

Community Christian Center



The Word
Fellowship
Prayer

The Good Tidings Newsletter

A Report on the Revival at CCC

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ERIC GIORGIO, PASTOR

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Pastor's Corner

This month featuring Assistant Pastor Dustin Paraspolo

What Is This Love?

February, known as the 'love month' is highlighted by one day in that month. The history of Valentine's Day is a little fuzzy but it does seem to link back to a Catholic saint named St. Valentine. The problem is research shows there are actually three St. Valentine's, one a priest, one a bishop, and little is known about the third, but all were martyrs. In 469 A.D., Pope Gelasius declared Feb. 14 a day to honor St. Valentine, one of these three men. The following is what is known about these three men.



One legend says that a Roman emperor banned soldiers from marrying in the third century, but St. Valentine took issue with this. He became an advocate for soldiers and was executed as a result of his outspokenness.

Another legend says St. Valentine was executed for his beliefs in Christianity and just before he died, he left a farewell note for a loved one and signed it "From Your Valentine."

A conventional and widely accepted belief about the holiday itself is that Valentine's Day grew out of a Middle Ages tradition of celebrating Feb. 14 as the day "the birds began to pair."

History.com notes that February has long been associated with being a month of love, and Feb. 15 was celebrated in ancient times as a fertility festival. Regardless of how it got here, it's definitely a widely celebrated holiday. Did you know: About 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are exchanged in US each year. That's the largest seasonal card-sending occasion of the year, next to Christmas. More than 36 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate are sold for Valentine's Day each year. About 8 billion candy hearts will be produced this year; that's enough candy to stretch from Rome, Italy to Valentine, Arizona 20 times and back again. Worldwide, over 50 million roses are given for Valentine's Day each year.

What is this love that so many would spend so much time and money to let someone know they are loved just one day a year? A lot of folks believe it's a scam, just another way to take advantage of the consumer. Some believe that it's the most romantic day of the year and are willing to wait hours to eat at their favorite restaurants and spend whatever it takes to prove their love. One thing for sure Valentine's Day has become very popular and very important to this world.

Some of this day is fun and harmless but to the believer some of this is a little crazy! Is love really just a series of overwhelming feelings and emotions? Believers understand love much different, we see love as everyday actions and sacrifices. We see through human emotion and understand that true love comes from God for God is love. Love is not up for debate, it's not rela-

tive, and it's not a once a year thing. Love is the foundation of a Christian. It is the core character trait and the reason we live. Love is the bond that keeps us connected to our Creator.

What is this love? *Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.* 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NLT The love of God has little to do with feeling but everything to do with commitment, obedience and surrender. Feelings of excitement and inspiration move people, but love changed us all. Love was at the cross of Calvary and has covered a multitude of sins.

This love can make good leaders great. One of our nation's great love stories also starts in February. It's not a romantic novel or one that ended happily ever after but it's one of great conviction and obedience to God. Abraham Lincoln was hated in his day. His love-driven conviction to free the slaves wasn't very popular to say the least. He didn't just send soldiers to war but to a civil war. In other words he didn't just offend the people he served and swore to protect but he declared war against them. He had a 1st Corinthian chapter 13 kind of love. His obedience and dedication to the call of God changed our country forever. I believe that if our country would have continued in its sin against His children we would have lost God's favor that made this great nation. Our history books would be written quite differently. Abraham Lincoln didn't have a mushy feeling of love, no, this was a Godly zeal that can only come from the heart of God.

Jesus' love desired to make all things new, He also was not very popular and that ultimately led to a very young death. Sometimes our love isn't popular, it can cause us sorrow and grief. Sometimes it's His love through us that this world calls hate but God's love perseveres

What is this love that sees through our many faults and short comings? What is this love that forgives us daily and never gives up on us? What is this love that we cannot be separated from?

Your God is so madly in love with you that He took on your sin, He took our place of judgment and died so that we MIGHT be saved. Sometimes love is rejected as many have turned away from God. But whoever would believe in Him will not be condemned to death but will have eternal life.

What is this love to you? What are you going to do with it? I pray it's more than a box of chocolates or a bouquet of flowers. I pray you get a hold of it and never let go. It just might change your circumstance and make you into the person God intends you to be.

During this love month, as you're going crazy to prove your love to the ones you hold dear, keep in mind the One who invented it.

God bless.

NEWS FLASHES!

by CCC's Roving Reporter, *Debbie Shaw*
Happy Valentine's Day, CCC:

✂ Every day people show their love to families and friends through their words and actions. But February 14th is the day we celebrate.

The history of Valentine's Day started in ancient Rome and it honored Juno, who was queen of all the mythological Roman gods and goddesses. Valentine was an early Christian priest who lived in Rome during the third century. In one version of the origins of the holiday, Emperor Claudius II wanted everyone to pray to the Roman gods. Valentine refused to do so and Claudius threw him in jail. While there he fell in love with the blind daughter of a guard. On February 14th Claudius ordered the guard to execute Valentine. Before he was taken away to be killed, he had left a love note for the blind girl. When she opened it a miracle occurred. Her sight returned and she could read the love note that was signed, "from your Valentine."

