

CCCTO EM Spiritual Retreat

ASSURANCE & JOY

September 2-4, 2023

Forest Home Christian Center, Forest Falls, CA

NAME:

ROOM:

SMALL GROUP LEADER:

CHINESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THOUSAND OAKS

218 W. Janss Road | Thousand Oaks, CA 91360 | 805.379.0882

english.ccto.org

WELCOME

"Assurance and Joy" - Working through 1 John, both assurance and joy are two things that Christians in today's world lack. With regards to assurance: we may know and have faith in the gospel, but do we have assurance that what we believe is real? With regards to joy: the world and culture around us tells us to seek out happiness, but that is different from joy. Can we have joy, even when the circumstances around us aren't all sunshine and rainbows?



We are so glad that you are here. Hearing from God is sometimes not easy in our busy and noisy world. We hope that this spiritual retreat will be a place where you can step away, draw back from the hassles of your daily grind. To listen, to reflect, to encounter and to engage with God. To discover or rediscover the affirmations from the Word of God as we take this journey with Pastor John Kong through the book of 1 John.

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life." - 1 John 5:13

Blessings!

Elder Mitch Hsu, Elder Wayne Chen

Steve Quon, EM Retreat Coordinator



John is a graduate of Vanderbilt University (2008) and Westminster Seminary California (2019). He was born in Nashville, TN but grew up in Taiwan from the age of 3 until he finished high school. After college, he worked in an investment bank for 7 years before sensing God calling him to ministry, and he served as the Pastor of Christian Education at New Life Presbyterian Church in Escondido, CA, before going to RUF (Reformed University Fellowship) Berkeley to do college ministry at UC Berkeley.

John loves hanging out with people, whether it is grabbing a bite to eat, snowboarding in the mountains, playing sports, or just chatting about life. What he loves most, however, is walking alongside people as they discern and mature in their relationships with God.

CHILDREN LEADERS

MAIN LEADERS:

Lindsay Pelascini (Left), 805-822-2042

Hannah Godinez (Right), 805-402-1190



ASSISTANTS:

Simone Pelascini

Ruth Godinez

Jackie Tourtillott

LOCATIONS

FOREST HOME CHRISTIAN CAMPS

40000 Valley of the Falls Drive | Forest Falls, CA 92339 | 909.389.2300

Hormel Hall	Main Meeting Room, Check-In/Out
Blinco Lounge	Youth Fellowship Room
Forest Center Dining Hall	Meals
Chipmunk Corner	Children’s Room
Victory Circle	Campfire
The Den	Game Room

Note: See Forest Center map on page 30.

THINGS TO KNOW

CLOSED CAMPUS

Forest Home is a closed campground. Therefore, please wear your campground wristband at all times while on the premises.

CHILDCARE & CHILDREN PROGRAM

Childcare & Children program facility is located at the Chipmunk Corner. Please pick up your child(ren) within 15 minutes after the end of a session or small group.

THINGS TO KNOW

OUR FIRST AID PROVIDERS

Amy Chow, 908-256-6625

Jenna Cheung, 708-897-7845

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Emergency procedures are posted on the back of room doors. Please read them before you go to bed. Emergency phones can be identified as red phones with blue lights located outside of public buildings. Emergency alert will instruct you over a loudspeaker in case of flood or fire.

DINING

Please arrive on time for meals. Forest Home's staff wants your dining experience to be at the best service level. The dining hall will remain open for 45 minutes. Dining rooms may not be used for meetings outside of mealtimes.

WATER

Drinkable water stations are available around the campground.

SNACKS

Due to the local wildlife, guests are not allowed to store food in cars or sleeping rooms in the Standard cabins. Premium cabins fitted with refrigerators and/or kitchens may store food in their cabins. However, please put food in air-tight, opaque containers, away from doors and windows. Guests may also store "dry" snacks, which consist of packaged snacks, bottled water, sodas and juices, in the meeting room in a sealed plastic container away from doors and windows and, if possible, out of sight. If you store your personal snacks in the meeting room, please mark them clearly with your name.

THINGS TO KNOW

WIFI SERVICE

Wifi is available at all major gathering locations (meeting spaces, dining halls, etc.) and select cabins (such as Cedar Ridge). Every guest will be able to log onto the “Forest Home Guest” Wifi network which will give them the following two options for securing Wifi during the retreat.

