

From the Pastor

Our study in I Corinthians has taught us that a Christian's conscience is important in maintaining a healthy balance between guilt and liberty. It is a delicate task. Some of us suffer from an overly sensitive conscience. We may live with a constant sense of guilt over everything and never feel any liberty in our walk with God. Sometimes we have difficulty getting over our shame. We may hear ourselves saying, "I can't forgive myself."

Attending church or reading our Bibles may further complicate this kind of bondage we feel because the Word of God reminds us of our past failures. Instead of finding freedom in our worship, we experience more guilt. The Apostle Paul suggests that making religious rules is born in our desire to experience grace in our lives. If we do more, maybe we will feel more freedom. This becomes a complicated oxymoron. An overly-sensitive conscience can lead to more bondage while attempting to find freedom.

Several years ago I was experiencing a great deal of guilt and disappointment in myself. These feelings still haunt me from time to time. Sometimes they can be overwhelming. I was sharing my difficulties with a visiting pastor friend, telling him that, "I couldn't forgive myself for a tragedy that had struck my family." He responded by asking me, "Where in the Bible does it say we need to forgive ourselves?" I had to admit that I didn't know of any passage of Scripture that taught self-forgiveness. He went on to explain to me that I was looking in the wrong place to find escape from my guilt and shame. Yes, the pain I was experiencing was inside me, but the answer to relieving my pain was not to be found on the inside. Instead of looking inward, I needed to look upward.

This pastor friend went on to say, "Your problem, Guy, is that you haven't received forgiveness. You are still hanging on to finding

redemption in your own goodness instead of the finished work of Christ on the Cross." He was right. My confessions to God had not been completely heartfelt. While my words in confession admitted to my failures and sins, my heart was still looking for redemption in my own works. Oh how our sin nature tenaciously hangs on. It took me about two years to learn to let go of my pride and allow for a true confession to flow from my heart. I was then learning how to receive the forgiveness that was available to me the whole time, but God had to do a work inside of me to prepare me for His Grace. I was not yet ready to receive his Grace until I was ready to let go of my failures. This is a problem that is rooted in our own self-righteousness. I still wanted to be good.

I have a pretty good idea that my dilemma may be your dilemma. We may feel so unworthy of receiving grace and forgiveness that we subconsciously punish ourselves emotionally. Our conscience is never cleared. But a clean conscience is exactly what the Lord intends as a fruit of salvation. "How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, ***purify our conscience from dead works*** to serve the living God." (Hebrews 9:14)

God desires us to be free! Free from ourselves! Free from our failures! This is why Jesus died for us. Don't try to forgive yourself. Receive the forgiveness that is already yours. Lift your hands to accept it. God is waiting.

Because of Calvary,
Guy

I'm excited to tell you March is a going to be a great month for music at Redding Christian Fellowship. I get to introduce you to a new group to us—The Needhams—and one that you've requested for a return visit, Kevin Spencer.

On **Sunday night, March 13, at 6 p.m.**, The Needhams will be with us. A decade of making music together has afforded The Needhams the time it takes to hone their sound with both passion and purpose. Audiences across the nation have discovered The Needhams offer a broad spectrum of musicality with three generations on stage. Group members employ their talents in various ways as vocalists or instrumentalists. Original songwriting and unique arrangements of familiar, beloved tunes range from organically acoustic to energetically progressive. Every song, regardless of styling, is crafted with the common basis of pure family harmony and lyrics grounded in the Word of God.

The Needhams' focus is to present Christ's love by way of songs with the very personal themes of faith, forgiveness, and family. Ten years of touring is a journey which has found The Needhams on stage at places like the Opryland Hotel, the Gibson Bluegrass Showcase, and the Stardust Theatre in Nashville, TN; the main stage of Freedom Hall for the National Quartet Convention in Louisville, KY; Bill Monroe's Bluegrass Festival in Bean Blossom, IN; the IBRA National Finals at the Miller Coliseum, Murfreesboro, TN; Royal Caribbean cruise lines; Steamboat Days, Des Arc, AR; Labor Daze, Oakfield, NY; and much more. They have appeared on television with the likes of Jerry Johnston and First Family Church of Overland Park, KS, and they are scheduled to shoot an upcoming episode of Great American Gospel hosted by gospel music legend Ed O'Neal, as well as an upcoming appearance on the Total Christian Television network (TCT).

