



UNION NEWS

April 2015

Education for the Global Church

- Our Mission -

*Education for the global church
so that the whole church will
share in the whole Gospel
in the whole world*

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Spring Module 2**
March 30-June 7
- **Board Meetings**
May 4-5 (CA)
- **2015 Graduation**
Dates TBA (Vietnam)

PRAYER REQUESTS

- **Students:** Our students work, support families, study, and lead ministries all over the world. They do this often in very difficult situations. Pray for their spiritual and physical health as they do important work their communities.
- **Financial Strength:** We continue to seek benefactors who will support the mission of UUC. Pray that God would lead generous people to UUC so that they can make Kingdom investments.
- **Accreditation:** Pray for our staff as they continue to work diligently towards accreditation for UUC.
- **Staff & Faculty:** As they continue to serve sacrificially, pray that they would continue to lead and teach with wisdom and vision.

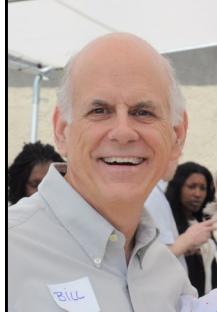
ACCREDITATION UPDATE

We are pleased to announce that the Bureau of Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE) has renewed approval for UUC to operate as a degree granting school in the state of California. This gives UUC state approval for the work that UUC is doing in providing a good education. It was a major task that was accomplished by the hard work of our California staff.

We have also received news that UUC's Self-Evaluation Report for accreditation was reviewed and that we are reasonably prepared to move on in the process! This does not mean that UUC is accredited but it is one major hurdle on the way to accreditation. Accreditation by a government approved agency ensures that an educational institution meets certain standards and is now required in the State of California for degree granting institutions. If we are successful this will be a great accomplishment and will bring greater credibility to UUC's work. We invite you to pray for the staff during this long and difficult process.

MEET BILL DITEWIG, VP of Operations & COO

Mr. Bill Ditewig is one of our newest staff members, however, he is not new to Union. He has served as a past board member and more recently during 2013-2014 before coming onto staff. He was named the new Vice President of Operations and Chief Operating Officer (COO). Dr. Son Nguyen, who previously held that role, was appointed the new Senior Vice President and Global Strategist.



Bill has a wealth of experience that he brings to leadership at Union. In his most recent role, he was the Minister of Discipleship and Missions at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Santa Ana, California. Prior to that role he has served in leadership capacities in various internationally respected organizations including InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and the Lausanne Movement.

As COO, Bill will lead the operations of UUC and UUI in order to maximize our effectiveness as we seek to accomplish our mission. We welcome Bill and his leadership at Union. We hope that you will have an opportunity to meet him.

GOOD NEWS

We are pleased to announce that we have recently received a number of major gifts to UUC by supporters. One was by First Fruit, Inc. for a \$15,000 matching-grant installment of a \$45,000 grant. We also received a \$40,000 matching donation by an anonymous individual donor. Finally, we received news of a \$37,500 grant by friends of our ministry who have chosen to remain anonymous.

We give God praise for the great news of major supporters. Their

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partnership in our ministry is an encouragement to our Union family and allows us to continue in the work that we are doing! However, we are in need of more partners in this work. Please consider your partnership by your regular giving and support!

PARTNER WITH UNION

Easter is a season in the church when we celebrate the life-giving choice that God made to be *for us* in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This Good News is why our students and alumni all over the world work faithfully in their communities. They work for peace and justice and work to bring people into relationship with Jesus Christ.

UUC and UUI are committed to the work of peace and justice as we work to provide the access to education for those in the most difficult situations around the world. Please consider supporting our work by investing in us! We would gladly accept donations of time, money, and other forms of support. Contact us if you're interested in making an important investment and impacting lives.



DEVOTION: "Maybe She Had It Figured Out"

By Dale Sewall, President



"She said, 'Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom.'" (Matthew 20:21)

I usually think of Jesus traveling around with his 12 disciples, gathering crowds large and small, and interacting with individuals as they cross his path. I think of the 12 disciples as the ones who most consistently hear his teachings and witness his actions.

So the sudden appearance of the mother of James and John in Matthew 20:20-22 is a little surprising. Where did she come from? How long has she been there? Matthew has not mentioned the family of James and John since their call to follow Jesus in chapter 4. And in that story Matthew mentioned their father but not their mother.

Now here she is, appearing right after Jesus again tells the 12 disciples that he will be betrayed, condemned, mocked, flogged and crucified, and on the third day be raised to life.

Usually her request in behalf of her sons is treated by Bible commentators as insensitive, inappropriate and selfish. The commentators assume she is requesting a place of high privilege for her sons. That is also how the other 10 disciples react when they hear about her request. "They were indignant" Matthew says. And Jesus has to tell them again that being great in the kingdom of God is not about having privilege and exercising authority over people, but rather about being a servant to others in imitation of Jesus, who gives his life as a ransom for many.

But what if she had been with Jesus and his disciples for a long time, listening, learning, comprehending, understanding? Women had no place in the competition for power in the culture of Jesus' time. And through their own life experience, women often had a better understanding of injustice and suffering. She might have had better "ears to hear" the words of Jesus than the men around her.

Read the rest of the devotion on our website!