- Purchase: 72 hours of unlimited Wifi for roughly \$15
- Free: 2 hours of continuous Wifi for free every 24 hours

DRESS CODE

In general, Forest Homes’ expectations for camp attire are driven by modesty, showing sensitivity to the concerns of others at camp. In the swimming areas, all females should wear one-piece bathing suits (no bikinis or tankinis) and that guys should stay away from wearing revealing briefs or speedos. Forest Home also limits swimwear to appropriate areas only and asks that you wear a coverup to and from the pool or lake. Closed Toe Shoes are required to participate in Canyon Park Activities.

CHECKOUT

Lodging rooms must be cleared out by 9:00 AM on Monday, 9/4. Return keys between 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM in Hormel Hall, our main meeting room. We must leave the premises by 11:00 AM.

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. -1 John 1:3

Why is it that some Christians seem to be transformed by contact with Jesus Christ, but others are not? Some Christians, even Christians of long standing, still seem to be very much conformed to the world around them, even deformed in their views and outlooks. Yet all of them stoutly assert that they are Christians, that they too have been born again by faith in Jesus Christ. It is not strange that the world asks, What is wrong? Why is this condition true? The secret, John says, is fellowship.

What is fellowship? In the Navy we used to say it was two fellows on the same ship, and there is a sense in which that is true. They do have something in common—the same ship. That is the basis of fellowship, for essentially this word means to have all things in common. When you have something in common with another, you can have fellowship with that person. If you have nothing in common, you have no fellowship. We all have things in common. We share human life in common. Most of us share American citizenship in common. But John is talking about that unique fellowship that is the possession only of those who share life in Jesus Christ together. This makes them one, and this oneness is the basis for the appeal of Scripture: to live together in tenderness and love toward one another. Not because we are inherently wonderful people or remarkable personalities or that we are naturally gracious, kind, loving, and tender all the time—for at times we are grouchy, scratchy, and irritating to others. But we are still to love one another. Why? Because we share life together. We have something in common. We share the life

of the Lord Jesus, and therefore we have fellowship with one another. We must understand the difference between relationship and fellowship. Relationship is becoming a member of the family of God by faith in Jesus Christ. It is established by asking Him to come into your life and heart. John makes that clear at the end of this letter. He who has the Son has life [that is relationship]; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life [he does not have a relationship] (1 John 5:12). The Christian life starts right there with this matter of relationship. Relationship is accepting Christ; fellowship is experiencing Him. You can never have fellowship until you have established relationship, but you can certainly have relationship without fellowship. Relationship puts us into the family of God, but fellowship permits the life of that family to shine through us. That is what marks the difference between Christians. Fellowship is the key to vital Christianity. That is why this letter, which calls us back to fundamental issues, focuses first on that. The important question is, as a Christian, are you enjoying fellowship with the Father and with His Son?

Pray: Father, teach me more of the richness and the glory of this warmth of fellowship with Christ, where everything that I am is made available to Him and I am experiencing all the wonderful joy of everything that He has made available to me.

Devotional from Pastor Ray Steadman

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. John tells us that we have overcome the evil one in this passage. How does God's Word help us overcome the evil one? What are some lies that Satan likes to tell us, and how does remembering what Christ has done help us overcome those lies?

2. The world can tempt us with a lot of things. What are some things the world tempts you with that you struggle with the most? What are some ways you can still enjoy the good things that God gives us in this world, without making them ultimate things?

3. John says whoever does the will of God abides forever. How do we know we are doing God's will? How does resting in God's will help us to reject the world's temptations?

For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. - 1 John 3:11-14

It is rather fascinating that the apostle who wrote this has become known as the apostle of love. But if you read the gospel records of John, you will note that this is not his nature at all. He and his brother James earned from Jesus the title Sons of Thunder (Mark 3:17) because they were constantly wanting to blast back at those who opposed them. John's temperament was not naturally inclined to show love. But when he was born again, there was born into his heart the life of God, and this man began to show love.

Jacob De Shazer bombed Tokyo early in World War II. He was captured by the Japanese and put in prison. He hated his Japanese captors and was so violent and vicious that they feared him. They kept him in solitary confinement because of the hatred with which he lashed out against them. But he obtained a copy of the Bible and began to read it through. In the loneliness of his cell, he came to realize the life that is in Jesus Christ. An amazing change came over this man. His hatred of the Japanese changed completely. He began to love his captors and to show love toward them, and they were utterly astonished by what had happened to him. Instead of burning with wrath, resentment, and viciousness against them, he became the most docile of prisoners, eagerly cooperating with his captors and praying for them.

