

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

REDEMPTION HILL CHURCH



This Week: Pastor Tim Swanson will be preaching on Exodus 9:1-35



Hi, I'm a
Christian

Simple
Strategies for
Better
Evangelism

by Zach Nielson

What's Going On

Sun. 09/27

Sunday Worship @ 10am;
Communion Sunday

Tue. 09/29

Food Distribution @ 12:30pm

Wed. 09/30

Youth Discipleship @ 7pm

Thur. 10/01

Prayer Gathering @ 7pm

Sat. 10/03

Celebration of Life for Jim Zilian
@ 1pm

Sun. 10/04

Sunday Worship @ 10am
(Exodus 10:1-29); Newcomers'
Lunch @ 12pm; Harvest Party
postcard labeling @ 12pm

Tue. 10/06

Food Distribution @ 12:30 pm

How can our lives be marked by faithful evangelism?

Even asking that question can prompt guilt in many of us, because we so often feel like failures. I understand. I'm a pastor, but I haven't been a great evangelist. However, I want to change. This year I want to cultivate more faith in God to grow in evangelism because I want God's glory to be known and lost people to have eternal joy in him. Don't you? I'm sure you do.

Just like in any other area of life, the first action step toward growth is typically crafting a plan. Failure to plan is planning to fail, right? So here's my very simple, biblical plan that doesn't guarantee unbelievers will become disciples, but it does cultivate faithfulness: pray, be present, and present yourself as a Christian.

Pray Specifically for Specific People

First, we must pray for people to be saved. Only the Lord can raise the spiritual dead among us. Who are we seeking the Lord for day

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after day after day? God tells us, "You do not have, because you do not ask" (James 4:2)! Growth in evangelistic faithfulness begins by asking God for it more often.

So begin an evangelistic prayer plan. For our family, we have a regular time before bed when we all gather for a few minutes to read a brief Scripture and pray. It's not flashy. Sometimes we miss it. But we've made it decently consistent. When we moved into our neighborhood five years ago, our family began praying consistently for the Lord to enable us to make disciples in our neighborhood. Things haven't happened fast, but we have seen the Lord do some amazing things, which we recognize as direct answers to prayer.

A prayer plan can (and probably should) be simple. It could be a note card in your Bible, a photo on the wallpaper of your phone, or a verse you memorize. You might walk through your neighborhood for ten minutes each day and cry out to the Lord for your neighbors's souls. It could be any number of things, but the point is to have some sort of simple, structured intentionality for praying specifically for specific people. This is our starting point.

Spend Time with Others

Second, we need to be present in the lives of other people. What does that mean?

Well, here is what it doesn't mean: driving your car into your garage every day after work and rarely showing your face outside the house. Nor is it avoiding conversation with other parents at your kids' extracurricular events. Nor is it having as little involvement in community activities as possible.

Instead, being present means intentionally seeking to be among unbelievers. This looks different for each of us, depending on our particular gifts and context, so we each must ask ourselves (and pray about) what it means to be habitually present among unbelievers in our sphere of influence.

Many of us, while agreeing we should do this, struggle with actually doing it. But again, let's start simple: plain, old-fashioned hospitality. In today's culture, people tend to be less trusting of churches, so they may not show up to our Sunday gatherings. But most of them would show up to our dining room tables! I often tell

Pray:

- Jeff & Sarah Caldwell: Married on 08/08.
- Mary Campbell: Recovering from knee replacement 06/29.
- Steve Campbell: Praise for successful foot surgery on 08/04; pray for recovery.
- Linda Hubley: For comfort from the Lord, his Word, and his people. For continuance of the perfect peace she currently experiences. That she would make the most of every day, especially during the "better" periods between treatments. That she would identify and make the most of opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.
- Cliff Durham, Risa Zillion, & family - following the passing of Cliff's step-dad, Jim.
- Alana Gass & family - following the passing of Alana's son, Joey.
- Dan Hughes: For the right employment opportunity that allows him to honor God, serve the community, and earn a sustaining income.
- Kathy Hughes: CT scan mid-September, following-up from June's radiation treatments for lung cancer. Pray for a good result and that no further follow-ups will be needed.

