

Aug/Sept
2017

From Pastor John



Redding Christian Fellowship Connection

The last couple of weeks have been very exciting as Redding Christian Fellowship has served God through serving His church and serving people around the world. Just as our team returned from ministering in Kenya, another team left to head to Mexico.

I've already heard amazing stories from our Kenya team. They served in schools, in villages and in churches. They preached and taught Sunday Schools. They trained teachers and mechanics, pastors and seamstresses. They shared the gospel and met the needs of hurting people. In all their endeavors, they pointed people to Jesus and the fullness of life that comes from following Him and living life according to His principles. We're looking forward to hearing more from them—then we get to hear from our Mexico team as they return!

Here in Redding, we had an amazing opportunity to reach out into our community through Vacation Bible School. Each night was incredible as we had kids here who memorized Scripture, learned about Jesus, and had fun. It was great to connect with new families and to see kids who have been a part of our

Children's Ministry continue to grow in their relationship with Jesus.

As I think about the last few weeks and the months to come, I am reminded of an important truth—God is at work all over the world! It's easy to focus on what takes place near us or in the arenas that are important to us, but we have to remember that God is much bigger than our own sphere of influence or interest. God calls us into a relationship with Himself and then, as if that's not incredible enough, calls us into things that are greater than ourselves.

The question for you as you read this is, "How are you involved in those greater things?" As followers of Jesus, we have to remember that our job is to "increase the assets of our Master" (Thanks to Don Carson for this quote). We can't think that our job is to simply show up to church, enjoy some music that we like, listen to someone preach and think that we've fulfilled our kingdom calling.

Let me challenge you—if you're not looking to see how you can be involved in something great, look for a spot you can fill and take the next step in following Jesus!

Observations from Pastor Rick

Next Steps!

You will begin to hear the term "next steps" mentioned at Redding Christian more and more in the days to come. Our walk with Jesus always consists of next steps. Some of us have walked with Him for many years while others are new in their walk with Jesus. But we should always be learning and growing and taking "next steps". Some have yet to take their first steps with Jesus. That may be your next step as you acknowledge Him as your personal Savior! Redding Christian is a place to help you in moving forward in your walk with Jesus. Let me mention a few ways our church can encourage you in your next steps with our Lord.

Life groups. In the next few weeks you will be hearing about new opportunities to become part of one of our life groups. We hope to add several new groups in September and one may be just right for you. A life group is more than a Bible study. A life group as we define it is a group of folks who meet regularly to do life together. They study, pray, worship, enjoy each other, encourage and fellowship together, and serve together in some meaningful ministry as the group itself determines. We think everyone at Redding Christian should be part of a life group to do life together.

Impact. For a number of years now, many of our congregation have paired with a student in one of our area schools to provide friendship and mentoring. Perhaps this ministry could be your next step in walking with Jesus.

Bible study. This summer we are offering a 6 week Bible study on Sunday mornings that will unpack our articles of faith. Do you know what you believe? Do you know why you believe it? Joining this class might be a good "next step" for you. Our intent is to offer a similar class again in the fall.

Membership. We do not emphasize church membership and we value all who choose to worship

with us. However, formally joining the church is a step of commitment and accountability which we believe honors God. Take that next step the next time our Beginning the Journey class is offered and join others in this 2 week course. You will learn what membership is about and why it is an important "next step".

Giving. Perhaps you desire to take your next steps in the area of your personal finances. At first it may seem frightening to designate a percentage of your financial assets to the ministry of our church or to another worthwhile ministry. After all, you have bills to pay and the end of the money seems often to come before the end of the month! This could be an exciting "next step" as you experience God's provision and blessings for you and your family.

Service. Could your next step be involvement in a ministry where your spiritual gifts can be exercised? It is a terrific joy to be part of a vision and ministry. We have many opportunities for service. Here are a few: ushering, greeting, teaching, helping with facilities, music, and many others. A call to the church office can put you in touch with our various ministry leaders so you can take that "next step" of service. I have been intrigued recently by the words of Peter in his Second epistle. His readers were well grounded in the faith but this did not stop Peter from urging them to take next steps. He put it this way,

Therefore, I shall always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you. And I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder. II Peter 1:12-13

What were the "these things" of which Peter was so passionate and determined to remind his readers? You will find them in the verses preceding. They are faith, moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love.