Eventually, the story of his change of heart was written up in a little tract, and, after the war, it fell into the hands of a young Japanese captain, Mitsuo Fuchida, the man who led the air raid against Pearl Harbor and gave the command to drop the bombs on that fateful day of December 7. Mitsuo Fuchida was a hero in Japan after the war because of that exploit and others, but his own heart was empty. Somehow, he read the tract that told the story of De Shazer's amazing change of heart. He was arrested and puzzled by the story. From somewhere he obtained a New Testament and began to read it with growing interest. At last, he came to the story of the crucifixion. When he read the Lord's words from the cross, Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing (Luke 23:34), his heart broke. He realized that this one who could love His enemies and pray for those who persecuted Him was manifesting a quality of life that no natural human being could possibly show. Mitsuo Fuchida became a Christian and an evangelist, telling the story of a love that can change human hearts.

Such love is the sign of the new life. It is a love that you not only extend toward those who love you, but toward those who do not love you. It is a love that does not depend upon a reciprocal relationship but loves the unlovely, the unqualified, the ungrateful, the selfish, and the difficult. This, then, is the character of true love, and it is always evidence that a new life has come, the life born of God.

Pray: Lord, I realize that I am not to love others because they love me but because I have been loved by God, and I have in me a life that loves despite any reason to love. Teach me to let that life show through me.

Devotional from Pastor Ray Steadman

SELF-REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS

1. The overarching purpose of 1 John is to assure you of your salvation. When do you have doubts about your faith and salvation? How does God's Word help reassure you of your faith and your salvation?
2. John talks about prayer as a blessing we have because of Jesus. How is your personal prayer life? Do you pray for your brothers and sisters in Christ like John mentions? What are some things you can do to help improve your prayer life?
3. John talks about the protection we have because of Christ. How does knowing what Jesus has done for you protect you from Satan, and help keep you from sinning?
4. Jesus has secured eternal life for us. How does knowing that truth help keep us from idols?

FREE TIME ACTIVITIES

OPEN ACCESS

- Hiking, Miniature Golf, Horseshoes, Basketball, Volleyball, Ping Pong, Gaga Pit

CANYON PARK - *Closed-toed shoes, shirts, and bottoms required.*

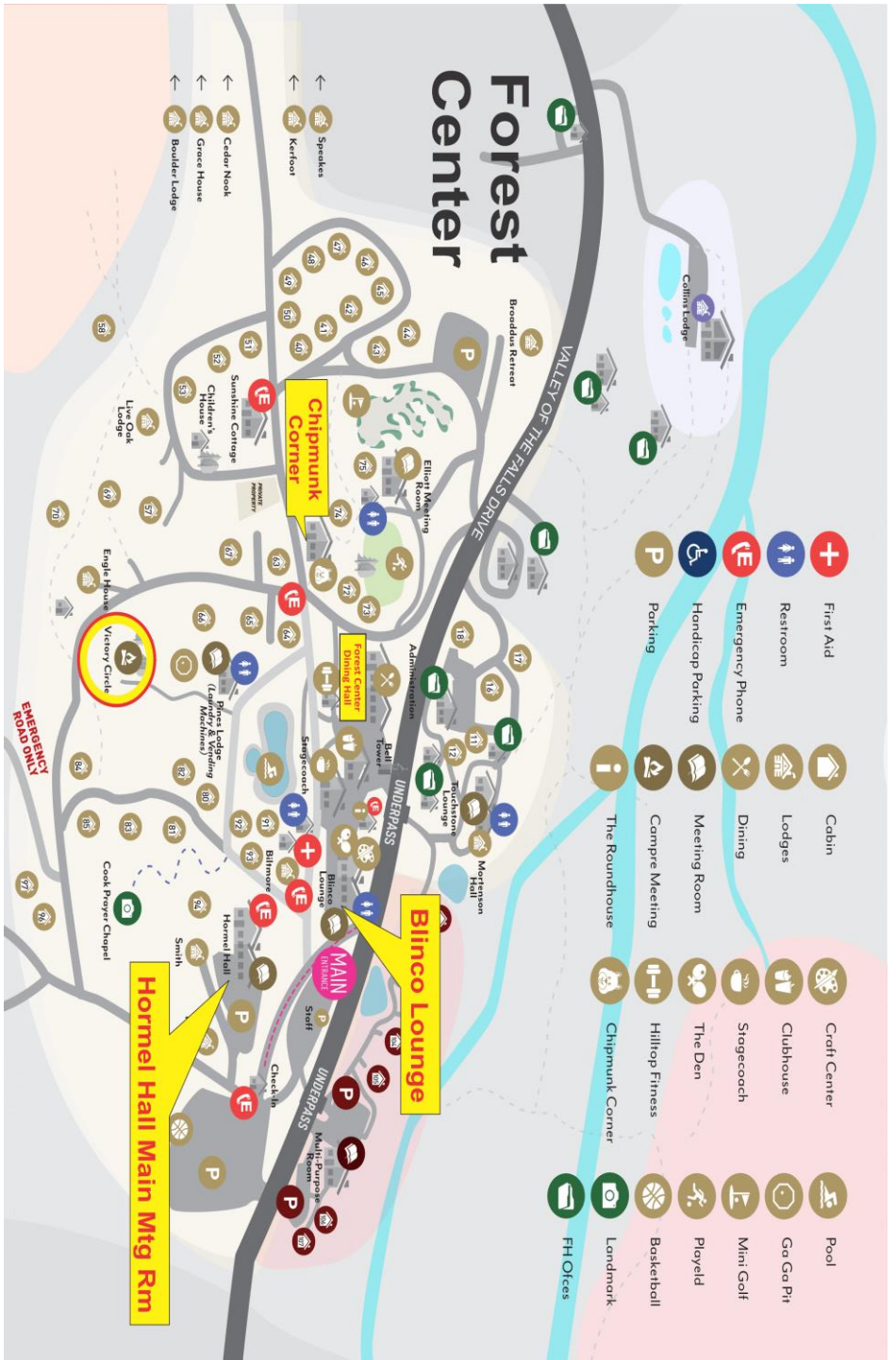
- Zip Lines: Has a max. weight of 275 lbs. and a min. weight of 75lbs and ability to wear the harness according to safety requirements.
- Giant Swing: Has a max. weight of 250 lbs., no min. weight and ability to wear the harness according to safety requirements.
- Sky Trail: Max. weight limit is 300 lbs. and ability to wear the harness according to safety requirements.
- Boulder Junction, Warped Wall, Traversing Climbing Wall

