



The Outer Leaf

Live Oaks
Community Church

Volume 5, Issue 5

October 2008

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

Confessions Of A “Card” Delinquent...

“In everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1 Thess. 5:18)

I am the worlds worst at sending “Thank You” notes or “Appreciation” cards to people! Ok, maybe I am not the worst, but I am “card-sending” challenged. There are basic hurdles that I always face in getting words from my heart onto a card to someone I appreciate. For example, my penmanship is as legible as the elephant’s paintings at the zoo... as a guy, and an extrovert, it is easier to communicate my emotions verbally... and the practice of sending cards was not modeled in my family of origin. These reasons are not an excuse, just the context of my challenge. I am truly thankful and find myself welling up with appreciation on a weekly basis. However, too many times I do not take the opportunity or make the time to express my gratitude in written form for the love, work, and acts of service of others upon my behalf.

October is traditionally “Pastor Appreciation” month, but I believe it should be “Servant Appreciation” month. My

hope and prayer is that we, as a congregation, would take the time this month to appreciate the different people in the church who serve and touch us. It may be simply thanking them for their smile, pleasant attitude, and encouragement. Yet, your gratitude may go deeper as you appreciate them for their accountability, faithful work in a ministry area or a specific gift of service upon your behalf. Your appreciation can be given in numerous ways, yet it is hard to beat a heartfelt “Thanks” in written form.



From one card challenged person to another, let’s take some time to bless those in writing who bless us in service this month. Tradition has given you a tremendous gift – an intentional opportunity to communicate your heart in words that can build others up as they are cherished over and over again.

Enjoy blessing those who add value to you and your life this month!

Sincerely,

Pastor Kelley

Upcoming Events

To keep the Christmas theme going — and in order to help everyone be more prepared for the fast approaching Christmas season, here are some very important dates for you to mark on your calendars for the month of December. Dates and times subject to change, but we will notify you of such changes should they occur:

- Dec. 7th — Children’s Christmas Program 10am
- Dec. 14th — All Church Annual Christmas Dinner at Cross Road 5pm
- Dec. 17th — Caroling at Sand Piper Bay Nursing Home. Time to be announced.
- Dec. 20th — Haag Open House. Time to be announced.
- Dec. 24th — Christmas Eve Service at LaQuinta
- Dec. 28th — Sunday Morning Service at LaQuinta
- Jan. 25th — Budget/Vision meeting 10am

Wandering in Modern Luxury

By: Ashley Callstrom

"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints." ---Ephesians 1:18

Not too long ago I was thinking about the difficulty of living in modern times. I don't know about you, but I am tired of the constant battle we have to fight to prioritize to keep busyness from taking over our lives completely. And every now and then I think about how I might be different if I didn't have some of these modern luxuries; how I might like to live without some of our "conveniences." We have the basics of running water, electricity, and also television, cars, computer, cell phones, iPods, the list could continue endlessly. Don't take this the wrong way, because I like the microwave and fast-food as much as anyone, but what about how self-reliant we try to be in light of these possessions? So much of the modern world gives us the impression that we are capable of living on our own. We can walk through our week confident that we will go home to the same home we left and eat a few reasonable meals. We don't have to talk to each other, we can watch the television or listen to music, we can chat online and "LOL" without ever hearing the joyful (and healing) sound of laughter. Our culture supports the idea of being independent, self-reliant and self-sufficient. But God's word shows us over and over that we are not sufficient on our own, we are not going to grow or thrive on our own. We need more than the world can give us.

As I was thinking about the things we take for granted and questioning how life's luxuries affect me personally; perhaps if I didn't have electricity or was wandering in the desert, my need for God's provision would be impossible to ignore. Have these comforts masked my desperate need for Christ's constant intervention? But then I realized, first of all, that we have all been placed in the world today for a Divine reason. More remarkably, God reminded me that—despite the comfort we enjoy—the world we live in is still immensely barren and lacking. The world is full of many light bulbs and flashlights—but only *one* sun.

In the same way that a flashlight cannot match the warmth and light of the sun, nothing can match God and the qualities He alone possesses. Are there things in your life that you are trying to fulfill on your own? Do you need to be reminded that, although the beauty and commodities we utilize every day make life easier, we are still living in a desert? Could you benefit from taking a time-out from some luxury in your life? Are any modern conveniences in your world serving as a distracting illusion of the *real* thing? We all need to continually ask ourselves: am I looking to anyone or anything besides God to satisfy me? When we allow God to give us eternal perspective, it is not only much easier to see what really *matters* and what *really* doesn't, but it also makes it possible to make progress in our journey.



"Oh that My people would listen to Me,
That Israel would walk in My ways!
... I would feed you with the finest of wheat,
And with honey from the rock I would satisfy you."
Psalm 81:13, 16