



Renewing Our Minds

By Pastor Craig Kulonis

Springtime is the special time each year where we come out of the darkness of winter and into the brilliant light of spring. Growing up in Southern California I never grew to appreciate the changing of the seasons as I do in Oregon. As I sit writing this article, on my window sill sits a solar-powered flower from Dollar Tree. When the sun hits the tiny little solar panel, the leaves start to wave and the flower moves back and forth (see photo).



About 30 years ago, when God delivered me from my sins, I experienced new life in Christ and, like the little flower dancing when the sun shines on it, I too felt like my heart was dancing. I knew that God was real and that Jesus was my Savior, friend and King. There were many new things that sprang up in my life. One amazing experience I noticed early on in my new life in Christ was the very colors around me were brighter. It literally was as if scales had fallen off my eyes. There was also a new desire to read the Bible and get to know this Jesus who had

become real to me. I was truly experiencing old things passing away and all things becoming new. The love of God at times would fill me so full that I prayed for God to bring someone along my path in order to share who Jesus was. Often I would end up going to the local park near our home and look for someone I could talk with about Jesus!

This brings me to the point of my article: **God wants us to delight in Him and enjoy Him forever.** A large part of our delighting in God comes by being transformed by the renewing of our minds, as Paul says in Romans 12:2.

Why does the mind need to be renewed? Our minds have been programmed with natural “established attitudes.” How are these formed? They come from various sources, including parents, the educational system, society (books, TV, movies, etc.) and even religious training. The danger of these established attitudes is that being controlled by our old nature leads to selfishness and sinful patterns.

Our minds need to be “renewed” with godly established attitudes. Some scriptures that teach us about these new attitudes are: regeneration and renewal

of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5), having the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16); I will put my laws in their hearts (Hebrews 8:10, 10:16). Following our initial conversion, the process of renewal is ongoing. Scriptures to keep your mind focused on renewal include: have this mind in you which was in Christ (Philippians 2:5); whatever is true, right pure...let your minds dwell on these (Phil. 4:8); set your minds on things above (Colossians 3:2).

Let me conclude with a few practical reasons for *renewing our minds*.

- 1) A change in form of thinking and behavior (transformation) comes as an indirect result of renewing of our minds (Romans 12:2).
- 2) Conforming by external efforts does not lead to behavioral transformation (Col. 2:20-23).
- 3) When a person is a “new person” in Christ, he/she has the indwelling work of God’s Spirit to engage in the renewing of the mind that allows for Spirit-empowered Christian behavior (Romans 8:2-8; Ephesians 4:23; Colossians 3:10).
- 4) Praying the Lord’s Prayer (see p. 2) will build it into your heart and life.

Easter Week at Calvin



ALLELUIA!

CHRIST IS ALIVE!

**PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 20
10 A.M. WORSHIP**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 24
6 P.M. SOUP SUPPER, 7 P.M. WORSHIP**

**EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 27
10 A.M. WORSHIP**

Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done...

2016 Weekly Prayer Guide



Based upon the Lord's Prayer, Matthew 6:9-16

Pray the Lord's prayer each day. The left column has Bible passages and songs to fit with the theme of the day. In the right column, read examples of ways to pray. Allow the Holy Spirit to direct your prayers.

Sunday

Adoration—Hallowed be Your name

Psalm 47:2, 7-8— You are the King of all the earth

Romans 11:33-36— To You be glory forever

Song: 10,000 Reasons

Adoration...

Father, thank You for who You are and what You have done...

Monday

Revival/Transformation—Your kingdom come

1 Samuel 12:20-21— May I not turn aside from You

John 15:1-8— Abide in Christ

Song: Be Thou My Vision

Revival/Transformation...

Lord, give me a hunger to know You more.

Holy Spirit, make me love You as I ought to love.

Tuesday

Justice—Your will be done

Habakkuk 3:2— Revive Your works in our day

Romans 15:1-3— Bear with the failings of the weak

Song: Take My Life and Let it Be

Justice...

Pray for God's will to be done...in my home, church, city, and world.

Pray for missionaries, the persecuted church & the oppressed of our world.

Wednesday

Provision—Give us our daily bread

Genesis 22:1-18— The Lord will provide

Matthew 7:7-8— Ask, seek and knock

Song: He Leadeth Me

Provision...

Open the eyes of my heart that I may see Your faithfulness in providing all that I need.

Thursday

Confession—Forgive us our debts

Psalm 103:9-13— You remove our sins from us

Hebrews 12:5-6— God disciplines those He loves

Song: Just As I Am

Confession...

Holy Spirit, search my heart and reveal any unconfessed sin You find in me.

Lord, thank You for forgiving my sins.