A rich history of family harmony and their personal faith in Jesus Christ have brought The

Needhams to where they are today. Ultimately, it is their goal to glorify God, encourage fellow believers, and share the Gospel. To find out more about this amazing family check out their web site at www.theneedhams.com.



Monday night, March 14 at 7 p.m., Kevin Spencer is returning to RCF for a night of music. Kevin Spencer is a southern gospel singer who started singing with his family "[The Spencers](#)" when he was three years old. After starting his own group in 1992, Kevin Spencer and Friends, he now is enjoyed by his fans as a soloist.

Kevin has witnessed many lives changed through gospel music. He is admired by his fans wherever he goes with his desire to be a blessing, and minister, while delivering a song. His greatest moments are when something he has written or sung has truly touched someone's life. He also owns and operates the [Some Dawning Music Company Int'l., Inc.](#) which is a company that includes recording, songwriting, promoting, and producing of great southern gospel music.

Kevin has released a new tribute CD to his favorite singer, the late, great Rusty Goodman. Kevin Spencer has recorded several #1 and #2 songs! His hit songs and fan favorites include: [The Blood Is Still There](#), [If The Rapture Was Yesterday](#), [So Much To Thank Him For](#), [Flow Through Me Holy Spirit](#), and [God Bless America Again](#).



Kevin currently sings approximately 260 concerts per year covering most of the United States, Canada, U.S. and British Virgin Islands, Honduras, Grand Cayman Islands, Jamaica, and can also be seen on many different Christian TV

This and That



Are You Able?

Volunteers are needed to help those in our congregation with various home repair projects that they are unable to handle themselves. The Deacons are establishing a list of workers skilled in their trade who have a heart to help those in need. Please let us know your area of expertise by signing up at the information counter. Call Dean Petersen for more information (243-5215).

Have you checked out "The Connection" online? Go to www.rcfellowship.org/resources to enjoy a full color copy of our newsletter.

We wish to thank the following people who helped to make the directory photography days run so smoothly. We greatly appreciated all of your faithful dedication. We couldn't have done it without you!

Bob Rhoades, Sid Finks & Carol Phillips,
Tom & Melodie Benfer, Marilyn Hoover, Zell
Greene, Cleone Anderson, Kurt & Debbie
Salseth, Tom & Dorothy Gillett, Kathy Brighton,
Linda Gustafson, Lyle & Margaret Faudree, Les &
Mickey Townsend, Vikki Passage, Dianna
Rothenberger, Glenda Dickey, Glenn & Elaine
Moore, Neil & Kay Jern, Gary & Linda Cadd, Gary
& Laurie Lemon,
Cindy, Jayci &
Elizabeth Kelley,
Norm & Karen
VanDyke, Larry &
Debbie Sterk, Wil &
Carol Buller, Jay &
Ruth Jessen,
Herschel & Helen
Riggan, Joe & Linda
Molter.



Many of you served more than once, and we so greatly appreciated each of you and the role you played in making this photography event a success! Thank you again!

Tina Ferrer and Millie Cooper

Music Ministries, continued

stations including GMT (Gospel Music Television) and Gaither Gospel Series.

Kevin flies to most of his appearances, and occasionally drives to more of his local concerts. Bill Gaither has invited him to be a part of his DVDs, *All Day Singin'*, *So Glad*, and *Sunday Meetin' Time*. He performed *I Heard About A Stone*, *Twelve Gates To The City*, and *I Kept On Praying*.

Kevin Spencer is a born again Christian and believes in living what he sings. You can listen to

Kevin's music and find out more about him at www.kevinspencermusic.com

Coming in April is *"Hallelujah, He Did What He Said"* presented by your RCF music department. We ask that you be in prayer as we plan and rehearse this production. We'll have two performances—**Thursday night, April 21, and Friday night, April 22**. This musical is a great opportunity to bring those who have yet to meet the Savior.

