

# KOINONIA



FALL 2013

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*Koinonia* is a Greek word whose primary meaning is “fellowship or sharing in common.” It means that we are in agreement with one another, united in a common purpose, and serving alongside each other. It is the ideal state of fellowship, community and family that should exist within a body of believers. It is this ideal state, this *koinonia*, that we hope to encourage through this publication. Our hope is that it would be far more than just a fancy listing of events, but that people would get a greater sense of who we are as a church, that they would see our heart, not just our hands and feet.

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*This magazine is a collaboration of a large group of people of all ages and ranges of talents and abilities. If you are interested in becoming a part of this Media Arts Team, please contact Michael Hickman, or Andy Byers, or email [koinonia@dnbc.org](mailto:koinonia@dnbc.org). We would love to have you join us!*

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sep 7 – Fall Kick-Off @ Putt-Putt

Sep 8 – Peru Mission Team Report

Sep 21 – Celebration Choir Retreat

Oct 21 thru 23 – State Convention @ Sandia

Nov 10 – Church-wide Fellowship

Nov 16 – SAM Thanksgiving Banquet

Dec 7 – Sole-2-Soul

Dec 8 – Children's Christmas Program

Dec 13 – Christmas Camp

Dec 15 – Adult Christmas Program

Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Service



# A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

## A FEW THOUGHTS ON DISCOURAGEMENT

Are you ever discouraged? Of course; it is a natural part of living.

In her book *Mama Get the Hammer*, Barbara Johnson lists a few things not to do when you're feeling blue: Don't weigh yourself. Don't watch "Old Yeller." Don't go near a chocolate shop. Don't open your credit card bill. And don't go shopping for a new bathing suit.

Nehemiah 4:10 finds the people of Israel discouraged in their efforts to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem.

From Nehemiah's experience we can see four causes of discouragement:

1. **Fatigue** (*Verse 10: "The strength of the laborers is giving out..."*)  
Even in the work of the Lord people can wear themselves out.
2. **Frustration** (*Verse 10: "...there is so much rubble..."*)  
Our lives become so cluttered we see no way of ever getting them straightened out.
3. **Failure** (*Verse 10: "...that we cannot rebuild the wall."*)  
Past painful failures make us believe we'll never succeed.
4. **Fear** (*Verse 14, Nehemiah says, "Don't be afraid of [the enemy]."*)  
Fear of everything from failure to the unknown can bring discouragement.

Nehemiah also shows us three principles for overcoming discouragement:

