

# Living Word Community Church

## Newsletter

November 2010



### Mid-year Pastoral Message

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

God continues to bless us at Living Word Church even as the situation around us continues to deteriorate. We are welcoming new people into our Sunday services and weekday programming, and our finances are always sufficient to enable us to do the essentials of ministry effectively. Thank you to the many of you who contribute to the effort in so many different ways. Sometimes we forget or take for granted all the things that must be done to maintain the work and ministry we do here. To the glory of God, it continues on as we fix our eyes on Jesus and all He has done and still does for each of us.

Recently, we have had the privilege of seeing two marriages involving younger members of our church. These couples look to be a part of the Living Word family for many years to come and are part of the next wave in our congregation. We must treasure and encourage members of the younger generations who choose to make this congregation their home and willingly insert themselves into our ministries both old and new. God bless them as they lead the charge into the next decades of ministry at LWCC.

Along those same lines, my own role here will change in coming months. Sometime between now and April 30th, I will be stepping back from my present pastoral role here. Whether I'll be leaving the position altogether or stepping back to a part time role will be influenced in the days to come by the actions of church decision-makers and/or personal matters such as my health and a possible return to teaching.

I have said many times over the past couple years that I believe Living Word needs to bring in a younger, more energetic pastor to lead the way into the "post-boomer era", which is now upon us (whether we boomers are willing to admit it and get out of the way or not). In any case, I urge you to pray over this matter and attend upcoming business meetings where this will certainly be discussed.

It is not likely that most of the congregation will sense that anything is changing over the next few months. For the duration of the time that I continue to function as your pastor, Sunday worship, our most important ministry, will remain essentially unchanged, and I'll always want to continue my involvement in some of the teaching ministries that I enjoy so much as long as I'm around.

As God says to us through Jeremiah: "I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a future". Our future here at Living Word Community Church is secure in the Lord's hands. Our methods may have to change somewhat, but if we remain faithful to Christ and the proclamation of His Word, He will no doubt remain faithful to us. He will never leave us or forsake us.





### Living Word needs your help

A group of people once decided to actually figure out if it was truly better to give than to receive. They designed a study that looked at a multitude of health factors of givers and receivers before and after the act has occurred. They discovered some very interesting things. The data showed that a person who performed a generous act had lower blood pressure, lower triglycerides, cholesterol, and stress hormones afterwards. They also looked at the factors for the beneficiary of the generous act and discovered identical good news.

How amazing is the human body God has designed for us? The most amazing part of this study, in my opinion, was that they also looked at the same health factors for a person who witnessed the generous act. Once again, the data revealed identical good news! God is great! To give, receive, or witness a generous act are all equally beneficial! The benefits are the same whether the act was something simple or elaborate.

Why am I telling you about this? Living Word is in need of a generous act. We have scheduled a work day for the first Saturday of every month. We have plenty of work that is needed to be done in and around the church. Please stop by and lend a helping hand. It will greatly benefit the church as well as your fellow members. Let's not forget that the neighborhood around us will be watching as well!

Try this homework for one week and see how you feel. When you wake in the morning, have the first decision you make be: what can I do for someone else today. It can be as simple as making the bed (a great one for my wife) or an unexpected note of appreciation or thank you. Don't be afraid to let someone see you do it.

God Bless,  
Justin Wright  
Congregational Chair



### Board of Education news

#### Sunday School

We have two children's Sunday School classes. The younger kids are taught by Phyllis Hastings and the older kids are taught by Steve Garlick. Thanks to them for volunteering to teach for the year. It is a gracious commitment, so please keep them in your prayers as they minister to these children week after week. Pray that the Word of God will become real in these children's lives.

#### Pioneer Clubs

Steve Kronteres is leading this Wednesday night group. Thanks to Steve for volunteering his time every Wednesday to do this. It is a great ministry to a lot of neighborhood kids that don't attend church regularly, if at all. Most of them are not from Christian homes which makes this the only Jesus they may see in their week. Thanks for all those that help with this group. There are three different age groups of classes and about 30-35 coming every week. It is from 6-7:20 pm, and begins and ends with music led by the older teens. The word of God is being taught in their class so pray that lives will be changed by the hearing of the word.

The youth group also meets on Wednesday night with Steve Garlick teaching them. Thanks to Steve for doing this. It is a vital ministry to build God's word into their lives!!

*Submitted by Gloria Kavlie*