

# Community Christian Center



The Word  
Fellowship  
Prayer

## The Good Tidings Newsletter

A Report on the Revival at CCC

JANUARY, 2015

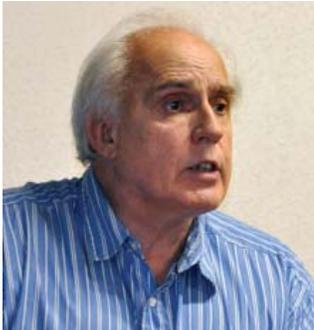
ERIC GIORGIO, PASTOR

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### Pastor's Corner

This month featuring Assistant Pastor Mike Stephens

Do you know that you are always on the verge of a miracle?



Whatever your condition, plight or problem, turn it over to the King! He is the God of all flesh and cares for you. Consider these words of Jesus: "You shall see greater things than this... Come and see." We may say, "How do you know me?" God sees us. Herein is love... He gave His Son.

The enemy will come but God has girded you for the battle. Seek first the kingdom; your Father knows your need. Thanks be to God for his INEXPRESSIBLE GIFT! God himself is the biggest giver. There is a balm in Gilead who makes the wounded whole. He humbled himself - he forsook his glory to redeem us. God came to save the world... He was in Christ (in the baby born in Bethlehem) reconciling the world to himself. From the glory of eons past, he came out of eternity and walked among us. THE LAMB slain from the foundation of the world. I AM the bread of life. God's heart is for the salvation of the world.

This gift saves, heals, delivers, restores. Fear not, he is Jehovah Shama, the God who is there. From the beginning, this gift was given to die, and we died with him. "For as by one man's offense death reigned... much more (MUCH MORE) they which receive abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ" - Romans 5:17.

This gift, of which the prophet Zechariah spoke, was "a fountain opened in Israel" - Zechariah 13:1 - for the salvation of many. By the blood that was shed, men can be saved, born from above. Eve was formed from a rib taken from Adam's side which was then closed up, and she was given to Adam as a bride. The church was formed from the side of Christ which was also opened, but never sealed. By Isaiah the Holy Spirit exhorts us "Look to the Rock from whence you were hewn." We Christians are the bride of Christ, given by the Father to the Son. John testified of Him... we have all received grace upon grace - gift heaped upon gift.

It is not in a man to order his steps... yet before you were born the Lamb knew you. The Holy Spirit breaks our heart and then Jesus pours in the love of God (shed abroad in our hearts). Then you are able to love others and walk in those works which God has ordained that you should walk in. God had prepared ALL things. There is a divine plan.

We are in a spiritual fight, but not because God doesn't love you. Hold the course, looking unto Jesus. He will never forsake you. We have the victory because God so loved the world. No gift was ever more precious. Earthly kings and kingdoms will all pass away... wait on the Lord... pray and don't quit... worship

and rejoice! Thank God for his unspeakable gift.

Jesus Christ is Lord: With God nothing shall be impossible. For the battle is the Lord's and he has won it! Mark 9:23 - All things are possible to them that believe.

Pastor Mike Stephens

(Taken from a message given at the new CCC Baldwin Park on December 14, 2014)

Note: CCC has planted another church - this one is CCC Baldwin Park under the pastorship of Pastor Mike and Linda Stephens. They meet Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. at Christ Extended Church, in Baldwin Park.



The first Sunday service at CCC Baldwin Park

### Children's Christmas Sing-a-Long Program



### The Light of Day

by Donald B.

Living behind the dark side, and once you go that far you may never see the Light of day again. The only way you would be able to see the Light of day is having God in your everyday life and that's the only way you will get through struggles.

# NEWS FLASHES!

by CCC's Roving Reporter, Debbie Shaw  
Happy New Years, CCC:

✍️ As we welcome in 2015 and reflect back on the year 2014, let us be thankful for the Lord's mercy and kindness. Lord, we are especially thankful for the wonderful rain. Jeremiah 14:22 states, *Do any of the worthless idols of the nations bring rain? Do the skies themselves send down showers? No, it is you, Lord our God. Therefore our hope is in you, for you are the one who does all this.* NIV Another blessing is the lower gas prices!

