

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 *Tony Paraspolo*

Scriptures

I'm titling this article, "Scriptures," because I realize that there are many of us Christians who don't read our Bible every day because, somehow, we feel that it's okay to read it only once in a while. I know that it's hard to read it every day, so I've given some scriptures that you can post on your refrigerator; but I know Pastor Ken and Pastor Eric have already given scriptures to you so maybe you have already done this. Having scriptures placed in a prominent place in your home can be of great help, especially if you don't read your Bible every day: at least when you go to your refrigerator, you can take one of these scriptures and apply it to your life so that you may grow in Jesus Christ. You can be fed with both physical and spiritual food.



1 John 1:7-9 ⁷ But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. NKJV

2 John 2-3 ² ...because of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever: ³ Grace, mercy, and peace will be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love. NKJV

1 John 2:20-23 ²⁰ But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things. ²¹ I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth. ²² Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. ²³ Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also. NKJV

1 John 2:27-29 ²⁷ But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him. ²⁸ And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. ²⁹ If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him. NKJV

In 1 John 2:27 talks about us being able to teach ourselves. But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you.

1 John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. NKJV

1 John 3:16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. NKJV

1 John 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. NKJV

1 John 4:6-9 ⁶ We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. ⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. NKJV

1 John 4:17-21 ¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. ¹⁹ We love Him because He first loved us. ²⁰ If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? ²¹ And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also. NKJV

1 John 5:3-5 ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith. ⁵ Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? NKJV

1 John 5:18-21 ¹⁸ We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him. ¹⁹ We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. ²⁰ We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true — even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. ²¹ Dear children, keep yourselves from idols. NIV

Eph 2:8-10 ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. NKJV

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In Ephesians 2:8, it says that it is by grace we are saved. So the little work we do in trying to read our Bible is for our benefit and edification. In verse 9 it says that our salvation is not by works lest anyone should boast. But this is the key scripture: For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared for us that we should walk in them. That means that everything that we do, or already have done was given to us by God. All the things that we do good and well is because we listen to God. So I lift these scriptures up to you in hopes that you won't put them aside as maybe we have done in the past.

We pray that CCC's congregation will get into the habit of reading our Bibles every day. There are no time limits on it but if it's done every day you find out that you go longer and longer and sometimes shorter and shorter, but it will be every day. So may God bless you and keep you and may you turn away from the world and turn to God. Thank you in Jesus' name.

NEWS FLASHES!

by CCC's Roving Reporter, *Debbie Shaw*

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I am writing to you on a beautiful day from the great state of Tennessee.

✂ St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17th honoring Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. He was born in Britain around the year 380 and was raised in a Christian family.

At age 16 he was kidnapped and brought to Ireland where he was a slave. He prayed to God for help. Six years later he escaped. After returning to Britain he had dreams of returning to Ireland and to teach people about God. He went to France to study religion. In 432 the pipe named him Patrick. He became a priest and then a bishop. His dream became true. He returned to Ireland and began preaching. He spent the rest of his life caring for the Irish people. He died on March 17 in the year 461. Later the Catholic church made him a saint. St. Patrick's Day is a fun day celebrated with the wearing of the green, dancing the Irish jig, parades, and how can we forget corned beef and cabbage.

✂ Did you know...? Airlines travel has come a long way – some planes are able to carry a lot of people, such as Airbus A389 which can hold a maximum of 850 passengers!

✂ Courage is born at the point where God's grace and human effort intersect.

✂ Quilting is cutting material in small pieces and sewing them back together – making a beautiful pattern. (Our Roving Reporter, Debbie, makes beautiful quilts. - Editor)

✂ There is no future in any job. The future lies in the person who holds the job.

✂ The rose is the National Flower of the United States.

✂ Person of the Month: Pastor Tony Paraspolo. Pastor Tony has been our faithful Associate Pastor for 26 years. His vision is to see people grow in Christ so they will have a firm foundation in Christ and love for Him.



Tony has five children. He is very pleased that all are serving the Lord.

When Pastor Tony came to California from New York, he was a downtrodden sinner without hope, and even had suicidal thoughts. But then he met his Lord and Savior. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow. In New York, Tony had been a very neglectful father, but after he was saved, his life was completely turned around. He has a great love for family

and all people. We thank you, Pastor Tony, for your ministry. His favorite Bible verse is Proverbs 3:5-6 *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.* NKJV

✂ Bit of Humor:

-Most of us get enough exercise pushing our luck.

-Bowling Alley: A place where pen pals meet.

-The pastor's wife asked little Linda if she has a boyfriend.

Linda replied, Nope. I'm like Jesus, I love them all."

-What part of a highway always freezes first? The cold shoulder.

