

Newsletter: WCF Ends 30th School Year June 2009

By Sue Kelly-Cochrane

The truth-seeking women who attend Women's Christian Fellowship's weekly Bible Study with charismatic prayer and praise to Our Wonderful Savior Jesus Christ are triply blessed. Not only do we experience the faith-filled attentiveness of our Teaching Leader Angie Lake, but we are shepherded weekly by 24 compassionate small group leaders who guide us through the sharing of our answers to our study. The third blessing is the clergy and lay speakers who enrich our lives by their Holy Spirit-inspired talks and prayer support.

We were blessed to have our Spiritual Director, Father Michael Barry SS.CC. , celebrate a Healing Mass, April 2, 2009 with the homily centered on the theme "Letting God Transform Defining Moments of Crisis into Healing." He taught the standing room only congregation that these defining moments in our lives can pull us away from God or draw us closer. These moments are a call on our lives to change and can afford a closer intimacy with the Lord because there has been a "crucifixion" of a kind that wounds us.

A defining moment can come quickly as a realization. Father's humorous illustration of this was when he announced to his father that he was going to quit school at 17. His father decided that his dropout son would then be an electrician who would rise 30 minutes earlier than normal, don overalls and carry a hammer, ladder and screwdriver. Father's realization came quickly – school was easier, and a wrong vocation was avoided through the teaching of a wise dad.

Father Mike also described the defining moments of St. Paul who converted to Christianity after a bout with blindness. In Deuteronomy 21:22-23 we read ..." anyone who is hung on a tree is a curse of God. "The defining moment of Jesus' crucifixion as a curse upon Him is embraced as our saving symbol!

Defining moments cause you to let go of something, to forgive and to move you to deeper prayer and more scripture reading. Father Mike had us examine our thoughts – do we think we are created for our own happiness? Do we say to ourselves "I'm a good person," yet we neglect our prayers and our Bible? We can curse the darkness and light a candle or BE the candle.

The End of School Year Luncheon on May 21 at the beautiful Carlsbad Hilton afforded us the opportunity to hear Professor Michael Barber as our keynote speaker with opening remarks by Monsignor Fred Florek and Angie Lake. We were joined by the

Men's Fellowship, lead by Kenny Lake and John and Holly Carney who not only support the ministries of WCF but lead a weekly teen group whose mission is to bring the Light of Christ to young people.

There was a brief tribute to Angie for her 30 years of dedication to WCF by small group leader Karen who quoted John 4:34 in her description of Angie – "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. Founding members Florence Grubb, Helen Balog and Father Fred Florek were also recognized as guiding lights of WCF.

Angie's letter in the program blessed all of the women who were uplifted by her words "I want to commend you for your faithfulness this school year 2008-2009. You have been faithful to study God's Word, to pray and praise God together, and to share His love with those around you. God is glorified in you for you are truly a beautiful and powerful light in the World. I want to thank you, for you have persevered in your love for God and for each other."

She continues "Because of your faithfulness to seek to know the Lord God in deeper ways, you will experience the transforming power of God in your life in ways beyond what any of us can imagine. 'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither has entered into the heart of man, the things that God has prepared for those who love Him.' ¹ *Corinthians 2:9* Angie's beautiful affirmations will have to tide us over until we meet for our summer "Pot Blessing" on July 16 (see the July calendar on this website).

The intelligent and thought-provoking discourse by Professor Michael Barber, PhD, from the new John Paul the Great Catholic University, discussed Jesus' emphasis on "The Kingdom of God is at hand," which is repeated over and over in the Gospels. Dr. Barber taught us that we need to understand the Old Testament before we can understand the New Testament. His talk centered upon how David was a man after God's own heart and the amazing foreshadowing that David's life depicted and Jesus' life fulfilled. A few examples: David was a model of piety, he was willing to fight against the enemies of Israel, God made a covenant with David as a king and royal son, David was a shepherd, a Prince over Israel, repented for his sin and looked forward to when his son would take over. If you understand that Jesus is the "Son of David" then you can understand Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament as Messiah.

This short synopsis does not do justice to the incredible research for the scripture-laced handout that Dr. Barber gave us during his talk. It is worth further study. Visit www.singingthereignblogspot.com

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Two delightful young men from the St. Paul Collegiate Fellowship headquartered at Arizona State University were on hand to describe their efforts to raise \$30,000 for their ministry by undertaking a 3,000 mile bike ride from ASU to St. Paul, Minnesota! The women of WCF supported them in prayer and donations.

WCF resumes September 17, 2009, 9:30 – Noon, at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish Hall, Carlsbad. Join us for the study of the Gospel of Matthew. Babysitting is available. Have a blessed summer.