I am a Materials Estimator. I provide estimates on military aircraft (C130, KC-10, and B-1B's) for the US AirForce based upon their requirements for maintenance, modifications, and upgrades.

Angela and Erick talking about daughter **Vickie:** Vickie is a very smart kid. She loves travel and camping. When we went to the Grand Canyon last month, she got up at 5 o'clock one morning just to see the beautiful sunrise with us. She loves taking pictures and editing them with special photographic software that we don't even know how to use. Currently, she LOVES her PC; she does all sorts of things on it such as connecting with her friends, playing games, learning about the world, posting fun pictures, etc. That is why she doesn't like the rule about maximum PC time daily, but she understands why we need the rule. Vickie has some great hobbies and very skillful talents. She is an excellent violinist; she started playing violin when she was 3 years old. She also enjoys making little stars out of strips of decorated paper. She is very

good at making these crafts. She also likes to spend time with her friends from school and church. Her current main hobby is FACEBOOK.

Vickie says: During my free time, I love to socialize with loved ones.

Besides hanging out with family and friends, I also enjoy playing the violin. Music is something that expresses every emotion, sad or happy. Playing an instrument lifts my mood, and keeps me going. After I get home, I usually finish my homework. Once homework is complete, I get an opportunity to go on the computer and chat with friends. Facebook is a NECESSITY. Eating dinner is something that I would never skip (food is good). I also enjoy reading. Time flies

when I'm trapped in a good book!

Angela: I would love to travel and explore more places. If I had more time, I would like to go back to school to learn about flowers, photography, cooking and sewing. **Erick:** I love fishing, saltwater mainly but I want to do more fresh water fishing. I have a real interest in river fly fishing. I love camping and hiking. As California has such beautiful mountainous terrain, I would love to spend more time camping and fishing in the mountains.

Angela: Vickie and I used to live in Fullerton. Vickie and Lizzi were classmates, and also good friends. Peggy, Calvin, Lizzi and Austin brought God into our lives. They used to take Vickie to Cornerstone every Sunday. After we moved to Irvine, Brad and Byung have been very generously taking Vickie to church all the time. We love Cornerstone, we love our Pastor Jerry and church family, and we love the ways that we praise God, and share our joys and lives together as a family. **Erick:** I learned about Cornerstone from Vickie. Angela said she enjoyed attending Cornerstone so

Continued on page 6 – Canche



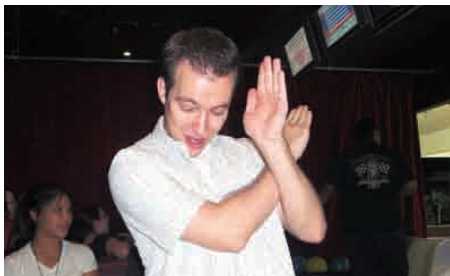
Extension 777

By Cheryl Wong

With the graduating class of 2009 now immersed in the college life, Extension 777 is happy to see some new faces during our Friday meetings. Nine new faces have all graced our group with their presence. Now what seemed like a small (but mighty) group of five has turned into a powerful multitude. Yes, multitude.



Smiling over fantastic bowling scores are Crystal Lee, Allison Lim, and Amy Wong.



A STRIKE for Joe Horvath!!

Extension 777 did not have any initiations into the group like AMPM, but we have continued to pursue truth in the Truth Project study, which is like an initiation in itself. In addition to some group bonding activities, like seeing how poorly we all bowl, the group has continued to worship together with AMPM once a month.

With the holiday seasons coming up, the group anticipates celebrating together with a Christmas party on December 18th.

The college group also has a new website to better meet our needs: <http://grou.ps/ext777/home>. Our schedule is listed under the "Board" tab at the top of the screen. Our meetings start weekly at 7:30pm. †

Canche

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I came along as her guest. I was attending St. Jude Catholic Church in Huntington Beach, and began attending Cornerstone after that. We all think Cornerstone is a great church that has an abundance of good people that is what makes it such a nice church family.

Angela: My favorite bible verse is "Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man" (Proverbs 3:3, 4). I believe if we show love and faithfulness, God will make our paths straight. **Erick:** Pretty much all verses are my favorite as the word of God is what is important. I found the Book of Revelations interesting; it was kind of scary but was at the same time informative. I think our day to day lives are the result of what the bible has taught us. Either Methodist or Catholic, it has made us the people we are today and as far as I can see that ain't too bad...;-) **Vickie:** In the Bible, it says, "Love one another warmly and be eager to show respect for one another." (Romans 12:10). I follow this bible verse every day, for if I don't treat others with respect, I won't get respect back.

What are some dreams you have for your future? **Angela:** I want to praise God that EVERY day is a gift to me. I have a very sweet family, the best husband, the best daughter, and a baby on the way! I can't ask anything more beautiful than this. We know our kids will grow up quickly; my dream will be celebrating our lives and as many holidays with Vickie and the little one as we can. I want to celebrate the kids' birthdays, graduations, and many many other events with them! **Erick:** I am LIVING my dream. I have a beautiful wife and I am very proud to have a step daughter who is very smart. She has a very bright future ahead of her; and we have a little one on the way as well as a nice warm home in gorgeous Southern California. I dream of being the best Dad I can be for this little boy

or girl, and Vickie. This young boy from Texas would have never dreamed of having the things I have today!