✍️ In the US New Years is celebrated in many different ways, for example, parties, church gatherings, at home with family and friends, kissing our loved ones at midnight, and etc. In Spain they eat 12 grapes - one eaten at each second of the countdown to midnight. In Greece, people hang an onion on their doors signifying rebirth. In Ireland they have a superstition that if you have a visitor on the 31st if it is a handsome man, your year will bring good fortune, if it's a redheaded woman, she will bring a lot of trouble.

✍️ In 45 AD Julius Caesar declared January 1st as New Years Day. Many European countries have different dates for New Years celebration. In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII designated January, 1 as New Years Day. In 1752 England and the colonies in America moved New Years Day from March to January 1st. January 1, 1890, was the first Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena. On December 31, 1907, the first New Years Eve ball was dropped in New York City.

✍️ Many New Years resolutions are made, resolution means a decision as to future action, to change, transform, make up a person's mind. The biggest factor in keeping a resolution is making a commitment and keeping it - after three weeks it becomes a habit. From my own experience I know this is true. Have a blessed and prosperous 2015.

Did you know?

✍️ The eagle is a powerful bird. There are only two species in North America - the bald eagle and the golden eagle. The bald eagle appears on the seal of the United States. The bald eagle is found only in North America. Job 39:27-30 describes the eagle as it makes its nest on high and spies out its prey from afar - as much as a mile away. Their eyesight is six times better than that of a human. They soar to great heights and swoop to get their prey. An eagle's strong and dagger-sharp talons are its weapons and are as large as a man's hand. Their gliding and flapping speed range is 35-43mph with a dive speed of 75-99mph. Their wingspan is approximately 6 to 7.5 feet and they weigh between 6.6 and 13.9 pounds. And to think Benjamin Franklin wanted to make the turkey our national bird.



In Exodus 19:34 the Lord told Moses to tell the house of Jacob and children of Israel, "You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagle's wings and brought you to myself." NKV

✍️ Person of the month: John Galbreath, CCC's very capable van driver. John also heads the 12 Step Program on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.

He was adopted as a baby, only 2 days old, by a Christian couple. He said that the greatest gift a child can receive when natural parents cannot take care of them is adoption.

John was a Navy Seal for 5 1/2 years serving in various places. He speaks Spanish. John tells an interesting story while serving as a Navy Seal, he said that during one seven month long mission: "I wore panty hose." (mmm!) But it was because his duty called him to be in infested waters and the panty hose were

the only things that would keep the leeches away!!

At one time John rode his motorcycle with the Hell's Angels.

John has six children, three boys and three girls. By faith he believes they all will one day serve the Lord!!



Another interesting fact is that John is an aspiring thespian and does extra work with the studios in Hollywood. Come out and see the skit, "Trash Bags" on Sunday morning Jan. 18th as he has a role in it.

John is a wonderful asset to the church and we are thankful he is a part of our church family.

His favorite Bible verse is John 3:16 *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

✍️ Bit of Humor:

Heard sixty years ago: "The fast food restaurant is convenient for a quick meal, but doubtful the concept will catch on."

Bumper Sticker: Honk if you love Jesus. Text while driving if you want to meet Him!

✍️ I thank you, Mike Paraspolo, for doing such a great job as emcee for our Christmas White Elephant party.

✍️ Pastor Brian, Faith Baptist Church Arlington, Tenn, spoke on perseverance and finishing strong in our walk with the Lord.

As of Caleb in Joshua 14:6-15,

Caleb's commitment Joshua 14:6-8

Caleb's faith Joshua 14:10

Caleb's courage Joshua 14:14

Caleb's victory Joshua 14:13...from a message of Aug 17, 2014.

✍️ Fear is a word mentioned 400 times in the Bible. It is a seed and, if allowed to germinate, will continue to grow. Job said, "What I feared came upon me." -Pastor Walt.

✍️ Grace is for those who try and fail but not for those who fail to try. -Pastor Ken

✍️ So long for now, the next time I write I will be in Arlington, Tennessee for four months. Your Roving Reporter, aka Jr. Scoop. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Romans 16-24.

## CHRISTMAS BANQUET



# Wanamaker Outreach



# Children's Christmas Party



## Kitchen Korner

from the kitchen of *Dee Paraspolo*

If you asked me about my week, I'd give you a few glimpses and a couple highlighted snippets of my week. If I were telling you about my life it would be basically the same; highlighting the more important stories or details. It's no different in the Bible. We get the short version of creation, the short version of the Israelites, and even a short version of Jesus' life. We do not have complete details of any of these events, but we have what we need. Have you ever used your imagination combined with your knowledge of history to fill in some of the particulars of scripture?