What next steps do you need to take? We would be delighted to visit with you further on this important subject. ~Pastor Rick Penner

Ministerial Staff:

John Craft
Lead Pastor

Rick Penner
Church Administration

Jerry Mapes
Missions

Jeff Lange
Life Groups & Family Life

**Levi White &
Kevin Rhoderick**
Middle School

Caleb Little
High School & IMPACT

Mister Brown
Preschool/Children's Ministry

Tom Bryant
Worship & Young Adults

Sharon Greene
Women's Ministry Director

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Missions by Pastor Jerry

I am so excited as I have the opportunity to witness firsthand the work God is doing in and through Redding Christian Fellowship's mission outreach. We have been blessed because of your faithfulness in giving to our monthly missionary support as well as our short term missions trips. Many lives have been changed for eternity because of your faithfulness.

On January 4, 1994 "The Mission's Committee" from Redding Christian Church (name prior to Redding Christian Fellowship) definition of missions was as follows:

Missions is a sending forth of authorized persons beyond the border of Redding Christian Church - that is, cross-cultural in the USA or in a foreign country to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Gospel destitute areas, and to win converts from other faiths or non-faiths to Jesus Christ, and to establish functioning multiplying local congregations who will bear the fruit of Christianity in that community and to that country. Any mission supported should be compatible with our statement of faith.

The earliest recorded documentation I have is a Mission Committee proposal to the Elder board on September 3rd, 1987 to implement a monthly budget of \$840 which included two international missionaries and four local outreach ministries. Benevolence ministry was also included in this budget. The budget was based on 10% of the annual giving at Redding Christian Fellowship.

In April of 1992, with the help of two of our own missionaries preparing to go overseas and several mission minded church members, a presentation was made to the elder board which was the original formation of our current Global ministry team. Much has changed over the past 30 years. Currently we have 8 local ministries, 6 US based ministries traveling overseas, 21 missionaries serving in 20 different countries around the world and 4 missionaries serving in administrative positions within their sending agencies. We send out 4 to 6 short term mission teams annually to local and international ministries we support. Our annual mission

giving is over \$220,000 and is approximately 20% of Redding Christian Fellowship's annual giving. The call to Redding Christian Fellowship is the same. The Great Commission hasn't change, but the way we fulfill that charge has.

World evangelism by the American church has changed dramatically in the last decade. At one time not long ago the only way it seemed to fulfill Christ's great commission (Matt.28:19) was to send individuals to far-away places. Cross cultural missionaries traveled to the far reaches of the world risking their lives in the name of the Lord. Once every four or five years returning home to their supporting churches telling stories of both their victories and failures. We owe great respect and gratitude to these missionaries. Their stories would challenge us to pray more and continue to support the ongoing work. In some instances that continues but more and more often cross cultural contact is being made in less than traditional means. From the book "Measuring What Matters" Dave Stravers writes this: "The world has changed. Starting about 40 years ago, Western Christians began to take seriously this fact. Many Great Commission Christians began to realize that two centuries of Great Commission activity had successfully implanted the Gospel in almost every geo-political nation."

We are seeing many of our foreign ministries partners changing their approach to reaching the lost. With great success I might add. It is an honor to partner with them. With the ease of travel we have been able to send teams to serve alongside them, to encourage them and see firsthand the work God has called them to. The Elder Board of Redding Christian Fellowship has given me the responsibility to help guide our mission / outreach ministries into the ever changing world of Missions. Please be in prayer for me in this new position. I'm very grateful for a mission minded staff and Elder Board. To God Be the Glory!

♦ **Mission's Emphasis Weekend September 30th – October 1st. "Pray and Pursue"**

You don't want to miss this one. Mark your calendars now!



As our summer quickly comes to a close we look to the fall and the coming school year. This will be the 5th year that Impact has a presence and ministry in public schools. September 10 at 12:30pm in the main auditorium will be the first training scheduled for any first time and returning Impact mentors. We will provide you lunch during the meeting and go over the necessary logistics. If you are considering the possibility of being an Impact mentor please request an application at the information desk in the foyer or you may contact the church office. Returning mentors will not be required to fill out an application. The brokenness in the families inside our community can be overwhelming. Impact brings hope to students who often live in dismal situations.