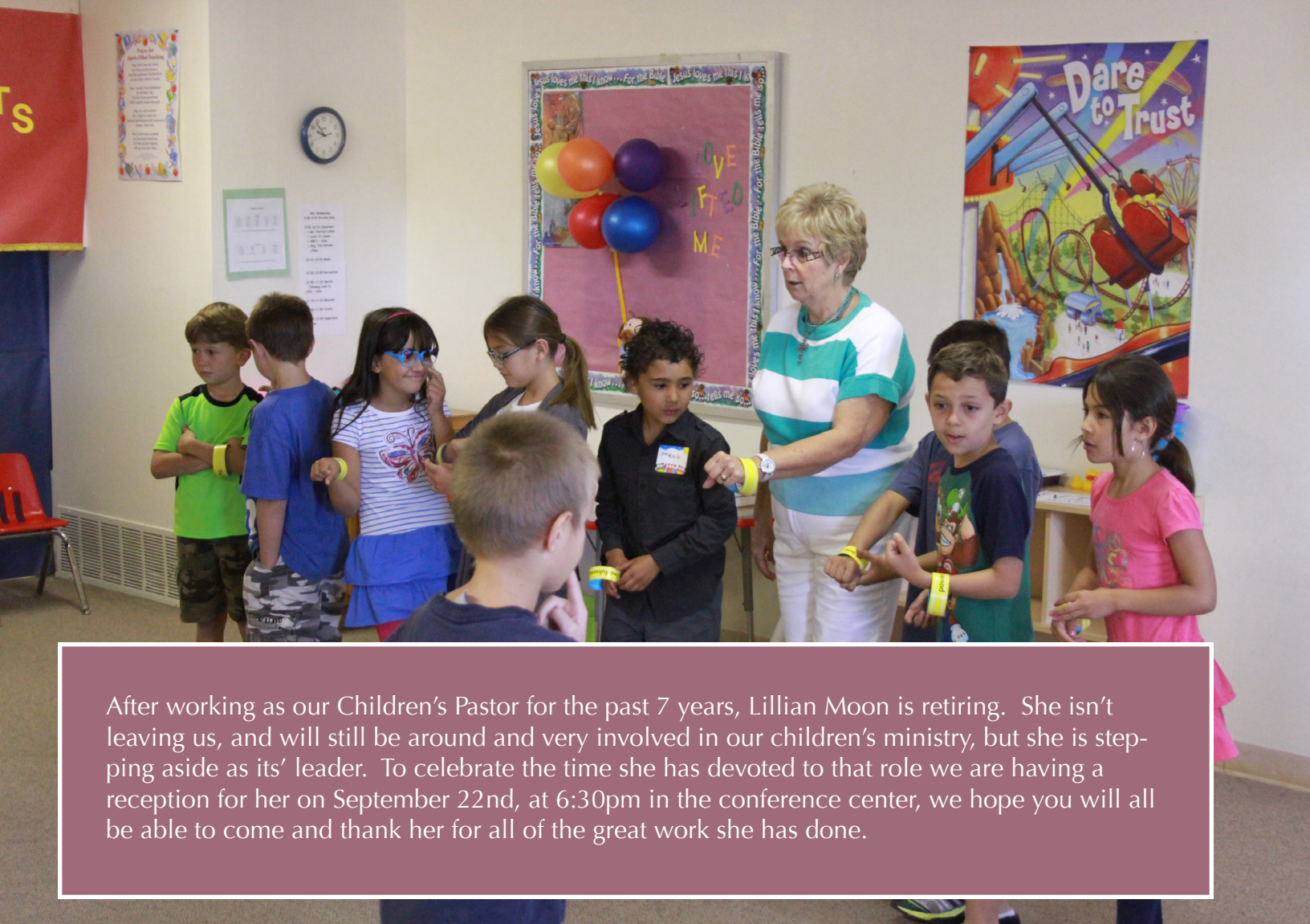
1. **Reorganize** (*Verse 13 shows how Nehemiah did that.*)  
Look your situation over, prayerfully see what priorities need to be dealt with first, and then make a realistic, flexible, step-by-step plan.
2. **Remember** (*Verse 14: "Remember, the Lord is great and awesome..."*)  
This same Lord wants you to succeed and be joyful in life. Talk to Him often and work your plan.
3. **Resist** (*Verse 14: "...fight..."*)  
Resist the devil and his influences.

Satan loves for God's people to be discouraged. God loves for His people to be encouraged. Think of the words to the old hymn, *God Will Take Care of You* and "be not dismayed, whate'er betide."

May the Lord bless you richly.

*Joe Long*

Interim Preaching Pastor



After working as our Children's Pastor for the past 7 years, Lillian Moon is retiring. She isn't leaving us, and will still be around and very involved in our children's ministry, but she is stepping aside as its' leader. To celebrate the time she has devoted to that role we are having a reception for her on September 22nd, at 6:30pm in the conference center, we hope you will all be able to come and thank her for all of the great work she has done.

## From the Pastor Search Team

We thank you all for your letters of encouragement and your prayers. We are still receiving resumes, actively meeting and praying.

We humbly and sincerely are continuing to seek the person the Lord has chosen as the next pastor of Del Norte Baptist Church.

What an incredible summer. Even though we live in the desert, and are still in a drought, we have seen some rain recently. I see our church in the same boat. We are currently without a Senior Pastor and Children's Pastor, which could be compared to a drought, but we have rain; replenishing, God-provided rain.

## ***Where do I see rain in our church, you ask?***

Each Sunday in June and July we were blessed to have a choir in the loft. Our regular choir, The Celebration Choir, took a well-earned break from the choir loft. But for me, church isn't church without some good choral music to bring me into the presence of God the Father, so I asked our Sunday School Departments to fill the loft. We had a great choir each week. The Lord was blessed by the choirs and I trust that each choir member was blessed by God because of their willingness to provide leadership as a choir member. Also, our orchestra has done an outstanding job providing "preludes" for us each Sunday.

## ***More rain:***

We were involved in celebrating together Lord's Supper and Baptism services this summer. Vacation Bible School, once again, was tremendously successful and children learned how to have a relationship with God. We sent many children, youth, and adults to church-related camps this summer and their lives were forever touched by the Lord. Several of our church members participated in Disaster Relief efforts in Colorado Springs, Corrales, and other places. Our Helping Hands ministry has provided assistance to dozens of people to our members and non-members, as well as Inlow Baptist Camp. Our Youth/College group participated in a very successful mission trip to Eagle Nest, NM and then eight of our College students (and 3 college graduates) spent a week ministering to, and being ministered by, the people of Peru, South America. Plus we have seen God's hand at work through His children in so many other ways.

