

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2025

REDEMPTION HILL CHURCH



This Week: Kelly Hubley will be preaching on Hebrews 9:1-10



EVANGELISM FOR THE REST OF US

BY JUDY AND NEAL BROWER

What's Going On

Sun. 01/11

Sunday Worship

Thur. 01/15

Prayer Gathering @ 7pm

Sun. 01/18

Sunday Worship @ 10am (Hebrews 9:11-28)

Tue. 01/20

Food Distribution @ 12:30pm

Wed. 01/21

Youth Discipleship @ 7pm

03/27/26-03/29/26

Women's Retreat

EVANGELISM FOR THE REST OF US

It's not about our personality, gifts, skills, training or courage. God has to do it, but we get to help.

BY JUDY AND NEAL BROWER

Evangelism pretty much is the "E" word. If you are among the majority of good, church-going Christians who do not have "the gift"; who have never led another to Christ; who, if the pattern continues, probably never will; it may very well be that you have an allergy ... to evangelism.

Like me, you've spent quality time feeling guilty about all the opportunities you pass by. Once in a while, we pastors wax eloquent on the subject from our pulpits and then go back into hiding in our offices, relating almost exclusively with believers.

Am I striking any cords here? Am I finally saying what no one's been able to admit? Is it just me?

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We know the Bible verses: Acts 1:8, Matthew 4:19 and 28:19, Mark 16:15, 2 Timothy 4:5, Romans 10:14 and more. But still we wonder: *How many opportunities have I let go by? How's my light shining? Have I ever seen someone come to faith through my influence?*

Part of our problem is just how dependent we've become on church programs, including evangelism events and materials, to do the work for us. We're dependent on the "professionals" (pastors, missionaries).

But there's always that voice in the back of our head, God's voice, saying, *Hey you: You are the light of the world.*

"But," we contend, "I am not an evangelist. It's not my gift."

That's precisely why I call this "evangelism for the rest of us." The ungifted. The untrained. The novice. Those of us not so good with words. The unpersuasive. The mother, the contractor, the athlete, the teacher, the businessman, the realtor, the soldier, the clerk, the burger flipper, the introvert. Even the pastor. Each of us needs to grasp: We cannot persuade, convince, love or share anybody to Jesus. We cannot save a soul. The famous Great Commission—Matthew 18:18-20—offers power as well as a promise: He is going to do it and we get to go along for the ride.

GOD DOES THE INVITING

I'm reminded of when Jesus invited His disciples to feed the crowd of 5,000 (Matthew 14:13-21). It wasn't because He needed a staff of servers. He could have created lunch *ex nihilo*, you know, like He created that other thing: the universe. Instead, Jesus used a sack lunch and some resentful fishermen because He wanted them to be part of a miracle.

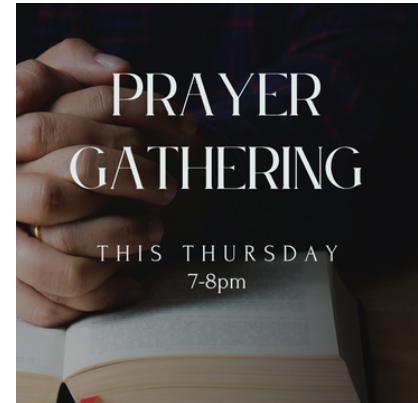
We cannot persuade, convince, love or share anybody to Jesus. We cannot save a soul.

Jesus was anticipating that moment of unrivaled joy when gown men stood in a circle, thousands of full-stomach-folk behind them, silly grins on 12 bearded faces and said: "Let's do it again." When Jesus got through with the disciples that day, they had a taste of eternity in their mouths, and now only eternity could fill their stomachs.

Just as with the loaves and fishes, God invites us to participate in the miracles He is working all over the earth as the gospel takes hold of people.