Please be praying that God would open the hearts and minds of students to hear the message of the Gospel both through word and deed.

For His Glory and Honor,

Caleb



Summer Sunday School



This year during July and August Cornerstone Kids Ministry (CKM) will be combining our Kindergarten through second grade class with our third through fifth grade class and we are calling it Summer Sunday School. Or as we say it with the kids, "Summer Sunday School...School...School"

During Summer Sunday School we will be in a series entitled "One Way". Kids will learn lessons from;

- Cain & Abel: One Way to Come to God
- The Bronze Serpent: One Way to Be Saved
- Naaman: One Way to Be Made Clean
- Nicodemus: One Way to Be Born Again
- The Prodigal Son: One Way to Be Forgiven

These lessons will be taught with an evangelistic focus as we look at the "One Way" God says we should come to him. Kids will be taught the gospel in a variety of ways and have an opportunity to trust Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. In addition to our lessons we will have

- Memory Verse Challenges
- Team Competitions
- Review Games
- Much More

We are about learning and having fun in the process because we believe learning about God and His plans for our life is fun! I know what you might be thinking. This sounds like fun. You're right! Want to join us? Be a part of something great, join the CKM Team. For more information contact Mister Brown at misterbrown@rcfellowship.org

Vacation Bible School



"VBS is a great way for children to learn about Christ. Maybe an adult VBS...I sat here all week and learned a ton!"

"Absolutely, the best in town."

"My daughter came home and told her friends that she was learning about God at VBS"

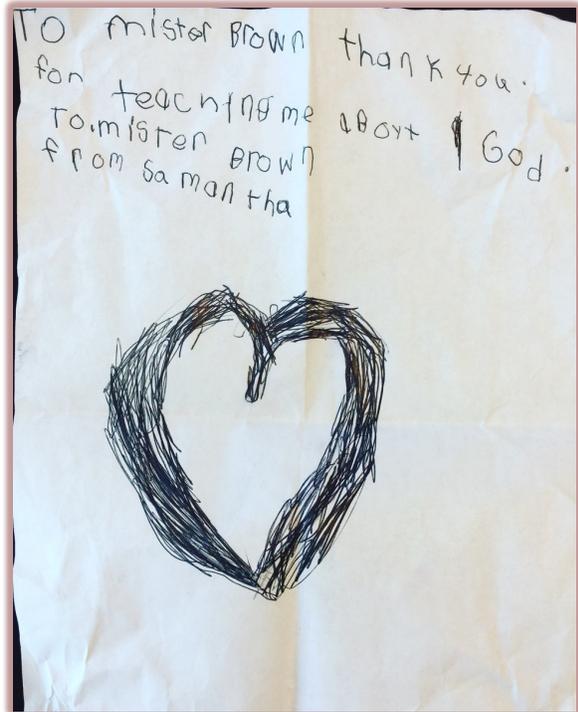
These are just a few of the comments we got from parents of students from this year's Vacation Bible School (VBS).

I really appreciate the feedback from parents but nothing beats the little notes I get from kids. Many of the notes are just on scrap pieces of paper but they are very heartfelt. Kids usually give them to me when there's a crowd of kids around so I don't get to always read them right away.

Friday night as I was getting ready for bed and being a good husband and emptying my pants pockets, I found one such note from a student. The note simply read,

"thank you for teaching me about God"

Oh, she drew a big heart on the note too.



I am so grateful for the opportunity we have to help kids build a foundation for life by teaching them the word of God.

There's so much I could say about VBS this year but here are a few things.

Theme: Under Construction

Students enrolled: 86

Team Members: 61

Parent Lounge: 30 plus (not an official number)

Several kids express faith through a prayer of salvation

I would like to say thank you to all the parents who brought their kids, team members that worked very hard to make VBS a success and those of you who told your family, neighbors and friends about VBS.

