

# January

25, 2026

CHURCH OF CHRIST, 850 MINTER AVE., SHAFTER, CA 93263

## WORSHIP TIME

**Sunday Morning**  
8:30 Bible Classes  
Mark 1:1 ff

Classes in English & Spanish



**9:00 Prayer Worship**  
Please give us your requests

**9:30 Worship Service**  
Worship in English & Spanish

### Elders

Borjas Gonzales	599-9311
Eddie Fisher	342-8337
Garry Nelson	331-3858
Mike Westbrook	910-2197
Ron Nunlist	746-6531

### Deacon

**Minister**  
Jim Young 527-7026  
[jimyoung2work@aol.com](mailto:jimyoung2work@aol.com)

**Church Office** 746-2205

### Office Hours:

Monday ~ Tuesday ~ Wednesday  
8 am to 1 pm

Thursday  
11 am to 4:30 pm

Friday Out of the Office

### Bulletin

Jan Nelson 332-6146  
[grammyjan51@yahoo.com](mailto:grammyjan51@yahoo.com)  
Sandy Westbrook 910-8143  
[mikewestbrook@att.net](mailto:mikewestbrook@att.net)

Don't forget to check out our  
website

**No te olvides de visitar nuestro  
sitio web**

[www.shafterchurchofchrist.com](http://www.shafterchurchofchrist.com)

Bible on your phone

MySpectrumWiFif8-2G

MySpectrumWiFif8-5G

password: purplelemon096



The annual business has been  
changed to  
February 8th

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Reminder...** The sign-up list for the building cleaning for February is on the back left table. Please sign up.

**January 29** - Men's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. in the church kitchen

**January 29** - Thursday night dinner - 5:30 p.m.

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**Elders Meeting** at 8:00 a.m. - date to be determined

**February 3** - Bakersfield Prayer Breakfast

**February 5** - Thursday night dinner

**February 7** - Prayer Breakfast

Men's at 8:00 in the kitchen

Ladies at 9:30 at Jan's

**February 8** - ANNUAL CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING

## FRIENDS AND OTHERS

*Faithful are the wounds of a friend.*

*Proverbs 27:6*

One of two things is true about the person who has never received guidance from another person: either that person is perfect and has never needed guiding or correcting, or that person doesn't have anyone in his or her life willing to risk the possibility of a negative response from the "correctee." Since we know there are no perfect people, guess which one is true?

The book of Proverbs says, in more than one way, that we are fortunate if we have a friend who loves us enough to guide and correct us. No one would allow another person to unknowingly make a serious mistake, like taking the wrong turn on a long car trip. Yet how often do we fail to give guidance to others when they are threatening to derail their own spiritual journeys? When we need guidance, we should ask someone who has been where we are or has a deeper knowledge of God and His word. We should receive it gently, humbly and with love. Guidance – especially unsolicited guidance – should be given with the same characteristics.

Do you need guidance or know someone who does? God gives parts" to the body of Christ so the whole may be healthy. Don't fail to do your part when it comes to guidance – whether giving or receiving.

(Taken from *Walking with God* by David Jeremiah)

*Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."*

- *Lamentations 3:22-24*

**PASTOR'S CORNER** - "And God Gives the Increase" 1 cor 3:6

Crossroad.org 08/14/25 [Dave Kraft](#)

I admit that I hate to wait. But I have learned a lesson from the giant bamboo of Asia. In his book *An Enemy Called Average*, John L. Mason writes:

During the first four years they water and fertilize the plant with seemingly little or no results. Then the fifth year they again apply water and fertilizer—and in five weeks' time the tree grows ninety feet in height.

The obvious question is: did the Chinese bamboo tree grow ninety feet in five weeks, or did it grow ninety feet in five years? The answer is, it grew ninety feet in five years. Because if at any time during those five years the people had stopped watering and fertilizing the tree, it would have died.

What a tremendous spiritual lesson that giant bamboo holds for us who are leading and praying (and looking for the fruits of our labor). **Mk 4:26,27** says: "A farmer planted seeds in a field and then he went on with his other activities. As the days went by [how about four years?], the seeds sprouted and grew without the farmers help."(NLT)

Remembering the illustration of the giant bamboo helps me to have more patience with people simply going through their growing period, more patience for the planted seed (truth, teaching, prayer) to break the surface and be evident. I need to constantly remind myself that God is Lord of the harvest, not me. For me that means He is Lord of the results! Isn't that what harvesting is all about—results? The Lord has His (own) timetable. Nothing is impossible for Him. He is at work even when I don't see it; and I often don't see it when I would like to see it.

