

Volunteers needed
for Sunday mornings
and more

■ New Message Series begins Sunday, October 30, 10AM at the Marriot Suites Hotel.

■ Find deeper intimacy with God through fasting and prayer.

■ When the odds are against you, BUT God is for you – that's favor!!

HOPE CENTER OC NEWS

OCTOBER 2012

Love Strong, Believe Strong, Forgive Strong

Stepping Back to School **in Style**

On Saturday, August 18, 2012, 11 volunteer "Salt Shakers" from the Hope Center of Christ arrived at the West Anaheim Youth Center on Beach Blvd., to distribute nearly 500 pairs of shoes to homeless and needy children—so they could go back to school in style...wearing new shoes.

Yes, 500 pairs of new shoes were collected by the Hope Center of Christ Congregation—FIVE

HUNDRED PAIRS—all in boxes—all NEW!

Hope Center members Harold Shaw, Susan Austin and Margaux Jordan

quickly and efficiently organized the effort as hundreds of children and their families filed into the Anaheim Center's gymnasium to receive back-to-school supplies, backpacks, socks, (even a new pillow) and other important items from 20 Christian and/or non profit vendors who were involved in this massive, exciting and helpful event.



T's for Two

By now everyone at Hope Center of Christ has seen the picture of our friend and Hope Center OC member, Tom Graves, wearing a Hope Center T-shirt at the 2012 Olympic Games in London, England.

"My brother and I trained for the Olympic trials together, rowing long and hard hours and hours," Tom said. "I didn't quite make it, but he did! It was gratifying for me to watch him race... and more than that, he and I had embarked on the

Olympic dream TOGETHER, our hopes were united. We are a team, a family. He represented OUR efforts, as one."

Tom continued, "I just know that God led me on the journey...and I know that the journey isn't over yet...'God's delays are NOT God's denials!' I intend to press on towards the goal that is before me—the 2016 Olympics and the upcoming World Championships."

Tom returned with a London Olympic T-shirt for Pastor Sheila (see picture). Tom, your smile, your eyes, your voice and your enthusiasm for Christ is creating a powerful, positive, hope-filled example for young people in your generation. God is using YOU to keep the message alive! Thanks, Tom!



"It was so satisfying
School continued on last page

Greetings dear HOPE CENTER of CHRIST friend!

You Are Favored!

We just recently completed a series of messages at Hope Center of Christ entitled, "Favored!" As I taught on the concept of God's favor for His children I heard the following:

"Sheila, how can you say I'm favored?"

I couldn't pay my rent last week"...

"Sheila, how can you say I'm favored?"

My wife was just diagnosed with terminal cancer"...

"Sheila, how can you say I'm favored?"

My job is wretched. I can't quit. I pray to be fired. But I need the money"...

"Sheila, how can you say I'm favored?"

I have been obedient to God and I am persecuted by my friends, my family, my co-workers"...

"Sheila, how can you say I'm favored?"

My children won't speak to me."

My answer to these honest and heartfelt questions is this:

Understand what favor is and what favor isn't.

Favor ISN'T: Fame or fortune.

Favor ISN'T: Freedom from trials or tests—

Noah wasn't spared the flood – BUT! He received a rainbow!

That's favor!

Abraham wasn't spared the test – BUT! He discovered the substitute sacrifice – the ram in the bushes! *That's favor!*

Joseph wasn't spared the injustice – BUT! He was repositioned for greatness! *That's favor!*

Moses wasn't spared the aimless wandering and wondering of the wilderness. BUT! He was an eyewitness to God's glory! *That's favor!*

David wasn't spared the temptation—BUT! Despite failing and falling and being unfaithful – even to God – Received Forgiveness! *That's favor!*

Ruth wasn't spared the famine—BUT! Famished for food and fellowship and self-worth – she found fulfillment as the wife of Boaz in Bethlehem and in the process she birthed the lineage of Christ! *That's favor!*

Esther wasn't spared the persecution – BUT! She was positioned for "such a time as this" – to save her people! *That's favor!*

Today – even if you are lost, wandering in a wilderness, even then, yes! – God is in your corner.

Daniel wasn't spared the exile—BUT! He revealed the glory of God in a fiery furnace and a lion's den. *That's favor!*

When the odds are against you, BUT God is for you – *That's favor!*

Favor IS:

God's Protection!

God's Providence!

God's Promotions!

Today – even if you are feeling flooded with bills and bad news, even if you are famished for companionship or purpose, even if you are a victim of injustice and persecution, even if you are lost, wandering in a wilderness, even if you are feeling like a stranger in your home land, even then, yes!, even then – God is in your corner. God is for you! You are favored!

Sheila Coleman

SENIOR PASTOR



Hope Center of Christ holds exciting weekly Sunday morning worship services, EVERY SUNDAY at 10am, in the Crystal Ballroom of the Marriott Suites Hotel...located on the corner of Chapman Avenue & Harbor Boulevard in Garden Grove (southwest corner, directly across from Target). Sunday School is provided for children. SEE YOU THERE!

Finding Favor in Exile

BY PASTOR SHEILA COLEMAN

I am an American citizen. I was born in the USA. I was raised to pledge allegiance to the flag, "One nation under God." USA is my home. But, sometimes these days, I feel more and more like an exile.

Exile is not just political exile or physical exile; it can also be spiritual exile. And the reality is that we are living in a world that is more and more hostile to God's children.