Jerry

Women in Ministry

Hello Ladies!

What a great blessing we had at the Sheila Walsh conference! We were able to join over 40 churches to welcome 1,300 ladies for these two days. Sheila blessed us with singing as well as teaching us about "The Shelter of God's Promises." More than 300 ladies came to our prayer rooms over the two days, with hearts being changed! One of the many wonderful comments was, "I came to be entertained, and instead I was CHANGED!" Amen and Amen!



Our Tuesday morning and evening Bible studies are doing the follow-up study of "The Shelter of God's Promises." Please join us for this 10-week study. We meet at 9:00 a.m. in the auditorium or 6:30 p.m. in Room 209/210. The cost is \$15.00.

SOMETHING NEW:

We have a wonderful new event happening on Monday, March 21 at 6:30 p.m. It is called **Coffee Break**. (You don't have to drink coffee to come and enjoy.)

Coffee Break is a multi-generational event designed to encourage Christian women in the church to invite non-Christian women to a neutral location to hear an inspiring message, relax, and have a good time together. Real women sharing real stories with vibrant music. Nothing fancy, simply pure fun and encouragement!

A **Coffee Break** event includes coffee or tea, a light snack, and hearing a live D.I.V.A.s concert. D.I.V.A.s are Devoted, Inspired, Victorious, Artists (they strive to be a group of women *Devoted* to sharing God's love, *Inspired* by His Spirit, living *Victoriously* through His Word, an *Artist*) who are dedicated to using their gifts and abilities in all they pursue for His kingdom.



Their theme this year is **"SHINING FROM THE INSIDE OUT"** (God's perspective on beauty) and they will do giveaways and prizes and add some humorous activities at the event. They sell T-shirts and CDs. They are also connected with One Verse Artist Associate and work in conjunction with Wycliffe Bible translators, and they will share briefly about that. Tickets go on sale on Sunday, February 27, and are only \$5.00. Hope to see you there!

Reminder



"Freshen Up Your Family"
for Spring
March 12
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Providing the daily needs of kids and families by trading
what they have for what they need.



Join the many others who are having a great time studying God's Word, building relationships, and praying for one another.

Call **Ron Mapes @ 222-3425** and he'll help you get connected.



**Saturday
March 26**

8:00 a.m.

Friendship

Utmost Authenticity

Encouragement

Lasting Integrity

FUEL provides a great opportunity to meet the men of RCF. We enjoy a great home cooked breakfast (there is always plenty to eat), we spend a little time in worship, and share some time around the Word of God. Invest in a relationship with men who will encourage you, support you, pray for you and share some good times. Bring a friend!

**Sign up in advance
Tickets - \$3.00**

**Friday, March 18
for**

Faith & Family Game

@ the ARCO Arena

Cancelled
VS.



Age Group Ministries

Thoughts by Pastor Nick...



I just wanted to take a quick minute to tell you how our Winter Camp went this year. In a word, “PRESENT.” What I mean is—**Kids were present:** 105 of them. **Leaders were present:** 20 adults from the various churches loving, counseling, praying, pressing in, crying with, and hugging students. **Funds were present:** A couple months ago I made one announcement on a Sunday morning about the need for donations to help get students to camp who couldn't afford it. As of the week before camp, RCF had graciously and generously given over \$1,400!

Continued on page 11...

BaseLine Middle School Ministries

Old News:

The Winter Retreat is quickly approaching! Friday, March 11, we will head east to Mountain Meadows Camp to enjoy a weekend retreat. Cost is \$50 if you sign up on or before March 4, \$70 if you sign up after March 4. We will return Sunday afternoon. For details, contact the church office.

New News:

BaseLine needs your newspapers!!! Until further notice, if you could collect and deliver your newspapers to the church office, the middle school students could use them. Thank you so much.