In reading this I am reminded of the passage in **1 Cor 3** where Paul says that one-man plants and another one waters but it is God who makes it grow. The point made is that none of us are anything but it is our God who has planned and used us in order for Him to produce the good in this world and the next. We need to know, believe, have faith and obey so that when we have been faithful to the end, we will receive the crown of life – not because we have earned it but because we will be given it as a **reward for our faith!!!**

# Prayer REQUESTS

*If you need prayer, please let the Elders know, or call Vivian Fisher (889-4075) to start the prayer chain.*

## NEW THIS WEEK

**Lord, give me concern and compassion for the lost that I meet today. Open doors so I might share YOUR message!**

**Traveling:** Garry and Jan are at the coast; be home Monday afternoon  
**Sammy,** pray he gets a full-time job with the company he is working for  
**Tate** to continue to improve in rehab  
**LaDona** to continue to improve with her physical therapy  
**Anne**, Nina's daughter, her biopsy results came in and it showed there were no granulosa cells; praises!  
**Earl** came home from the hospital and is feeling a little better but still needs prayer  
**Joyce** as she grieves the loss of Tom  
**Janese**, Nina's daughter, had a biopsy of a node on here right temple  
**Dave**, LaDona's son, has been ill with the flu  
**Tank** will begin his chemotherapy soon; his daughter took him to the doctor this week  
**Mary P.** strained her neck and has a neck brace; seeing a chiropractor which is helping



## Continued Prayer:

**Sylvia**, Trina's friend, recovering from breast surgery for cancer

**Bob**, Earl's brother-in-law, requests prayer

**Susan**, LaDona's roommate at Brookdale to know the Lord

**LaDona** is now at Brookdale if you would like to visit her or send cards. The address is: Brookdale Senior Living -350 Calloway Drive -Room 118, Bed B - Bakersfield 93312

**Kimara**, friend of Chris & Natalie, for strength and comfort after the passing of Bob

Numerous **members of Sally's family** have health problems: Father recovering from work accident; cousin Kelly recovering from surgery; Rueben, brother, knee injury.

**Mike G.**, Borjas' friend, has prostate cancer and having radiation treatment

**Anthony**, Borjas' grandson needs strength to help him with his co-workers

**Buddy** continued healing of his shoulder

**Mark Keeley** continued healing from knee replacement

**Vivian** dealing with blood pressure problems

***It is grace to not be paralyzed by regret. The cross teaches that you are not stuck, not cursed to pay forever for your past.***

He sat before me with his head in his hands and kept saying over and over again: "I just wish I could have it all back. I just wish I could press a button and do it all over again. I wish I knew then what I know now. I wish I could try again, but I can't." He must have said this or something similar to this ten times. He was incredibly distraught and regretful, and yet in the best spiritual condition he had ever been in. I really did feel his pain and I was very happy that he felt it too, because I knew that what he was experiencing was the pain of grace.

He was a hard, driven, and demanding man who kept moving forward no matter what and never looked back. He didn't care what trail of destruction he left behind him. He was successful. He knew it and wanted everyone else to know it too. He had loved his work more than his family, and in the process, he had lost both. It was all gone – family, job, and wealth. He had played the game by himself and for himself, and had lost in a big way. But now his eyes were open, and the scene broke his heart. Bankrupt and alone, he looked back with grief at every arrogant moment. It was painful, but it was grace. God was making his eyes see so that he would never go back there again.

It's a grace to regret. Grace allows you to face your sin, to own it and not shift the blame. But it is also grace that forgives what has been exposed. Grace forces you to feel the pain of your regrets, but never asks you to pay for them, because the price has already been paid by Jesus. Colossians 2:14 talks about how "the record of debt that stood against us" has been canceled by the sacrifice of Jesus. You can look back, but with your burden lifted by forgiving grace. It is good to look back and celebrate the rescue of grace. It is good to mourn the sins of the past. It is not good to be paralyzed by them. Grace lives at the intersection between clarity of sight and hope for the future. And that grace is yours for the taking. You don't have to rewrite your past, making yourself look more righteous than you ever really were. You can stare the truth in the face because of what Jesus has done for you. You can own what needs to be owned and confess what needs to be confessed, and then move on to live in a new and better way. The same grace that forgives your past empowers you to live in a new way in the future.

So look backward and look forward. God's grace enables you to do both, celebrating forgiveness for the past and embracing power for a new and better future. Only God's grace gifts you with peace worth your past and hope for the future.



*Keep a close watch on how you live and on your teaching. Stay true to what is right for the sake of your own salvation and the salvation of those who hear you.*

- 1 Timothy 4:16 NLT