

# Church Life News

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## First Christian CHURCH of VISALIA



### Mike's Musings

#### "Women in the Church, Part II"

In understanding the role of women in the church we must study and decipher what the Word of God says. Two verses have become very important for me over the years in this regard, the first is 2 Timothy 2:15, *"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth."* The second is where Peter, a contemporary of Paul, who spoke the same language, shared the same Jewish culture and religion wrote to believers in 2 Peter 3:16, *"As also in all his (Paul) letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the scriptures, to their own destruction."* If it was a challenge to understand "some things" which Paul wrote by people who lived at the same time, spoke the same language, shared the same culture and religious background, then it is nothing short of arrogance or stupidity to think everything in Paul's letters is easy to understand today where we are separated by almost two thousand years, a vastly different culture, language and religion.

When it comes to *"handling the word of truth,"* I am mindful of the old slogan I learned in seminary, "Text without context is pretext." In other words you can make the Bible say whatever you want it to say, especially when you isolate certain passages and remove them from the context in which they were written. Conversely, to correctly understand the intent of the author we must know the context.

So it is with these passages many use to justify their belief that women are not to have any kind of leadership

role within the church, or to even speak.

With that in mind I want to start with 1 Corinthians 14:34 which says, *"The women are to keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but are to subject themselves, just as the Law also says."* For many this is proof positive that women are not allowed to speak in church, after all isn't that what it says? That may be what it says, but what does it mean? Interestingly Paul tells the Corinthians earlier in this letter the women are to cover their heads when they are praying or prophesying in church (1 Corinthians 11:5) which is done out loud, so if he is in fact saying women are not to talk in church, then he is contradicting himself. The key to understanding this passage is found in verse 35 where Paul goes on to say, *"If they (the women) desire to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home for it is improper for a woman to speak in church."*

The Greek word translated "woman" (gune) can also mean "wife," and in this context that certainly seems to be the case since Paul states the (gunaikes) (women/wives) should not speak in church but save their questions for home where they can ask their husbands without disrupting the worship service.

In chapter 14 Paul goes to great length instructing the Corinthians on the use of tongues during worship because, *"God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints (v. 33)."* In verse 34 Paul says women/wives should be silent, *"just as the law also says."* Which law? Scholars are unaware of any Old Testament law

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## Missions ~ Judy Jameson

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This is the season of year that prompts thoughts of others and thankfulness to God for our many blessings. We do this in many ways but the ones that last forever are the gifts we give to those in need. We have just received over \$600 for food for Thanksgiving, what a blessing, and thank you! The AWANA children brought over 100 items for the food pantry and helped organize it. The children and youth are starting a two week "H2O Project" during which they donate the money they would have used to buy sodas or coffee to help drill a well for a village that doesn't have water.

Our congregational Christmas

offering is used to buy coats and blankets for our children we sponsor in Thailand through Handclasp. We will be collecting during Advent. There is a small Christmas tree in the entry with blanket bookmarks. When you give a Christmas offering for Thailand, you may take a bookmark. The goal is an empty tree by Christmas!

During the entire year, 10% of all congregational giving goes to the missions and missionaries we support. In addition to your gifts this Christmas, please be praying for our missionaries and their missions around the world. We have Don and Kay Fox and Kevin Turl in Thailand at this time, with Sharon

Turl leaving in several months, Misheck and Jennifer Kanake in Kenya, Kendra Woods Stephenson in Tanzania, Bob and Jan MacLean in Indonesia, Jerry and Rosanne Briscoe in the Philippines, and Bruce and Bev Newkirk in Eastern Europe.

This is a good time to be praying for what God would have you do in your own life to help others here and abroad, those who don't know Him and those who are desperate for the basic needs of life.

May God bless you and your families this Christmas as you are a blessing for others.

## Mike's Musings (cont.)

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*(Continued from page 1)*

that restrains women from speaking, so what law or rule is he talking about? Most likely he is talking about the law or rule he has been using in chapter 14 to correct the Corinthians on the use of tongues during worship, "*God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints,*" as well as in verse 40 where he once again says, "*All things must be done properly and in an orderly manner.*" This most certainly is the law, rule or principle Paul is teaching the church.