The annual BaseLine mission trip is going to be during Spring break this year. We are headed to Fallon, Nevada. Many of you might be asking why Fallon, Nevada? Since you asked, a small church could use some encouragement and help reaching out into their community. BaseLine students will be going to serve in any capacity that they can. Please be in prayer that our students will be able to build relationships with people there in Fallon, that Oasis Community

Church would be encouraged, and that connections into the community would be built. We will leave on April 25 and return April 30. If you have questions, contact the church office.

Young Adult Ministries

Old News:

I would like to thank all those who came out to join the young adult study on Monday nights during the last several weeks: Mike and Gayle Cronic, Larry and D'Anne Andrews, Bill and Betty Rogers, Renea Moore, Kathy Brighton, Craig and Teri Sills, Robert and Walcie Bedwell, and Lyle and Margaret Faudree. Your contribution over the last month-and-a-half has been great. Thank you for the investment you have made into our young adults.

New News:

The young adult ministry is taking on a new look. The young adults will begin to facilitate any and all studies, discussions, and social activities. Location will most likely be changing on a regular basis, so if you are interested in attending, you will need to contact the church office to find out what is going on that particular week.

For His Glory and Honor,
Caleb

P.E.P.: People Enjoying People

7

The Senior Saints Ministry of Redding Christian Fellowship

Donuts & Sing

Wednesday, March 23

9:00 A.M.



Everyone is welcome to join us for a time of fellowship with coffee and donuts and a great time of singing some of our favorite hymns and songs.



Soup, Salad & Dessert Lunch **Friday, March 11, 12:00 noon - \$5.00**

Sign up at the information desk and look forward to a great time of food and fellowship.

Pizza Lunch in January

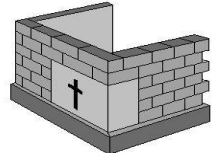
Decisions, decisions, decisions! Jay and Ruth trying to decide.



Dick and Richard contemplate seconds on the pizza.



Debbie, Shirley, Mel and Marie enjoy the company!



Building a foundation for a life-long relationship with Jesus.

Our goal for each child upon graduation of CKM is to have:
A saving knowledge of Jesus, A basic overview of the Bible, *A love for people, A desire to serve others in His name*, and to develop a Christian worldview.

**In preparation for VBS 2011 you are invited to join me weekly on
Thursday @ 1:00 pm to Pray**

We will be praying for the following:

- God's will to unfold in our planning, staffing, supplies, decorations, and location.
- The Holy Spirit to begin the work in the hearts of our children to receive salvation.
- Our outreach ministry to the children who receive Christ and their families.
- Our outreach ministry to the parents who attend our Family Block Party and VBS Finale.

We will meet in the Prayer Room (located on the left side of the auditorium).

**Thank you for praying for our team while we were away in Nicaragua.
Here are some of the ministry opportunities God provided:**



This is Eloise and Bryan. They were patients in the Honduras hospital, and they both quickly became my friends. On Friday, I prayed with them and gave each of them a bracelet with the Shema encouraging them both to grow into Godly men, loving the Lord our God with all their heart, soul, and mind.

Here is another friend of mine.
He fell from a tree and a branch went through his chest when he landed on the ground.



This mom gave birth to twins. One went home healthy, but this one is starving and mom is unable to nurse. Our team bought two cans of formula praying this would help give this little baby a jump start.



Please pray for this little girl; she is dying of aids.



Jerry and I bathing the children who had cleft lip surgery. No hot water in Nicaragua, and they didn't like that one bit!!!



The children are very proud of their art work and loved coloring for hours. Hopscotch was fun, but not as much fun as blowing bubbles, coloring, and painting fingernails.



This is Angel. He had surgery in the morning for his cleft lip and was chasing bubbles by 4:00 p.m. By the end of the week, he had become the team's favorite little mascot. I will miss him greatly.



I was privileged to see two babies born. I was able to hold this little niña after her birth long enough to watch the color in her hands and face change while mom was getting settled, then hand mom her beautiful baby for the first time.

