

MOVING SPIRIT

August, 1997

Eskaton Village Community Church

Pastor's Parcel

Change is constant in this world. Wherever you turn, you find that things have changed. When I visit my parents in the Bay Area, I often fail to recognize the streets I used to walk down. There are new stores, new office buildings, new apartments everywhere! Places change, patterns change, people change.

Most of us usually resist change. We just get used to something, and someone wants to change it. Gradually we may find that the change is beneficial, but often mistakes are made and we long for the "good old days," or for another better change to come along.

Thank God that there are some things that do not change, such as God Himself and His Word. God's love, wisdom, and commandments are unalterable, because they need no change: they are perfect. We, however, are not perfect, and thank God that He is in the business of helping us change. Though we may have years of experience, but we are far from being beyond improvement. We must keep on growing, learning, and being transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit, so that we become more like the Holy God in Whose image we are made.

Let's welcome the changes God wants to bring about in our lives. It's His love



How many church members
does it take to change
a light bulb?

"Change? What do you mean change?
My grandmother gave the church
that light bulb!"

that makes Him want to change us. We can help the change-process along by meditating on His Word, praying daily, and feeding our minds with good things, like the *Moving Spirit*.

-- Pastor David

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Parish Proclamations

Those interested in obtaining a copy of Pastor David's first poem book, *Poems Between Heaven and Hell*, contact Betty MacKinnon, so we can have enough reprinted. They are \$10 each.

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People's Pulpit

(from the church sharing time)

The Jesus I know leaks into the difficult places and joyfully overflows into problem places and people. He erupts into the geography of need. Steals into the bruised crevices of hurt--the black and blue areas of pain. He is not safe. And when He fully invades a person by invitation, literally anything can happen. He doesn't come in to rearrange the furniture; He is into reconstruction. He doesn't repair; He recreates. He is not so interested in making us "religious" as in making us whole "in a way that we would never even dare ask or imagine." He was considered dangerous to public safety when He walked upon this earth. Today this same Jesus is seeking men and women who will allow Him to be Himself--in all His fullness and unpredictability. --Tim Hansel

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Pithy Pieces

Spiritual Union with Jesus Christ

In the faith which is "God's marriage to the soul," you are one in God, and God is wholly in you.... With this faith..., in the steadfastness and light of this union, see that all things stand, like yourself, alone before God, and that each of your acts is an act of creation, conscious, because you are a human being with human responsibilities, but governed, nevertheless, by the power beyond human consciousness which has created men. You are liberated from things, but you encounter in them an experience

which has the purity and clarity of revelation. In the faith which is "God's marriage to the soul," everything, therefore, has a meaning. So live, then, that you may use what has been put into your hand. -- Dag Hammarskjöld

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God *whispers* to us in our joys, *speaks* to us in our conscience, and *shouts* to us in our pain. In our joy, it is as though He is whispering in a crowded auditorium of His immense, outrageous love for us--but we can't hear. We are too busy. We're too enmeshed with our friends, our joys, our lives. He tries again to speak to us through our conscience, but we don't slow down enough to listen. Our hearing aid is on low, because we are engaged in so many things. Without purposeful listening, the communication process is not complete. But the Hound of Heaven is persistent in His love and concern, so He shouts . . . through pain. He finally has our attention. --C.S. Lewis

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Bruce Larson, in his *Where Will You Be When You Get Where You Are Going*, describes Christian faith as people on the move. Faith is to start a journey that will take us on many roads. Faith in motion forward, not what you say or believe. Life is not a problem to be solved, and an adventure to be lived. Let's focus on the adventure before us as we move toward the Invisible and Eternal City.

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"Where there is no vision..."

When once we lose sight of God, we begin to be reckless, we cast off certain restraints, we cast off praying, we cast off

the vision of God in little things, and begin to act on our own initiative. If we are eating what we have out of our own hands, doing things on our own initiative with expecting God to come in, we are on a downward path, we have lost the vision. Is our attitude today an attitude that springs from our vision of God? Are we expecting God to do greater things than He has ever done? Is there a freshness and vigor in our spiritual outlook? --Oswald Chambers

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Prayer's Priorities

O Lord, help me to remember that nothing is going to happen to me today that you and I together cannot handle.

--Anonymous

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(this prayer of St. Francis of Assisi was submitted three times this issue)

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace!

Where there is hatred...let me sow love.

Where there is injury...pardon.

Where there is doubt...faith.

Where there is despair...hope.

Where there is darkness...light.

