



## A Note from the Elders

There are good times and there are bad times, “a time to weep and a time to laugh... a time to gain and a time to lose” (Eccl. 3:4a, 6a).

This is no different for a Christian. Neither experience nor Scripture tell us that we are insulated from the darker side of life – from death and illness and disappointment. These things touch us all, at one time or another.

Here at Folsom Point, we have had many reasons to rejoice over the years. The wonderful families that have joined us; the many children who grace our lives; baptisms and other uplifting spiritual experiences. At least from my perspective, life has been very good here.

But there have been sorrows as well, and it seems that we are presently in a “time to weep” period. It seems the bad news has been trumping good news recently (from a human standpoint; I do not mean that it is affecting the gospel in any way).

Sickness, death, a frightening war in Iraq and even the worse natural disaster ever has dominated our news section recently. I’m struck by how long our prayer list is getting and, by its nature, a prayer list tends to emphasize the negative things that are happening to us.

I cannot think of a time, in the 11 plus years that Christie and I have been here, when so

many need our prayers and help and encouragement. Frankly, I feel overwhelmed at times.

When we look too closely at these things, life gets scary. We realize how little we control and how slippery our hold on the world. We must learn what the writer of Ecclesiastes learned, that this life is truly “Vanity of vanities; all is vanity!” (1:2).

But we should also dwell on the positive lessons that emerge from such trials. These difficulties teach us that this world really is *not* our home, and isn’t that good?

Think of it: “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away” (Rev. 21:4).

Meanwhile, in this life, we must face “the former things.” But we can do it with dignity and with hope because we have faith in the promise of God that “the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Rom. 8:18).

Those words do not bring immediate relief – there is still suffering to endure. But to Christians, these words give us the power to endure and the confidence that when it’s over we will cross the finish line, victors in the race that we call life.

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Sunday Morning Assembly  
8:30AM & 10:15AM  
Sunday Evening: 5:00 PM  
Wednesday Bible Study  
7:30 PM  
Classes for all ages.  
*Private classes arranged at your convenience.*

For more information,  
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**[www.folsomchurch.com](http://www.folsomchurch.com)**

The View contains news and articles of interest to the members of the Folsom Point church of Christ. Announcing an activity or event does not necessarily imply that we financially sponsor the event or that the elders specifically endorse every component of that event, since it may not fall under the direct oversight of the elders. The church’s work and the elders’ oversight is limited by Scripture. We will not announce events that are primarily social in nature. However, we do want to publicize those activities that provide an opportunity for you to be a more involved and active member of the body.

Editor