



The Outer Leaf

Live Oaks
Community Church

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"Leading edge news and views of the ministries of Live Oaks Community Church"

Letting Go Again...

"For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure." (The apostle Paul's words to Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:6)

The accelerator pedal on "time" seems to be stuck on full throttle! Can you believe that summer is nearly over, school will begin soon, and before you know it, the Fall holidays will be here...? Life is full speed and about change – and because change is such a constant in life, you and I must learn to **let go**.

God gives us several opportunities throughout our life to learn this lesson... Parents **let go** of the hand of the toddler to let them walk alone and become independent of them. Emerging adults **let go** of childhood to embrace adolescence and adulthood. Young adults **let go** of home as a college student. Parents once again **let go** of their young adult to pursue their dreams in far off colleges in other cities and states. Families **let go** of each other through marriage, careers that take them to different parts of the world, and even death that separates them. As life keeps moving through jobs, friendships, ministry and family the cycle of **letting go** repeats, again and again, as we **let go** of things that are precious to us. **Letting go** is usually difficult and always requires trust. However, our understanding of God's bigger picture gives us wisdom to **let go** and transition to whatever is next...

Paul's metaphor in 2 Timothy 4:6 of being poured out like a drink offering is key to **letting go**. A drink offering often accompanied a burnt offering and a cereal/grain offering. In these offerings of worship, the worshipper would bring their drink offering and pour it all out on the altar, leaving none for themselves or the priests, it was all the Lord's. The emphasis was on the complete **surrender** of the gift to God. It was a complete **letting go**.

Have you ever completely **surrendered** your life and person to the point that you have placed yourself, your life and your ministry all on the altar of God? In 1977 I completely **surrendered** myself and my life to God, experiencing the tangible love of God around and within me, and the

real power of God to change me from the inside out, and I have been trying to describe, teach and lead others to that same tangible spiritual experience with Christ ever since.

As you and I face the inevitable cycle of change in our life and the process of **letting go**, I challenge you to more and more surrender yourself, family, circumstances, and ministry to the Lord of All, Jesus Christ. We must continue to **let go** of our past with all its pain, fear, rut patterns

(though comfortable, drain the life from you), sins, offenses – and even the past blessings and fruit to be able to embrace all the new God wants to bring into our lives. It may seem counterintuitive to **let go** of the good, but it is the only way to ensure that the good stays good and we stay **surrendered** to the Lord.

I leave you with this encouragement from Paul as you mourn the loss of **letting go** of what was or is and press toward God's goal of what will be... *"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I*

press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you." (Phil. 3:12-15)

Here is to **letting go** and **pressing on** while knowing that as you do you are always **in Christ**.

Lord bless your change!

Pastor Kelley

Please see Page 2 for a poem that Pastor Kelley wrote to go along with this article.



I wrote this poem as a way to understand my own process and struggle in letting go of my children to college, specifically my oldest son Lance. Letting go is a loss of what was for what will be. It takes trust to believe that what "will be" will be better and for the best. God prepared us for this process when we named Lance upon his birth. Lance means "long spear or sharp pointed object." At that time, the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart revealing His goal for our kids lives, which was our goal as well. Our prayer is that each of our kids will submit themselves to the hand of God, allowing Him to sharpen their gifts and character, and hurl them at the target (purpose) He has for their lives. God will answer this prayer if we will raise our kids in His will and let them go into His hand.

Letting Go

He did not really want to leave my hand

I did not really want to let him fly

Resistant to our role in the Command

...to let

one another

go...

We had a passion not seeing the end

A desire to make the perfect one

Surrender never fully entertained

When creating a first-born son.

Holding him as we developed his gifts

Found his personality and passions

Overcame his flaws and resolved our riffs

The cycle of generations.

Confident is the dad with quiver full

Prepared for enemy or rainy day

Yet the first gives courage and strength to rule

The spice of life when he is gray.

He did not really want to leave my hand

I did not really want to let him fly

Resistant to our role in the Command

...to let

one another

go...

Come so accustom to you at my side

Your departure and absence I will mourn

For to my heart and habit you abide

But, to your purpose you were born.

He did not really want to leave my hand

I did not really want to let him fly

Resistant to our role in the Command

...to let

one another

go...

I am an arrow you are one too

The final target will soon come on scene

You are firmly set in the Archer's bow

To never more

upon me

lean.

He did not really want to leave my hand

I did not really want to let him fly

Resistant to our role in the Command

...to let

one another

go.



August Nursery Schedule

- Aug. 5 - William & Miriam Savage
- Aug. 12 - Troy & Kimberly Donahey
- Aug. 19 - Ashley Callstrom & Larissa Ryn
- Aug. 26 - Dave & Lisa Sramek

Thank you so much to all of our nursery volunteers!!

The schedule is now on our website:

www.liveoaks.org



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WAS A BLAST!!!!!!!

This year's Vacation Bible School was so much fun. We had a smaller crowd this year for probably many different reasons, but the atmosphere around Sunflower Shelter was just the same. Kids were singing, learning memory verses, listening to Bible stories, eating snacks, making fun crafts, and of course, braving the many different activities set up for recreation. There were 40-50 kids and 45 volunteers this week. The offering raised went to Element 26's Mexico mission's trip, as well as to the Herringshaw's to help them purchase a new vehicle. The kids raised a total of \$625.75. Great job, kids!!





www.liveoaks.org

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