

Welcome to OakStone Community Church

March 1 2026

Message: "...if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation..." (continued)

Passage: 2 Corinthians 5:12-21 | **Speaker:** Pastor Bill Wolter

Upcoming Events & News

Daylight Saving Time Begins March 8th

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before bed on Saturday night as we spring forward to observe Daylight Saving Time on March 8th.

Women's Monday Morning Bible Study – 9-10 AM

We will be meeting at the church in the Fellowship Room. You are invited to join us this week as we continue our study in The Book of Ruth. For more information contact Janet at janetwolter51@gmail.com.

Tuesday Evening Bible Study – 6:30-7:30 PM

You are invited to join us as we continue our study in Galatians. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Bill at (951) 970-2262.

Birth Choice Baby Supplies

Please remember to pick up some supplies for Birth Choice as you are out and about today. Thank you for being His hands and feet to those who have babies.

Ministry to Pray for This Month – Global Recordings Network

GRN is a leading provider of Christian evangelistic and discipleship audio visual materials to the least reached language groups of the world. Our passion is to work where there are no translated Scriptures and no viable local church, or where a written Scripture or portion is available but where there are few if any who can read it or make sense of it.

Audio visual materials are a particularly powerful evangelism medium as they communicate the gospel in story format suitable for oral learners. Our recordings can be downloaded free of charge from our website, and distributed via CD's, email, Bluetooth and other media. Since we began in 1939, we have produced recordings in around 6,500 languages. That's over 1 language per week! Many of these are the least reached language groups in the world.

Important Information

PLEASE there is no food or drink, except water with a lid, allowed in the sanctuary. We thank you for your cooperation.

Our **FOOD PANTRY** is available for those who need it.

An **AUDIO LISTENING DEVICE** is available for those who need assistance in hearing the message. Inquire at the sound booth.

INTERNET ACCESS is available: go to "**occ**", the password is "**oakstone**".

The Heart of a Shepherd

Sometimes as Christians we are ostracized by our families, friends, or coworkers because of our stand for Biblical views. Unfortunately, when that happens, too many of us fall into self-pity and end up compromising our God given convictions. I think if we knew what real persecution was we would be less apt to give up when things don't go our way or when we face life's little irritations. The following story was a real eye-opener for me. I pray you will allow it to be for you also.

What Have You Suffered?

We do not know who it was who had this dream, quoted in the Presbyterian Survey. But the unknown dreamer could be any one of us, could it not?

I saw in a dream that I was in the Celestial City – though when and how I got there I could not tell. I was one of the great multitude which no man could number, from all countries and peoples and times and ages. Somehow I found that the saint who stood next to me had been in Heaven more than 1,860 years.

"Who are you?" I said to him. (We both spoke the same language of heavenly Caanan, so that I understood him and he me.)

"I," said he, "was a Roman Christian; I lived in the days of the Apostle Paul, I was one of those who died in Nero's persecutions. I was covered with pitch and fastened to a stake and set on fire to light up Nero's gardens."

"How awful!" I exclaimed.

"No," he said, "I was glad to do something for Jesus. He died on the cross for me."

The man on the other side then spoke: "I have been in Heaven only a few hundred years. I came from an island in the South Seas – Erromanga. John Williams, a missionary, came and told me about Jesus, and I too learned to love Him. My fellow countrymen killed the missionary, and they caught and bound me. I was beaten until I fainted and they thought I was dead, but I revived. Then next day they knocked me on the head, cooked and ate me."

"How terrible!" I said. "No," he answered, "I was glad to die as a Christian. You see the missionaries had told me that Jesus was scourged and crowned with thorns for me."

Then they both turned to me and said, "What did you suffer for Him? Or did you sell what you had for the money which sent men like John Williams to tell the heathen about Jesus?"

And I was speechless. And while they both were looking at me with sorrowful eyes, I awoke, and it was a dream! But I lay on my soft bed awake for hours, thinking of the money I had wasted on my own pleasures; or my extra clothing, and costly car, and many luxuries; and I realized that I did not know that the words of Jesus meant: ***"If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me"*** Mark 8:34.

Pastor Gary Bergon

November 30, 1949 – January 1, 2015

In the eternal presence of his beloved Lord and Savior

Tithes & Offerings

As you are led, place these in the designated box in the back.