

Happy 4th of July,

from

Salem Family

July 4, 2008

SFM Summer Itinerary

July

6th Mountainview Faith Comm. Church, Rancho Cucamonga, CA
Sunday Services - 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
mwfcc.com 909-948-9770

12th Abundant Living Family Church, Rancho Cucamonga, CA
Saturday Service - 6:00 p.m.
alfconline.org 909-987-7110

13th Abundant Living Family Church, Rancho Cucamonga, CA
Sunday Services - 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
alfconline.org 909-987-7110

August

3rd Church of Grace, Yorba Linda, CA - Sunday Service
10:00 a.m.
churchofgrace.com 714-998-2988

10th Church of Grace, Yorba Linda, CA - Sunday Service
10:00 a.m.
churchofgrace.com 714-998-2988

11th Resurrection Life Church, Grandville, MI - Monday Eve.
Ladies Event - Feminine Fire 7:00 p.m.
reslife.org 616-534-4923

15th and 16th Mount Hope Church, Lansing - Marriage Conf.
Friday, 7:00 p.m. Saturday Morning and Evening Sessions
mounthopechurch.org 517-321-2780

17th Mount Hope Church, Lansing, MI - Sunday Services
9:30, 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
mounthopechurch.org 517-321-2780

20th Mount Hope Church, Lansing, MI - Wednesday Service
7:00 p.m.
mounthopechurch.org 517-321-2780

24th Mount Hope Church, Jackson, MI - Sunday Service
10:00 a.m.
mounthopechurch.org 517-782-2273

31st Champion Church, Yuma, AZ - Sunday Services
9:00, 10:15 and 11:00 a.m.
championchurch.org 928-783-7574

Visit our website for a complete itinerary listing:

www.salemfamilyministries.org

Dear Friends,

Whether you are spending this holiday with family and friends, traveling to the lake, or celebrating our nation's independence with a backyard

cookout at home, we want you to know that we love you and pray God's incredible blessings for you. We pray for peace and joy to abound in your lives!

As you go into this weekend, we'd like to share a thought for you to ponder amidst the celebration festivities. Please know that the greatest levels of peace and joy are found in learning to fully rest and trust in Him. He is our Prince of Peace - our Sar Shalom.

Our latest book, *Obtaining Peace: A 40 Day Prayer Journal*, will be released later this month, on July 24th. This book can teach you that in pursuing peace in your life, mind, marriage, job, etc. you must be actively pursuing Jesus. Not just His peace, but Him and Him alone. Because He IS peace. We will keep you updated on the release of this book, but for now, have a fantastic weekend!

We love you,

Cheryl & Harry

Rest and Restoration

Cheryl Salem

Isaiah 28:12 (NKJV, Spirit Filled Life Bible)

To whom He said, "This is the rest with which you may cause the weary to rest," and, "This is the refreshing"; yet they would not hear.

The word *rest* in the above scripture is the Hebrew word, *menuchab*, pronounced (meh-noo-chah). It is the Strong's # 4496 and the definition is wonderful, and amazing! It means "Resting place, place of stillness and repose, consolation, peace, rest, a quiet place, also, the condition of restfulness." *Menuchab* is derived from the Hebrew verb, *nuach*, and means "to rest; soothe, settle down, comfort." Because Noah's parents foresaw comfort through his life in Genesis 5:29 they named him *Noah*, which comes from the root *nuach*.

In Isaiah 28:12 it states, *"This is the resting place; let the weary rest!" Menuchab* is greatly soothing, comforting, and settling, as in Psalm 23:2, *"He leads me beside the waters of menuchab [the waters of quietness]."* In Numbers 10:33, *"So they departed from the mountain of the Lord on a journey of three days; and the ark of the covenant of the Lord went before them for the three days' journey, to search out a resting place for them."*

In Psalm 132:14, *"This is My resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it."*

Isaiah 11:10 *"And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, and his resting place shall be glorious."*

In all the scriptures above I hope you are seeing a theme . . . a place to rest, a place to dwell, a place to meet and be intimate with the Holy Lord, King of Kings, Bridegroom, and Lover of our very souls!

About a year after our daughter went to heaven, I had a dream. I was in heaven, and I found myself in a heavenly classroom. I looked around and there were children everywhere. I have had visions before, but this time was a real close encounter into the God realm. I feel it necessary to interject something before I go on with the vision. Not everyone that goes to church will go to heaven. Not everyone that confirms the name of the Lord with their mouth confirms it with their heart. Those people will not only miss heaven, but the rapture also. It is because they never got up close and personal with God, never felt Him fully, never just stopped and thought about what it really means to serve God and accept Him.

