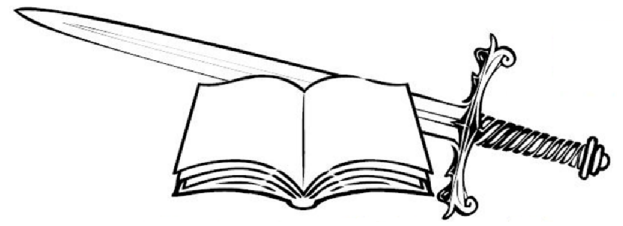




LAUREL RIDGE
Community Church



Men's Newsletter

Fall 2020

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. — Eph 3:16-17



Men's Community Groups

The groups below are open to all men looking for devotion, prayer, and fellowship. To register, visit laurelridgechurch.org/community-groups, click the **Sign Up** button, and fill in the form, or contact the group leaders directly.

Tuesday Evenings

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: Zoom videoconference

Host: Jeff Alford
(925) 550-4344
jeffro7172@gmail.com



Thursday Mornings

Time: 6:30 AM

Place: YouTube audio meeting

Host: Matt Onstott
Contact Elisa Onstott at
925-628-1841

Praying for the Unsaved

People who are not Christians fall into two camps: those who have never heard of Jesus and those who reject him as Lord and Savior. For the first group, ask God to raise up, equip and send missionaries and evangelists to reach them, and to open their hearts and minds to the Gospel.

The second group is a tougher nut to crack. Those who have heard the Gospel but rejected God's salvation in Christ have already hardened their hearts against him. They have a buffet of bad reasons why. The "science" crowd insists that all life is the result of millions of years of random genetic mutations and that the entire universe just exploded into existence, no God needed. The Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 1:18-20 such people "suppress the truth," that God has made the truth plain to them: "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse." For those who deny the truth of God,

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Worship service glorifies God

God was praised and His people rejoiced as nearly 200 members and visitors joined together at Laurel Ridge Church for an outdoor worship service.



The service, held on Saturday night, September 19th in the church parking lot, provided a much-needed breath of fresh spiritual air for attendees.

A movie night is being planned for Friday evening, October 9th. Check your email or visit the church website at <http://www.laurelridgechurch.org/> for updates.



Base Camp starts October 4



The Base Camp course is designed for new believers who have just started their faith journey, for seekers who want to know more about God, faith, or the Bible, and for returners who are looking to reset their spiritual compass. Experienced guides lead you through discussions on faith, life, and growing in Christ. No question is off limits.

Classes have been held at Laurel Ridge church the past few years but cannot be held there for the foreseeable future as a result of

Covid-19 shelter-in-place advisories. The Base Camp team is now providing Base Camp classes online via the Zoom videoconferencing application. Zoom is easy and fun to use. If you are not familiar with Zoom, the Base Camp team will be glad to provide you with simple-to-follow directions or personally walk you through the process of using Zoom to attend meetings online.

The Base Camp course has been condensed from nine weeks to four. Additional sessions can be added for members who want them.

The next session begins October 4. For more information or to sign up, visit the Base Camp page at the Laurel Ridge Church website, at laurelridgechurch.org/base-camp. A Base Camp leader will contact you to start the onboarding process.

Website Roundup

Never in history has so much information about God, Jesus, and the Bible been available to so many people. With all this good stuff, we should all know the Bible like J. Vernon McGee. Here's just a few of the most popular Christian websites:

Biblia.com Scrollable online study. Includes versions in numerous languages, including Arabic, Greek, Russian, Chinese, Korean, Spanish and Latin, along with popular English-language versions like the NIV.



BibleGateway.com Online study Bible.

BlueLetterBible.org Online study Bible.

[Christian Broadcasting Network](http://ChristianBroadcastingNetwork.com) Online Christian magazine with sections on news, Christian living, spiritual life, devotions, ministries, healthy living, music, videos, and more.

[Got Questions?](http://GotQuestions.com) A "Q &A" website with answers to over 600,000 questions about God, Jesus, the Bible, and theology.

[Thru the Bible](http://ThruTheBible.com) The devotions, global outreach, and five-year radio program Bible studies of J. Vernon McGee. ✝

Serve at the River



Sunday, September 27, from 1:30 to 3:30 PM at the corner of A and 6th Streets in Antioch. Also on October 25, November 22, and December 27 (the fourth Sunday of each month).

Join with other believers in providing a meal and sharing God's love with the homeless and other people in need.

Donations of food, soft drinks and other items, and volunteers to help set up, serve and share are welcome. Contact Bob Andrade at randradeteam@gmail.com for more information or to sign up.

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How to pray for non-believers

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ask God to remove the spiritual blinders Satan has placed on their eyes and the fog of deceit he has placed in their mind. Ask God to help them realize how limited their knowledge and experience is and to truly approach him with an objective, open mind.

Another group of folks think God may be real but don't seek him because they don't know how to find him and don't want to risk wasting time and effort only to come up empty. God wants us to know him and we can find him, but he wants us to make a sincere effort. "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." (Jer 29:13) Pray for God to help them realize that He is real, and nothing in life is more important than knowing who he is and what he wants them to do. Pray also that He will give them the courage and motivation they need to seek him and the faith to believe they will find him.

Then there are those who have convinced themselves that they will go to heaven because they are "good people" or because they do good works. In reality, they want the benefits of eternal life but the only god they serve is themselves. Isaiah wrote, "All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away." (Is. 64:6) Jesus said that such people "...honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me." (Mat. 15:8) Pray for God to show them how they are deceiving themselves and how they live not for God but for their own desires and goals, and to give them a contrite heart and motivate them to confess their sins and ask Jesus to be their Lord and Savior. ✝



Who in the Bible said, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel! Answer below.

Elisha, when God took Elijah up (2Kings 2:12) and Jehoash, king of Israel, when Elisha was dying (2Kings 13:14).