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Prayer Continued:

- Greg Jackson: God's guidance and direction, family reconciliation.
- Kevin Moore: Comfort over continued grieving over his daughter, Christine.
- Jenn Welch: Pray that the 5 nodules identified by CT scan are benign and harmless.
- Ben Benning (Carolyn VanGorkom's father) - recovery from a broken hip; for Carolyn & Melody as they care for him in Cameron Park.

the folks in our church that, humanly speaking, their table might be the most powerful place for evangelism in the 21st century.

When we first moved into our neighborhood, neighbors didn't spend much time together. So we decided to simply host a Christmas open house. Nothing fancy. Just a few drinks and desserts. We were amazed at how many people showed up, and we hardly knew anyone yet! Everyone had a great time!

So first we pray like crazy, and then we seek to be present among unbelievers to see how God might answer those prayers.

Speak as a Christian

Finally, we must present ourselves as Christians. What does this mean? It simply means that we are willing to talk like a Christian. We don't hide our faith when an opportunity arises to articulate truth as God defines it. We determine to open our mouths and speak as an ambassador for God (2 Corinthians 5:18-21), connecting our faith to the real world, whatever the topic of conversation.

For example, [in 2018] the whole world was talking about the horrific shootings in Las Vegas. If that topic comes up in conversations with unbelievers, we can say something like, "As a Christian, I am so thankful for a God of justice, who will ensure that no injustice will go unpunished."

Notice that I didn't include the essential tenets of the gospel message, but I did speak truth that is found in the Bible. I am presenting myself as a Christian. And when I consistently make this my practice, it frequently leads to opportunities to clearly present the gospel in an organic conversation — such as what God's justice is all about, what it means for us, and what the cross has to do with it.

In the past, I have tried to awkwardly shoehorn all sorts of historical truth about Jesus's life, death, and resurrection into conversations with unbelievers. But I've learned that simply presenting myself as a Christian — just talking like a Christian about anything without trying to say everything — often leads to sharing my faith more naturally.

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Evangelism 101

If you're like me and the folks at our church, the emotion you feel at the thought of doing this is inadequacy. "I don't know if I could ever articulate my convictions on the spot like this." That's okay! Let's just start where we are and build on it. Doing it is how we learn to do it, and how we learn to overcome our unbelieving fears and trust God.

Presenting ourselves as Christians has the good effect of driving us to soak more in our Bibles, and draw more from Sunday morning sermons, and ask more questions and counsel at our small group, and to read helpful books, like *Basic Christianity* by John Stott, three or four times in a year in order to equip our minds in the Christian worldview.

To grow in faithful evangelism this year, we don't necessarily need to attend more seminars or master complex techniques. In my experience, these three simple goals — pray more intentionally, seek to be present, and speak as a Christian — can help us make progress.

Nielson, Zach. "Hi, I'm a Christian: Simple Strategies for Better Evangelism." Desiring God, 5 Feb. 2018, www.desiringgod.org/articles/hi-im-a-christian.



Serve with the Food Distribution

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



CHURCH OF THE MONTH



Praying for God's Work in Northern California

Prayer Requests:

- Parenting Class beginning in September: Pastor Lance and Jill will be launching a parenting class and we already have new families signing up. Please join us in praying for that this class can be a blessing for these couples.
- Sunday Night Events: we will be launching Sunday night events once a month beginning this Fall. Pray for wisdom as we plan these events to minister to our church and school families.
- Please continue to pray for our leadership as we seek wisdom to identify men and women for future discipleship.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Livestream



email Office@RedemptionHillsR.org
for the password

Celebration of Life

The celebration of life for our brother in Christ, Jim Zilian will take place at Redemption Hill on October 3, 2026, at 1pm. A reception with finger foods will follow the service. Jim will be missed dearly, and the family would love to celebrate his life with all of you.