In this vision, the school that I saw felt like it contained all the children of the world. There were two women teaching, not really teaching, more like monitoring. They were not needed to teach because the air in the classroom was charged with knowledge, and it went through all the children like lightning. The knowledge was in the lightning substance in the air. Gabrielle was there. I tried to get her to come with me, but she really didn't acknowledge me. She was polite and kind, but never really focused on me. She was focused on the activity that was going on all around. I have to tell you I think I was actually not dreaming this, I think I was there! It seemed too real to be a dream! I awoke and fell back to sleep again. I was once again in the classroom of heaven and saw all the children were wearing very beautiful clothes. All the girls were wearing dresses that seemed to be alive and a part of their being. All the boys were wearing beautiful suits that looked like a part of them, perfectly. The knowledge was all over the place and going through the children. I saw Gabrielle again. I kept asking her to come with me but she wouldn't. I woke up again and then immediately fell back into the vision. The scene would change each time I would go 'in and out' of it. The walls of the classroom, the fabrics, all would be different, yet the same. This is very hard to explain in human words. It was the same classroom each time, the same children, the same two women, and Gabrielle too.

I observed Gabrielle in a conversation with a beautiful little boy and she used the word *those* when she should have used the word *these*. I instinctively corrected her grammar. When I did, she stopped and turned to me, acknowledged my presence, not in surprise but as if she knew I had been there all along. She looked straight through me as if what she was about to say would change my life forever. IT DID! She told me something that spoke directly to my heart. She said with piercing blue eyes that spoke millions of layers of revelations that I am sure now after several years I will spend the rest of my earthly life meditating on and still only receive a small portion of it. She said, "The spots and the wrinkles on the body of Christ are not those who need correcting. The spots and wrinkles on the Body of Christ are those doing the correcting."

I came out of that vision and knew that I had heard from heaven. It was a reprimand, a warning that the Lord had used our precious Gabrielle to give me. I immediately repented, saying that I thought I was doing right, but in fact was doing wrong. It was not so much what I had done, but the heart in which I had done it. In fact, I feel now that in my *correcting* I had started out with a pure heart, but pride had slipped in and what was once a good thing and turned evil for me as my heart had been changed to focus inward toward myself. I went from teaching my daughter to learning from her that day.

I believe that God is looking for people that can take correction, and can take the correction as it was meant just for them. Many people can hear the words of correction but their minds immediately think, "So and so should be hearing this!" God wants us to be able to become sons of God, which means we can receive His correction fully knowing how much He loves us and longs for us to be overcomers in this life here on earth. By realizing my own faults, I can help others see theirs just by sharing my life experiences with them.

If we do not see what is wrong with us on the inside, then we may miss what God is giving us to use on the inside of who we truly are IN CHRIST! God wants us to prepare ourselves to become the Bride of Christ. Repentance is a huge part off that preparation, self examination and being truthful with ourselves about our motives of the heart. This is very important in living a life restored and reconciled and at rest in God.

It is not the flesh part of us that God wants, because the flesh part cannot leave the earth. It is the spiritual part of us that is saved and that He wants for His glory. Our flesh is the most influential part of us; it is influenced by sin. We have to crucify ourflesh every day and make sure to think with our spirit and not our flesh. We are like the Hebrews when they were at the edge of the promised land (Numbers 13) but didn't go in because of fear of failure against the giants. It was their flesh telling them to stay out of the promises of God, and by relying on their own abilities instead of on God's ability they failed before they even tried to step foot into the promise God had given them.

Remember, thoughts are what affect the rest of the body. If we think positive thoughts, then there is not room for negative thoughts. The brain has been proven by scientists to not be able to focus on both positive and negative at the same time. If we dwell on God, we cannot be influenced by our flesh at the same time we are dwelling on God. When our bodies are in the physical flesh, doing physical things, our spirits can be dwelling on God. We can be in His presence and learning from Him on how to overcome our flesh body. We should not dwell on our bodies, we should dwell on God. When we accept Christ, we are not accepting Him in the physical realm, we are accepting Him into our spirits. We are confessing with the words of our mouths, and we are inviting Him in to our lives with the thoughts of our hearts. Our hearts are where He wants to be. We should know that we have to use our spirits in our everyday walk with God. Flesh thoughts are no longer an option if we want to walk victoriously over ourselves, our flesh.

God said, "*It is finished*," so it is finished. God gave us many references to the meaning of *rest* in His Word, and when we listen to His meaning of *rest*, we can see that He is talking about rest and restoration. He is talking about purification. When we listen to what He says, He is putting us in a position

that will help us be purified.

