

NSD Notes

For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. (1 Cor. 9:19)

Volume 1 No. 5

February 1, 2009

Services

- Bible Study 10 a.m.
- Morning Service.....11 a.m.
- Evening Service.....6 p.m.
- Wednesday Meeting.....7 p.m.

News @ NSD

WELCOME VISITORS!

Prayer List

Ernest Peeples – awaiting deployment to Kuwait.

Ken Holloway – recovering from eye surgery.

Martha Holloway – recurring heart ailment.

Dema Franklin – neck pain and headaches; awaiting possible surgery.

Jeanne Lynne - will begin chemotherapy treatment in the coming months.

Chuck Holloway (Ken's brother) and Benjamin Hoskins (Daniel's Dad) need prayer for their recurring ailments.

Yedid Minjares and Carmina are expected to be in Mexico for another week.

Jason Henderson – travelling.

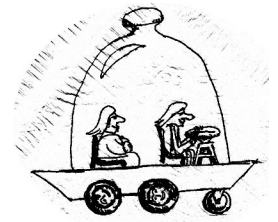
The next Ladies Bible Study is on Monday, February 9th.

THE BELL JAR

Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.
(John 17:17)

Sylvia Plath was a gifted young woman. She had insight and ability well beyond her years. However, she was deeply emotionally troubled. Troubled to the degree that she attempted to take her life so many different times before finally succeeding. Her brief journey in life was tortured by feelings of self doubt and inadequacy. In the final throes of her life, she penned the book entitled "The Bell Jar". The book is remarkable, as it charts the painful story of a young woman (Plath) trapped in what she perceives as a totally closed environment.

The story of Sylvia Plath and her plight came crashing back to mind the other day as I was reading through another book. In "the other book", the author was discussing the life of a Christian as being akin to living in a bell jar. The Christian is caught up living in a closed system and devoid of independent thought. How utterly absurd!



But then, again perhaps there are some Christians who do view themselves in this fashion. In a locked down system, unwilling to change. Finding a sense of security in having somebody else do their thinking for them.

As children of God we must ever be searching for Truth. A lifelong quest that is dedicated to finding Truth. *"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth."* (John 17:17) As a result of this quest there then must be a willingness to change as more information is provided and we see where the change will hasten our growth and standing before God and man. At the risk of being redundant, a child of God is by very definition a disciple of Christ. A disciple is a student and as a student is called upon to increase in knowledge.

North San Diego church of Christ

7090 Miramar Road #102
San Diego, CA 92121

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 721513
San Diego, CA 92172

Phone: 858-578-0734

<http://www.nsdca.com>

All are welcome to our worship
and study meetings!

*... singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with
thankfulness in your hearts to God. Col 3:16*

Oh, send out Your light and Your truth!
Let them lead me;
Let them bring me to Your holy hill
And to Your tabernacle.
Then I will go to the altar of God,
To God my exceeding joy;
And on the harp I will praise You,
O God, my God.

Psalm 43:3-4

Majesty, worship His majesty
Unto Jesus be all glory
power and praise
Majesty, Kingdom authority
Flow from His throne, unto his own
His anthem raise
So exalt, lift up on high
the name of Jesus
Magnify, come glorify
Christ Jesus the King
Majesty, worship His majesty
Jesus who died, now glorified
King of all Kings

Jack Hayford

[The Bell Jar]

"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (2Peter 3:18) The whole process of conversion is one that demands change. A change that is recognized by the individual as he or she processes the information gleaned from the truth of God's word. "And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self..." (Eph. 4:23-24, see also 2Cor. 4:16, 5:15, Rom. 12:1-2).

Growth demands the development from the lower or simpler form to a higher and somewhat more complex or substantial form, but that is a known fact. As is the fact that growth also implies a sense of strength. In the process of growth, it will demand that at times one will be faced with the need to change long held positions. As the saying goes, "a wise man changes his mind, a fool never does." However what we need to keep in mind is that we don't change for the sake of change, rather we make changes based upon a greater knowledge of truth as seen brought forth in God's word.

The child of God is in essence being challenged to better self and move on to a sense of maturity (see Heb. 6:1), not to remain static. Sadly however, there are some who are afraid to grow and appear quite content to remain trapped inside a bell jar of their own creation. How completely depressing it is for those who accept this mind set, for as long as they hold this attitude they will never know the joy and satisfaction of facing a challenge and overcoming, and thereby making progress in regards to maturity.

May it never be said that as children of God we want to stifle the growth of the individual or have all move in lock step to the dictates of another human. Moreover what we need to be stressing is the need for the individual to look closely at his or her relationship with Christ. To come to grips with their decision to follow Christ, which has to be an individual choice. The life of a Christian is not some kind of experiment, rather it is a reality that needs to be lived and enjoyed thoroughly.

From The Bulwark, Sept 14, 2008.

ELDERS: Dan Austin, Robyn E. Hamilton

DEACON: Matt Wells

MINISTER: Dan Austin