Daniel and his friends were not spared the fiery furnace! They were not spared the lion's den. They show us how to live, how to survive, even thrive – and most importantly how to glorify God when in exile and how to find God's favor while in exile.

How did they do it? How did they find victory, deliverance while facing persecution in exile?

Here's how. As a result of fasting and praying Daniel experienced victory! Deliverance! Favor! God's Presence! Even the Fiery Furnace! FAVOR in exile! In hostile territory!

Just like many members of our Hope Center of Christ family, Daniel fasted and prayed three times a day. You can see as you study the Bible that prayer was accompanied by fasting, especially during times of great duress.

Esther agreed to go to the king on one condition: all Jews had to agree to pray and fast for three days.

Jesus prayed and fasted for 40 days before he began his ministry. Paul also fasted. There are numerous examples of persons in the early church praying and fasting.

As a result of hearing what so many are facing these days, I felt led to call Hope Center of Christ to participate in a 21 day partial fast, the Daniel Fast: to eat only what Daniel and his friends ate when they fasted and to pray three times a day as Daniel did.

With the rare exception of those who could not due to medical reasons, nearly everyone at Hope Center of Christ participated. We all fasted. We all prayed...three times a day!

Why did we pray and fast? We prayed and fasted for Hope Center of Christ! We prayed and fasted for a new church home. We prayed and fasted for restoration of a new time and place on TV. We prayed and fasted for God's favor for us personally (so we can help others) and for our ministry.

It was not an attempt to manipulate God (not that you can). It was a way to draw us closer to **His** will, versus trying to draw Him closer to **our** will! Fasting is submitting all of you – even what you eat and do not eat – to the Lord.

Fasting is a way to experience God deeper. So many people today are going through tough times. As a result you need the deeper intimacy of Christ. Fasting and praying provide that!

We are just now hearing the testimonies:

"I lost my job the third day of the fast—but, I was miserable there anyway. I received three job offers and just started my new job. It's wonderful!"

"I have been looking for a job, but not just any job. I want my life to count. The second week of the fast I was asked to go to lunch and asked if I would apply for a dream job!"

"I have battled a painful skin condition for years, requiring steroid treatments. After one week on the Daniel Fast my skin is clear! My doctor has taken me off steroids! I've been healed!"

Other testimonies indicated healed relationships. And I believe there are many testimonies yet to be told.

We prayed and fasted – for you! Now, look to see His favor in your life today and every day!



Fasting is submitting all of you, even what you eat and do not eat, to the Lord.



KICK OFF! New Message Series

Beginning Sunday, October 30, 2012

FAITH, HOPE & LOVE in ACTION A study of the Book of Acts

Every Sunday Morning at 10 AM

In the Crystal Ballroom at the Marriott Suites Hotel

Don't miss it! Communion served at the October 30 service.



- Please let us know how we can pray for YOU
- Consider tithing to this hope centered church and ministry for Jesus Christ
- Send us your email address so we can keep you up-to-date

Come for fellowship!
Tuesday evenings @ 7pm
All are invited.

Band of Brothers
Vineyard Church
5340 E. La Palma Ave.
Anaheim, CA 92807
In the "War Room"

Women of Hope
2744 E. Sherman Ave.
Orange, CA 92869

Contact Us:

Senior Pastor:
sheilac@hopecenteroc.org

Financial Questions:
debbiel@hopecenteroc.org

Salt Shakers/Missions:
harolds@hopecenteroc.org

Music:
gretchenp@hopecenteroc.org

Hope Center of Christ
P.O.Box 5567
Orange, CA 92863

 facebook.com/hopecenteroc

 twitter.com/hopecenter-oc

 youtube.com/hopecenterofoc



CHILI BOWL UPDATE

Number of bowls of chili served by Hope Center of Christ Volunteers to the hungry and homeless in Central Orange County, working in cooperation with Orange County Rescue Mission and their "Chili Van"

575 BOWLS TO DATE!

100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000

The Miracle of a Meal

In the 21st chapter of John's gospel we read the story of how the resurrected Savior, standing on the shoreline of the Sea of Galilee, shouts out fishing tips to a few of his disciples in a boat. They'd fished most of the night and had caught nothing. They didn't recognize Jesus, but heeded his instructions to "let down the net on the right side of the boat." Their resultant catch was vast...so much so that Peter then identifies the Risen Lord for who he is...and impulsively jumps into the sea to swim the final 100 yards to shore. Not long after, the other disciples reach the beach—in a boat loaded with fish.

And, there in the glow of early morning light, over a "charcoal fire" they see that Jesus has prepared them a surprise breakfast—fresh

grilled fish and bread.

On Labor Day, Sunday, Sept. 2, 2012, a beautiful meal appeared in our ballroom sanctuary after our morning worship service. Without anyone's knowledge, Bill and Julie Kiefer and two wonderful friends had prepared a magnificent buffet meal for everyone in attendance! This welcome brunch was a wonderful surprise for us all and provided a terrific and unsurpassed time of church family fellowship.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to the Kiefer family. Your love and generosity touched all of us deeply and strengthened the fabric of our Hope Center family. Bill Kiefer said, "This wonderful church has given more to Julie and me than we could ever say...we wanted to give something back."



PHOTO: DEBBIE BONILLA

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to hear the genuine 'thank you' from nearly all of the happy young faces who received a new pair of shoes," Hope Center volunteer, Susan Austin, said.

"Today it's not enough to just tell someone God loves them...they need to be shown God's love. That's what these shoes did! I am so proud of what Hope Center of Christ did," Pastor Sheila said.