Valentine's Day is one of the busiest holidays for the Post Office. More than one billion Valentines are given each year.

Did you know? The most dangerous phrase in the English language is "We've always done it this way."

✂ Gloria Wade is our resident artist. She does lovely work. Ask to see her drawings.

✂ Bit of Humor (LOL) Cloud bank: A place to save money for a rainy day!

The trouble with doing something right the first time is that nobody appreciates how difficult it was.

Dear Pastor, How does God know the good people from the bad people? Do you tell him or does He read it in the newspaper. -Adam, age 6.

✂ Person of the Month is our own Associate Pastor and Evangelist, Mike and his wonderful wife, Linda. They have started a



new work: Community Christ Center of Baldwin Park which meets every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. at Christ Extended Hand.

Mike's vision is to get as many people as possible saved before the coming of the Lord.

Mike has five children and, by faith, he believes they all have received the

Lord as their Savior.

Pastor Mike believes that when he receives a spiritual gift from God, he will always keep it. Right on, Pastor Mike.

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.* NKJV

✂ Congratulations to Tony Berumen who is our new usher.

✂ Thank you to Pastor Dustin, David, Nick and Jesse for the wonderful job they do in the sound booth. Dustin gives full credit to David, Nick and Jesse for their dependable service to the church people and our Lord.

✂ Congratulations to Lucy. She was baptized at a local Christian Korean Church January 9th.

✂ Rick Hoover's numbers with regard to liver cancer are lower than previous test results. Praise the Lord!

✂ How powerful are jet engines In May, 2000, a chartered jet carrying the New York Knicks basketball team taxied too close to a line of cars parked on the tarmac. The blast from the taxiing jet flipped head coach Jeff Van Gundy's car into the air and over three other cars completely demolishing it. Wow!

✂ On Wednesday, Jan 24th, Pastor Al and Pastor Mike

were ministering at the L.A. Mission when they saw a man who didn't seem like he belonged in the mission, and so Pastor Al went over to talk to him. The man told him that he had been laid off from his job four years ago and he had to come to the Mission to eat because he had no money left. He was destitute. It was then time for the sermon to be given. At the end of it this man became so excited, saying as he pointed to his cell phone, "Look! Look!" He went running up to the front and told everyone that he had received a text from his old job that said he had just been rehired. Praise God! Our God is so merciful and He is our provider.

Thank God for the L.A. Mission because it provides food, shelter and the Word of God to people in need.

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Heb 4:16
God bless Pastor Al and Pastor Mike for all they do for God.

✂ 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.

Rejoice and Mourn

by *Sharon Johnson*

Have you ever thought about your role in the Kingdom of God? Have you seen the great things others have done or are doing and maybe feel a little bit of envy? I have. I have felt jealous of others who have things that I don't have, especially a family. Maybe that is not what you envy. Maybe you envy the job, talent, money, position, personality, etc. of those around you. There have been times I have felt that others may be jealous of me for something I am doing. But they forget that all gifts, talents and abilities come from God. Would they chide God? I am guilty too. All this is human, but not Godly or what God wants for us. We are to be grateful for everything He gives us, whether it appears to be a little or a lot. We are not to compare ourselves with others. God knows what is best for each of us.

I have learned a way to get around those negative feelings. It is from the Word of God so it has power behind it. It is truth. It is Romans 12:15. *Rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn.*

When jealousy starts in me, I remember that verse and inwardly start to rejoice for that person. I may congratulate them or compliment them. And I thank God for their blessings and I pray that God continues to give them good things. After doing this for a while, I feel genuine happiness and love for them. I no longer am cursed with jealousy and I share with them their good fortune and blessings. In a way, I become a part of it. This way of handling envy has become very sweet to me. God always gives us a way out.

Remember: *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.* 1 Cor 13:4 NIV

The second part of the verse is to "mourn with those who mourn." Most of the time we understand why a person is grieving. But there are times when we don't understand or don't feel anything. If someone is grieving, the Word says to grieve with them. This has helped me too. When you start praying for someone and feeling God's compassion for them, you are helping them. You are also participating in God's love.

God's Word works. I hope these truths help you as they have helped me. Love and compassion feel infinitely better than jealousy and coldheartedness. God bless you, CCC, as we all grow in grace and love.

You are loved by God. You are no less loved by Him when you are at your worst than when you are at your best. - Bayless Conley

Trash Bags Skit

CCC's Drama Club gave an encore performance of the Trash Bags Skit last month. The actors again were excellent and it was great to see the audience clapping and cheering. At the end, Pastor Eric gave a chance for the congregation to respond to the call to put down the burden of "trash" in their lives - many people raised their hands. If you are interested in using your talents to further the Kingdom of God in drama, please see Mike Paraspolo. It's a lot of fun.



In January, CCC was rocked by the outstanding young dancers, singers and musicians of the Asante Ministry. These children are refugees from Rwanda and other war torn African countries and they serve as ambassadors for their friends back home who are desperately in need of support and education. The energetic children's ages are from 6 to 16 and they are enormously talented. They received several well-earned standing ovations. If you wish to get more information about this wonderful ministry go to www.asanteministries.org on the web.



