



## Samaritan Women- *Community AfterCARE Resources*

Assisting women coming out of jail and prison to live godly lives.

Nancy Dixon, Executive Director  
4840 N. First St., #110, Fresno, CA 93726

(559) 227-2190  
July 2004

### Nancy Notes ...

by Nancy Dixon

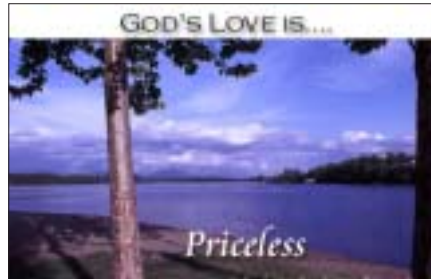
### “...BUT GOD...”

Often we need intervention in our lives. We may make foolish decisions, go astray, or find ourselves in a hurting or impossible situation. Bottom line, we need help. We can try to deny that we need help, try to solve the problem on our own, ask others to come to our aid **OR** pray and ask God to intervene. The longer we wait in bringing the situation to God, the longer and more difficult or entangled the situation becomes.

Over and over through the ages, man tries everything first, and then asks God. Some people feel that they can handle the small stuff and only want to bother God for the big stuff. Some think that what they did was so bad that God cannot forgive them or are under the wrong impression that God does not love or care about them for some reason. Yet God's Word is clear that God cares about the details of our lives, big and small, and that He wants to help us.

I looked up the two words “But God” to see what the situations were where they appeared in the Bible. Over and over “but God” appears from Genesis in the Old Testament to Hebrews in the New Testament showing the many times God has intervened in the lives of people as He shows His power, love, mercy and grace. God is for us. Let's be clear on that. There is nothing you or I can do that will separate us from His love when we come to Him. Take time to look at these examples of His power and plans found in: Genesis 20:3, 45:7-8, Job 24:22-23, Acts 3:15; Showing His love: Genesis 50:20, 1 Kings 23:14, Psalm 66:18-20, Romans 5:8; Showing His grace and mercy: 2 Kings 14:14, Ephesians 2: 8-9; Where He gives wisdom and strength: Psalm 73:26, Luke 12:20, 1 Corinthians 2:9-16.

Recently, there was a woman who did



**Psalm 63:3-4, “Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands.”**

something that she knew was not allowed yet chose to do it repeatedly. It became a terrible burden for her to carry. Instead of asking for help in resisting the temptation, she feared if anyone knew that they would deal harshly with her. How many times do we not seek help because of fear? That really is bondage. Guilt eats away at us in this situation and begins to pull us away from God, the only real source of strength and help. The funny thing is we lie to ourselves that we can hide anything from God. He sees it all and still loves us. He is eager to have us come admit what we have done and ask Him to help us turn away from it, agreeing with God it is wrong. Usually what started out as something small becomes something big because we try to cover it up, lie and end up hurting not only ourselves but others as well. What a relief when we deal with the issue.

How can we accept forgiveness from others and even God and yet not forgive ourselves? Each of those steps are very important. Who are we to reject God's promise of forgiveness? Sometimes we may feel we are not worthy to be forgiven and want to punish ourselves, setting ourselves up as judge. God did not make you or me judge. His death on the cross

paid for our sin, and we need to accept His payment for our sin or wrong doing. Nothing you or I can do can pay the price; only God can. We may not feel forgiven for a long time, but the fact of God's promise of forgiveness can set you free if only you claim it as yours. If the devil keeps bringing it up to you, just remind Satan of God's promise of forgiveness for those that turn to Him. Just as the woman I spoke of earlier told me what a load was taken off and she was glad to have it dealt with (now that it was out in the open). She just didn't know how to ask for help. My advice is settle things quickly before any time settles in layers of sin and guilt tear you apart. Freedom await you.

*“Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the LORD, and He will have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.” Isaiah 55:7*

*“If we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.” 1 John 1:7*

### Fun Fellowship Friday

The 2nd Friday of each month is set aside for you, your family & friends to come join the fun, meet new friends, just relax & enjoy the evening.

**July 9th**

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Fresno Evangelical Free Church

3438 E. Ashlan Avenue

(upstairs in the Atrium Building, Room 212)

**Great Speaker Mark Baker, Counselor  
“Getting Past the Past”**

**DESSERT NIGHT -  
EVERYONE BRING A DESSERT TO SHARE**

**Children's Program Provided**

# Q&A

2 Corinthians 5:17-19, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation."

This month we interviewed four of our people to hear their thoughts on forgiveness. We asked each of them the following questions: **Have you ever had a hard time forgiving yourself for something? How do you get past that?**



**Vivian McCutchen (Been a Christian 43 years; been involved with Samaritan Women 3 years)** - Yes, for not having spoken up for Jesus when He's brought somebody across my path to witness to, being afraid of what people will think if I witness. Too worried about what people will think of me and not worried enough about their soul. To get past that, I think they could go into eternity tomorrow without Jesus if I don't say anything to them about Jesus. How would I feel if somebody allowed me to go into eternity without knowing there's another way? Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."