## ***More rain in the future.***

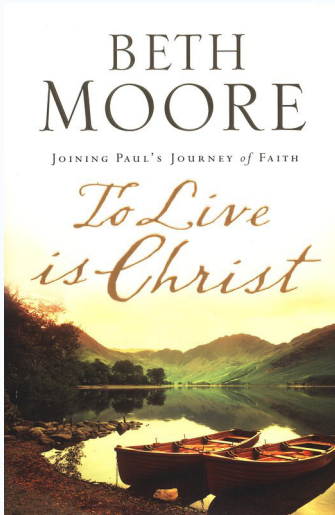
The Lord is in control and we are His children. God wants us to continue, steadfastly, doing the work of the church. God has called each of his children to tell the world about Him. We do this through our actions. Please pray about your relationship with God and commit to follow His will for your life this Fall. Together we can share the good news that "Jesus Saves." Every person needs to know that they can have an everlasting, eternal, relationship with God. You too can share the refreshing rain that comes from God.



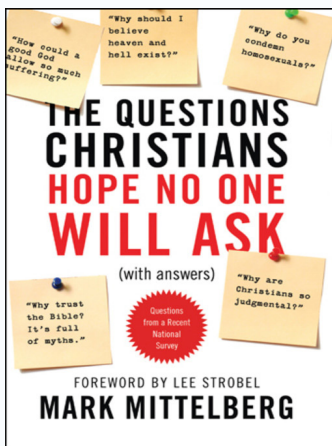
# Ground School

Del Norte Baptist's Discipleship Training

**Coming in September we will be offering two classes. These classes will help you grow in the Word of God.**



To Live Is Christ is video series by Beth Moore. This ladies Bible Study will be held on Sunday & Wednesday evenings. It will begin in September and finish before Thanksgiving. The workbook cost is \$15.



The Questions CHRISTIANS Hope No One Will Ask is a new book by best-selling author and speaker, Mark Mittelberg. Today, more than ever, people are raising difficult, penetrating questions about faith, God, and the Bible. Based on an exclusive new Barna survey of 1,000 believers, The Questions Christians Hope No One Will Ask presents compelling, easy-to-grasp answers to ten of the most troubling questions facing Christians today. These include everything from the existence of heaven to the issues of abortion and homosexuality, as well as the question of whether evolution eliminates our need for a God.

The text can be purchased for \$11 (in print) or \$9.69 (e-book). Kevin Warner will facilitate this study.





According to Exodus 16:1-31 and Numbers 11:1-9, Manna is an edible substance that God provided for the Israelites during their travels in the desert. To some it tasted like honey, Exodus 16:31, others bread and still others like oil, Numbers 11:8. This was food which God miraculously provided to His people each day.

Each Friday night I have the privilege of going with about 20 of our young people and participate in Manna. The evening begins at 6PM as we tear into 8-10 loafs of bread and prepare peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. After sandwiches are prepared we gather them and about three cases of water and head for the downtown area of our city to distribute them. The area covered is a wide area of downtown. The response we get from the people that receive the sandwiches and water is always interesting. Most of them quite eagerly take our offer, while some look at us rather strangely wondering just what it is we want. As the goodies are given out each young person offers a blessing and a good night to each of the folks. Our young people are so enthusi-

**Exodus 16:15 (ASV)**  
**And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, what is it? For they knew not what it was. And Moses said unto them, it is the bread which Jehovah hath given you to eat.**

astic in this endeavor. We search all the known hiding places of the homeless to hand out our sandwiches. I am so blessed each evening as we walk our “route” and distribute this food. I like to think of it as manna, life, health and hope to our neighbors in need. Given the opportunity we also share our Lord with them. Recently one of our youth stood beside me at an intersection

as we waited for the light to change and told me he was so glad to be a member of our church just because of this ministry. All this is done with smiles on the faces of each of our young people and many times we get a thank you and a smile back, plus a “God bless you”. It is so humbling to see the need each week from our homeless society and the appreciation over a simple sandwich and a bottle of water. This is truly a time of Life Together.

