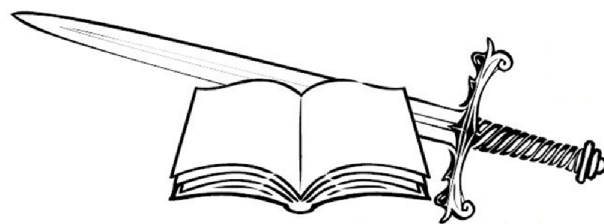




LAUREL RIDGE
Community Church



Men's Newsletter

Summer 2020

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. —James 1:12



Men's Community Groups

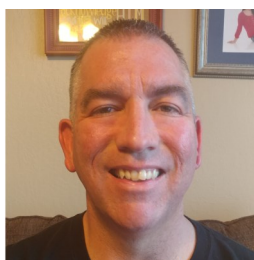
The groups below are open to all men looking for devotion, prayer, and fellowship. To register, visit laurelridgechurch.org/community-groups, click the **Sign Up** button, and fill in the form, or contact the group leaders directly.

Tuesday Evenings

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: Zoom videoconference

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



Thursday Mornings

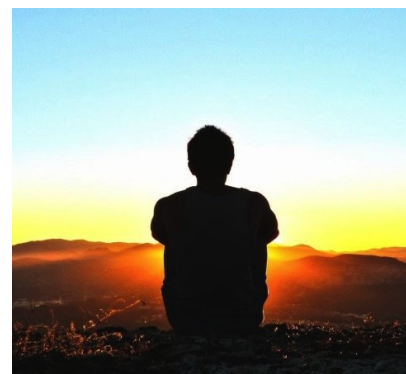
Time: 6:30 AM

Place: YouTube audio meeting

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

Why did God let this happen?

That question has been asked throughout history by people afflicted with injuries, disease, catastrophes, failed marriages, the loss of a loved one, a job loss, and so on. The question has been asked even by longtime Christians who, like everyone else, have been affected by the Corona virus problem this year.



Those who ask that question reason that if God is love, and if God loves us, then he should want to protect us from harm. When bad things happen, their reactions can include anger toward God, or a feeling that God is punishing them. They might wonder whether he really loves people or whether he really knows or even cares what's going on. They can question whether he has the power to protect us or even wonder whether he is more powerful than Satan.

Even King David, whom God described as a man after his own heart, struggled to understand why God seemed to have abandoned him. In Psalm 13 he cries out, *How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face*

—cont'd on page 4

Church live services to begin June 28

Laurel Ridge Church is returning to in-person services on June 28! Services will be held at 8:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 10:30 a.m. and will be livestreamed at those times as well.

We are allowed to have 100 people register for each service. [Click here to register for a service](#). You will receive an email reply with a receipt for entry into the service you choose. Bring the receipt with you to the church on Sunday and present it at the door. Ushers will seat you. Masks and social distancing

protocols will be followed. Children's classes and child care won't be available but parents with children are encouraged to bring them to the live service. Pastor Dan explains all of the above in greater detail in a [video that you can watch here](#).

We are thankful for pastors and staff who continue to serve God faithfully through these challenging times. Come worship this Sunday!

Big Changes for Base Camp



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 preparing to offer Base Camp

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.

Another big change for Base Camp is that the course has been condensed from nine weeks to four.

The next session begins August 9. 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:

[BeliefNet.com](http://www.beliefnet.com) Short articles and information on Christian topics under headings such as Inspiration, Faith and Prayer, Health and Wellness.



[Bibliacom.com](http://www.bibliacom.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](http://www.biblegateway.com) Online study Bible.

[BlueLetterBible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org) Online study Bible.

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

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

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

Serve at the River



Sunday, June 28, from 1:30 to 3:30 PM at the corner of A and 6th Streets in Antioch. Also on July 26, August 23, and September 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.

Laurel Ridge Community Church
2459 Laurel Road
Oakley, CA 94561
925-625-9500
www.laurelridgechurch.org

Newsletter Editor: Keith Cook
925-768-2333
krc@sonic.net

Why did God let this happen

—cont'd from page 1

from me? How long will I store up anxious concerns within me, agony in my mind every day? David pours out his heart to God for a few more verses, then concludes, But I have trusted in your faithful love; my heart will rejoice in your deliverance. I will sing to the Lord because he has treated me generously. How is David able to go from tears and trembling to praising and thanking God? Because he remembers who God is. He remembers that God loves him faithfully. He remembers God's promises and knows God is trustworthy. In response to God's love, deliverance, and generosity, David rejoices and sings praises to God.

We can follow David's example no matter what troubles we face. God is not offended when we cry out to him in hurt, anger, or despair. The turning point comes when we remember who he is and decide to place our trust in his faithful love, rejoice in his deliverance, and praise him for his generosity. When we do, God transforms us: our confidence grows, our hearts become calm, and our joy increases.

Jesus said in John 16:33, *In this world you will have trouble. But take heart, for I have overcome the world.* We've seen a ton of trouble in 2020 and the year is only half over. Life may get worse before it gets better. Decide now to trust God and lean on him, not on your own understanding, and he will give you the peace you desire. ✝



Which miracles that Moses performed were Pharaoh's sorcerers able to copy?

Answer below.

Turning their staffs into snakes (Ex. 7:11-12), turning water to blood (Ex 7:22), and makin frogs come onto the land (Ex 8:7).