Where there is sadness...joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

To be consoled...as to console,

To be understood...as to understand,

To be loved...as to love;

For it is in giving that we receive;

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

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A prayer of Peter Marshall

Forbid it, Lord, that our roots become too firmly attached to this earth, that we should fall in love with things. Help us to understand that the pilgrimage of this life is but an introduction, a preface, a training school for what is to come. Then shall we see all of life in its true perspective. Then shall we not fall in love with the things of time, but come to love the things that endure. Then shall we be saved from the tyranny of possessions which we have no leisure to enjoy, of property whose core becomes a burden. Give us, we pray, the courage to simplify our lives. So may we be mature in our faith, childlike but never childish, humble but never cringing, understanding but never conceited. So help us, O God, to live and not merely to exist, that we may have joy in our work. In Thy name, who alone can give us moderation and balance and zest for living, we pray.

Amen.

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Praise's Portion

The Eternal Goodness

I know not what the future hath

Of marvel or surprise,

Assured alone that life and death

His mercy underlies.

And so beside the silent sea

I wait the muffled oar;

No harm from him can come to me

On ocean or on shore.

I know not where his islands lift

Their fronded palms in air;

I only know I cannot drift

Beyond his love and care.
-- John G. Whittier (adapted)
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Let Go and Let God

As children bring their broken toys
With tears for us to mend,
I brought my broken dreams to God,
Because He was my Friend.
But, then, instead of leaving Him
In peace to work alone,
I hung around and tried to help
With ways that were my own.
At last I snatched them back and cried,
"How can you be so slow?"
"My child," He said, "What can I do?
You never let them go."

--Author unknown
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In every flower that blossoms,
In every bird that sings,
In every tiny butterfly
That spreads its golden wings--
We see God's gentle love
Come shining through.

--Author unknown
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Poetry's Place

The Beautiful Promises of God

God hath not promised skies always blue,
Flower-strewn pathways all our lives through.
God hath not promised sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.
God hath not promised we shall not know
Toil and temptation, trouble and woe.
He hath not told us we shall not bear
Many a burden, many a care.
But God hath promised strength for the day,
Rest for the laborer, light for the way,
Grace for the trials, help from above,
Unfailing sympathy, undying love.

--author unknown
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Pearls of Prudence

If you think you are too small to do a
big thing, try doing small things in a big
way. --Anonymous

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For best results...this garden should be
planted every day:

Five rows of "P" eas:

Preparedness,
Promptness,
Perseverance,
Politeness,
Prayer

Three rows of squash:

Squash gossip,
Squash criticism,
Squash indifference.

Five rows of lettuce:

Let us love one another,
Let us be faithful,
Let us be loyal,
Let us be unselfish,
Let us be truthful.

Three rows of turnips:

Turn up for church,
Turn up with a new idea,
Turn up with the determination to do
a better job tomorrow than you did
today.

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There are two things to do with the
Gospel: believe it and behave it.

--Susannah Wesley

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Do not anticipate trouble, or worry
about what may never happen. Keep in
the sunlight. --Benjamin Franklin

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Success is failure turned inside out—
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt—
And you can never tell how close you are,
It may be near when it seems afar;
So stick to the fight when you are
hardest hit—
It's when things get worse that you
mustn't quit!

--Edgar A. Guest

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Precious Principles

You have to believe the bud will blow,
Believe in the grass in the days of snow:
Ah, that's the reason a bird can sing.
On his darkest day he believes in spring.

-- Douglas Mallock

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You may question whether mere words
can accomplish so great a result, but
never minimize the creative force of an
active idea. A mental concept has more
voltage than electricity; civilizations are
changed by ideas. --N. Vincent Peale

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There are two ways of spreading the
light: to be the candle or the mirror that
reflects it. -- Edith Wailon

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NO God, NO peace;
KNOW God, KNOW peace!

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Grow old along with me!
The best is yet to be,
The last of life,
For which the first was made.
Our times are in His hand.

--Robert Browning

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The Bible stands
though the hills may tumble,
It will firmly stand
when the earth shall crumble;
I will plant my feet
on its firm foundation,
For the Bible stands.

--Haldor Lillenas

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Let Someone Love You

When you need help,
you're not a burden,
you're someone's friend.
When someone leads you,
don't give directions
let them show you the way.
When someone shares your tears,
it's not pity you're getting,
it's healing.

When you depend on someone,
you're not weak,
you're close.

-- Phyllis Hobe (*Guideposts*)

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RISK LOVE

Fear not to love --
be swift to care;
the risk is great,
your strength is prayer.

Let Jesus' Cross
enflame your soul --
lay down your life,
make love your goal.

----David L. Hatton, 12/9/87