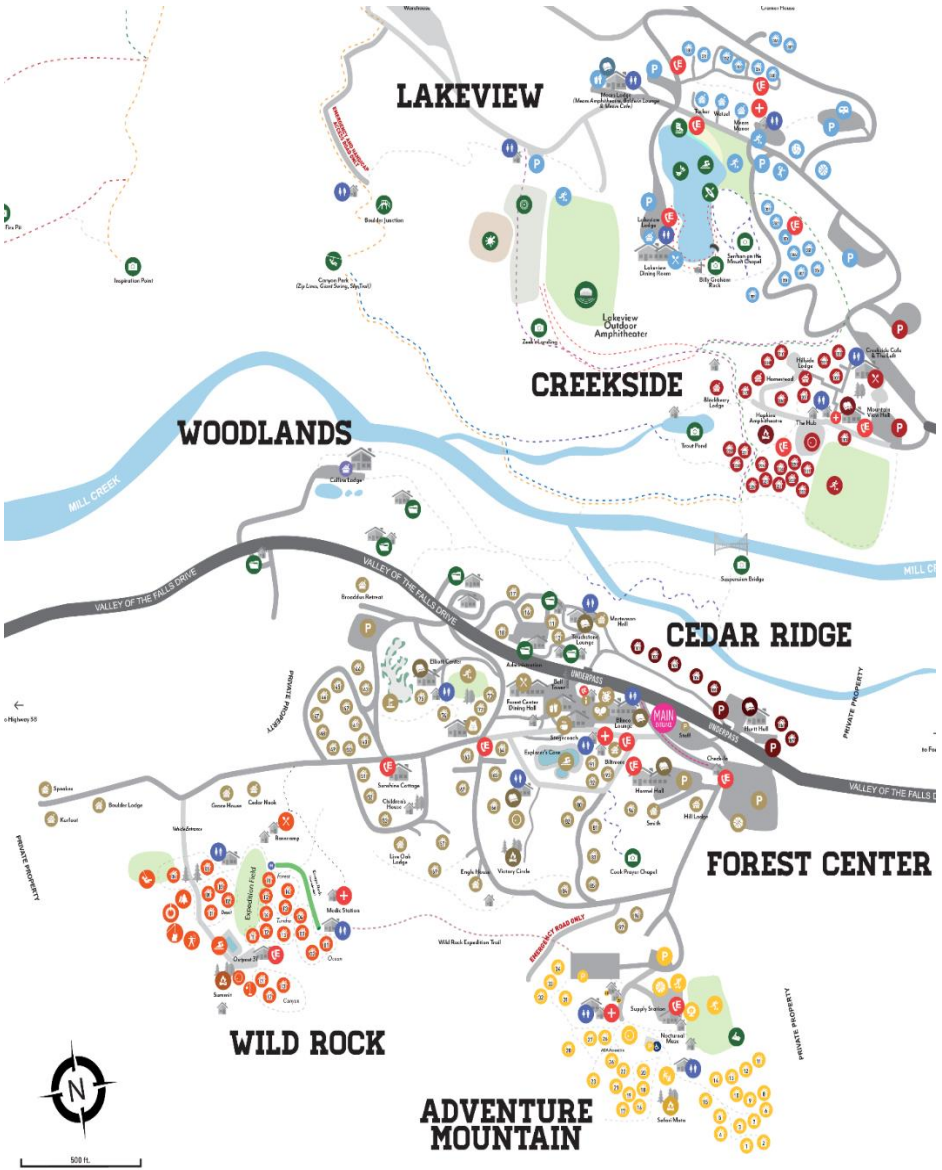
LAKE MEARS

- Swimming - *No two-piece bikinis or tankinis allowed.*
- Beach Area, Sand Volleyball
- Water Slide: Min. height requirement 48" and max. weight 250 lbs.
- Blobbing: No maximum or minimum weight requirement. Guests may only be launched by a person with a 70 lb. weight difference.
- Kayaking
- Laser Tag: Minimum age requirement of 8 years. (Additional Cost)

FOREST CENTER

- The Den - Game Room
- The Hub
- Craft Cabin
- Stagecoach Coffee - no cash
- The Roundhouse
- Clubhouse





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| First Aid | Cabin | Stagecoach Coffee | Playfield | Archery | Boulder Junction | Wild Rock |
| Restrooms | Dining Room | Chipmunk Corner | Pool Lake | Tire Swing | Laser Tag | Adventure Mountain |
| Emergency Phone | Meeting Space | Dodgeball | Basketball | Slingshot Swing | Tubes Run | Lakeside |
| Handicap Parking | Campfire Meeting | FH Offices | Volleyball | Skateboarding | Blob | Forest Center |
| Parking | Lodges | Landmark | GoGo Pit | Climbing Trees | Boat House | Cedar Ridge |
| RV Park | Crafts | The Den | Treehouse | Mini Golf | Waterside | Woodlands |
| Round House | Clubhouse | Mears Cafe | Challenge Course | Canyon Park | Mud Bowl | ALL CAMP |