Ethel and Me

by Sharon Johnson

Ethel Waters played a role in my salvation. (She was the second African American woman to be nominated for an Oscar which was for the movie "Pinky".)

As a very young child I was watching an Academy Awards program where she appeared. With a beautifully warm and dazzling smile she said, "I want to thank my best friend, Jesus." She said it with such love and emotion that it made a lasting impression on me...and I found out Jesus could be your friend.

She was inducted into the Christian Music Hall of Fame in 2007.

"I am somebody cause God don't make no junk." — Ethel Waters

It may sound crazy, because at my age, it has been a very long time since I was beautiful, but when I love others I feel truly beautiful inside. Dislike makes me feel ugly – God's love makes me feel beautiful.

-Sharon Johnson

WARNING: The Word of God will be hazardous to illness.

And by His stripes we are healed. Isaiah 53:5 NKJV

Some humor: During an Easter service, as the pastor and choir processed silently down the aisle carrying lighted candles, a small preschool boy became excited and burst out singing, "Happy birthday to you."

CCC CANDID SHOTS



Sunday School Class - led by Pastor Al Olguin. Meets every Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m.



Remembering Rose Taylor

Jan 21, 1935 - Jan 6, 2015

Rose Taylor has been a beloved member of CCC for several years. She is the mother of Angel Georgeovich, and mother-in-law of Elder Joe Georgeovich, grandmother to Jennifer, Sabrina and Shelby, and great grandmother to little Emma. She was also such a loving friend to everyone at CCC. She was very special to each one of us. She would hug you and make you feel so good. She was an encourager and powerful witness of Jesus Christ. At the well-attended memorial services many people spoke about how kind, loving, and generous she was. She was a wonderful example of caring for others and reaching out to them.



She had stated she was ready to go home and she did so without any suffering or lingering pain. She will be sorely missed but, as Christians, we know being separated in this way is only temporary.

We pray for the God of all comfort to be with Rose's family at this time.

Roads of Success Walks in Favor in Closed Countries

From charismanews.com - a website of *Charisma Magazine*

Written by *Jessilyn Justice*

When Christian persecution dominates headlines, one Californian nonprofit is going behind the front lines in the Middle East to aid women and children in need.

Roads of Success is a team-oriented operation that travels around the world to bring hope to the hopeless, fighting for refugees as well as human and women's rights by incorporating medical attention and ministry.

ROS works primarily with persecuted minorities in the Middle East—Ysidis and Christians.

"We've been told (that) insurgents will go into homes, give them a choice to pay a huge amount (of money) to remain free (or they can) flee," says **ROS Founder Yvette Isaac**.

Recently, they've landed in camps in Dohuk and Erbil, Iraq, using worship to connect to the refugees. According to their website, they were able to aid more than 600 refugee families in Iraq last year.

By using songs, team members enable refugees to "realize how valuable they are and how much God loves them," Isaac says. "They begin to understand they have value in the eyes of God. The team wiped many tears of the people, hugging them."

ROS works with government officials to conduct workshops, and in some cases has actually received requests to help create healing workshops for traumatized women and children, provide practical humanitarian aid, as well as legal advice, Isaac says.

Because of the practicality of their ministry, Isaac says, Kurdish officials in particular have been open to ROS practices; they've even been open to prayer through a scientific perspective.

But the road ahead is rocky. With the Islamic State ramping up acts of terror, more and more Middle Eastern Christians are fleeing for their lives, and ROS has situated itself to offer the aid necessary.



Editor's Note: It has been such a privilege to participate in this ministry that provides needed articles to the refugees in Iraq. We are still collecting blankets, food, clothing, and etc. for the next shipment. The collection box is in the Fellowship Hall. Above picture was taken when Yvette Isaac spoke at CCC in March of 2014.

Penmanship

by *Jim Conrad*

Is the written word worth reading? What a wonderful gift of God it is. Some say, "I am a person of action and have no time to read." What about the instructions on how to do the actions? Somewhere in 'Electronic Land' is information about practically everything and everybody.

One boy was on track to live in poverty and obscurity until he began to read books. With reluctance at first, he became aware that there was life beyond his life and he found it in the reading. Dr. Ben Carson came out of the black ghetto of Detroit after he discovered a way, through academia, to do so and he became a world famous pediatric brain surgeon saving thousands of baby's lives.

Reading is such a gift and it is a pity when it is neglected. In prisons around this country men are finally stopped in their destructive activities and they have time to read the instructions to getting law degrees and other forms of education. Reading could have kept them out of prison in the first place.

Reading is a gift of God yet it has been perverted to snare unwary people into imaginations and selfishness as in the Garden of Eden. Scholarship should always be in balance with Godly endeavors.

Have you read this writing? Does it seem right? Let us promote more reading and even writing with our kids.

And we most definitely should not neglect reading God's book of instructions, the Bible.



Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father. Col 3:16-17

HAPPY Valentine's Day,

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