If you'd like to learn more about VBS 2017 and see videos and pictures just visit rcfellowship.org/vbs2017



Hymn Sing
to
H+M

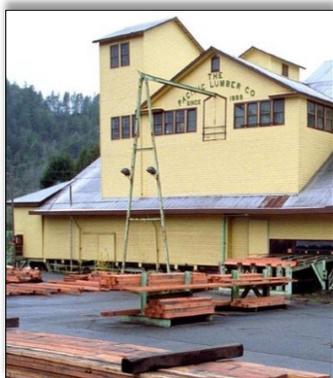
People Enjoying People, our 55 years old and above church family, invites the Redding Christian Family of all ages to enjoy a great CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST, GREAT RELATIONSHIP and a WONDERFUL TIME OF WORSHIP as we sing our favorite hymns.

* * * * *

August 17 at 9:00 A.M.

\$2.00-Advance & \$3.00 at the door

Sign up in the foyer or call the church office at 222-3425



P.E.P. to TOUR
SIERRA PACIFIC LUMBER CO, Anderson CA

19794 Riverside Ave

Thursday, September 21 at 9:00 A.M.

The 1 1/2 hour tour will be noisy, require stairs and wearing hard hats and goggles (provided)! The tour is limited to 30 people. If this sounds too strenuous then please join us after the tour for an early lunch at



VITTLES in Anderson at 11:00 A.M. - 2385 North Street

Please make your reservations at the information desk and pick up an information sheet. There are two sign up sheets, one for the Sierra Pacific Tour and one for VITTLES.

Sharon's Sharing...



Hello Dear ladies ! It's that time again, to share updates in our WOMEN IN MINISTRY as well as from my heart, words of encouragement to you, regardless of what Season your life might be in right now. Maybe like this current Season of triple digit temperatures, you feel the hot winds of adversity and even the dryness of your soul. Perhaps your life seems, like mine at times, to be at a dry and barren place, and you wonder if you'll ever feel revived again. Take heart and hope in our Lord, who still moves stones, revives the barren places and STILL resurrects that which has seemed dead for a very long time. MY word for you today comes from Ephesians 3:20 and also from Psalm 119:50. I will challenge you to read this and then share what God speaks to you personally.

Though the summer months have been a seemingly (did I say HOT?) DRY time...you can take hope that there is a great fall awaiting you as our Women in Ministry has some exciting plans for the future. Be sure to watch for announcements and jump in and register for the following upcoming connection Ministries :

Registration sign-ups will begin in August for a variety of wonderful Bible studies. Whether Precepts study, offered both evening and days, or Tuesday Morning and evening ladies Bible studies. Studies resume in September. There will be some wonderful choices of studies and those relationship building opportunities that we all need. There is nothing quite as sweet as time spent in the Word, and then discussion and prayer with your sisters in Christ . Be sure to

stop by the registration tables in the foyer beginning in August to register for the study of your choice and pick up a Bible study participants guide. Childcare is still provided for Tuesday evening study and we are offering an option for Tuesday mornings as well .

LADIES FALL RETREAT is scheduled for October 27-29th, with our theme *AN INVITATION TO HIS TABLE, COME FILL YOUR CUP*. So many lessons were learned at His table, lovingly prepared for us . Your seat is reserved. Won't you join us?

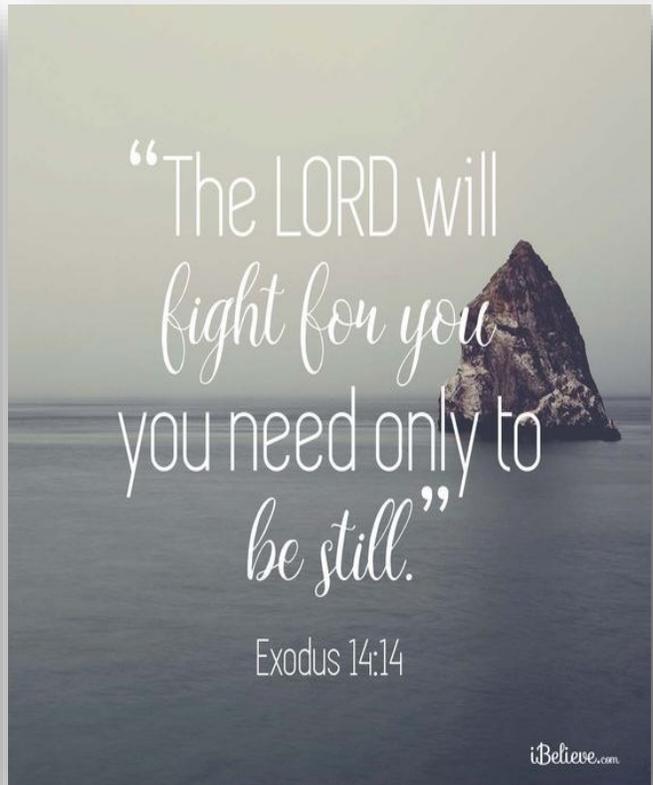
This Retreat will prove to be another amazing connection opportunity with great worship, teaching and sharing of both laughter and maybe even a tear or two. We are limited to 75 reservations. You'll want to register as soon as the retreat registration team is at their seats, ALSO IN AUGUST!

