

CORNERSTONE UMC

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AUGUST 2005 NEWSLETTER

Our Mission: *Through joyful worship, spiritual nurture, and compassionate outreach, we seek to reach Everyone for Jesus Christ.*

The Rev. Kong S Namkung, Pastor

WHERE DOES OUR HOPE COME FROM?

We are living today in a “special” culture, where we have a high divorce rate, delayed marriages (my niece is twenty-seven years old, but she is single), the emphasis on individuality, women working outside the home, a mobile society (more than twenty percent of Americans move every year), and so on. People have few roots and “nuclear” family settings. Americans are no longer surrounded by the extended family of aunts and uncles, grandparents, and brothers and sisters that provided a safety net for previous generations. A once a year commitment for family reunions has less meaning for us. The 21st century’s socioeconomic structure encourages mobility and produces vulnerability. When vulnerability strikes, some of us do not have an avenue for relief.

In my pastoral experiences, I have met countless people who felt lonely, unloved, unwanted, and have feelings that they don’t belong that causes them to feel like they are nobody. Above all, people, including Christians, carry scars and wounds, physical, mental, and spiritual suffering daily. Someone said to me, “Kong, if you do not take any pills at your age, you are very blessed!” People hurt many different places in their bodies for a variety of different reasons. Children’s minds are hurting from their parents’ divorce. Young adults’ hearts are hurting from their unloved and financial instability. Mature people’s physical bodies are hurting from physical infirmities, isolation, and alienation from society.

One of the great concerns that I have for these hurting people is that they do not know how to deal with these problems. Some are turning to drinking, drugs, having affairs, counseling, diet, physical therapy, and so on for the solution. Do these solutions help them get out of problems and help them to move forward? Maybe. But mostly the answer is NO! These methods may give us a temporary solution, but not permanently. That is why people are stuck with their problems forever. They are like people sitting on a rocking chair that they feel they are moving constantly, but they do not move forward. They cannot get out of the situations. They are stagnant and decaying. Are there any solutions?

First of all, we must realize and believe that God wants us to love Him and know that we are loved by God. Jeremiah says, “I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.” (Jeremiah 31:3) Matthew 22:36 says, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment.” When we love and are loved by someone, we do not feel loneliness and unwantedness. If you feel lonely, then you are not in love. So, it is important for us to realize that God loves us unconditionally! Therefore, love God and believe God loves you! Longer than 4,000 years ago, a psalmist said, “I lift up my eyes to the mountains from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.” (Psalm 121:1-2) I am convinced that the sicknesses and stagnation, like fog that disappears before the Sunlight, will be vanished before God.

Secondly, we need to understand our situations with God’s perspective, not with our own. Pain and suffering are really unbearable from a human beings perspective. However, they can be interpreted differently with God’s perspective. The Bible says, “Suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” (Romans 5:3-5) It is in God, who produces endurance out of suffering. It is our great comfort to know that suffering also is a cornerstone of hope. We can be desperate if we do not have hope in suffering and difficulties. A pregnant mother can bear all pains of delivering a baby because she has a hope to see the baby. In the time of difficulties and tribulation we can “hang in there”. We rejoice because of the hope that we are in Jesus Christ. Where can we find hope for our future?

Our hope comes from the Word of God. The Bible says, “For whatever was written our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.” (Romans 15:4) Paul clearly tells us that the scripture gives us hope. When you have been in a difficult situation, have you ever recalled one Bible verse gave you great strength? I have on many occasions. Those experiences help me to read the scripture as much as I can.

Our hope comes from the Promise of God. The Bible says, "And now I stand here on trial on account of my hope in the promise made by God to our ancestors, a promise that our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly worship day and night. It is for this hope, your Excellency, that I am accused by Jews." (Acts 26:5-7) When Luke, a physician and historian, wrote these verses, Paul stood in the presence of King Agrippa. Paul distinctly stated that his hope came from the promise of God. God is the God of promise and God is the God of the fulfillment of the promise too. God never fails you.

I, as an ordained pastor, have been ministering over eleven years. During those years I have had some vulnerability. Deep in my heart I do believe it is not me who is strong enough to go through those times, but it is Jesus Christ, who strengthens me with his word of comfort and consolation. The only thing that I have done was to focus my eyes on Him.