**Christie Symonds (Been a Christian 5 years; been involved with Samaritan Women 5 months)** - Oh, yeah. I went through New Life for Girls and I graduated. I spent 16 months there. It was the first time I got to know God. In my heart I was fully walking with Him and allowing Him to work in my life. I graduated from Dover, Pennsylvania. I came back to Fresno and I relapsed and started doing some of the old things from my past. I ended up getting locked up 7 months after graduating. For a good year, I held guilt and shame from it. To get past this is by having faith in God and knowing He won't lead you down the unrighteous path. He will give you the strength to get through the trials and temptations the Devil throws my way. No matter what I do, Jesus died on the cross for my sins, and I can ask forgiveness and start fresh. 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"



**Susan Epp (Been a Christian since a child; been involved with Samaritan Women 1 year)** - Yes. When I was in college, I did some things that I knew were against the will of God. Somehow, I thought that since nobody would know, I could live the lie and be okay. However, I found out that I was hurting God AND myself! 1 John 1:6 hit me like a knife. It says "if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness, we are not living in the truth..." I decided to turn from my sin. To get past that, the whole experience taught me that I am not a good person on my own. I sin and make mistakes. I can't earn God's approval by being good and God won't disown me for being bad. I am held and rescued by the grace of God.



**Jeanne Allen (Been a Christian 9 years; been involved with Samaritan Women for 9)** - Oh, yeah. Failing, failing myself, failing God and everyone around me. Repeatedly going to prison from drug use of heroin and cocaine for at least 15 years. To get past that, I surrendered. Finally I said enough is enough. I delve into the Bible Studies and surround myself with good Christian friends who are clean. I make myself get involved with Christian fellowship and not isolate myself. God gave me a fresh start. Philippians 3:14, "I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

## Health Tips - By Mark Baker

### Forgiveness, Self-forgiveness, and Your Health

“I just can’t forgive myself.”  
“You need to forgive yourself.” I hear this concept, desire, and teaching all of the time. But do we really have a need to forgive ourselves? Is there anything in the Bible that teaches this idea? If not, where does this thought come from?

It may surprise you but there is not a single principle, example, or verse in the Bible that has anything to do with forgiving yourself. Scripture teaches us of the need for our forgiveness from God (vertical), our need to give and receive forgiveness from others (horizontal), but there is absolutely no mention, not even a hint, of inner forgiveness. We cannot be the offender, judge, and forgiver all wrapped into one.

This is not to say that if a person is struggling with lingering guilt, lack of peace, and/or worry that there is not a very real problem. If the problem is not simply forgiving yourself, what then is the problem? What is really going on in the heart of the person struggling to know freedom from shame or guilt?

Let’s begin our answer with more questions? Is God’s unlimited grace, mercy, forgiveness, and love not



enough to deal with your transgressions? Is Christ’s death on the cross somehow insufficient for your sins? Does infinite, all-powerful, and perfect God lack in anyway in meeting all of your spiritual needs? Are you the judge and forgiver or is God?

Another question with which to answer and understand our problems is simply...*where do you put your hope?* Here is the key to the problem...I believe that those who struggle with anger and forgiveness (in both giving and receiving forgiveness) put most, if not all, of their hope in the **performance** of others and/or themselves. Their happiness goes up and down based on how others treat them or how well they can fulfill their own standards. What is missing here? God! His amazing grace and unending love.

When we live by performance then grace, mercy, and even love become foreign to us and are next to impossible to grasp and live by. The Bible refers to the performance way of life as

the Old Covenant (e.g. Martha; Luke 10:38-42), whereas grace and faith in God is the New Covenant (e.g. Mary; 2 Cor. 3:5-6).

Old Covenant living brings about anger, worry, fear, envy, depression, etc., which in turn can result in many health problems for our bodies. Solomon wrote, “*A heart at peace*” (New Covenant) “*gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.*” (Proverbs 14:30; see Psalm 38)

Living according to God’s Word, His design (the New Covenant), His total forgiveness (and not according to performance/Old Covenant) will radically change your life and even affect your health. Trusting God’s perfect all-loving character is the key.

