God has given me a ministry of building into the lives of men. 2017 has included leading disciple groups weekly, my teaching three weekend services at The Shoreline Church of San Clemente, teaching several times a weekend at two men’s retreats (one pictured below) and at men’s gatherings in several churches. Additional churches have asked me to speak in the near future. I have met with several pastors as they request advice about their churches.

The gracious hand of God is upon me as:

- Men are understanding that there is a cause larger than themselves.

- Men are learning to articulate a biblical worldview of cultural issues like immigration, Islam, politics, caring for the poor, war, and government as explained in the Scriptures.

- Men are taking leadership in their homes when they initiate having home church with their family and relatives occasionally.

- Men are overcoming the hurts, hang ups, and habits that can set them back.

- Men are becoming assertive disciples by choosing to obey Christ in speaking up about their faith in their webs of relationships.

The Power of Christ’s Forgiveness

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

Ephesians 4:32 NIV

A most well received message at each of my teachings with men is the redemptive truths about forgiveness. Many men live their Christian lives looking through an oversized rear-view mirror. Their past sins hold them down and back, and as a result, they cease pursuing God’s purposes or at best, those pursuits are dulled. As I take men through liberating prayers of accepting forgiveness, and then releasing others who have sinned against them, they experience transformation. Below are truisms about forgiveness. Select two or three and ask the Holy Spirit to make them operative in your life.

- Forgiveness does not mean you will forget but you will remember without emotional guilt or anger that drags you backward.

- Forgive yourself or another for your sake so you can be free.

- Forgiveness is living with the past that you cannot change.

- Refusing to forgive keeps you tied to the sin of another forever.

- Forgiveness includes releasing the expectation that you will receive something from the other person.

- Forgiveness will lead to proactive behavior in the present, instead of passive wishes in the past.
★ Linda’s Ministries

I have loved meeting on Tuesdays at noon and in the evening in our home with such wonderful women now for eight years! Before that I hosted and taught neighborhood studies in our home. Big thanks go to those who hosted and taught while I was in San Clemente: Elaine Fowler, Janet Bailey, Jackie Pride and Tammy Terry. These ladies come from all backgrounds, including being from families who are Greek Orthodox Christians from Damascus, Syria (70 relatives are still there), Jews from Iraq and Jews related to those in Germany who survived WW2. Studying the Book of Daniel that takes place in Babylon (Iraq) during the Jewish Exile and return to Israel has been relevant!

I am memorizing Psalm 19. It tells of how the heavens declare the glory of God and all on earth can hear their voice. It goes on to tells us about the perfect precepts of the Lord, sweeter than dripping honey to our souls. Also a request to hold us back from presumptuous sins. And it ends with:

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.” Psalm 19:14

One of the fun ministries I have is sending and giving greeting cards with Scriptures in them. I make the cards using copies of my oil and watercolor paintings.

When I was a youth pastor in the early seventies in San Clemente, CA, I became close friends with several youth pastors, including Homer Waisner. It was a rich reunion getting to spend time together and remembering what great things God did in the lives of the youth when we combined our groups for winter camps.

★ Reunion

What a joy it was to reconnect with friends of ours in the local San Clemente area in March. We all ministered together during the 1970’s when I was youth pastor at the San Clemente Presbyterian Church. Dave and Barbara Sealand hosted our group. Gary Endermann, at far left, seated, was converted when Linda and I were at Oregon State and he ended up living in Southern Cal. He was a member of SDS, into drugs, and wore black leather and chains. Christ got a hold of his life and it was radically changed! He married a woman who grew up in a missionary family in Africa and he became a pastor. Gary said when we were together, “I used to be a hopeless drug addict, but now I am a drugless HOPE addict!”

Thank you for praying for Jude Ebel, age 10, our grandson, who has Tuberous Sclerosis. He is shown here with cousins Brock & Selah McNown and sister, Isla. He has had a year of seizures, but thankfully only one recently. Different meds are being tried, but the latest he did not tolerate well.

We are grateful to our son, Pastor Seth Ebel, for overseeing the new update of our website and for writing and editing articles. We also thank our grandson, J.J. McNown, for speaking with Dale at some of the men’s retreats.

Thank you for your contributions and prayers for our discipleship and teaching ministry!

Rick and Debby Hennessy, Beth Clark and Linda Ebel are pictured at right. Beth’s husband, Mike, along with Rick and Dale, are on our Board for the ministry. We all thank you for your contributions and prayers for our discipleship and teaching ministry!