Our ladies (and men as well) are encouraged to sign up for the wonderfully healing Ministries of DivorceCare and Grief Share, both sign ups and start up dates are in August.

So much to look forward to, and to be a part of. Its my sincere desire to see everyone at RCF (and specifically my care for Women) learning how to take that NEXT STEP in your relationship with Christ. SO, again, dear ladies, no matter which Season of Life you are currently in, our Ministerial Staff is willing and equipped to gently guide you in confidence to take that next BEST step that God has for you!

My warmest wishes (I KNOW?...warm seems a bad play on words!!!!) I make it a priority to be available to and accessible on Sunday's especially to LISTEN to your ideas and concerns, pray with you, and encourage you in your walk of faith, joyfully serving our Savior, and our Women in Ministry alongside you! And until next time, keep looking UP!!

~Sharon





Past Events

The summer months have been flying by quickly as they always do. It is a special time of year for the students for several reasons. Not only are they out of school and enjoying more free time, but many of our students are transitioning from one stage of life to another. This summer we had two graduation events. First, we welcomed the incoming 6th graders with a dinner and informational meeting for their parents. This is where we really get to share our vision for the next year and begin a relationship with the Jr. High students that will hopefully be lasting and impactful. Each new student brings a unique perspective to the group. We love it when God brings new students and take every opportunity to invest in each one.

As the new students transitioned into Jr. High ministry, we also promoted next years freshmen into the high school group. It's exciting to look back over all the growth and learning that has taken place in their lives in Jr. High and then encourage them on as they enter high school and their mid teen years. It is clear that God has some amazing things in store for our kids and we can't wait to see the men and women they grow up to be.

Current Events

During the summer months, we take a break from our normal youth group schedule and switch things up a bit. We have been hosted at individuals houses who have been gracious enough to let the youth group use their pools and play in their yards. New students have been consistently showing up and we pray that they would continue to come and have an interest in learning how they can have a relationship with Jesus.

Just recently, the youth group helped serve a meal at the Good News Rescue Mission which was a very successful event. It was an opportunity for our students to live out their faith in a very practical way and for them to see what service is all about. The more we can reach the people in our own community, the more they will see that the gospel does change lives.

Several students from Baseline went to Mexico on the church wide missions trip serving at an orphanage. There will be an update given so we can share the how lives were changed as a result of the experiences from this trip.

Future Events

In the month of August the middle school boys will be going on a backpacking trip and the girls will be taking a ladies retreat. Lasting discipleship takes place on these trips because the leaders can focus on specific issues and topics relevant to either guys or girls individually. The summer winds down at the end of August and then we return to meeting on campus for the school year. We look forward to what God is going to do in and through the youth ministries in the next year.



Old News:

Water falls, VBS, swimming, Mexico, family camp and climbing rock walls are only some of the summer activities. It has been a great summer!!! To those of you who have hosted us, feed us, let us swim in your pool, driven us around or served us in some other way- thank you so very much. I also want to thank all of you who were so generous in supporting all of the fundraisers! Your generosity is noticed and appreciated!

There are still quite a few exciting things planned for the high school ministry for the remainder of the summer. If you have questions or are interested please contact the church office for more information.