Dr. Robert Smith described God’s Word/design best when he wrote, “(God) has given some very clear guidelines for health which, if followed by every human being, would save more lives than the combined efforts of all the medical and safety experts now working so hard to save lives.”

Freedom from fear, guilt, worry, etc, through knowing God’s abundant grace and love will radically transform your life in more ways than one.



### Wild Water Adventures Samaritan Women Outing

**WHEN:** Saturday,  
August 28th

**WHERE:** Wild Water Adventures in  
Clovis, CA

**COST:** Special Price of Only  
\$10 per person



**Start Planning for another great  
water park adventure with our  
family and friends!**

**Last year we had a  
BLAST!  
Call Pam at  
227-2190 to get  
your tickets!**



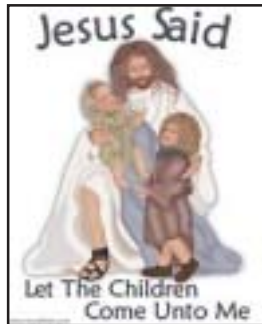
## Kid's Korner...

The Children's Enrichment Center  
with Nana Singh



Special times for you and your child this summer. Come, make a memory with your child this summer. Every Wednesday these next two months, stay after the Bible study just a little longer and we'll have some more fun like we did last year. **Songs, games, and crafts, Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30, July and August.** The last half hour beginning at **11:00** will be the time for Moms to do something special with your child.

I'm available to do special things with you and your child at the Center. As well, we have special activities during your class time.



Little children follow Jesus most readily when Mom is leading the way. These first early steps determine your child's direction in life. Children can be saved early in life, and can say for themselves, **"the Lord is MY Shepherd."**

There is a beautiful, simple song to a lullaby melody that came to me as I sought a theme for this year's Bible School emphasis. **"The Lord is my Shepherd, I'll walk with Him always. He leads by still waters, I'll walk with Him always. Always, always, I'll walk with Him always."** And it repeats. Easy to learn and the words and melody stay with you.

## Happening Highlights

...For Our 'Women'



### 'July Highlights'

#### Fun Fellowship Friday, July 9th, 6:30-8:30

Everyone loves our special speaker, Mark Baker, who teaches Anger Resolution at our Center. He will be talking about why it's important to deal with past issues and how he goes about dealing with them. There will be an open time for Questions & Answers.

#### WHAT'S NEW FOR CLASSES? Check it out!!!

\* **Bible Basics (Operation Timothy I)**, Mondays 10:30 - Noon. *Operation Timothy* is a good way to understand the Bible better.

\* **Self Defense Class** - July 14th & 21st, 2 - 4 p.m. 10 am - 12 p.m. In these violent times, be prepared. Learn techniques to defend yourself in possible threatening situations. Wear loose clothing and bring water.

\* **Health/Weight Management Support Group**, Thursdays, 1 - 2:30 p.m. Have you wanted to look better in your favorite outfit? Have you said you're gonna do something about it and you haven't? Here's your opportunity to work together with others and succeed. There's something in it for you if you see it through to the end.

\* **Holiday Crafts**, We need your help, and it's fun. Look on your calendar for these dates during this month. **Thursdays, a.m., there is no children care available.**



## Can Everybody Be Forgiven?

By Charles Stanley

1 Corinthians 6:9-11, *"Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."*

Do you ever ask yourself: Have I committed the unpardonable sin? Can I ever be free of the weight of this guilt? Will God forgive every sin? YES! Your loving Heavenly Father will forgive you of your sin. You can be released today from all your sin, if you will do what God says to do.

In the Scripture reference above, the Apostle Paul dealt with an instance of sexual immorality in the Corinthian church. This passage holds three great messages for us. Can you find them?

**First**, it tells us that sin is sin. God doesn't differentiate between one type or brand of sin and another. God doesn't have categories of sin. Sin is just sin.


**Second**, it tells us that sin is a life-style, a mindset, a state of being. Every person, before receiving a new identity in Christ Jesus, has had the identity of a sinner. *Sin* is "the state of being in bondage - in need of being set free."

**Third**, it tells us that all types of sin can be forgiven. Paul said, "And such were some of you". They had been washed, sanctified, and justified by Jesus. *Forgiveness* is "the act of setting someone free."

Can you identify a "before and after in your spiritual life", a time about which you can say, "I once was this, but I realized I needed help. I invited Jesus to be my Savior. I asked Him to forgive my sins. He cleansed me, and I dedicated my life to God to be used as He wants, and now He has not blamed me and sees me as righteous, just because we are lined up with Jesus. We aren't right in our own doing but only by accepting the payment Jesus gave on the cross for us.