Pray:

- Cindy Berg (Wife of Bill); Healing & peace during recovery from back surgery.
- Jenn Welch: Recovery from surgery; for strong functioning of remaining kidney.



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Not because He needs us, but for our relationship and the thrill we'll get in taking part in the only thing truly worth living for.

He knows, in advance, every mistake we'll make. He will use our failures and brokenness as effectively as He uses our talents and wholeness.

It's not about our personality, gifts, skills, training or courage. Remember, we can't do this crazy thing God has invited us to do. God has to do it, but we get to help; He uses what we bring to the table. If we will firmly believe this, then the Great Commission becomes a "great invitation."

What a relief. What a privilege. What a life purpose.



PRAY & WATCH

Imagine every believer in your city praying for the movement of God's Spirit as they work, play and live in it. Imagine each of us considering our own "presence" as more about people finding Jesus than whatever we happen to be doing. What if we believed that praying a quick but profound prayer *as a way of life* would change the landscape around us?

Throughout the day, we voice what we've taken to calling "the five-second prayer," containing two very important parts: "Father, please send Your Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of these people. Draw them to Jesus and make them kingdom laborers."

This prayer can focus on someone as close as your mother or as distant as the guy standing over the manhole cover. In the first part, we're asking that God would do the heart work and bring someone from darkness to light.

Each person is on a journey, and how the Holy Spirit works to bring about salvation is a unique process. So we respect that process. We're praying for the soil of each heart to be prepared so that the seeds of the gospel can some day be planted there and bear much fruit. As God has promised about the gospel: "In all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing" (Colossians 1:6, New American Standard Bible).

I can't help but smile when I think about people having no idea that I'm praying for them and that God is at work in them.

In the second half of the prayer, we are asking God to thrust someone into the ripe harvest field as a Kingdom laborer (Matthew 9). If someone comes to faith but is left without vision for others, then his faith essentially dies with him.

You are an evangelist when you are praying this prayer, even as it puts all the responsibility and burden on God. And this Pray & Watch lifestyle is satisfying in a fun sort of way too. I can't help but smile when I think about people going about their life having no idea that I'm praying for them and that God is at work in them.

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We ask the Holy Spirit to go to the heart of people. If you believe He went, you'll live with anticipation, watching for evidence of what He is doing.

WRITE IT DOWN. THEN ANTICIPATE.

The most practical way to remember our ever-increasing number of people is to simply make a list. When we do so, we begin to see divinely appointed connections.

When you share something personal regarding faith with someone on your list and you sense tension or withdrawal, you know the soil of that heart is not yet cultivated. It's not yet ready for the planting of seeds. So just keep praying and watching. And remind yourself that you can't save a soul; God is at work. One of these days, you'll probably get to see the fruit of it. If not here, in heaven.

Any way you slice it, you are watching with anticipation for evidence of the invisible in the context of the visible.

What if each of us were living the Pray & Watch lifestyle—living and breathing, working and playing with respect and love for those yet to find Jesus in our circle of opportunity? Nothing else in all of life matters as much as people finding Jesus. We're asking you not only to believe in it, but also to live in constant awareness of it.

"Evangelism for the Rest of Us • EFCA Today." EFCA Today, www.efcatoday.org/story/evangelism-rest-us.



Penngrove Community Church

Church of the Month



Points for Prayer:

- For the continued spiritual growth of all those who were baptized in 2025
- For God to raise up worship leaders from within our congregation
- For the property sale to be finalized soon



THE DAYS

Serving in
The Netherlands

MISSIONARIES OF THE MONTH

Prayer Points:

- Kara's adjustment to school: for friends, Dutch language acquisition, and enjoyment of school; for wisdom for Adam and Anna in supporting her.
- Anna: finding a good rhythm and balance between the varying roles she plays
- Adam: for more progress in his Dutch language studies as he begins a new class.
- Luke & Caleb: for good friendships, settledness and confidence in their school studies and growth in their relationships with God.