My beloved, brothers and sisters, there are many high mountains and deep waters to cross. We have crossed some, and we will have more before us. I ask you to focus your eyes on Jesus Christ, His word, and His promises. Please, do not turn your eyes to the right or to the left. When you lift up your eyes to the mountain, think about the beauty of the mountain. Also, think of the One, who created the mountain. When you feel that you are unloved, reflect on His love in your life. When you think that you do not have hope, meditate on the Word of God and His promise. Every moment of your life, please connect yourself with Him, His word, and His promise. Then, the hope of God will be imparted in you. Glory be to God. Amen

AUG CALENDAR

14	6:30 pm	Adm Council Meeting
16	6:30 pm	Tae Kwon Do
17	10:00 am	Wednesday Morning Bible Study
18	6:30 pm	Tae Kwon Do
20	8 am – 3 pm	Church Yard Sale to benefit our Tae Kwon Do Class
	5:00 pm	Prayer at the Church for Everyone
21	9:30 am	Sunday School for ALL AGES
	11:00 am	Worship Service
23	6:30 pm	Tae Kwon Do
24	10:00 am	Wednesday Morning Bible Study
	6:30 pm	Children's Choir Practice
25	6:30 pm	Tae Kwon Do
27	5:00 pm	Prayer at the church for Everyone
28	9:30 am	Sunday School for ALL AGES
	11:00 am	Worship Service
30	6:30 pm	Tae Kwon Do
31	10:00 am	Wednesday Morning Bible Study
	6:30 pm	Children's Choir Practice

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Serengeti Trek - Vacation Bible School

Our Serengeti Trek Adventure began on Monday, August 1st, and ran through Friday, August 5th, with Pastor Kong being our safari photographer. Set to an African backdrop, we sang songs about God's love and the need for his power in our lives, made crafts that reflected how we can praise God, enjoyed Biblical snacks (you should have seen Paul and Silas in their "jail"), and played games that showed how God works through us. We all wanted to spend time in Mike Todd's tent to hear the Word as Mike put his own love of God into the stories that he spun into the children's minds and hearts. We continue our mission of spreading the word of God through our World Vision project of sending school supplies to the needy children of Kenya.

Saying thank you is not enough to cover all the selfless energy and devotion that went in to making our Trek a success. We are ever grateful to those who withstood the heat and gave up their evenings every night to help, and to those who spent so much of their own time behind the scenes making VBS work, including arriving early to cook the meals for such a large crowd; making sure every child made it safely back to his or her parent; and cleaning up at the end of the evening. Our teens gave their time willingly to be crew leaders, and recruited friends to help when they could have stayed home and done their own thing. Every heart blazed as brightly as the Serengeti sun with one purpose: *to bring God's light into the lives of everyone who came to Cornerstone*. What a blessing to be a part of this reflection of Jesus through our church. 2 Corinthians 9:7 tells us not to give grudgingly or of necessity, that God loves a cheerful giver. After this week, I know for a fact that God's love reigns abundant within our church. Thank you again for all your hard work and dedication to the children. God bless you all!

Kathy Davis
Christian Ed Director

Items Needed for our VBS outreach project with World Vision –

- Pkg of 10 or 12 ballpoint pens
- Pkg of 7 or 8 yellow pencils (without designs)
- 2 Steno Pads 6 x 9
- Pink gum Eraser
- Pencil Sharpener
- 24 pk of regular size crayons

FINANCIAL REPORT

Information not available.

Did you know that we are taking money out of our Building Fund to pay the mortgage each month? We should have enough contributions from our members to make the payment, but funds have fallen short for the past several months. Consider the faithfulness of our Lord and your faithfulness to giving a portion to His church.

Please Continue to Pray for our Deployed Military Personnel and their Families

TJ Edwards
Karen Marrs

Jeff Hall
Michael Monge

Rob Hoisington
Julie Rylander

David Lambcam
Ed Smith

FOOD FOR THOUGHT –

A churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of the newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. “I’ve gone for 30 years now, he wrote, and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me I can’t remember a single one of them. So I think I’m wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all.” This started a real controversy in the Letters to the Editors column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher: “I’ve been married for 30 years now, and in that time my wife has cooked some 32,00 meals for me. But for the life of me, I cannot recall what the menu was for a single one of those meals. But I do know this – they all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me those meals, I would be dead today.”

Source: Angel Share News Letter

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TEACH YOUR CHILDREN

I tried to teach my child with books
He gave me only puzzled looks
I tried to teach my child with words
They passed him by often unheard
Despairingly I turned aside
“How shall I teach this child?” I cried
Into my hand he put the key
“Come”, he said
“Play with me”

Author Unknown

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Year Round School is in session and Traditional Students start on the 25th –
PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY, ESPECIALLY IN SCHOOL ZONES

PRAY FOR:
Our Students
Our Teachers
Our Parents