

March 2010

Our Church Family

pctoday

love God love people share Jesus

www.peopleschurch.org

Welcome Pastor Dale

Sunday, March 14

8:00, 9:45 & 11:30 am



The Bride of Isaac



This is a most exciting month in the story of Peoples Church, Fresno, CA.

We welcome our new Senior Pastor, Dale Oquist.

With this great news in mind, here is an excerpt of what I shared at a recent staff meeting.

Genesis 24 records the account of Abraham sending his chief servant to find a bride for Isaac. If you read the chapter, you will see Abraham was very specific about where the servant was to go to find Isaac's bride.

In this chapter, Abraham is a picture of God and Isaac of Jesus; the servant represents the Holy Spirit and Rebekah (the eventual bride of Isaac) is the Church.

No doubt concerned about the success of such a journey, the servant asks Abraham, "What if the woman is unwilling to come back with me to this land?" (verse 5)

It is the bride's choice as to whether she will follow the servant.

The servant goes to the country of Abraham and his relatives, seeking Isaac's bride. He prays that the one who offers to give him and his camels a drink of water from a well will be the one chosen for Isaac. You know the story. That is how it happened. She also invited the servant to her father's house to spend the night.

At Rebekah's home, the servant details the reason for his visit to her father, Bethuel, and her brother, Laban. Their response was, "This is

from the Lord; we can say nothing to you one way or the other. Here is Rebekah; take her and go, and let her become the wife of your master's son, as the Lord has directed."

While this chapter is rich in imagery and speaks even further to us, I'll jump to the end of the account. Rebekah's family called her and asked, "Will you go with this man?" (v.58a)

It is the bride's choice as to whether she will follow the servant. (Please read that last sentence again.)

"I will go," she said. (verse 58b)

"Then Rebekah and her maids got ready and mounted their camels and went back with the man."

God is bringing someone to lead us. I pray we will be like Isaac's bride and follow God's servant, riding the camel in the direction that Pastor Dale leads.

Blessings,

Doug

Inside This Issue:

Welcome Oquist Family, Spring Break Outreach, and Celebrate Recovery.



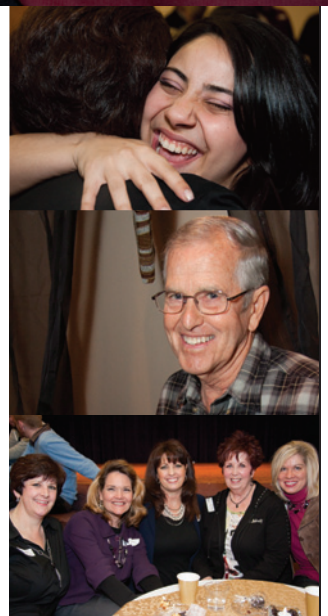
Welcome...

Pastor Dale and Joni Oquist, Lauren, DJ and Dawson!

Pastor Dale's first Sunday as pastor of Peoples Church is Sunday, March 14, where he will be speaking in all three Sunday services.

Thanks to Pastor Ron McManus for traveling to Fresno week after week, working with the Pastoral Search Committee, and serving as our PC Pastor for the past two years.

Baskets for your cards and notes of appreciation for Pastor Ron will be available on Sunday, March 7.



In January PC family met the Oquists at receptions in Ground Zero.



J-High

The weather is finally warm, school is out for the week, and families are heading for the mountains or the beach, anywhere out of town for a spring break.

Well, not all families.

Many PC J-High students are making plans to attend BreakAway – the spring outreach event at Peoples Church.

Joining with several churches in Fresno and Clovis (and even Reedley), along with Christ Community Church from Sacramento, students will spend the week camping out in tents all over our grounds, eating meals together, serving our community together, and worshipping the Lord together.

“We want our kids to see they’re part of something bigger than they are,” explains J-High Pastor Matt Markarian. “There are many people in need, plenty to do locally. So each day we’ll install smoke detectors with the Fresno Fire Department or work on projects at King Elementary (where PC has participated

during the year providing coats, shoes and fleece blankets for elementary school students).

“Even though it’s for students, we hope parents will make this part of their family vacation. We hope to see families serving together,” says Matt.