SIX MONTHS. It has been six months since the Honduras team returned to the U.S. and not a day has passed where I don't think about our time there. I think mostly about the people we met: Steve, Edian, Michael, Joshua, Stevito, Jonthan, Deon, Quinn, Toto, Jorge, Jenny, Maria... I could go on, but you get the idea. I miss them. I miss all of the time that



we spent together doing VBS, going to church, fishing, etc. I would be lying if I said I missed the red ants, flying cockroaches, and the humidity, but I would gladly experience all of those things again to be with those people.

There were times when being in Honduras was very difficult—both emotionally and physically. But through it all, God's goodness and provision was evident.

...I remember stepping outside from the airport and finding it difficult to breathe for a few minutes because of the moisture in the air. Then our lungs adjusted.

...I remember the sadness felt when we learned that Deon, a little boy who made it his mission to hug all of us the first day we arrived, was abandoned by his parents. Then we learned that Deon was being cared for by several people in the neighborhood.

...I remember how uncomfortable it was dancing in the front of the whole church during worship. Then we felt the joy radiating from Pastor Toto as we danced.

It is amazing the things that God teaches you when you are uncomfortable!

If you have never been on a mission trip—either in town or in another country—you need to go, not just for the experience, but because we are called.

We don't have to leave the country or even our neighborhood to find a mission field. If you are in a place where maybe you are physically limited, God provided you with another way to



participate in his calling to go. You can give of your time, money, and resources. When you give, you are just as much a part of the ministry as the people who are actually going. You make it possible for them to go. Giving is such a huge part of sharing the Gospel. There is something deeply satisfying about being a

part of missions, whether you are giving or going. If it wasn't for those of you who prayed and supported our trip to Honduras, we could not have gone. We would never have met Steve and his family or all of the children at the orphanage. We would not have been able to worship and pray with the people in Honduras.

Please do not underestimate the impact or the power of your generosity. Thank you for being obedient to God's leading to give and for providing a way for us to share God's love with the people of Roatan and Santa Barbara, Honduras!

Andrea Craddock



In The Mailbag



The Sills family wishes to thank everyone at RCF for all their help and support with the memorial for Rolland A. Sills on January 22, 2011.

Thank you to Caleb Little, Lyle Faudre, and Bruce Schlange for all their kind words and thoughts in

remembrance of Rolland. They provided a great service in tribute to him. Also, the songs and special music by the Schlange family were great. The Women in Ministry committee provided great food. We got so many comments on the delicious "food spread" they had provided. And "Thank you" to Tina for arranging the memorial program. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you all for your prayers and support in a difficult time.

The Sills Family
(Dianne, Craig, Monet, & Marissa)

Thoughts from Pastor Nick *continued from page 6*

From myself, the camp staff, and the students themselves: **THANK YOU.** This was more than enough for this camp, so the remainder will be placed in a scholarship fund and will be used for scholarships for needy students to go to things like camps and mission trips. **Unity was present:** Eight churches from Anderson and Redding united under the headship of Christ for the sake of the Gospel. **God was present:** Praise and prayer times started, filled, and finished our three days at camp. **The Word was present:** We heard messages of what real love looks like based on the life of Joseph from a great speaker, Trevor Brown, who is the head of Proclaim Ministries. (proclaimministries.com). **Repentance was present:** Several dozen students prayed to receive or rededicate their lives to Christ. Dozens more made commitments to God, their church mentors, and themselves to see actual change in their thought life, habits, practices, and values. **Love was present:** "Love Is All You Need" was our theme. This is the third year we have done the multi-church winter camp. It has always been a good time and very fruitful. This year, however, was exceptional. Students and staff alike shared testimonies of encountering God's love for them in a way they had never really experienced before as well as many others hearing about God's plan of real love for others, the opposite sex, even for themselves for the first time.



The folks listed below are or have been ill or in the hospital, recuperating at home, or perhaps lost a loved one.

Whatever their present situation, prayer is powerful and much appreciated. Let's lift them up in prayer.

