



From the Heart

March 1, 2008

Volume 2



Brentwood Edition

Finally Forgiving

By Sandi Kellman

After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

John 2:22

Brentwood Service

Sundays 10:00 am
Freedom High
1050 Neroly Road
Oakley, CA

Cornerstone Ministry Center

1185 Second Street
Suite A-C
Brentwood, CA

www.cornerstoneweb.org
/brentwood
925-447-3465

Have you ever been hurt in a situation but did not want to confront it, and hoped it would just go away? Several years ago, I became hurt in that way and decided it best to forget it and put it behind me. The days went by and I felt fine. Oh, I thought about my grudge now and then, but each day I got up and lived my life. The only thing I noticed is that my frustration would not leave, but I figured in time it would. Even though I had known for a long time the benefits of forgiveness, I felt in this situation the sting of my hurt would lessen and I would just move on. I tried in earnest not to talk to anyone about my hurt in ministry... I did not want to gossip, so I mostly just talked to myself about it. On several occasions, I got my nerve up to call the person I felt hurt by, but then I would feel unworthy, or that I would be unheard, or my feelings did not matter. At the time it all felt true, but little did I know that the enemy had different plans for me.

It was after a year or so from my incident that I decided that the solution to my concern was to jump into ministry. That would cure my hurt and disappointment. My new church certainly had many needs. I chose a safe route and began leading a women's study. I met with the women's pastor and tried to connect. A strange thing happened: The more I tried to connect, the more the old feelings of mistrust and hurt arose.

This is how I want you to conduct yourself in these matters. If you enter your place of worship and, about to make an offering, you suddenly remember a grudge a friend has against you, abandon your offering, leave immediately, go to this friend and make things right. Then and only then, come back and work things out with God.

Matthew 5:23-24 The Message

Finally, after almost three years, yes I hate to admit almost three years had gone by, I took note of this passage and I began to realize my fault in the situation. The word tells us to leave immediately and go to our friend and make things right. Then and only then it tells me "come back and work things out with God."

Finally, I started listening and cleared up one area after another. As I began my emotional housecleaning, I began to feel better physically and mentally for the first time in those three years. It was my Abba tendering my heart to hear Him tell me this is the way I intended for you to go. "My word is to help you Sandi, not to hurt you and my son died for your sins so you need to forgive others as He did you."

My prayer is for myself, and others that we can learn to listen to our Father's

(Continued on page 2)

voice, not to be afraid to confront lovingly in truth immediately. Then the enemy's plans won't work! My experience in *not* listening took me to a dark place of fear, doubt, mistrust of even my family, and illness.

I encourage everyone to listen to His truth. Lean into that truth and share that conflict right away, heal a wound, and in doing so heal your own heart with God. Then and only then He can move you to an abundant life He had already planned for you.

They will come home and sing songs of joy on the heights of Jerusalem. They will be radiant because of the Lord's good gifts—the abundant crops of grain, new wine, and olive oil, and the healthy flocks and herds. Their life will be like a watered garden, and all their sorrows will be gone.

Jeremiah 31:12 New Living Translation

Father God please forgive me for not listening, for holding onto a hurt of long ago. Forgive me for pushing others away, not trusting you, and closing my life off to many opportunities. I love you and want to serve you. Thank you again for your mercy and grace in my life. I need you daily. Amen.

Sandi Kellman is a part of the community of believers at Cornerstone Fellowship.

Both she and her husband Russ are Bay Area natives and live with their son Dean in Livemore, and also are blessed with an adult son Aaron, his wife Heather and a beautiful granddaughter Kayley Renae.

Resurrection Weekend Service Times

Good Friday Service — Friday March 21 — 6 pm Easter Sunday Service — March 23 — 10 am

Women's Spring Retreat

“Not of this World” April 4-6, 2008

Mt. Hermon Christian Conference Center in the Santa Cruz Mountains

Saturday Night Concert with Lanisa Keith - www.lanisakeith.com

Speaker: Debbie Alsdorf joined by a speaking team of Cornerstone women

Limited Space Available - Register on line at www.cornerstoneweb.org/womens_events

Retreat brochures available at the Women's table or at the Cornerstone Ministry Center

Be Blessed & Be a Blessing! Many opportunities are available to serve at the retreat in 15 – 30 minute shifts.

For more information contact Susan Timm 925-579-5452 or susant@cornerstoneweb.org

Women's Bible Study

Spring Bible Study begins May 6. Information and registration is available at the women's counter or on line at www.cornerstoneweb.org/womens_biblestudies For more information contact susanz@cornerstoneweb.org or 925-447-3465 x 5422. **For childcare info contact Andrea Schullerts at andreas@cornerstoneweb.org**

Cornerstone Women's Ministry Staff

925-447-3465

Debbie Alsdorf—Pastor to Women/Senior Director x 5443

Sheree Byington—Mops Director x 5451

Sharon Hollis—Administrative Assistant x 5436

Rose LaCroix—Administrative Assistant x 5448

BethAnn Moitoso—Program Development Director x 5446

Susan Timm—Women's Events x 5452

Susan Zarrinfar—Spiritual Development Director x 5422

Mark Your Calendar!

April 19—Girlfriend Gatherings

June 27 & 28—Design 4 Living Conference

Back by popular demand—Special Guest
Chonda Pierce!

Women's Ministries

If you are interested in our Brentwood women's programs or getting involved serving Christ and others contact bethannm@cornerstoneweb.org