



## Resting In Your Devotions

By Russ Boone

*Taken from Russ' message at the 2018 CARBC Christian Workers Retreat*

What's the answer to when you get burned out? Is the answer to get away from it all? If I was in another church, a different place, would it be better? Let me suggest that the answer is to get alone in the presence of God. That may sound simple, but I want to try to prove that from Psalm 46.



This psalm was evidently about a time when Israel was in an anxious and fearful situation. The psalmist wants Israel to see that God is present and is a help to be found whenever He is needed. Imagine the mountains starting to quake and fall down. Even in the midst of that, God is still just as real.

In verses 4-6, the psalmist looks ahead to what God will do for Israel. The Messiah will come and set up His kingdom, but Israel will be surrounded by her enemies. Even then, God will help. In verses 8-9, the psalmist looks to what God has done in the past for Israel. So the psalmist is telling the nation, "Listen, God is with us. He will do amazing things in the future; He's done amazing things in the past; and He's in the present with us now!"

Then in verse 10, God speaks, "Be still." This has the idea of putting down your arms. Relax. Stop. Quit your fearful thinking and know that I am God. The imperatives in this psalm all direct our thoughts toward God.

Imagine worst-case scenario here. Mountains falling apart. Tsunami coming. Can you fix that? God's saying, "Relax. Put down your hands. You can't hold that mountain up. Know that I am God. Put your attention on Me."

This is what our devotion time is supposed to be. You have no greater need than to just know that He is God. Throughout Jesus' ministry we find Him going off by Himself. He is spending time in the Father's presence. If He needed that, how much more do we? When you get away with this Book and in prayer, it will renew your heart. Just as a plant needs to be in the sun, so you need to spend time in the presence of the glory of God. I would challenge you to get that time. Don't neglect that. We need God to supernaturally work in our hearts on a daily basis, or else we're sunk. It's only through God that we're going to do it.

## Christian Workers Retreat

"It was a good retreat with a good theme and messages!" This response echoes the feelings of many about the 2018 CARBC Christian Workers Retreat. Pastors Javier Caballero, Shawn Hull, Russ Boone, and Bruce McLain brought Biblical and practical messages on the theme "Rest." They refreshed the hearts of the men and women who labor tirelessly in our CARBC churches. Pastor Jeshur Lubaton led us in joyous and reflective worship, a highlight of the three days together. One pastor commented, "After this time at the retreat, I know exactly what God wants us to do next as a church."



Photo credit: Andrew Boone

This was the 70th anniversary for the retreat, but our first time at Wonder Valley Ranch and Resort in Sanger. Nestled in a valley surrounded by the Sierra foothills, the setting was restful and the accommodations were excellent. Some enjoyed the tennis courts, others canoeing on the lake, and some even ventured out for a trail ride.

Nothing can compare to the fellowship of like-minded brothers and sisters in Christ. There was a lot of laughter, but there were also moments when two or more huddled together to pray for a special need or situation. The comment by one pastor's wife, "We appreciate so much you making it possible for us to come," reflected the feeling of several couples who were helped by the Retreat Underwriting Fund. Thank you to the individuals and churches whose gifts made a difference in the ministries of these couples.

### Pastoral Changes:

Jeff Ruckman to First Baptist, Ducor, as interim pastor. Brent Smith to Clear Lake Baptist, Lakeport, as associate pastor. Amado Manangkil to Filipino International Baptist, Elk Grove, as pastor. Kiyle Decker from Grace Baptist, Eureka, to First Baptist, Ferndale, WA. Tim Kucij to First Baptist, San Dimas, as interim pastor. Charles Specht from Faith Baptist, Strathmore. Dan Daniels from Shasta Valley Baptist, Yreka.

## Ministry Perspectives:

### My Bible Reading

by Diana Allen



In the evenings I am reading the Chronological Bible. I have just completed the exodus from Egypt. When you are reading the Bible in this way, it is very repetitive. What you read in Genesis is immediately followed by and repeated in 1 Chronicles. And lots of names that will make you cross-eyed and tongue-tied! Thank goodness my small group is studying Romans. Whew! Much easier. My best Bible reading is for my Sunday School class, in the book of James.

Because of James, my little 5- to 8-year-olds know these things:

*Perseverance* is a big word, and we know its meaning.

Instead of favoritism, we will treat each other with love and respect above all else. Others will know we are Christians by our love.

We can only be saved through faith. James stresses that when we are saved, we will be known for our works. Yes, we believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that He died to take the punishment for our sins, and that He rose again. This belief gives us our salvation, but the demons also believe. Works set us apart from the demons and show the world our faith. We will work with each other; we will work side by side. And others will know we are Christians by our love.

We need to tame our tongues. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same stream? The salt will always contaminate the water no matter how much fresh water you mix with it. Yet out of our mouths we praise God and curse our fellow man with the same tongue. The children learned that all our worship and praise can be tainted by just saying one mean thing. We'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride, and they'll know we are Christians by our love.

I am very grateful when I teach the children that they understand the truths of the Bible and what it means to walk with Jesus.

*Diana Allen serves at Westwood Baptist, Fresno.*

### Churches Seeking a Pastor:

Western Avenue Baptist, Brawley; First Baptist, Ducor; First Baptist, Petaluma; Community Baptist, Red Bluff; First Baptist, San Dimas; Deaf Baptist, San Jose; Faith Baptist, Strathmore; First Baptist, Wilmington.