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| Public Road |
| Emergency Road |
| FH Service Road |
| FH Paved Road |
| Paved Walking Path |
| Dirt Trail |
| Topographic Line |

SCHEDULE	SAT. 9/2	SUN. 9/3	MON. 9/4
7:30 AM		Morning Devotional	Morning Devotional
8:00 AM			*Vacate cabin
8:30 AM		Breakfast (8:30AM-9:15AM)	**Breakfast (8:30AM-9:15AM)
9:00 AM			Group Photo @Hormel
9:30 AM		Session 3 Icebreaker/Worship & Message Small Group #2 @ Hormel Hall (10:00AM-12:30PM)	
10:00 AM	Arrival / Check-In @ Hormel Hall (10:30AM-12:30PM)		Lunch (12:30PM-1:15PM)
10:30 AM		Lunch (12:30PM-1:15PM)	
11:00 AM	Session 1 Icebreaker/Worship & Message @ Hormel Hall (1:30PM-3:00PM)		
11:30 AM		Free Time (1:30PM-6:00PM)	
12:00 PM	Free Time (3:00PM-6:00PM)		
12:30 PM		Dinner (6:00PM-6:45PM)	
1:00 PM	Dinner (6:00PM-6:45PM)		
1:30 PM		Session 2 Worship & Message Small Group #1 @ Hormel Hall (7:00PM-9:00PM)	
2:00 PM	Session 4 Worship & Message Small Group #3 @ Hormel Hall (7:00PM-9:00PM)		
2:30 PM		Campfire (Everyone) @ Victory Circle (9:00PM-10:00PM)	
3:00 PM	Campfire (Youth Only) @ Victory Circle (9:00PM-10:00PM)		
3:30 PM		Cabin Time/Fellowship (10:00PM-11:00PM)	
4:00 PM	Cabin Time/Fellowship (10:00PM-11:00PM)		
4:30 PM		Lights Out	
5:00 PM	Lights Out		
5:30 PM			
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