



April 2011

**From the Desk of
Rev. Chuck**

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Dear Friends,

I've just returned from meetings at Unity Village where I have served on the Field Licensing Committee of the Association of Unity Churches International for the last three years. It's always nice to visit Unity and touch base with old friends and co-workers at Silent Unity.

This trip was bitter-sweet because I took my youngest son, Robert, to the airport for his training and deployment to Afghanistan. He is stationed at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha. It was also my last meeting as a mentor on the Field Licensing Committee. The lady I was mentoring, Medora Gordon, graduated the program and will be ordained in her church at Unity of Marin Easter weekend. Endings and beginnings are a part of life. We can't have one without the other. It is part of the creative life flow that surrounds and impacts us all.

While waiting to board my flight back to Bakersfield I overheard a conversation between a couple as they talked about the "End Times." That time written about in the Book of Revelation. I couldn't help but just smile as they spoke of the doom and gloom of what is going on in the world today and we need to get ready because the end is near.

The reality of it all is that the end is always near, but so are the beginnings. I sat there thinking about all the endings in my life and with every ending there was always a new beginning. Sometimes the endings were not pleasant ones and I fought them only to realize later that something better was on its way. Endings can be scary because we don't know what lies ahead. All we can see is what we are focused on in that moment-loss! Then there are endings we look forward to like the end of winter as we anticipate spring and all her beauty.

Whatever challenge, situation, condition, problem, issue, or experience you may be having you will move through it. It will come to an end and then you'll be facing a new beginning. And through all of it you are never alone. We forget that sometimes. But the truth is that we are all part of a vast creative life force always in flux, changing, pulsating, renewing itself and expanding. That creative life force is what we call God. And because we are a part of God, Jesus taught that God knows our needs before we even ask. Therefore, if you are facing an ending ask for guidance, ask for the insight you need to help yourself move into a new beginning. God knows your need and is ready with an answer.

Gandhi once said, "God speaks to us every day only we don't know how to listen." And Jesus was very clear on this point as he instructed the people of his day not to pray in public but to go within themselves and shut the door and pray to God who was in secret. It was there that we would receive the information meant for us. And let's not forget the Psalmist when he wrote, "Be still and know that I am God."

KD has is facing another operation, her fifth in 18 months. Each one is an ending and also a beginning. Knowing that she is connected to a power greater than herself she has moved forward with renewed courage and strength to each new beginning leaving behind what was. As Jesus said the man who wanted to follow him, "Let the dead bury the dead." The past is just that, the past-can't change it, can't control it so leave it to itself.

So what are we to do? Embrace the ending you are facing and give thanks for what it is giving you-an opportunity for change, growth, and a new beginning. It may be a physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual ending taking place in your life, but right behind it will come a new beginning, a new insight, a new opportunity.

Join me during this springtime to remember that just as the earth ends one cycle another is beginning. And so it is with you!