Nothing is beyond God's forgiveness. No sin is too great, too awful, or too prolific for God to forgive. No person is so deep in sin, so ingrained in a life-style, so steeped in evil, that he or she cannot be saved. The choice is yours. Ask Jesus to forgive you TODAY!

# July 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>4</b> Offer praise and worship to Jesus Christ!</p> 	<p><b>5</b> Center Closed - Observance of 4th of July!</p>	<p><b>6</b> -Parenting (Court Approved), 9:30 - 12:30 -Anger Resolution, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>7</b> ~*Bible Study/ Support, 9-11 am at EV Free (child care) Boutique (clothing) at Center -Holiday Crafts, 1-3 pm</p>	<p><b>1</b> -Health/Weight Mgmt. Support Group, 1 - 2:30 pm ~ Book Buddies, 6:00-7:30 pm</p>	<p><b>2</b> -Crochet, Quilting &amp; Sewing, 9:30 - Noon - Victory Over Substance Abuse, 1 - 2:30 p.m. - Incentive Party, 2:30-4</p>	<p><b>3</b> Buy your fireworks July 1 - 4, at our stand, Kings Canyon &amp; Chestnut!</p>
<p><b>11</b> Worship your Lord and Savior at church today.</p>	<p><b>12</b> -Bible Basics, 10:30 am-Noon - Safe People, 1-3 pm</p>	<p><b>13</b> -Parenting (Court Approved), 9:30 - 12:30 -Anger Resolution, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>14</b> ~Bible Study/ Support, 9-11 am at EV Free (child care) Boutique (clothing) at Center -Self Defense, 2-4 pm</p>	<p><b>8</b> -Health/Weight Mgmt. Support Group, 1 - 2:30 pm ~ Book Buddies 6:00 - 7:30 pm</p>	<p><b>9</b> -Crochet, Quilting &amp; Sewing, 9:30 - Noon - Victory Over Substance Abuse, 1 - 2:30 p.m. - Incentive Party, 2:30 -4 - FUN FELLOWSHIP FRIDAY, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>
<p><b>18</b> Take the family to church and worship the Lord!</p>	<p><b>19</b> -Bible Basics, 10:30 am-Noon - Safe People, 1-3 pm</p>	<p><b>20</b> -Parenting Graduation, 9:30 - 12:30 -Anger Resolution, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>21</b> ~Bible Study/ Support, 9-11 am at EV Free (child care) Boutique (clothing) at Center -Self Defense, 2-4 pm</p>	<p><b>15</b> -Holiday Crafts, 10-12 -Health/Weight Mgmt. Support Group, 1 - 2:30 pm ~ Book Buddies 6:00 - 7:30 pm</p>	<p><b>16</b> -Crochet-Quilt &amp; Sewing, 9:30 - Noon - Victory Over Substance Abuse, 1 - 2:30 p.m. - Incentive Party, 2:30 - 4</p>	<p><b>17</b></p>
<p><b>25</b> Go to church to worship our Lord!</p>	<p><b>26</b> -Bible Basics, 10:30 am-Noon - Safe People, 1-3 pm</p>	<p><b>27</b> - Anger Resolution, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. -Alumni Mtg, 6-8 pm</p>	<p><b>28</b> ~Bible Study/ Support, 9-11 am at EV Free (child care) Boutique (clothing) at Center -Holiday Crafts, 1-3 pm</p>	<p><b>22</b> -Holiday Crafts, 10-12 -Health/Weight Mgmt. Support Group, 1 - 2:30 pm ~ Book Buddies 6:00 - 7:30 pm</p>	<p><b>23</b> -Crochet, Quilting &amp; Sewing, 9:30 - Noon - Victory Over Substance Abuse, 1 - 2:30 p.m. - Incentive Party, 2:30 -4</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>
<p><b>31</b></p>	<p><b>29</b> -Anger Resolution, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. -Alumni Mtg, 6-8 pm</p>	<p><b>30</b> -Crochet, Quilting &amp; Sewing, 9:30 - Noon - Victory Over Substance Abuse, 1 - 2:30 p.m. - Incentive Party, 2:30 -4</p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	<p><b>29</b> -Health/Weight Mgmt. Support Group, 1 - 2:30 pm ~ Book Buddies 6:00 - 7:30 pm</p>	<p><b>30</b> -Crochet, Quilting &amp; Sewing, 9:30 - Noon - Victory Over Substance Abuse, 1 - 2:30 p.m. - Incentive Party, 2:30 -4</p>	<p><b>31</b></p>