Illness:

Terri Allshouse
Mike Cunningham
Yvonne Dahl
Tracy Davis
CJ DeWitt
Ken Dunaway
K. C. Farrar
Martin Fernandez
Ches Grant
L.G. Hoover
Bob Jackson
Faith Jensen


Leroy Kaukonen
Irene Kletke
Patricia LaRue
Jeanne Lindner
Don Millard
Naomi Millard
Dee Morrison
Celeste Nicholson
Judy Toth
Carolyn Uzzardo
Joe Uzzardo
Debbie Walters

Death of a Loved One:

Families of:
Jack Best
Ray Donoho
George Russell
Kent Salmon



March 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●BASELINE (Jr. High) ●BRINK (High School) ●CC (Community Connections) ●CSG (Caregiver Support Group) ●DIV (Divorce Care Group) ●GMT (Global Missions' Team) ●MBS (Men's Bible Study) ●MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) ●P & S (Prayers & Squares) 		1 WBS-9:00am WBS-6:30pm PRE-7:00pm SR-7:00pm MBS-7:00pm	2 MBS-7:00am MBS-9:30am SE-10:00am BRINK-6:30pm DIV-6:30pm CHOIR-7:00pm TTB-7:00pm	3 MBS-6:00am S&S-9:00am Healthy Living-9:00am Pray for America- Noon BASELINE-6:30pm CC-7:00pm MBS-7:00pm	4	5
6 Introduction of New Members	7 P & S-9:00am SE-10:00am EMT-1:00pm PIPS-6:30pm YA/C-7:00pm	8 WBS-9:00am WBS-6:30pm PRE-7:00pm SR-7:00pm MBS-7:00pm	9 MBS-7:00am MBS-9:30am SE-10:00am BRINK-6:30pm DIV-6:30pm CHOIR-7:00pm TTB-7:00pm	10 MBS-6:00am MOPS-9:00am Healthy Living-9:00am Pray for America- Noon BASELINE-6:30pm CC-7:00pm MBS-7:00pm	11 PEP-Noon	12 Community Closet-10:00am
13 GMT-12:30pm Needhams' Concert-6:00pm 	14 P & S-9:00am SE-10:00am YA/C-7:00pm Kevin Spencer- 7:00pm	15 WBS-9:00am WBS-6:30pm PRE-7:00pm SR-7:00pm MBS-7:00pm	16 MBS-7:00am MBS-9:30am SE-10:00am BRINK-6:30pm DIV-6:30pm CHOIR-7:00pm TTB-7:00pm	17  MBS-6:00am S&S-9:00am Healthy Living-9:00am Pray for America- Noon BASELINE-6:30pm CC-7:00pm	18	19
20 Appreciation Lunch-12:30pm	21 P & S-9:00am SE-10:00am PIPS-6:30pm YA/C-7:00pm Elders' Meeting 8:00pm	22 WBS-9:00am WBS-6:30pm PRE-7:00pm SR-7:00pm MBS-7:00pm	23 MBS-7:00am MBS-9:30am SE-10:00am BRINK-6:30pm DIV-6:30pm CHOIR-7:00pm TTB-7:00pm	24 MBS-6:00am MOPS-9:00am Healthy Living-9:00am Pray for America- Noon BASELINE-6:30pm CC-7:00pm MBS-7:00pm	25 Women's Craft Night-5:30pm	26 Men's FUEL Breakfast-8:00am
27	28 P & S-9:00am SE-10:00am YA/C-7:00pm	29 WBS-9:00am WBS-6:30pm PRE-7:00pm SR-7:00pm MBS-7:00pm	30 MBS-7:00am MBS-9:30am SE-10:00am BRINK-6:30pm DIV-6:30pm CHOIR-7:00pm TTB-7:00pm	31 MBS-6:00am Healthy Living-9:00am Pray for America- Noon BASELINE-6:30pm CC-7:00pm MBS-7:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●PEP (People Enjoying People-Senior Group) ●P.I.P.S. (Parents in Prayer Support) ●PRE (Precept Bible Study) ●S&S (Sew 'N Sews) ●SE (Senior Exercise) ●SR (Sermon Review) ●TTB (Through The Bible) ●WBS (Women's Bible Study) ●YA/C (Young Adult/College) 	