

Los Altos Church of Christ

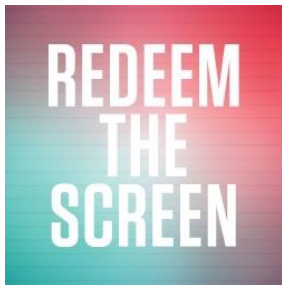
*"...being of the same mind, maintaining the same love,
united in spirit, intent on one purpose." Philippians 2:2*

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Los Altos Reopens April 4!

We are so excited to announce that we will be meeting Easter Sunday, April 4, at 11 AM. What a perfect day for Los Altos to arise again! It's been 8 long months since we last met. We will share the guidelines for gathering in the upcoming weeks but for now let's rejoice in the news we are coming together once again.



This Sunday...Screen Time

With screens seemingly on every corner and in the palm of every hand, we need to find a way to live in the ever-changing world of technology without letting it dominate our lives. Make no mistake about it, the way we spend our screen time is a clear indicator of who and what we are following. So rather than copying the behaviors of the world, we want to utilize our screen time in a way that intentionally transforms our minds and lives to look more like Jesus. This week we begin a new series by Kyle Idleman on the need to "Redeem The Screen".

PRAYERS *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7*

Continue to pray for Ernie Gordon...John and Jennifer...Tim's recovery... Roger Townsend... Berry... Jeff's mother... Jene's hand...Christine's mother... Allen Sawyers...The Britton Family ... Barbara... Gwen and her son Caleb... Emmy Creswick... Jene's friend, Jim Thorpe... Lu...City of Children... Healing Hands International... Japhet's work in Zimbabwe...and New Hope Uganda.

Thought for the week...

*Here is the amazing thing about Easter; the Resurrection Sunday for Christians is this, that Christ in the dying moments on the cross gives us the greatest illustration of forgiveness possible. - **T. D. Jakes***

When The Way Out Is Through

By Phil Ware

Most folks are at least a little familiar with the Lord's deliverance of his people from the Egyptian army through the Red Sea. Here's the story in a nutshell. Israel is stuck between the Red Sea and Pharaoh's army of soldiers and their charioteers on their back side. The Red Sea blocks their path forward.

They have every right to be afraid because Pharaoh's charioteers were feared by the armies of all other nations. The Israelites were untrained for war, having been slaves for 400 years. All Israel had to lead them into battle was an 80-year-old shepherd with a stick! So if deliverance was going to come for God's people, their obedience and the LORD's grace and power would have to produce it. That is exactly what happened.

God's deliverance involved five incredible steps of grace and power:

1. God's presence in the pillar of fire and the cloud moved from in front of the people to their rear to protect them (Exodus 14:19-20)
2. Moses obeyed the LORD and stretched out his staff over the waters. God then parted the waters and dried the land in between with an east wind (Exodus 14:21).
3. The Israelite people passed safely between the wall of waters on dry ground to the other side (Exodus 14:22).
4. The presence of God in the pillar of fire and the cloud confused the Egyptians as they tried to pursue the Israelites through the sea. Their wheels jammed in the mire of what had been dry ground further adding to the confusion (Exodus 14:23-25).
5. When Moses obeyed and stretched his staff over the waters a second time, the waters buried and destroyed the army of Pharaoh (Exodus 14:26-28).

This great story of deliverance is a powerful reminder to us as a people and as individual disciples that the LORD will make a way through for us when there seems to be no way! God's gracious and powerful presence will lead us, accompany us, and protect us until he gets us safely to where he wants us to be. This is great news. This is an incredible promise — one that God's people put to music in the celebration song after their great victory:

*In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed.
In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling
(Exodus 15:13).*

This is our story. It is not just a Bible story. This story reminds us of the character and courage that is in our spiritual DNA. We have the same God with the same power today as those people had in their day. We have the same promise that the LORD will get us to our destination... *being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.* (Phil. 1:6)

After reading this story from the Bible many times, what I found this last time was so unexpected and powerful — something that I seemed to have missed. God did work deliverance, and the pursuing army was destroyed. But the people were not to stand still and wait. They were to advance toward God's future following Moses' lead. They were to let the LORD handle the deliverance part, and they were to obey the LORD's call to cross the sea!

What do we do when there is no way around or past our problems and challenges? We go through them trusting the LORD will sustain, empower, and guide us!

Sometimes the only way out or around our challenges is for us to go through them. In the middle of our fearful journey, let's remember that deliverance is the Lord's work. Obeying is ours!