

“For me, the problem with the *prayer of the heart* is not that it’s so difficult, but that it’s so lonely. I need someone to walk with me.”

A conference participate in 2010



DR. STEVE VARVIS

A Church historian and Presbyterian elder, Varvis teaches at Fresno Pacific University. A specialist in ancient and medieval spirituality, Varvis gathers together the gifts of the whole church--Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Protestant--for a robust spirituality and Christian witness in this Modern/ Postmodern world.

DR. CHRIS ERDMAN

Pastor, teacher, and writer. Author of several books, including "Countdown to Sunday: A Daily Guide for Those Who Dare to Preach." His recent sabbatical carried him to pray among the Orthodox in Egypt, the Celtic Christians of Iona, Scotland, the Anglo-Catholics in Oxford, England, and the Benedictine Camaldolese of Big Sur.

**UNIVERSITY
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

Friday February 18 - Saturday,
February 19, 2011.

A \$35 pre-registration fee includes refreshments, and lunch on Saturday. Please help us plan the lunch and refreshments by pre-registering through the church office. (\$45 the day of conference)

To pre-register, mail a check to the church office: 1776 E. Roberts Avenue.
Fresno, CA 93710. 559.439.8807

Directions: Halfway between Barstow and Bullard on Cedar Avenue, just

FATHER ROBERT HALE

Fr. Hale began life in Denver, Colorado, born into a dedicated Episcopalian family. He attended Pomona College of the Claremont Colleges, intending to enter the Episcopal ministry and monastic life. But in his third year, as a religion major, he became a Roman Catholic, and right after graduation joined the fledgling New Camaldoli Hermitage in Big Sur, California. He has studied theology and spirituality in Rome at the International Benedictine College and also at St. John's University, completing his Ph.D. at Fordham University. He has taught spirituality in Rome, and at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, where he helped found the Camaldolese House of Studies. Having served as Prior at New Camaldoli for twelve years, he is now the Oblate master. As a young man he began to pray the Jesus Prayer. It has remained a central spiritual practice for him over the decades.

PRAYER
OF THE HEART



AN URBAN RETREAT 2011

At the center of human life is the longing of the heart for God. But in these days of turbulence and distraction, so many other things often overwhelm this deep, inner longing. The busyness of life distracts us from the life of prayer that is life's center.



THE ART OF SPIRITUAL FRIENDSHIP

Living an alert spiritual life is demanding; no one can go it alone. And in today's world, we are hungry for meaningful personal intimacy. Friendships not only provide us with companionship, they keep us grounded, and give us guidance along the way. This year's conference will focus on St. Aelred of Rievaulx and will explore biblical and historical witnesses to the gift friendship can be to the spirit. David and Jonathan, Mary and Elizabeth, and nearer our time, JRR Tolkien and CS Lewis show us ways of joining together as soul friends as we walk the way of Christ in challenging times.

Through a combination of talks, spiritual exercises, and circle conversations, we will explore the art of spiritual friendship for active Christians seeking spiritual intimacy, focus, and clarity in the midst of their daily and often distracting lives.

MONASTERY BOOKSHOP

Books, candles, icons, and other handcrafts from around the world will be available for purchase from the New Camaldoli Hermitage bookshop before and after all sessions.

SCHEDULE

FRI. EVE	6:30 PM	BOOKSHOP OPEN, GATHER/REGISTRATION
	7:15PM TO 8:45PM	"SPIRITUAL FRIENDSHIP IN THE BIBLE" FR. ROBERT HALE MEDITATION EXERCISE
SAT. MORN	8:30 AM	BOOKSHOP OPEN, CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
	9:00 AM	MORNING PRAYER "PRAYING OUR FRIENDSHIP IN CHRIST" FR. HALE TABLE TALK MEDITATION EXERCISE
	10:30 AM	BREAK, BOOKSHOP OPEN
	10:45 AM	"HOW THE SOUL PROGRESSES IN LOVE" DR. VARVIS TABLE TALK
NOON	12:00 PM	BOOKSHOP OPEN, LUNCH (PROVIDED)
	12:45 PM	MIDDAY PRAYER "ST AELRED ON SPIRITUAL FRIENDSHIP" FR. HALE TABLE TALK
SAT. AFTER -NOON	2:00PM TO 3:15PM	"SPIRITUAL FRIENDSHIP IN OUR DAILY LIFE" DR. ERDMAN BOOKSHOP OPEN