In the evening they’ll return for chapel, then some fun and games before bed.

J-highers are being trained how to develop good relationships and how to share their faith, and Matt hopes this will have lasting effects: “I want these kids to be influencers on their campus, even after BreakAway is over.”

The week will end on Thursday evening with a concert at the SaveMart Center featuring MercyMe, David Crowder Band, Family Force 5, Francesca Battistelli, Fee, and more.

J-High

- Sunday, March 28 – Thursday, April 1
- \$125.00 includes meals, transportation, t-shirt, and concert ticket

To register contact Anukina: 298-8001, ext. 323.

BREAK

Spring Break



High School & College

Trying to decide what to do over spring break? Something fun with friends while meeting new people? Something out of the ordinary yet worthwhile? Something that will last?

Partnering with Iglesia PC church plants in Biola and Selma, PC high school and college students can be part of "BreakAway." They'll stay in the local communities and work on construction projects, hold VBS and sports camps for kids, go on prayer walks, and practice friendship evangelism.

In the evenings they'll host outreaches with hot dogs and games, ending with worship.

Last year BreakAway teams found unplanned opportunities for ministry. As one team worked at a church in Orange Cove, they helped a neighbor living across the street from the church whose fence needed repair.

"She was very skeptical of us at first," said one team member, "but by the end

of the week she was talking with us and bringing us food."

"It was like God was blessing the neighbors to the church, as well," said PC College Pastor Miles Newton. "And who knows what influence she has over someone else."

Another unexpected blessing... neighborhood kids came out to get involved and began to take pride and ownership in their community.

"Our church plants have the connections," observed PC High School Pastor Chad Johnson. "We want to come alongside and help them in their communities."

"The Bible talks about going to Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria," said Miles. "This is our Samaria."

"You'll have a good time, build camaraderie, and have a sense that God is with you. It's a chance for you to grow and put your hand to something important."

High School & College

- Saturday, March 27 – Thursday, April 1
- \$150.00 includes meals, transportation, t-shirt, and concert ticket

To register contact Alli-Kay (High School): 298-8001, ext. 323 or Kassy (College), ext. 312.

BREAKAWAY

Outreach 2010



CELEBRATE RECOVERY

There Couldn't Be a God

by Carol Rogers

I snuck my first drink at age 14, just experimenting at first. As I got older, the partying got bigger. By age 18 it was snowballing out of control.

My first husband was very abusive, and I dreaded him coming home. The marriage lasted a little over a year, and my self-esteem was destroyed.

I was drinking because I was tired of feeling anything, just wanted to be numb. And I became a party girl.

I met another man and fell in love. We were talking about marriage; then he was killed in a car accident.

That's the time I got my first (and only) DUI and spent a weekend in jail.

Eventually I met another man and married again. After we'd been married about six years, my husband told me he was bisexual and had been having affairs for three years.

On top of everything else I developed an eating disorder and struggled with depression. There couldn't possibly be a God because if He existed, He wouldn't let all these horrible things happen to me. So I turned my back on Him.

I'd come home from work and start drinking; then I'd pass out, go to work the next day with a hangover, and start all over again.

I lost my job due to corporate re-organization and started thinking maybe I had a problem with drinking. So I checked into rehab. It worked for a little while. Then my mom passed away, and two months later my dad passed away. This just proved my theory: there couldn't be a God. I had a meltdown and started drinking again.

I also started going to church a little bit and heard about Celebrate Recovery

(CR). I thought, maybe God wasn't the problem after all. I decided to give CR a try; if I didn't like it, I could always quit.

Instead I invited the Lord back into my life and began the long road to recovery.

With the help of my sponsor, who knew her Bible and helped convince me I was worth something, I began reading God's Word and learned I am precious in His sight and that I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Eventually I began to move ahead, forgiving people and asking forgiveness. I went through five years of AIDS testing (because of my husband's affairs) and was diagnosed AIDS free. When the doctor wanted to do blood work to see if a duodenal ulcer had affected my liver, I told her after 20 years of drinking, I was sure there would be damage. But the results came back and my liver was fine.

Now that I'm on the other side, I feel a lot more liberated. It's like the Bible says, "You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32)

My sobriety birthday is May 3, 2006. If God can do this for me, He can do it for anybody.