Friday

Protection—Deliver us from evil

Exodus 14:13-14— The Lord will fight for you

2 Corinthians 4:8-9— Don't be crushed, in despair

Song: You Are My Hiding Place

Protection...

Guard my heart and my family against the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil.

Saturday

Dependence—Yours is the power

Psalm 55:22— He will sustain you

Rom. 8:28— He works all things together for good

Song: I Surrender All

Dependence...

I commit my day to You. I will obey You and trust You for all my needs.

Our purpose is to know and love Jesus Christ and equip His disciples to transform the world one life at a time.

Asante Kids Update from Uganda

By Ritah Nassali, Uganda Asante Coordinator



At the beginning of this year we had a camp for the junior youth which was conducted

at Ngongolo camp site by Streams of Life Church children's ministry with the support of a team from Camp Living Water Ministries, Canada. Many of our Asante children took part as facilitators, including Dominic, Arnold, Carol, Collin, Esther and Josephine, and they were blessed. Many of them made a commitment to serve God while they are still young, just like the Bible says

in Ecclesiastes: *Young people remember now your creator in the days of your youth.*

During children visitations, I visited Gloria. Her home is a bit far from church; she has to walk a distance of 2km every day to and from school. As we were chatting I asked her, "Don't you mind walking such a long distance every day?" She said, "Sometimes it is hard for me but all I want is to study, get a good job and help my family." This girl is very hopeful; as long as she is still in Asante God will help her to study and finish university.

Dear sponsors, you may not know the impact of the Asante program, but you are lighting candles in the destiny of these children and bringing back hope.

Play Ball!

PeaceMeal, 10/15/2014, Peacemaker Ministries

"If it's possible ... live at peace with everyone." Romans 12:18

There are three dimensions to the peace that God offers to us through Christ: peace with God, peace with one another, and peace within ourselves. Many people care little about their relationships with God and other people, but they still want peace within themselves. As you will see it is impossible to know genuine internal peace unless you also pursue peace with God and others.*

Food for Thought

As a peacemaker, are you covering your bases?



The batter takes his stance. The pitcher winds up and throws. The batter swings and hits the ball, and immediately runs to ... that's right—first base.

Unless you're watching a bunch of folks goofing off or a really young T-ball team, no batter is going to hit and

then run to second base. That's just not how the game is played. You run to first, then to second, and then on to third; you've got to cover all three bases.

Ken reminds us of the three peace bases for the followers of Christ: peace with God, peace with one another, and peace within ourselves. As believers we've got to cover all three bases—that's how the Christian life is lived. Meditate for a few minutes on the following Scripture verses:

Peace with God: Romans 5:1

"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Peace with others: 1 Thess. 5:13

"Live in peace with each other."

Peace with self: Col. 3:15

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace."

*from *The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict*, by Ken Sande, 2003, p. 44.

Sunday School

During March, the adult Sunday School class is finishing their study of the Sermon on the Mount, looking at Matthew 7. Beginning April 3, we will be studying the Letter of James. This brief, practical letter asks 'What does it mean to live in light of who Jesus is?'. We will examine a variety of subjects which James addresses, such as suffering, favoritism, faith, and wealth. Join us at 9 a.m. in Olleman Hall as we seek to better follow God together.



Soup Supper On Maundy Thursday March 24, 6 p.m.

Join us for a time of fellowship and a simple meal of soup, bread and fruit before the Maundy Thursday worship service. Talk to Pastor Craig if you can bring food.



Pioneer Club and Youth Group with 40 Socks of Love for the local homeless ministry.

Let's Make a Calvin Cookbook!

By Callie Newton



Do you remember the last time Calvin published a Cookbook? I don't, and from what I've heard, not many of you do! I propose that we rectify this with a brand new cookbook in 2016. Recipes should be old favorites—ones that you cook for church functions, small group gatherings and dinner parties; anything that you love to share. Breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks, desserts—anything goes. If the recipe has a special story behind it, feel free to include that.

Please collect these materials and email them to

Callie Newton, callie.z.newton@gmail.com, or drop hard copies off to Sarah in the church office by April 3. A donation of \$10 or more toward the cost of your copy of the cookbook would be appreciated. Any proceeds will be donated to the Linn Benton Food Share.

**Daylight Saving Time
Begins March 13**



Calvin Presbyterian Church
1736 NW Dixon Street
Corvallis, OR 97330

Return Service Requested

Church Staff

Zach Washburn

Pastor

Craig Kulonis

Pastor of Community Life

Rachel Eby

Director of Children's Ministries

Sarah Marshall

Office Manager

Phone: 541-757-8021

Email: office@calvin-church.org

Website: www.calvin-church.org



Sundays at Calvin

8:30 Prayer in the Prayer Room

9 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

10 a.m. Worship