New News:

August starts with a two retreats. The Guys are headed up for a 2 night backpacking trip to the base of Mt. Eddie in the Trinity Wilderness. The ladies will be headed east for a 2 night retreat up in the Round Mountain area. Both retreats will be happening at the same time, August 4-6. If you have a high school student interested in either of these trips more information is available upon request, simply contact the church office.

The summer schedule concludes on August 9th at Dave and Cindy Donarico's house with a paintball battle. The following week we will remain on the RCF campus as school will have resumed for most high school students.

As September approaches there will be more information available for the spiritual formation retreat.

For His Glory and Honor,

Caleb

Those listed below are or have been ill or in the hospital, recuperating at home, have lost a loved one or welcomed a new little one into their family. Let's lift them up in prayer.



Illnesses

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Betty Achten | Hal Hanesworth | Debbie Walters |
| Dan Berger | Loretta Humphries | Barbara |
| Margaret Brady | Darlene Idehara | Wiedenhoef |
| Jody Charbonneau | June Lee | Glen Mapes |
| Shirley Coker | Laurie Lemon | Don Mangrum |
| Mary Doboynne | Deanna Olsen | Betty Ramsey |
| Pete Ferrer | Mary Olsen | Warn Seachao |
| Ed Fishburn | Ed Robertson | Rory Woods |
| Judy Gama-Strausser | Kati Rosten | |
| Louis & Donleita Gerdes | Barb Spellman | |

Deaths

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Kathie Roberts | Joyce Covey-O'Donnell |
| Caleb Larsen | |
| K.C. Farrer | |

ATTENDANCE AND GENERAL FUND GIVING

<u>Celebration</u>			
	<u>1st / 2nd</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Giving</u>
6/4/17.....	448 / 461.....	909.....	\$23,765.96
6/11/17.....	441 / 342.....	783.....	\$19,682.03
6/18/17.....	496 / 322.....	818.....	\$11,707.05
6/25/17.....	419 / 411.....	830.....	\$14,546.22
7/2/17.....	401 / 311.....	712.....	\$22,978.35
7/9/17.....	421 / 353.....	774.....	\$15,283.00
7/16/17.....	383 / 344.....	727.....	\$13,685.20
7/23/17.....	441 / 400.....	841.....	\$12,081.14



FINANCIAL REPORT

Below you will see the fiscal year to date financial status of Redding Christian Fellowship. The Elder Board would like to keep the congregation informed on the financial status of the church and the various projects that are ongoing at Redding Christian Fellowship. You are welcome to address any questions or concerns by contacting the church office.

**As of June 30:
Fund**

General fund giving	\$759,781.00
Operating expenses:	\$811,393.00
Missions giving	\$162,874.00
Missionary funds disbursed:	\$165,192.00

DINNER Groups

GET TO KNOW OTHERS AT RCF!

New Dinner Groups will begin meeting together in September.

Be sure to complete the enclosed form and return it to the church office or information desk by August 20, 2017.

It's time to start another round of RCF dinner groups! We are doing groups of six, so that more people can participate. Each group meets once a month (for three months). If your group chooses, you can have an extra outing together (no host) to a restaurant, pizza parlor, etc. Everyone in the group takes a turn being host and providing the main dish, then assigns other dishes to the rest of the group (i.e. dessert, salad, etc). Singles are encouraged to participate! This is a great way to get acquainted with others in the church in a relaxed, totally social atmosphere whether you're new to RCF or have been here for a while. For more information, call Gloria Aristo @ 224-1612.



**REDDING CHRISTIAN
FELLOWSHIP**

2157 Victor Avenue
Redding, CA 96002

Celebration Services - 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Main Auditorium

OUR ELDERS

Duane Helle
(chairman)
Ken Abbott
John Kelley
John Chelonis
Troy Foster

Ken McDonald
Bruce Schlange
Rick Penner
John Craft

OUR DEACONS

Bill Hawes
(chairman)
Dave Donarico
Dan Londen
Gary Kalsbeek

George Rhoderick
Don Dunham
Don Greene
Robert Andrade

CONTACT US:

Phone: 530-222-3425
Fax: 530-222-3490
www.rcfellowship.org

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday thru Thursday
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.