Newcomers' Lunch October 4th 2026

Newcomers' Lunch

If you've started attending Redemption Hill in the last 12 months, this informal lunch is a great opportunity to get to know the church's leadership, hear some of our family story, and share some of yours. We'd love to get to know you better. To sign-up, scan the QR code above or visit the church website:
www.RedemptionHillSR.org



Missionary of the Month

Robin Williams



Wheels for the World
Outreach
Costa Rica
October 10-18

Points for Prayer

- For the recipients, and their families, who will be coming to the wheelchair distribution: that their hearts would be open to receiving the message of Christ and that many souls will be saved during that week.
- For my 15-person team and our leaders: that we would be models of Christ's love and care for these families; that we would bond well and be unified in our mission.
- For safety and health during travels and the mission.



If you would like to support Robin's ministry financially, you can do so by scanning the QR code above or visiting:
<https://qrco.de/bgC9WZ>

PRAY

for the Swansons



Points for Prayer:

- Removal of any fungus on the valve, pacemaker, and in the blood as well as medication side-effects.
- Protection from infectious emboli and vegetations.
- Restoration of natural ventricular heart beat
- Clarity in decision-making and the fungal source.
- Thwarting of spiritual schemes/attacks in light of Revelation 12:10-11.
- Christ's renewing strength, peace, and joy.
- God will be glorified in this affliction and, as John 9:3, says "... that the works of God might be displayed in (me)."

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026



Join us for the Harvest Party, our annual fall outreach event on October 24th!

We will be having a BBQ, carnival games, volleyball, concessions, a chili cook-off, and more! Costumes or fall attire are encouraged.

Community Outreach

This event is meant to bring in church-goers, as well as unchurched friends and family of all generations to enjoy a fun, easy-going event. While coming to church on Sundays can be daunting for some, this event can bring our local community to our campus to experience a loving church community. Let's show our community the love and hospitality that Christ did when he walked this earth!

Mail Cards

We have many invitations that we would like to mail to our local community. **Join us after the service next Sunday** to affix mailing labels to these invitations. Lunch provided!

Volunteering

There are many ways to help serve in this event, including running a carnival game, serving food, decorations, and even judging chili. If you would like to help support this event through volunteering, please **scan the QR Code above** and fill out the form attached. If you would like to help out by bringing food, there will be a sign-up sheet in the foyer starting next week.

Chili Cook-Off!

If you are interested in participating in the chili cook-off, please **use the QR code to sign up!** You do not have to sign up for volunteering to join the cook-off, but you will need to use the code and we could use the help if you are willing and able.

CANDY!!!

And as always, WE NEED CANDY! If you have unopened bags of candy you would like to donate to the Harvest Party, please bring it by Sunday, October 17th.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026



MAN CAMP 2026

FRI, OCT 16 - SUN, OCT 18

Join us for a great weekend at Harbor Lite Lodge in Fort Bragg that will be packed with fun activities and impactful sessions from our guest speaker, John Fernandez. Man Camp is open to guys who are in high school and over.

Friday, 10/16- Registration begins @ 4PM
Sunday, 10/18- Last Session ends by 12PM

Registration closes on 9/27

Accommodation Options & Cost:

Single occupancy room (King Bed) (includes registration)- **\$485/person**

Double occupancy room (Two Queen Beds) (includes registration)- **\$270/person**

Triple occupancy room (Two Queen Beds + Cot) (includes registration)- **\$205/person**

Registration only (provide your own accommodation) - **\$75/person**

- All options include Saturday meals, Sunday breakfast, and speaker honorarium

Scholarships Available

Student Discount: 50% off for HS and college students.

(Pay full rate and submit registration email to RHC Office for reimbursement).

Available Activities: Hiking, Biking, Golf, Shooting Range, Ax Throwing, Board Games, Beach Fishing... or just hang out & relax!



Guest Speaker

John Fernandez

Pastor @ Grace Church of Napa Valley
Professor @ Cornerstone Seminary

Scan the QR code to sign up today or visit
RedemptionHillSR.org/Man-Camp



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):

Youth Discipleship meets on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Wednesdays.
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
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:

Last name:

Email:

Phone:



**But for this reason I have raised you up,
to show you my power,**



so that my name may be
proclaimed in all the earth

Exodus 9:16