In the Jewish and Roman world women generally did not receive an education in the same way the men did, for a woman's place was truly in the home. So if we have a number of uneducated women/wives

asking their husbands what the preacher is talking about in the middle of the worship service, this can create confusion, and they should wait until they are home and then ask their husbands so as not to violate the law of order during worship.

Since the Bible does not contradict itself, clearly 1 Corinthians 14:34 is an injunction from the Apostle Paul against women disrupting the worship service by chattering and asking questions of their husbands during the homily, and certainly allows for women who are participating in the service to speak when appropriate (cf. 1 Corinthians 11:5).

The more challenging scripture passage is 1 Timothy 2:11-14 which I will address next month, and in

the fourth and final installment on this subject I will cover the many leadership roles women occupied mentioned in the Bible which one has to deal with, especially in light of what Paul says in 1 Timothy 2:11-14.

A major question that needs to be addressed is, "Which sayings of Paul are meant to be doctrine, and which sayings are relevant to a specific issue at a specific time?" If everything Paul suggests is meant to be doctrinal then all women should be covered, men should never have long hair, and women should not have short hair, etc. As God's workmen it is imperative we accurately handle the Word of Truth, so we can show ourselves approved.

## Youth Ministries ~ Carrie Guy

*“And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’”* (Matthew 25:40)

Our relationship with Jesus is directly connected to our treatment of his children. Everything we do to show concern for our fellow humans is done to Him as well. So it’s impossible to truly love Christ if we ignore our neighbors and their needs. We can’t stand back and hope someone else will feed the hungry and visit the sick. Instead, we should pray for compassionate hearts and opportunities to reach

out. By serving, we follow Jesus’ ultimate example of sacrificing Himself for our sins.

Our new focus in the FCC Youth Group (aka Prisms) is to allow God to use you to change the world around you. The truth is, it is possible just by making the most of every opportunity God places in front of you to serve and love His people. We have a responsibility. Our world would say this season is about what we get under the tree, but the truth is this season is about giving to a tree greater than the one that sits in our living rooms for a month each December. This Christmas ask God to change you

and use each day to positively impact those around you.

### December Calendar:

**Sundays @ 6:30 – 8:00PM**

**(7<sup>th</sup> grade – COS)**

7<sup>th</sup> - Service Night

14<sup>th</sup> - Discussion

21<sup>st</sup> - Christmas Party (Bring White Elephant Gift)

28<sup>th</sup> - Worship and Bible Study

\*The Breakfast Club – Sunday  
9:00AM – BYO-Breakfast (11<sup>th</sup> Grade – College)

\*Guy’s Bible Study – Wednesdays  
@ 6:30 – 7:30PM in Library

\*Junior High Bible Study – Mondays @ 7:00 – 8:00PM

## AWANA ~ Pam Shattuck

The holidays are approaching and this is the time of year we remember everything we are thankful for and Christmas is a time to remember our Savior’s birth. On December 3<sup>rd</sup> there will be an AWANA Open House and Award Night from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. If you don’t know what AWANA is about come and experience for yourself what the children are learning and the fun they have. There

will be a short parent’s meeting to explain the new safety features we are implementing to keep your children safe at AWANA.

December 17<sup>th</sup> at AWANA will be a Craft Fair. The kids will be making between 6-8 crafts. If you are a crafty person and could help us with a craft idea and help the kids with the craft, please contact Pam Shattuck at 302-8877 or pshattuck@clearwire.net.

I would like to take this time to say that I’m thankful and blessed to have the opportunity to work with your child to help them grow spiritually and I would like to thank all the teachers and volunteers in all areas of children ministry that help and love these little ones.

May you and your family have a blessed Holiday Season and a joyous New Year.

## December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Alyssa Dean.....	2	Sherman Keller .....	16
Jeff Black.....	3	Alex Messinger .....	17
Deanna Baxter .....	5	Neal Jordan .....	20
Lorra Caudell-Stoops .....	7	Gigi Shacklett.....	21
Joshua Torres.....	8	Keith Moore .....	23
Fern Cooksey.....	9	Wayne Geis.....	25
Jere Hendren.....	9	Danielle Hannford.....	25
Loretta Johnson .....	9	Jason Ruiz .....	26
Ruben Mendez.....	11	Betty Baker .....	27
Dana Switzer .....	12	Mary Jane Allen.....	28
Randy Tharp.....	13	Larry Lewis.....	29
Aaron Russell .....	14	Jessica Glick.....	30
Amanda Torres.....	14	Greg Stowers.....	31