Vickie: Some have their eyes set on a specific vocation, but as for me, I have many dreams. I've taken in some interest to become a middle school teacher, because I want the freedom to socialize with kids, even though I would no longer be one. Also, being a teacher gives me the time to hang out with my family. Another one of my goals is to become a violin teacher. This dream comes from my love and passion for playing the violin. It takes a lot of hard work and determination, but in the end, it's worth it, and that's all that matters. Most importantly, aside from becoming a teacher, or playing the violin, I would love to have a family. I want a husband who cares about me, just like my dad cares about my mom. I want one that would stay up all night with me if I was sick, and in return, I would "sing while I mop up the floor after my husband has walked across it in his barn boots." I want children as well, and to demonstrate "selflessness". Being a teenager, I can get pretty selfish. But as I get older, I realize that it's important to give and forgive. I want to see my kids grow into mature adults, and be proud of them too (just like my parents are proud of me!).

Thank you for sharing, Angela, Erick and Vickie! You are awesome!! †

Bill and his Special Cap



A very special cap for a very special day! Every October 25, Bill Chan wears this special cap to commemorate the "Last Battle of Battleships" in 1944 in the Philippines. Bill was a young sailor on the U.S.S. Mississippi engaged in the last battle put up by the Japanese during WW II. This particular battle involved six battleships! A big THANK YOU, Bill, for your service to our country. †



Creative Bulletin Art

How refreshing it is to sit and marvel at the Sunday Bulletin covers each Sunday! The pencil art is precious!

There is nothing more endearing than the simple, heartfelt drawings of children. Perhaps the teens and the "olders" will show us their renditions? We look forward to seeing something new and different each Sunday! †



Think Rain – and Gene Kelly

We all know that Southern California desperately needs rain. New Lifers will be seeing, singing, and thinking rain this holiday season when they dine and enjoy the Gene Kelly production of "Singing in the Rain" on December 11 at the Curtain Call Theatre. Of course it won't be THE Gene Kelly but we hope the cast can give him a run for his money. For reservations and info, call Ruth Wong or Sherrie Fong. †

Our Two Blondes Visit Pastor Jerry in Prison

by Patti Ruckert



Patti Ruckert, Julie & Pastor Jerry Owyang

Julie and I arrived at the Federal Correction Institute in Victorville by the appointed time of 12:00 noon on Sunday, October 25, where Pastor Jerry had been since Thursday in the spiritual ministering of inmates who joined the four-day retreat for the prison ministry "Kairos," which is Greek for God's Special Time. The prison's letter to Julie and I had stated that we should dress conservatively, and to not wear any khaki-colored clothing (reserved for inmates). It also instructed us to bring only our ID (license) card and car keys inside, and to leave everything else in the car. After everyone was counted, we then surrendered our drivers licenses to them, and went through an airport-type screening. My watch set off the alarm, which was a first for it. They placed yellow ink on our wrists with a Disneyland-type rubber stamp, and we were instructed to pass it by a black light scanner which made it glow and it did a group count for them. Then they had us wait in a room next to the Chapel where the Closing Ceremony was being held, and offered us water, Kool-Aid, and the not-recommended prison coffee, while we were given a briefing on what to expect and the common-sense "do-nots" when interacting with the inmates. We entered the chapel on cue, joining them in singing the praise song, "Shout To The Lord." They were so surprised and elated to see us! We spotted Pastor Jerry on the other side of the room.

Each group of about seven came to the front of the room, and their leader summarized the group's thoughts

on the following three questions. (1) In what spiritual condition did you arrive at Kairos? (2) What did you find? (3) What are you taking with you?

Many individual inmates voluntarily came to the front of the room with their special stories and testimony. I was astounded that they talked so freely and eagerly about the feelings they had before the Kairos retreat (like probably most of their lives), and how they changed and found love in their fellow man and faith and strength in our Lord to start anew. And in only 4 days! How could this be? The workings of the Lord, says Pastor Jerry.

Julie loved hearing how humbly the men talked, that they grieve for the pain they've caused, and sincerely want to please a loving God now, that they do 'get it'. It's been proven (statistically!) that Kairos 'grads' are far less likely to return to prison when released than other inmates. An inmate's "Dear Kairos" letter excerpt: "We visited, studied, sang, and prayed with this true fellowship of Christian men.

Each night, when I would get back to my cell, I would reflect back on the day's events. It amazed me that all these people were sharing their unconditional love and concerns with me, someone they had never met, wanting only to let me know it wasn't too late for me to have the true peace and joy of salvation that they shared in Jesus Christ, our Lord." †



We remember.....

We remember J.C. Dear, as the Lord welcomed him home on October 25, 2009. Just as J.C. was a commanding presence at Cornerstone for many years, so is he now in the glorious and commanding presence of our Lord. Our love and prayers to Bessie and family. †