In the Book of Esther, God put her into position of *getting over herself* by her trials as a candidate for queen, and then when all the Jews were threatened by evil to be killed. With Daniel and the three Hebrew boys, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego He put them in the position with which foods they were to choose over the Kings command, and then which choice they would make when it came to bowing down and worshiping the King rather than God.

None of us are purified spontaneously. There is no fairy dust. Nothing works that way if it is of any lasting value. It is getting into the position of purification that makes us ready to be purified. In Joel 2:25 the Bible says, *"And I will restore to you the years . . ."* and further down in Verse 28 the Word says, *"After."* After what? After the previous verse, which states, after restoration, *"I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh . . ."*

We first have to be restored before we can enter the purification. It is where we are in Christ that makes us ready to be purified. He teaches us how to enter into that place. In Psalm 91 it reads, *"He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High, shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."* God's Word tells us we shall abide there!

In Hebrews 4:1-12, *"Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.*

For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said:

*"So I swore in My wrath,
"They shall not enter My rest,""*

although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: "And God rested on the seventh day from all His works"; and again in this place: "They shall not enter My rest."

Since there it remains that some must enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience, again He designates a certain day, saying in David,

*"Today, if you will hear His voice,
Do not harden your hearts."*

For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day.

There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.

For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.

Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Only a few therefore will have hold of restoration while the promise is still there if we desire it.

In God, time is vertical not horizontal. With God, time is irrelevant. He will keep the promise of restoration, but only if we want it, only if we desire it. Whatsoever things we desire when we pray . . . BELIEVE! (Mark 11:24) Never worry about God being too late, just make sure to want it, desire it, pray for it, and believe God for it!

The word *here* in the ancient Hebrew language means, "to hear with your ear, to understand what you heard, and then to act upon it." When we hear what we learn from God, we need to actually hear it, understand it and then respond to it . . . DO IT! We must learn to act on everything that we receive from the Spirit of God. Faith is listening, believing, mentally and emotionally receiving, and then finally, acting upon what we heard.

If you need rest, now is the time for it. You have to want it. You have to wash yourself in the Word of God. You have to trust in the Lord that whatever He gives to you is for you, not against you. The bottom line is so simple. Trust in God, period. When nothing makes sense, trust in God. When nothing seems to be going your way, trust in God. When it seems the whole world is coming down all around you, trust in God. Things that are happening in the physical world are irrelevant compared to what the One who created the physical world is offering you in the spiritual world. He wants you to know that it is not about the rules, law, problems, etc., it's about Him. Praise God in everything. A bad day? Praise God. Problems at home? Praise God. That does not mean we pray God for a bad day, or problems at home! It means we praise Him, *in spite of* a bad day, and problems at home. It is praise that charges the atmosphere and causes joy to start taking over the entire physical realm because you are blessing God in the spiritual realm. For the vision, the classroom in heaven, the joy in the children and the two women was literal. The joy permeated everything, even me! I could feel joy personified. Praise makes joy full and real!

Psalms 23 states that, "*the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.*" If we just remember that, *I shall not want*, then we can get out of debt and stay out of debt. It is thinking about stuff that we think will satisfy us that causes us to rely on credit cards and banks as our providers instead of God. When we must have instant gratification, then we are walking by flesh, by sight, and definitely not by the Spirit of God. When we do have a need, a desire, then we need to learn to take it to our PRO-vision, our PRO-vider and trust Him that He will, in His time, take care of it. We must learn to wait for the timing of the Lord . . . complete trust in HIM. We have to remember that when we use other sources to 'meet our needs' then we have a god, whether it be credit cards, banks, lenders, whatever, that has taken the place of the One true God, Who is trustworthy. If we want the things of God in operation in our lives then we have to lay down our wants, needs, and desires at His Feet and truly trust Him with the outcome.

God is the One who *makes me lie down in green pastures*. God is bringing us to a place that we don't have to lie down anymore, we simply want to because He has asked us to do so. He is the One who brings us to a place that restores our strength. He will bring us to a place that makes us want to

be peaceful. We don't need to neglect the things that make us feel positive and give us peace. Books, teaching and music CDs that can have a positive influence on our thinking are what we should have around us physically.

God is rest and restoration. To get to what He wants for us, we have to be willing to listen to Him, trust in Him, act on Him, and surround ourselves with things that will not be negative, but positive. Remember, God's presence = rest and restoration. All we have to do to get to what He wants for us is to read His word, dwell on and in Him, and trust Him. It's not about the physical, but the spiritual.

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