

Newsletter for July 2019

Dear Church Family,

This afternoon (June 30), following the morning service, we had a very productive time talking about the CWC, which stands for the Church for those Without a Church. It is too complicated to describe it all; the idea was to keep everyone up on what and where and how we are right now.

Our launch is scheduled for January 2020, but we may get started earlier than that. Even by January we will only be at the early beginnings. This evangelical outreach will morph, change, etc., for years into the future. But, we are off to a good start.

Let me speak to you about something we all can relate to: discouragement. The truth is that life gets us all down from time to time, me included. In the book I wrote for pastors of small churches is a chapter on this subject. The pastoral ministry is an impossible job, which is one of the reasons pastors leave their churches so often. The denomination we are part of sees pastors having an average stay of less than three years. It used to be worse than that, and the reasons are too many and too complicated to present here. The fact is, all of us who live in the real world are subject to feeling discouragement, some for short periods, others for very long periods. It goes with the territory. And it is not always the things that happen around us personally. Just reading the newspapers, watching TV news, and the list goes on, just the sheer mass of reality is enough to floor us.

Okay then, what to do? One, admit it. Two, admit it to someone who will listen and not advise. (And let me say that advice giving is the least helpful thing one can do. There was a person who came to the divorce recovery workshop this year, who never stopped giving advice, even stopping Katie or I and pontificating. We had to ask this person to leave.) Three, understand that everyone gets discouraged from time to time. Four, do some things you like to do. Five, seek to help someone else who is going through difficult times. Six, tell someone about the grace of our Lord Jesus. As we find in the sermon this coming Sunday, this is “food” that delights the heart. Seven, tell Jesus about it. The great hymn, “I Must Tell Jesus,” page 636 in our hymnal, begins with, “I must tell Jesus all of my trials, I cannot bear this burden alone. In my distress He kindly will help me; He ever loves and cares for His own.” Eight, read the 23rd Psalm.

I have finally figured out what I am doing the rest of my life. Big surprise I know, but it is to do all I can to obey the command of Jesus to publish the Gospel as widely as possible. And right here in good old Marin County is the place to do it. We have an adequate church building and parsonage, the capacity to publish books, produce television programs, and the personnel to develop the ministries we project to do. So now you know: lets go to the work.

Finally, the new roof is on. We have some cleanup work to do and this is in process. Little by little we aim to upgrade our facility. We refuse to be weary in well doing, as someone put it.

Pastor Kent
June 30, 2019