



From Generation to Generation: 50 Years of Faithfulness

Psalm 78:1-8 | Mark Foreman, Ryan Pfeiffer | September 20, 2026

Introduction (Ryan)

- Fifty years ago, a small group believed God for something they'd never fully see finished.
- They gathered in a little one room schoolhouse building in Encinitas then for years in the YMCA then to what became Encinitas City Hall on Vulcan, then San Dieguito High School, then Ralph's shopping center on Avenida Encinas in Carlsbad and then finally here.
- *Psalm 78:5-7 read in full*
- Observation: four generations named in three verses — ancestors, children, children yet to be born, and the next generation. Not just memory — a relay.
- A 50th anniversary is a relay checkpoint: look back to say thank You, look forward to hand off the baton.
- Preview the four movements: teaching, know, tell, trust.

1 — "He Decreed": The Word of God (Mark)

My people, hear my teaching;

listen to the words of my mouth.

²*I will open my mouth with a parable;*

I will utter hidden things, things from of old—

- When Jan and I came to North Coast Calvary in 91 (35 yrs ago), what attracted us to this church was it's emphasis on the Word of God. We had visited a couple of times to teach in the late 70's when it was at the YMCA. And I knew and respected Ed Smith the Pastor.
- Fifty years of history = one thing holding steady while everything else changed—the Word.
- Danger: celebrating the wrong foundation (a founder, a building, a great Sunday).
- Matthew 24:35 — heaven and earth will pass away, His words will not.
- Never sought to grow big, never sought—faithfully teach Word of God.
- Land it: the church lasted because it was built on something that doesn't move.

* The first generation was looking for a solid foundation. Out of the turbulent 60's we had seen 3 assassinations, an controversial war, a moral rebellion of sex and drugs. The Yardbirds hit song, "Live for today." Was the modo. We trusted no one but ourselves. Original deconstructionists.

But what the hippie generation found was not just solid footing in the word of God. It wasn't simply trusting that there was a God. It wasn't simply trusting that he was the maker. It wasn't simply trusting that Jesus came and died and rose again. It wasn't simply trusting that I could be born again. It was trusting that Jesus loved me at my ugliest—and would never leave me. That was our core reality. But trusting in Jesus who loved us at our worst.

We were Mary Magdalene, we were Zacharias in the tree, we were doubting Thomas, we were Peter who denied Jesus and were being asked "Do you love me?" And we loved Jesus and trusted his Word.

2 — "So the Next Generation Would Know": Every Generation Needs Their Own Revival

*things we have heard and known,
things our ancestors have told us.*

*⁴ We will not hide them from their descendants;
we will tell the next generation
the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord,
his power, and the wonders he has done*

- We all went home and told our parents, brothers and sisters and ultimately the next generation.
- Danger: a generation that knows the songs but has never met the Author.
- We're always one generation from extinction. The next generation needs to know.
- Every generation needs a fresh, personal encounter — not a recycled version of what God did decades ago.

* The biggest danger of American culture is independent "Meism." We can just have our own personal salvation we need to share and especially with our children.

So with all of our facilities we only became as big as the children's ministry could handle.

- Baptism.
- **Recently in Europe, so impressed with the buildings that took 3-4 generations to build. Monarch butterflies 3-4 generations to fly from Central Mexico to Ottawa Canada. Being a 3-4 generation church is critical to the health.**
- **Baptism**

How the Relay Works

- **Solar Tracking:** Monarchs look at the position of the sun relative to the horizon to maintain a southward heading. Each generation trusting the Word of God—that he personally loves you.

TRANSITION (*Ryan*). What we're doing here also applies for you personally...

What are the stories you need to share with others? Kids, friends, whoever...

- What's a story of God's faithfulness to you?
- Is it your coming to faith story?
- Is it a moment where God broke through?
- Is it a season God carried you through?

ILLUS. Sharing with/ kids the story of what God did to bring us into our home.

1. My son asked by an atheist at school... how have you experienced God?
2. When facing fears kids remind ea/ other what God has done for our family.

The Bible teaches us to remember and share God's faithfulness so that every generation will know him and experience renewal.

EVERY GENERATION. 7 Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

Remembering what God's done inspires our faith for what God's going to do!

NLT puts it this way... So each generation should set its hope anew on God...

Every generation faces its own unique challenges and crises...

- Truth: Relativism and radical individualism + social media.
- Technology: Rapid advances in AI that raise urgent concerns.
- Identity: Our cultures redefinition of sexuality and identity... to be human.

Every generation needs a fresh move of God... Because... Every generation needs a witness...

As good as what God has done is... the best is still yet to come...

Isa 43:18 "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. 19 See, I am doing a new thing!

In other words... God's best is not behind us!

We need fresh faith/ hope for the new thing God is doing today/ tomorrow.

FIRST- What is God doing today that we need faith for?

- God is leading us to pray together.

A. T. Pierson- There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in united prayer.

1. Next week we have our All Church Prayer Week.
 2. Join us in the morning. (Interrupt your normal schedule)
 3. Bring family/ kids/ friends Weds night!
 4. Encounter Nite, Nov 8th. Front Wave Arena— Biggest one yet!
 5. This will likely be the biggest prayer gathering in North County history.
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2. God is leading us beyond our church campus into the community.
 - Building on our past- a Church Without Walls...
 - Strong Families... Serve Day... Mexico home-build... Guatemala... beyond.
 - We need faith to allow our light to shine beyond- safety of our home/ church

SECOND- What do we need hope for as we look to the future.

What kind of church and what kind of people do I see us becoming?

**I see people coming to faith every weekend.
I see lines of people waiting to be baptized
I see prodigals returning and families re-united**

**I see marriages strengthened
I see acts of mercy stirring our city with Gods love
I see disciples making disciples**

**I see families on mission together
I see revival on school campuses..
I see people talking about Jesus in the grocery store, check out line, soccer field sidelines, the classroom, the office,
even the bars**

**I see strongholds breaking and darkness retreating.
I see Satan falling like lightening...
I see the best days are ahead for the Church.**

**I see renewal in every generation...
I believe our best days are ahead as the Church.**

Not cuz the challenges are smaller— because Jesus's still building his church.

Not because we are better than the previous generation but because Jesus is returning!