

THE CLOVERDALE CONNECTION

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS

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Last Sabbath...my wife Judy & I had the privilege of hiking with some dear friends from Cloverdale. We were on a hike just outside Bryce Canyon. The vistas were breath-taking...multi-colored mountains outlined against a crystal-clear, blue sky. I was deeply moved and reminded how much God loves each one of us.

In the book entitled "*Abide in Jesus*", Helmut Haubeil shares this story...

"A father was on an overseas trip with his son and wanted to explain God's love. The father said, "Look out over the bow of the ship, and now the stern...this is the length of God's love. And now look to the left and to the right...this is the width of God's love. Now look up into the sky...this is the height of God's love. Now look over the water. The ocean is deep under us...that is the depth of God's love." The youngster reflected a moment on this explanation and then exclaimed with a shining face: "Dad, do you know what the best part of it is? We are in the middle of it."

He goes on to say that *"everyone who daily consecrates his or her life to Christ and is filled by the Holy Spirit is in the middle of God's love. There is no better place we could live."*

Each day, it is my prayer that our precious Jesus will keep me in this place. When we consistently do this, we will experience that perfect love.

This is just another one of Jesus's powerful promises guaranteed to bless you!

~ Martin Casper

When Thanks is Never Enough!





I can say with confidence that the Cloverdale church is truly blessed by the pastoral leadership of Jason Williams.

Thank you is simply not enough...

Being the humble, Spirit-filled young man that Jason is, you will never hear about how he has handled an arguably very challenging role at Cloverdale.

When Pastor Troy stepped down, Jason took over the lead pastoral position...on top of his already full plate. He was already conducting numerous Bible studies, going to school, running the Disciples Making Disciples school, just to name a few.

Then COVID hit with its challenges. The Cloverdale church launched a major renovation. Along with preaching at least once per month, Jason has continued in his role as Elder of Discipleship, running the Disciples Making Disciples and other task force groups. Bible study requests continue to pour in (Praise God) and Jason keeps going. Every Sabbath, whether he is speaking or not, Jason has maintained total ownership for his multiple hats at Cloverdale.

To top it off, Jason is still going to school. Most classes are online, but some require “in-person” time. Jason wants to specialize in leadership. I think we all can agree that Jason has already demonstrated an incredible ability in leadership.

We...at Cloverdale are so blessed by his presence and look forward to his continued commitment and presence.

We should also give a big shout out to his lovely wife, Wendy. She is his confidant, biggest fan and truly has a heart for service. *I always say, that behind every great man there is a better woman!*



Thank you is not enough for what the two of you have done for Cloverdale!

We are blessed...praise God!

PASTOR'S CORNER

Praying for the Holy Spirit...

"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him"! Luke 11:13 ~ NKJV

I grew up in a Seventh-day Adventist home. I grew up with family worship and heavy church involvement. I have known and loved Jesus from my earliest memories. But it was not until I was at Andrews University, studying for my Master of Divinity degree that I discovered Luke 11:13. I just happened to be reading about the life of Oswald Chambers, and how there is a Bible carved in stone at his grave in Egypt with its pages turned to Luke 11:13. I read about how this verse had changed his ministry. Even though He did not necessarily feel anything extraordinary when he claimed that promise in prayer, his ministry was forever changed.

Since that day, I have often prayed for the Holy Spirit. I have claimed the promise made by Jesus that the Father is willing to give the Holy Spirit to those who ask. I then face my day believing that God will fulfill His promise, and that I will be used by the Holy Spirit to bless those around me. I do not experience any supernatural emotions when I pray it, but I have been told by others how *(by coincidence)* I happened to be at the right place at the right time, called/texted at the right time, or I was in a place to share just the right words at the right moment.

I believe Jesus's words, that the Father is more willing to give us the Holy Spirit than we are willing to give good gifts to our children. I believe that God wants to use us to bless those around us. So why not ask Him for the Holy Spirit daily? Give it a try, this prayer might just change your life!



~ Pastor Marlon

(credits to Wikipedia re: Oswald Chambers)