After we finish our task the real fun begins as we all go to the young people’s favorite hangout where we continue our fellowship. Can’t tell you where this hangout is, but if you would like a real Friday night blessing come join us and we will share with you.

# RED BIBLE DAY & PRETEEN RETREAT

Every August when school starts, there is a special Sunday for some of the younger members of our church family. Its promotion Sunday, and there are some special things that go on for some of the students that get promoted into new departments.

When children move from Kindergarten into 1st grade they get to "go upstairs" and move into the children's department, and to commemorate that we present them with a red bible. This year "Red Bible Sunday" was on August 18th.



As those students are moving into the children's department, there is another group moving out, and to introduce the incoming 7th graders into the youth group and give them a taste of Life Together, we have an annual Preteen Retreat. This year outgoing 5th & 6th graders were invited to come and be a part of Manna on Friday night, August 16th, and then spend the night at the church, playing some games, watching a movie, and then partake in some other "youth" activities on Saturday such as ultimate frisbee, the quarter game at the Keys house, a time of worship and sharing about Life Together from some of the current youth, and getting to play Where's Waldo in Coronado Mall. It was a great time, and a fun way to celebrate the transition from being in the children's ministry into the youth group.



## THE OPEN DOOR NEXT DOOR

Several years ago this church made it a point to try and reach out to the apartment complexes around us. We wanted to be a light in the midst of our community, and that is what we are surrounded by. But as we began trying to reach out to the various apartment buildings around us, we were met with obstacle after obstacle. It was that way for several years. We have developed a great relationship with Governor Bent, the elementary school behind our property, but the apartments remained out of reach for a long time. Then last year we final-

ly had a few breakthroughs when we asked to put up and hand out information about Vacation Bible School. This year we had even greater success with being allowed to distribute information about VBS. It resulted in at least 25% of the children we saw at VBS being from the immediate neighborhood, and this is just one of the many ways that God has opened doors for us in the nearby community.

At the beginning of August we were invited by the elementary school to come and be a part of an

event for parents that gave them information on what was available for their children through the school and in the area nearby. We also got a similar opportunity at Del Norte High School at an event put on by the alumni association for the teachers of that school. Through the generosity of our church family we were able to provide over 60 backpacks and lots of other supplies mainly to the elementary school, but also to McKinley Middle school. And now it is time to prepare for our biggest outreach of all, Sole-2-Soul.



Last year we were able to purchase over 350 pairs of shoes and give them away to children and families from through our community. This year we would love to be able to do that and more, and we need our entire church family to make that happen. First of all, we will be inviting the families to come and pick out shoes on December 7th from 9am-noon. This is an amazing time, the building is buzzing and full of excitement, and with the atrium and main

entryway we have some new ideas on how to make the whole morning run even more smoothly. But we need people. We need people to be greeters as families come in. We need guides to take them to the various rooms to try on shoes. We need people in the rooms to help the kids try on shoes and pick out a pair that they like. We need people in the dining hall to meet the families and spend some time fellowshiping with them as they share some "goodies".

Speaking of goodies, we need those as well, and we also need your help in buying the shoes. Last year we spent around \$8500 for Sole-2-Soul, and once again, we would love to do even more this year. God has opened a lot of doors and provided opportunities for us to be the church, to be a light within our community and show people around us the love of Christ, we hope you'll come and be a part of what He is doing.

# BEING THE CALLED

By And Byers and Richelle Gilsdorf

On August 3, a team of eight college students and three adults set out for Lima, Peru. Though our Youth Pastor Andy Byers and the Missions Team had been communicating with missionaries already in Lima, we were still largely ignorant of what exactly we would be doing on this mission trip. In fact, we didn't even know where we would be staying upon arrival.

It was, in almost every sense, a blind journey, one that had begun almost a year earlier when it was first laid on the hearts of the members of Del Norte's Missions Team to engage in a long-term relationship with a foreign mission. The team had settled on Peru because of connections through members of our church, particularly Sherlock Vargas, our Spanish pastor. As both Andy and the Missions Team struggled to find a viable partnership in Peru, Andy happened upon a newsletter from Rick and Kathy Anderson, missionaries in Lima (Rick had grown up attending Del Norte Baptist). Just like that, God pointed out the way, and we were met at the Lima International Airport at two in the morning by Rick and Kathy.



The Andersons work largely with La Molina Christian School, so our team participated in various projects there during the course of our week-long trip, including leading a chapel service Tuesday morning for middle and high school students; teaching a Bible class for Kathy's third-grade class Friday morning; and helping to run a game-night for the youth at the school on Friday night.

