

## Thoughts from your Ministry and Counsel Clerk

We sing a song upon occasion on Sunday mornings that claims that God is indescribable. That sentiment is really true. Since we can't experience God with our five senses, it becomes a monumental task to try to describe Him. It seems that we are limited to describing the "footprints" that He leaves behind. We see the creation that He made, leaving us wondrously amazed. We see the changes He has made in the lives of the people around us, leaving us joyfully inspired. We may even see the work He is doing in ourselves, leaving us humbly thankful.

But consider what God has done. Consider the knowledge it would take to make a planet with a living, thriving ecosystem. Consider the engineering skills it would take to put our planet in a protective orbit around our sun. Consider the scientific genius of tilting our planet just so, providing seasonal changes for most of our population. Consider the power it would take to fuel and maintain the interior of our planet at a molten level. Then consider how delicately the whole system is balanced. What precision! What foresight! The creation of just one planet is a staggering feat, yet He created millions of planets. Make that billions. No, make that trillions. No, make that quadrillions.

Describe that God.

The psalmist says, "What is man that You are mindful of him, the son of man that You care for him?"

Any word that I can think of to try to describe God falls way short of what I would want to express. God is beautiful. Well, a 12-foot putt is beautiful too. God is awesome. Well, it would be awesome to see the 49ers go back to the Super Bowl. It seems that any word that can be used for any other purpose shouldn't be used to describe God. It seems extremely unflattering to love God and to love hot dogs. It's almost like God deserves a whole language unto Himself, an incomparable language.

I wonder if that is what the Apostle Paul speaks of in Romans chapter 8 verse 26 when he says, "We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express."

God does have His own language. What a God we have! When our words fall short, His Spirit takes over. He helps us express in His words, our deepest joy, our unspeakable thankfulness, our inexpressible regret.

Our brilliant God planned ahead, providing a way for us to express the inexpressible!

Wow.

Humbled again.

## Dark days and rainbows

There is a phrase in an old song expressing that when life is no longer sunny, God puts a rainbow in the clouds. Herein is a great truth. In the rainy days full of tears, in the thrashing storms full of fear, in the dark cloudy days full of despair, in the gray days full of impotence, a simple ray of sunshine lifts the spirit, and a rainbow in the sky fills the heart with hope.

Life brings rainy days, thrashing storms, dark cloudy days, and gray days. The ray of sunshine is Light, Who is Christ Jesus, penetrating the darkness in life. The rainbow is a reminder of God's covenant to the earth and all living creatures, a reminder of His great and wondrous love. (Genesis 9:12-17)

In those times of tears, fear, despair, and impotence, when it often feels there is little hope, all you need to do is to turn your heart and mind to Christ Jesus. Allow the warm rays of God's love for you to still the rain, end the storm, lift the dark clouds and grayness of the days, and fill your heart and spirit.

Life brings dark times. How you move through or above those dark times is the choice you make with your mind and heart. God is always waiting for you to turn to His open, loving arms, but

He will not force you. He will always stand before you and behind you, always next to you, yet you must choose to enter into His presence by a simple move of your heart and spirit. One step and you fall into His loving arms.

Oftentimes it feels as if you have shoes of cement. You can't seem to pick up one foot to take a step. You don't have the energy, feeling a lack of will, swaying to and fro, but not taking the one step you need to move to Him in order to step out of those cement shoes. Many times you want to take the step but you sway back and forth, stuck in place. You may say you want to move toward God, yet you continue to stand rooted in the darkness. Now you begin to understand that your flesh is weak, your independence of mind is at war with your heart, and you cannot move. You must commit both your mind and your heart in this darkness to trust that there is light beyond the darkness.

Then, as you do lift your feet to move, the cement shoes become sandals, easily taking the step. As you put your hand in God's hand, He moves you out of the darkness of life into His Light, into His Life. As you begin to choose to trust and commit both your mind and your heart to God, energy moves throughout your spirit, transforming those cement shoes into sandals. Though it often moves slowly, as your heart and spirit open to the Holy Spirit, His transforming love moves you to take that one step. Then He lifts you out of the darkness into the warmth of His love and sets you back upon the path set before you by the Father, walking hand in hand with Christ Jesus, the Son, filled with the hope and love of the Holy Spirit.

Coming out of the depths of despair into the grace and love of God is the gift of Life, life in and through Christ Jesus, transformed more and more into His image and likeness by the Holy Spirit, pleasing unto the Father, with the eternal hope that will always vanquish darkness. Jesus is your hope today, tomorrow, and forever after.

### **“Souper” results**

This year our Souper Bowl collection brought in \$124, which was delivered to the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties.

- With every \$1 donated, the Food Bank can provide two meals for people in need in our community (see [www.foodbankccs.org](http://www.foodbankccs.org)).
- We participated with over 10,793 other churches and organizations across the nation.
- As of Tuesday, March 1, the Souper Bowl donations for 2011 totaled \$8,755,120! I expect this will increase as groups continue to send in their results.
- Praise God for the opportunity to make Super Bowl Sunday more than just another mega sporting event.
- Check out [www.souperbowl.org](http://www.souperbowl.org) for details.

Thanks to everyone for your donations and help with this year's Souper Bowl of Caring at Walnut Creek Friends Church.