

Hi CAC Family!

I hope all of you are enjoying the summer season! I pray that God is allowing you to make good Summer 2023 memories!

There is a lot to cover in this issue of the Elder Newsletter.

I had the opportunity recently to hear people's stories of their journey to Christ. These stories were incredibly powerful and very moving for me. I hope some day some of our stories can be shared with our local church family. So often God uses people's stories and life experiences to help other people either by giving them hope in dark, seemingly hopeless times or it makes God so much more real and tangible and helps to draw us closer to God.

It made me think about what life would be like today had I not met Jesus when I was 15 yrs old. I was reminded of several things:

1. God is in the business of changing lives.
2. God relentlessly pursues us no matter what life circumstances are.
3. God wants to give us truly abundant and fulfilling lives.

It is my prayer that in the months to come, we will hear more stories of Jesus changing lives.

Pray that God will continue to sensitize our hearts towards the people we intersect with.  
Pray that we will fall deeper in love with Jesus Christ.  
Pray that we will be willing to let the Holy Spirit change our hearts and lead us to have clearer spiritual hearing.

This week I heard a song by The Worship Initiative, "Make Room" (live, featuring Dinah Wright). Look it up and meditate on the words of this song. Here is a portion of the song:

*Shake up the ground of all my tradition  
Break down the walls of all my religion  
Your way is better  
Your way is better  
And I will make room for you  
To do whatever you want to  
To do whatever you want to  
And I will make room for you  
To do whatever you want to  
To do whatever you want to*

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**PEAK UPDATE:** We had our very first PEAK Team meeting! It was very encouraging and uplifting. It also stimulated a greater sense of expectancy. I cannot tell you how excited I am for the PEAK process and what we will learn about Canby Alliance Church. As we learn these things, I pray that we will come up with a profile of what kind of senior pastor we are looking for but even more importantly, I pray that it will cause us to fall in love with God more and more and more and more.

It also made me realize how well God has brought together this team of people to go through the PEAK process. As a reminder, the PEAK team includes the elders (Jim Trigg, Marlin Meyers, Jeff Reister, Mel Yamase) + Pastoral staff (Joshua Stager, Nick Charbonnier and Rachel Keen) + at large members (Sandi Beck, Brent Beck, Marilyn Greenleaf, Lindsey Leesly, Nancy Pickett and Jenny Scheuning).

After going through the first session, I thought, "Wouldn't it be great if everyone could go through this process in some way?" I think it is sort of possible to do this through our Elder Newsletters. It will probably require several newsletters per month but I am willing to do this if you are willing to read the newsletters (that is, if you are interested in going through the process in this manner)! What a great bartering deal!

The first session was on August 1st. It is called the MORE SESSION. It is based on Mark 10: 46-52 the story about Jesus healing the blind Bartimaeus. Jesus had time for him. Jesus was generous towards him. Jesus asked Bartimaeus, "What do you want me to do for you?" Likewise, Jesus is asking us (Canby Alliance Church), "What do you want me to do for you?" Here are key words and questions:

1. **RIGHT:** Go back in time when you first walked into CAC, what kept you coming back and wanting to be a part of this church? Reflect on this. These are the things we are doing RIGHT.
2. **CELEBRATE:** What things are you celebrating at CAC? What do you see us doing at CAC that is worth celebrating in your eyes?
3. **CHALLENGE:** What kind of challenges have you seen at CAC since you have been attending CAC? What challenges have you noticed in the last few months or the last few years?
4. **MORE:** What do you want to see more of at CAC?

I would encourage you to take some time to reflect on these questions. Write them down and journal your answers.

What I would like to do in the next newsletter is provide you with a summary of what the PEAK Team said. There was obviously a lot said and I don't want to overwhelm you with too much information all at once but I would like to provide you with tidbits to chew on and digest.

This really is an exciting time for us as a church! God is going to reveal a lot to us. God is going to challenge us a lot. God is going to draw us closer to Him. I hope each of you want me to be part of this!

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Here are the remaining sessions:

*September 5 – Report Session*

*October 3 – Compass Session*

*November 7 – Impact Session part 1*

*December 5 – Impact Session part 2*

*January 9 – Story Session*

*January 30 – Map Session*

*March 5 – Remember Session*

Thank you again for all that each of you are doing to keep Canby Alliance Church moving along. Even though we want to find a senior pastor, we want more than anything else to fall in love with God more each day. We want to see God work in our lives, our church and our community.

Your faithful servants,

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