I was recently reading in Genesis about Abraham's life - and here I used my imagination and limited knowledge of history - Abraham very well could have been a contemporary of Job. Chronologically, Job is one of the first recorded books of the Bible. (In most chronological orders of scripture, the book of Job is the same time frame as Abraham's life.) I imagine them as contemporaries - not necessarily knowing each other or even having heard of each other - but contemporaries because their lifestyles are very similar to each other. Both were the patriarchs of their families; both were the priests of their families leading their families toward God; both knew and worshipped God; both sacrificed to the One-True-God, and both were tested by God.

Job and his family had homes -- permanent dwelling places. Job lost everything - his home, his family, his wealth, his servants and his health - but we know he maintained his trust in God. Job 1:22 states, "In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong," and Job himself said, "Though He (God) slay me, yet will I trust in Him."

Abraham, lived in tents -- his lack of a permanent dwelling is because he "waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Heb 11:10

As I was reading about Abraham, my imagination turned on. Genesis 22 tells us that God tested Abraham and required him to take his son; his only son, Isaac, and offer Isaac as a sacrifice.

It crossed my mind: Could there have been a conversation in heaven between God and Satan about testing Abraham? If so, that conversation could have mirrored the conversation God and Satan had concerning Job. And the conversation could have gone something like this:

GOD: "From where do you come?"

SATAN: "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."

GOD: "Have you considered My servant Abraham . . . an upright man, one who fears Me and shuns evil?"

SATAN: "Does Abraham fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge around him and blessed him with many possessions and with a son in his old age. Stretch out Your hand and touch this son of promise; ask Abraham to sacrifice this son of promise to You and he will curse You to Your face!"

Genesis 22:1 "Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham..." When we continue to read this chapter, we don't see any whining on Abraham's part. Scripture says Abraham rose early. Abraham saddled the donkey. Abraham split the wood for the burnt offering. Abraham took two servants and Isaac with him. Abraham obeyed God, knowing that God had promised that through Isaac all the nations of the earth would be blessed. He didn't know how God would do it, he just knew that God had always kept His promises and He would keep this promise too.

Abraham, Isaac and the two servants arrived at the foot of Mt Moriah. The servants were left to wait and Abraham and Isaac went on to worship and sacrifice. God, who knows the end from

the beginning; the God who knows everything did not need to test Abraham for His own sake, but for Abraham's sake (or, using my imagination, maybe to show Satan that Abraham served the Living God out of true love and not because of possession or even because of his precious, promised son). God, who knows all things, knew a ram would need to be tangled in a bramble bush near the sacrifice site. He also silenced the ram until the appropriate moment; because God knew Abraham would completely and totally trust Him and obey Him. The test reassured Abraham that God -- the God who called him many years before and had faithfully led him -- was faithful to compete all He had promised

Things haven't changed throughout the millenniums. Satan still condemns us. God still loves and protects us. And we still go through trials and tests. Oftentimes those tests are called "life." We work and lose a job. We move knowing only that there is nothing left where we were. We love and lose the loved one. We are human and some of our trials are self-made; like some of Abraham's, as you read his life's story. Yet like Abraham we continue to trust and be led by God. Our responsibility is to trust God and to know that He is the same yesterday, today and forever. James tells us to "count it all joy when we fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of our faith produces patience. . . and to let patience have its perfect work, that we may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing." (James 1:2-3)

### *A Light in the Darkness*

Rev 1:20 *The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in My right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.*

The glorified, resurrected Jesus holds the stars (angels) in His right hand and walks among the lampstands (churches). CCC has an angel who is in the right hand of Jesus. He does God's bidding, but we do not talk to angels directly, usually, (cults have risen up who do this and have been deceived - remember Satan can appear as an angel of light). But we most certainly talk to our Jesus, who walks among us in our blessed CCC.

It is wonderful to know that we are a lampstand or a light to the dark world around us. May we shine ever so brightly with God's love, hope, peace, and message of salvation in 2015. Father God, we pray that thousands upon thousands be saved, healed, set free, and delivered through God's work in our church and that all of us will be enabled and anointed to use our God-given talents and abilities to bless others mightily. God bless you CCC and all who read this.

## Happy New Year!

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