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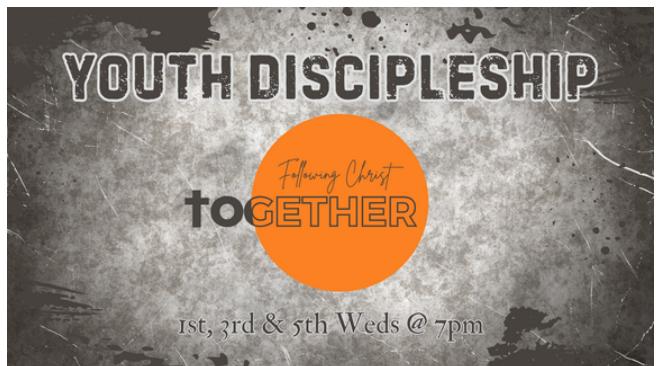
PRAY

for the Swansons



Points for Prayer:

- Continued prayer against confusion and for clarity.
- Identification of the fungal source (there was a hotspot on the PET scan below the pacemaker in an area operated on in 2015, and they aren't sure what it is).
- Healing & eradication of the fungus.
- Protection against emboli.
- Removal of medication side-effects.
- Against spiritual attack and for God's peace and joy to reign continuously.
- Wisdom and direction regarding next steps.
- Thanksgiving: Experiencing God's presence.



Save the Date Women's Retreat

March 27th - 29th



Serve with the Food Distribution

1st/3rd Tuesday
12:30pm - 2:30pm



NEW TO REDEMPTION?

Hi there!

Whatever your background or situation, we're glad you've decided to join us this morning. You might find it helpful to know that:

- There are bathrooms available in the lobby and in the courtyard.
- Nursery services are available for infants. We also dismiss children for age-appropriate learning (toddlers through 5th Grade) during the main teaching time (except on the 5th Sunday of the month).
- A nursing room and changing facilities are available in the Sanctuary building.

Refreshments are available after the service - please stick around and say hi!

We look forward to getting to know you!

FIND COMMUNITY

Hungry for deeper, authentic relationships? We've got Men's, Women's, and Youth Discipleship Groups to help us grow together in grace. We meet weekly to discuss Scripture and pray. *Contact the Church Office for location and availability.*

Men's Groups

Mon. Evenings - Santa Rosa
Tues. Evenings - Rohnert Park
Weds. Evenings - Santa Rosa

Women's Groups

Weds. Mornings - Santa Rosa
Weds. Evenings - Rohnert Park
Thurs. Evenings - Santa Rosa

Youth (6th-12th Grade):

1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesdays of each month — RHC Campus.
Contact Kellen for more info: kellen@RedemptionHillSR.org



Get In Touch

Mailing address: P.O. Box 571,
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

office@RedemptionHillSR.org

Tel. 707-576-0130

Office hours: Tues 9 am - 5 pm

Ministry Team

Elders:

Tim Swanson - Pastor/Elder

Kelly Hubley - Elder

Staff:

Wendy Cunningham - Worship Ministry

Director

Kellen Eddy - Youth Ministry Director

John Hansen - Children's Ministry

Director

Sarah Mee - Church Administrative

Assistant / Tech Team Administrator

Alisa Swanson - Hospitality & Facilities
Administrator

First Aid

An AED and a Life-Vac anti-choking device are located in the Foyer. A box of other first aid supplies is in the Fireside Room, above the refrigerator.

LET'S CONNECT!

We'd love to get to know you better and welcome you into our family. If you're ready to get connected, please fill out a few details and leave this in the offering box on the back wall of the Sanctuary. Or, better still, scan this code and fill it out online. Someone will be in touch soon.

First name:

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Last name:

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Email:

.....

Phone:

.....



According
to this arrangement,
gifts and sacrifices are
offered that
cannot perfect
the **conscience**
of the
worshiper

Hebrews 9:10