If you have a recovery background and have participated in Celebrate Recovery or a traditional 12-Step program, would you consider helping us in CR? We are looking for individuals who can sponsor people working on their hurts, habits, and hang-ups. Contact Pastor Ron at 298-8001, ext. 211.

NEW semester beginning
with classes in:

- Biblical History of Worship
- Worship Leading
- Music Theory, Ear Training
- Chord Charts, Reading & Writing
- Current World Worship

peopleschoolof WORSHIP

To register contact Alisa Hopper: 285-3206 or visit psworship.com.



Youth Conference 2010

• March 5 & 6

Volunteers needed to help
with the conference,
donate baked goods for
staff meals and provide homes
for ministry interns.

To volunteer or for
PC student tickets,
contact 298-8001, ext. 270 or
events@peopleschurch.org.

ACQUIRE THE FIRE

2009/2010

ENCOUNTER

BREAKAWAY

Spring Break Outreach 2010

Isaiah 50:10-12

Needs People Who Will:

- cook and serve meals
- help on the kitchen team
- work security
- provide on-site medical care
- take pictures
- purchase supplies
- give scholarships
- pray
- volunteer a day...or camp out with us.

Contact 298-8001, ext 270 if you'd like to be involved.

BILL GLASS WEEKEND OF CHAMPIONS

Take place in a life-changing weekend, ministering to
adult and juvenile inmates all over the Valley.

Registration deadline
March 24 for the...

**April 30-May 1
OUTREACH**

For registration
information, watch
Sunday bulletins or
contact Tim Moore:
277-1838.

Prayers & Sympathies

Bob Adams & family in the loss of his wife,
Frances Adams.
Diane Anderson & family in the loss of her
mother, Laura Anderson.
Lorna Brandau & family in the loss of her sister,
Lorena Nolen.
David Gilkey & family in the loss of his father,
Charles Gilkey.
Family & friends in the loss of Richard Hoff.
Lena Markus & family in the loss of her sister,
Lucy Saragosa.
Joe McKenry & family in the loss of his mother,
Marjorie McKenry.
Family & friends in the loss of Isabelle Mobus.
Mary Nesper & family in the loss of her brother,
Paul Weddle.
Sue Shafer & family in the loss of her husband,
Don Shafer.
Sally Thomas & family in the loss of her son,
Timothy Flores.
Marge Williams, Diane Williams & family in the
loss of husband & father, Glen Williams.
Lillian Woodruff & family in the loss of her
husband, Don Woodruff.

Memorials

William Briggs
Alvin & Marydell Quist
Jimmie Cross
Beverly Fahrney
Jim & Betty Scheidt
John Hogendorn
Reg & Wilma Baker
Elaine Karmarkovic
Hal & Carolyn Lopez
W. Neil Radley
Lesley Markarian
Ed & Dorothy Baloian
Paul & Betty Read
Mabel Mascarenas
Jim & Betty Scheidt
Marjorie McKenry
Lee & Marsha Armstrong
Les & Helen Hirasuna

Isabelle Mobus
Roger E. Salley
Wally Thomson
Patti Granata
Glen Williams
Reg & Wilma Baker
Ed & Dorothy Baloian
Bob & Soni Dunlap
Knut & Carol Hansston
Dudley & Sharon Haverty
Doug & Norma Hazelton
Les & Helen Hirasuna
Richard Keosheyan
Hal & Carolyn Lopez
Bob & Beth Pool
Paul & Betty Read
Roger E. Salley
Duane & Marilynne Temple

Don Woodruff
Bob & Soni Dunlap
Earl & Jan Giacolini
Les & Helen Hirasuna
Phyllis Humason
Mickey & Betty Kaitangian
Dorris Long
Hal & Carolyn Lopez
W. Neil Radley
Roger E. Salley
Search & Discover Class

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COME EXPERIENCE EASTER @ PEOPLES CHURCH

with our new pastor **Dale Oquist**

Good Friday

7:00 pm

Easter Saturday

7:00 pm

Easter Sunday

7:00, 8:30, 10:00, & 11:30 am

(one hour gatherings)