George & Shirley Williams .....	24
Mr. & Mrs. David Grant .....	29
Kevin & Sharon Turl .....	29

# First Christian Church of Visalia

## When the Church Prays

### November Attendance

Nov. 2 .....	102
Nov. 9 .....	110
Nov. 16 .....	90
Nov. 23 .....	114

### November Giving

Nov. 2.....	\$9,604.00
Nov. 9.....	\$3,481.30
Nov. 16.....	\$2,783.25
Nov. 23.....	\$4,082.05

### December Ministers

Deacons		Elders
Kevin Guy	Dec. 7	Roger Johnson
Joel Glick		Ann Johnson
Michelle Glick	Dec. 14	Kerrell Lewis
Tim Glick		Tom Lewis
Beth Messinger	Dec. 21	Connor Jameson
Wanda Sharp		Judy Jameson
Erin Sheaff	Dec. 24	Gigi Shacklett
Kevin Turl		Richard Shacklett
George Williams	Dec. 28	Beth Messinger
Dennis Maynard		Mike Messinger
Joi Maynard		

### December Drivers

If you need a ride to church during the month of December please call one of the people listed below:

Tami Tharp.....	592-1406
Betty Baker.....	734-2806
Wanda Sharp.....	732-0836

What happened when the church prayed is recorded in Acts 4:31: "And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness."

The church was praying because Peter and John had been thrown into jail. They did not establish a dialogue with the Sanhedrin or organize a protest march against religious discrimination? No. This young body of believers, faced with its first opposition, went to its knees and the place... was shaken which symbolized God's active presence.

Acts 16:26 has a similar phrase occurring in Philippi. Paul and Silas had been beaten and thrown in prison, and their feet were fastened into stocks. At Midnight those two missionaries began to pray and sing hymns, and..."suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed." Here again the presence of God manifested showing that He was there and He was acting.

When the church abandons itself to prayer, the presence of God is perceived; He is there, working, moving, answering. We know He is on the scene. It doesn't matter if we are being threatened or condemned.

Acts 4:24 says that the praying church "raised their voice to God with one accord". The oneness both in their action and their motive. This group of believers gathered in one place to do one thing with one motive. Like men of Israel came together to make David king in 1 Chronicles 12:38. This is the kind of praying that takes place--when God's people come together with one heart to make Jesus king. All differences are thrust aside and our hearts flow into one main stream is when the presence of God is manifested and people know God has taken the field. It is enough to know that God is with us no matter how insurmountable the difficulties, the assurance of His presence is sufficient.

## Prayer Concerns

### Pray for:

All those in authority  
God's rule & reign over the financial situation in the American economy

### Spirit, Soul, Body, Financially

Alex Arnett (spina bifida)

Audrey Bass

Chuck Belcher

Joe Cauzza

Nancy Crane

Rose DiFranco

Bob & Donna Eastin

Jason Ebel

Kelli Fetcho

Lois Fletcher

Joel Glick

Lenelle Gonzales

Melanie Gorman

Kristie Gorman

Sydney Gorman

Abby Graham

Larry Harris

Tracy Hickox

Dan Hogan

Richard Holaday

Joe Jackson

Marsha Jepson

Peggy Martin

Taylor Monroe

Frank & Ana Morales

Rainy Offield

Nelly Peirson

Brandy Peterson

Natalie Poletti

Vern & Peggy Pryor

Barbara Stowers

Millie Taylor

Aaron Tenney

Anthony & Martha Tenney

Glen Wells

Cheyenne Whitley

Shirley Williams

Shane (cystic fibrosis)

### Court School All Manner of Prayer

Louie Thomas

### Military

Lane & Brett Boland

Matthew Calhoun

Ira Conrad

James Maupin

Nikki Walz

Casey Wightman

### Hospital

Mark (car accident)

Daniel Johnston (broken neck)

Max & Alice Kinnard

### Working of Miracles

Jesus Banuelos (brain tumor recovery)

Tyler Rose (brain tumor recovery)

Brenda Miles

### Missionaries

Kenya - Misheck Kanake

Thailand - Handclasp - Siami

Turkey - Bev & Bruce Newkirk

Austria - Christian Brooke