On Tuesday morning, following the chapel service, Rick led our team south of Lima to the province of Cañete, where we would be working alongside Pastor Juan Carlos Lopez and his wife Kelly to hold services for children in celebration of their church's six-year anniversary. The three days we spent in Cañete were by far the most transformative for our team as we shared in Lopez's calling to take the gospel and establish churches in all the districts of the San Vicente de Cañete province.

On Tuesday night we arrived in the first pueblo, La Florida, to discover that we were in charge of running the service for the children. Did I mention yet that none of our team spoke Spanish? Fortunately, Rick had enlisted the help of a young woman from the La Molina school, Fiorella, and her cousin, Ailin, to translate for us, and two of our college students knew enough Spanish to help the rest of us (Rick knew Spanish as well). Therefore, when we started the service about twenty minutes later, we were able to share the gospel with about seventy children, as well as many of their mothers.

Before leaving Albuquerque, our team had come up with the idea of using bracelets with colored beads to help explain the gospel to the children. The kids in the pueblos loved these bracelets. When Rick would explain what each color meant—for example, black represented sin, which separates us from God, and red represents the blood of Christ, which covers over our sins, etc.—the kids listened attentively. There was a hunger for what we were bringing, an openness to the gospel that one does not often see in America. When Kelly Lopez took the women inside to hear the testimony of one of our female students, the women—though clearly exhausted—engaged in what was being presented. It didn't matter that we were foreigners who didn't speak the language, the language of God's love is univer-



sal, and when Kelly opened a time for the women to accept Christ, at least four prayed to do so.

Wednesday morning we visited two more pueblos—Hualcara and La Quebrada—and met with around 80 children total. That afternoon we returned to La Florida to hold another service for the children, which was followed later by a formal church service in which many adults were in attendance. Rick preached while half of our team took the children into a separate building for some impromptu child care. Following Rick's preaching, Juan Carlos asked the congregants—ranging from preteens to the elderly—if anyone was ready to accept Christ. At least twelve stood and gave their hearts to Jesus, and the expressions on their faces of rapt joy and hope will not soon be forgotten. Once more, it was apparent to us that this was a community hungry for the gospel, that God had gone before us and prepared the hearts of those we would meet.



*There was a hunger for what we were bringing, an openness to the gospel that one does not often see in America.*

This sense that God was always one step ahead of us was never more evident than when we heard the personal testimony of Pastor Juan Carlos himself. He told us that he and his wife had prayed about what to do with the children to celebrate the anniversary of their church, which is not only in La Florida but also in the other pueblos we visited, though many do not have a specific building, but rather a timed gathering in a town square or in front of a member's house. Juan Carlos explained that he and his wife didn't really have the means of providing any special service for the kids; in fact, sometimes their inability to afford the gas to fill their van and travel to the various pueblos meant that the people waiting there would not be able to hear a sermon or participate in church that day. Then, Rick had contacted him and mentioned a team coming down from New Mexico that

loved to work with kids—and they just so happened to be coming the week the church's anniversary celebration would be starting. As we listened to the Pastor's testimony, it became apparent to us that God's hand had been in every step of this trip, no matter how great the unknowns upon our arrival. Juan Carlos needed a team, Del Norte needed the work—God brought the two together without either having suspected it was coming. He fit every piece in place along the way.

Sometimes we think missions is for people who are qualified, people who are "called." We think we are exempt if we feel we fit in neither category. But missions is for all believers, and the "called" are those who open themselves to the possibility of going, no matter how impossible it seems. The trip to Lima began with a desire to go and a lot of uncertainty; it ended with a paved course for future work with the region of Cañete. Two years ago, if you had asked most of the eleven team members—particularly the eight college students—if they had felt "called" to foreign missions, many of us would likely have answered "no." Yet now we feel there isn't this distinction of being "called", but rather an acknowledgement of the need to be open to God's direction, to growth. I guess sometimes it takes being a missionary to know if you are one.

The Peru Mission Team will be sharing more about their story during both services on Sunday, September 8th.



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### Worship Service Times

Traditional Service - 8:30 am, Sunday  
Contemporary Service - 11:00am, Sunday  
Spanish Service - 11:00am, Sunday

If you would like to contact us about this publication,  
send an email to [koinonia@dnbc.org](mailto:koinonia@dnbc.org)

We are a united body of believers committed to grow  
in Christ and reach others for Christ