

"When the princes in Israel take the lead, when the people willingly offer themselves—praise the LORD!" - Judges 5:2

Dear New Life Community: Sunday evening at our Family Fun Night, we hosted a crowd of hundreds of people from our surrounding neighborhood and community—many of whom may have been on our church campus for the very first time. If that was you, please know how honored we are to have met you and spent this time together. As our church debriefs the event and we've seen the photos from the evening pour in, one of the most frequent observations from attendees—young and old alike—is just how many smiling faces there were everywhere! It was such a wonderful atmosphere to welcome people into, and it makes me so proud to be a pastor in this church. Thank you!

There's a beautiful little verse that this evening brings to mind for me. It comes from a book of the Bible that records a terribly dark period in history, when God's people found themselves caught in vicious cycles of societal upheaval and generational habits of turning away from God—experiencing dire consequences, crying out for help, being delivered by God—only to turn away again-and-again, on-repeat, spiraling downward, ad-nauseum.

But in a moment of deliverance, two of God's leaders, Deborah and Barak, compose a duet celebrating their fresh experience of God's freedom. They sing:

"[a] When the princes in Israel take the lead, [b] when the people willingly offer themselves—[c] praise the LORD!" - *Judges 5:2*

This verse perfectly captures my praise report and reflection on Family Fun Night. The joy of that evening began with: [a] leaders throughout our community taking the lead—every one of our church's staff, elders, and trustees, as well as many of their family members, contributed to this event in meaningful ways; and [b] dozens of our church family willingly offering themselves as volunteers and donors—some for the very first time, others as experienced hands. I witnessed so many of you going above and beyond what we asked, bringing extra bags of candy bought with their own money, serving early, staying late, covering for others, and not complaining. This is truly cause to [c] praise the LORD!

Now, it's certainly true that we cannot control so very many things in our world. Perhaps that is why so many privileged/talented people (our contemporary 'princes' if you will) are so hesitant to lead community projects where the outcomes aren't sure: *Will anyone come? Will I be the only one serving? Am I wasting my time?* And often people give reluctantly or begrudgingly—I know I'm prone to that mentality myself! But living that way only keeps us in the same downward spiral as in the days of the judges.

So, friends, whenever we want to display God's abundant goodness—especially when taking on a significant challenge or sizable task—let us remember this verse together. Let us commit to do these two things that are within our control: [a] to lead by example, and [b] to willingly offer ourselves to Christ and His kingdom purposes. Because when we do, not only do many of our neighbors smile—but I like to imagine that Jesus does too.

At the close of this "Pastor Appreciation Month," know that as your pastor, I deeply appreciate each of you for stepping up to lead sacrificially and to give willingly. I praise God for you.

--Pastor Brad

November 2025 MISSIONS

Month

New Life Community

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Memory Verse for November: 2 Peter 1:5-7	"For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to . . .	. . . self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love."		30 6:00 PM Celebrate Recovery	31	1  Change clocks back 1 hour
2 8:30AM Growth Class 10 AM Worship Service/ Communion (YFC guest speaker) 5 PM Youth Group	3 (Baby dedication also on the 2nd!)	4 6 AM Men's Bible Study 9 AM LIFT Women's Bible Study	5 6:30 PM Prayer	6 PDC Convention--Fresno 6:00 PM C.R. 6:30 PM Dawnings Fund-raising Banquet--Dinuba	7 PDC Convention--Fresno	8
9 8:30 Growth Class 10 AM Worship Service (guests Chavez family) 11:30 Volunteer Training	10	11 Veterans' Day (No Men's Bible Study)	12 6:30 PM Prayer	13 6:00 PM Celebrate Recovery	14	15 Women's Ministries' Baking Day--Kitchen
16 8:30 Growth Class 10 AM Worship Service (guest Christian Uwajeh) Women's Bake Sale 5 PM Youth Group	17 (Baptism also on the 16th!)	18 6 AM Men's Bible Study (new series begins) 9 AM LIFT Women's Bible Study	19 6:30 PM Prayer	20 5:30 PM Love Feast at Gleanings (Brad sharing) 6:00 PM C.R.	21	22
23 10 AM Worship Service (MCC guest speaker) 11:30 Thanksgiving Meal & Missions Offering (bring desserts)	24	25 6 AM Men's Bible Study	26 (No Prayer group)	27  6:00 PM Celebrate Recovery	28 (Office closed for Thanksgiving)	29
30 1st Sunday in Advent 8:30 Growth Class 10 AM Worship Service 11:30 Youth Christs Craft Fair	1	NOTES DECEMBER PREVIEW: 7--Communion Sunday; 7--PM: Women's Ministries' Cookie Exchange & Games; 9--LIFT Party; 14--Guest speaker; 24--Christmas Eve Service; 25--Christmas Day; 28--Guest speaker and Family Meal Calendar accurate as of 10/29/25 -- most events also on website calendar at www.newlifedinuba.org				