

# *Salem Family Ministries*

June 16, 2008

*Come and join us at these services. We  
would love to see you!*

## *June*

- 21 - Praise Center Church, 503 N. Floral St., Visalia, CA - 5 pm  
*praisecenterchurch.org 559-733-2744*
- 22 - Praise Center Church, 503 N. Floral St., Visalia, CA - 8:30,  
10:30 & 12:30 pm  
*praisecenterchurch.org 559-733-2744*
- 29 - Oak Valley Family Church, 9580 Calimesa Blvd, Calimesa,  
CA - 9 & 11 am & 6 pm *ovfc.com 909-795-6476*

## *July*

- 6 - Sunday, Mountainview Faith Community Church, 7986  
Haven Ave., Rancho Cucamonga, CA - 9 & 11am *mvfcc.com  
909-948-9770*
- 12 - Abundant Living Family Church, 10900 Civic Center Drive,  
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 6 pm *abundantlivingfamily.org 909-  
987-7110*
- 13 - Abundant Living Family Church, 10900 Civic Center Drive,  
Rancho Cucamonga, CA - 8:30 & 11am  
*abundantlivingfamily.org 909-987-7110*

*[Click here to see our full Ministry Itinerary!](#)*

Summer is here and we are in full swing! We usually put our itinerary at the bottom of our letters, but we want to make sure you noticed these ministry dates so that you can come to these services if you are in the area.

Our son, Roman, just graduated from high school and we are so proud of him! He has an outstanding GPA, he excels in athletics, but most of all, we are proud of his character. He is a loyal, dedicated young man of integrity, who loves his Savior, and that, above all else, makes us so proud.

We have enclosed some pictures here so you can share in our joy and excitement as we celebrate the accomplishments of our youngest son, Roman Lee Salem.

We love you,

**Cheryl & Harry**



**Roman's Graduation Day, June 10, 2008**



## **The joy of our lives... Roman Lee Salem**



## **We're proud of you, Son.**

Dear Friends,

We have continued to stay at His feet and Be Still these months of 2008 and we are seeing His hand move mightily. In our last newsletter, we asked our son, Harry III to share some of his revelations and insights with you. We could never be more thankful for our two sons and their precious hearts after God's own heart.

Roman has now graduated from high school this past week and we are very thankful to the Lord that along with our son, H III, Roman has stayed faithful to the Lord and the call of God on his life. When Roman graduated, we asked him what did he feel he had learned from two years of high school versus being home schooled his previous years. He said, simply, and without hesitation, "I have learned that life is hard." At first our hearts sank, as we all know this is a true statement but for some reason, we all hope as parents that our children never figure this out!

When we asked him to elaborate on this statement he continued by saying, "Well, I have learned that doing the right thing does not always receive the reward from human beings that I thought it would. I learned that winning is more important to most people over playing fair and righteously when it comes to sports."

Of course, those of you reading this know all these statements are true. This is the real 'meat' of a Christian's realization when trying to live just in an unjust world, or trying to live righteously in an unrighteous society.

As we were studying this morning in the Spirit-Filled Life Bible we were in the book of Romans 1:21, ". . . *because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened . . .*"

So many words jumped right off the page in my heart as I was reading these few lines. The very first line started with "although they knew God." Although they knew God, think about it . . . although they knew God. We are not talking about people who are not suppose to know God! This scripture is talking about the folks in that day who actually knew God! So knowing God does not mean that we glorify God! It should mean this, but obviously, it does not mean that knowing God will automatically cause us to glorify God!

If you open your Bible and read further you will be amazed at what these people who 'KNEW GOD' went on to do that was horrible! Now here is the real question to each of us, including myself, as I type this! **How far do we deviate from the plan of God for our lives because of not glorifying God and being thankful to Him as we ought?**

The Bible says they knew God but they did not glorify Him as God nor were they thankful, but *became* futile. They became futile . . . they became futile. It was not an instant magic fairy dust to the destination of futile . . . they journeyed there, they *became* futile. Little by little they stopped worshiping and praising God, and they *became* less and less thankful to God . . . more focused on self, and less focused on God, until they *became* **futile**.

Futile in the Greek is *mataioo* and is pronounced (mat-ah-yah-oh). *It means to make empty, vain or prideful, foolish, useless, confused.* The word describes the perverted logic and idolatrous presumption of those who do not honor God or show Him any gratitude for His blessings on humanity. So the scripture above would read in it's fullest definition of understanding ". . . although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile, empty, prideful, foolish, useless and confused.

Can we see how keeping the Lord as Lord, staying in a worshipful, and thankful mindset can keep us in the right place of thinking and being on this earth? This earth realm should be a perfect place to 'practice' Heavenly living . . . just, righteous, clean, pure, holy, heart after God's own heart . . . these ways of life should be as simple and natural to a Christian as breathing is to a human body! And yet, we intermingle so much with the world and the world's ways that sometimes even those who 'know God' become completely futile, useless, confused, empty, and prideful!

As we have shared with Roman since his statement of learning that 'life is hard,' that we do not have control over other humans, but we do have control over our own selves and we can choose to "*come out from among them and be separate*" (II Cor. 6:18-19). Life is hard, there is no doubt. But as we love to say and have said this for many years. If it was easy everyone would do it! Obviously, not everyone is 'doing it.' Living life is hard, not easy. Making the right choices is hard, not easy. Living for God is not easy, but hard. But the best part of all is this: This world is not our home, we are strangers here! (Phil. 3:20) We are citizens of Heaven and when we know God we are to stay thankful, stay in a mode of worship and praise toward our God at all times.

I choose today and every day to worship God, when I

understand, and when I don't understand. I choose to praise God in everything no matter what I am going through or those around me are going through. I choose to stay thankful, with a thankful and a grateful heart I approach the Throne of God each and every day! And best of all, we choose to teach our young men to praise God, worship God and stay thankful, no matter what injustice they see around them. Even when unrighteousness is rewarded, and righteousness is not even noticed by those who should be noticing, God has not fallen off the throne!

We do not expect our rewards here any longer. We do not belong to the earth, but we do belong to God, belong to Heaven, where we hold our citizenship!

We love you and hopefully we will see those of you who live in the west in the next few weeks. If you receive our web newsletters and enjoy receiving them, we would love to hear from you. If you would like for us to address certain issues, or expand on certain revelations, let us know. If we are led to do so, we will address what we can as we hear from Heaven.

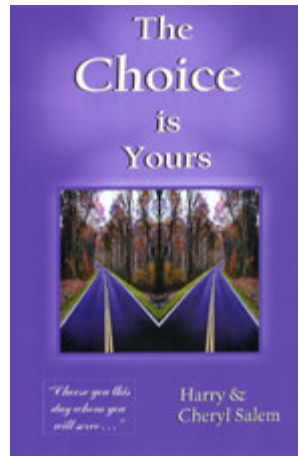
With love,

*Harry & Cheryl*

*To our Roman Lee Salem, congratulations, our wonderful and joyous son! When we even think of you, we smile. You are joy personified. From the first day you were born to this day, you are joy. The Lord delights in you, as you delight in HIM!*

*We love you,  
Mama & Daddy*

**"The Choice is Yours"**



Choices! Everybody makes them. Why do we choose the way we choose? Think about this. Today's choices affect us tomorrow. We can face each problem and situation throughout our daily lives with optimism or we can look at each circumstance and trial as if we are the only ones who have to go through these types of things and wonder, "Poor, pitiful me! Why does everything happen to me?" This entire earth experience is about choices. We can design our future by choosing today's paths carefully, for eternity is a very long time.

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