

March 2009

The Monthly Vine

Staying connected on the latest happenings...

Loving God, Investing in Community, Following Jesus, Engaging Our World

Pastor's Corner.....

By Ian Prichard

Many people consider that America is in its worst condition in our generation. Last year was the greatest year of job loss in America in 69 years. Politically, our government has been paralyzed by partisanship and culturally, we're becoming more and more secular. America needs healing.

I'm very hopeful. My hope is not based upon some vague wish. It's rooted in the belief that even when life is tough, God is good and he has a plan and purpose for our lives. God invites us to lift up our eyes and to focus on our hope – the hope of eternal life.

and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. - 2 Chronicles 7:14

We have to do the four things that God told Solomon and the nation of Israel to do.

What will it take to heal our land?

We need healing in our economy. We need healing in our businesses. We need healing in our schools. We need healing in our marriages and our families. And, most of all, we need healing in our hearts.

Almost 3,000 years ago God made a promise to King Solomon that's particularly appropriate for us today. *"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face*

We Must Confess With Humility

God first says, "If my people will humble themselves, I will heal their land."

We think we know better than God. We think we know what will make us happy. It's that pride that causes us to be

But our wounds are not

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Faith in Action Spotlight.....

We're not a church that wants to just "do church." We want to **"be the church"** by caring for our community.

As a church, and in our community groups, we continually look for ways to connect with people, and care for and serve people around us. Many times we find that we are the ones impacted through serving our community. That's why, each month, we will spotlight a service project by an individual or community group.

Beginning this month, the Oravec/Wilburn community group will be serving HIV Carelink, helping people that have HIV/Aids move to apartments. They will be hosting an orientation meeting on **Thursday, March 19th, at 6:30 p.m.** If you are interested in joining them for this orientation, please e-mail Rob Wilburn at rob.wilburn@gmail.com.

Want to share your faith in action story? E-mail info@littletonvineyard.org.

Mark your Calendar....

March 7 - Women's Study

March 8 - Foundations of Our Faith Class, 6:30 p.m.

March 9 - Fireproof Group

March 11 - Serving Dinner at Denver Rescue Mission

March 15 - Foundations of Our Faith Class, 6:30 p.m.

March 16 - Fireproof Group

March 21 - April 3 - Student LIFE Philippines Mission Trip

March 22 - Foundations of Our Faith Class, 6:30 p.m.

March 23 - Fireproof Group

March 25 - Community Group Leaders' Meeting

March 29 - Foundations of Our Faith Class, 6:30 p.m.

April 3 - Prayer & Worship Night

April 4 - Women's Breakfast at 9:00 and Bible Study, 10-12

April 5 - Board Meeting

April 5 - Foundations of Our Faith Class, 6:30 p.m.

For additional information on these dates, please visit our Website littletonvineyard.org or contact the church office at 303.797.0201.

Loving God, Investing in Community, Following Jesus, Engaging Our World

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disconnected from God on a personal level, a corporate level, and a national level. Pride gets in our way and we forget that we need God.

The paradox of Joy is that you don't get it by looking for it. God offers it to us as a reward for pure and selfless service.

The deep sustaining joy that Jesus promises, is a gift of God that takes us by surprise. When is it most likely to surprise us? When we are striving with all our heart to live as Jesus did: to lay down ambitions & live for God & others, to live selflessly without thought of reward.

We will never find personal or national healing if we try to hide our sins from God. It starts with you and me. We've got to be honest and tell God where we blew it.

We Must Pray With Resolve

The second thing that God told Solomon was: *"If my people will pray, I will heal their land."*

God wants us to pray and refuse to give up. We often give up too soon. That's why we don't see answers. Use the church prayer guide to pray for one another. Use the Easter lent guide to stimulate prayer. Pray for our president and leaders.

How serious are we about spiritual awakening and healing in America? How serious are we about healing in our church, family or in our own life? Create a prayer list, and make sure national issues make it on the list.

We Must Seek God With Intensity

Third, God says, *"If my people will seek my face, I will heal their land."*

This is not some kind of casual pastime. We don't just seek God in our spare moments. It has to be a focus. God wants to be our passion. Most people want just enough of God to bless them but not bug them. But if God is going to bring healing to our country, our churches have to be full of people truly seeking him.

We Must Repent With Sincerity

Finally, God says, *"If my people turn from their wicked ways, I'll heal their land."*

Repentance is metanoia in the Greek. Meta means to turn, to change. Noia means mind. Literally, repent means to change your mind, to change how you think. When we repent, we change the way we think about ourselves and God. We change the way we think about our values, other people, our past, our present, and our future. What do you need to think differently about?

National healing will start with us. America will not be healed because we passed a certain law or fed another trillion into the economy. Healing won't happen because we elect the right government. Healing won't happen when those who don't know God behave better. God will heal our land when his people – the church – confess, pray, seek him, and repent.

(Credit to Rick Warren for much of this article)

Easter

Sunday, April 12th

Passover Seder Dinner on Thursday, April 9th at 7:00 p.m.



Foundations

of our **Faith**

Sundays at 6:30 p.m.



Sunday, March 15th

Canned Food Drive

Beginning March 15th, bring in *at least one* canned food item per family member to participate in our **Church Family Canned Food Drive** to support the **Open Arms Food Bank**.

Littleton Vineyard

Experience Real LIFE.

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