-Jim: "They say an apple a day keeps the doctor away." Jack: "Why stop there? An onion a day will keep everybody away!"

✂ Quotes: God has given us two hands – one to receive and the other to give with. – Reverend Billy Graham

-When I was at the end of my rope, God was holding the other end.

-Do not believe news but only what the word of God says. – Pastor Al Olguin

-Worry is like a rocking chair that goes back and forth and does not get anywhere. – Pastor Walt.

-Just showing up is a big percentage of serving the Lord. – Pastor Ken.

So long for now. Your Roving Reporter, AKA, Jr. Scoop. *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.* Romans 16:20

Rick Hoover

1948 - 2015

Sadly Saying Goodbye to a Longtime Friend

Our beloved Rick Hoover went home to be with the Lord on February 19. He has been CCC's guitar playing praise team leader for well over 20 years. His wife, Kathy, was a back-up singer. He is known for his love of praising the Lord in music and his faithfulness; whenever music was needed Rick and Kathy were there. The music was always anointed and led us into the Spirit. What a blessing he has been.



Rick had a troubled past until he met the Lord. Please read his testimony at our website, communitychristiancenter.org Navigate to the testimonies section and you can read, in his own words, how the Lord changed him miraculously and used his life for God's good purposes ever since.

Rick was very down to earth and loved to laugh and joke. He also loved to ride his motorcycle. One of the songs he led us in a lot was 'We Will Ride' which told about riding white horses with Jesus in the end times. We Christians will ride those horses with Jesus and Rick, someday, maybe soon.

We thank God for gifting us with Rick and all the years of his anointed, faithful service. There are no words to say how much we will miss him. We pray God's love and comfort for Kathy and his family.



Lucy

CCC has been blessed to get to know our friend, Lucy, who has been visiting our church. While attending APU she met Pastor Ken who invited her to our church. She said that a whole new life opened up for her here. She is a friendly, gracious young woman who has the most beautiful smile. She returned to her home in China last month. We pray God blesses her and her family abundantly.



Pastor Mike spoke one Sunday Evening and said, "There's an urgency in the Holy Spirit right now to move us from where we are to where we should be. ...We need to prepare our hearts for the revival that's coming. ...Make Jesus the love of your life."

Miracles come in cans: **I can** do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Phil 4:13 NKJV Pastor Mike quoted Joyce Meyer.



"From the moment you are saved, you are not alone; you have a connection with Heaven." – Pastor Eric.

"You are loved by God. There is a purpose for your life." - Pastor Eric

"The only things we can keep are the things we freely give to God." –C.S. Lewis

Chris Holloway



CCC was delighted to have Chris Holloway bless us in song last month. He is a world class singer. He ministers in Israel and asks us to remember to pray for that country.

Did you know that Wayne Allwine, the voice of Mickey Mouse for 30 years until his death in 2009, was married to Russi Taylor who has been the voice of Minnie Mouse since 1986?

"I Just look at you"

by Sharon Johnson

from the Feb 2008 Good Tidings edition

I had a very difficult December. I am glad it is over. My brand new computer was giving me fits, it kept doing weird things - I use it a lot and couldn't get things done. I eventually had to reinstall a new operating system, which was real scary for me. There was a lot more happening that I can't list here. I felt the only thing that worked in my life was my sweet little doggie, Tootsie Belle, and even she peed on the carpet...she was working all right! I get lonely at that time of year and I didn't know where I was going to spend Christmas because my son had a flood in his house and repair work was being done on it, but I wanted to be with him and my grand kids. Then, on top of that, I felt someone I loved was mad at me and ignoring me. I got the blues real bad then.

One night, I just started crying (a regular pity party) and was red nosed (like Rudolph), had swollen eyes, and was going through the Kleenex like mad. I was a mess. At least I was crying out to the Lord.

When I went to bed that night, I thought about how my problems seem so small in comparison to what God has to deal with in this world – all the violence, greed, hatred, atrocities, and more. I asked Him, "What do you do, Lord, when you have to look at all the ugliness? I know you are love. How can you stand it?" He answered me in my spirit very clearly, "I just look at you."

I was stunned at that answer because I know how much of a mess up I can be and just had been. But then He let me know that, as He looks at the people who love Him; those covered by the blood of Jesus, He is comforted and encouraged. He knows I love Him with all my heart. This humbled me and put things in a different perspective for me. He really is the Comforter.

Everything worked out just fine: No one was terminally mad at me, I got to spend Christmas in Las Vegas with my son and grand kids, and I am writing this on my computer that, by the grace of God, is working well now.

I write it to encourage you, God loves you and you really bless Him (the creator of the universe!) when you return that love; even if you mess up sometimes, like I do.

And like we saw in the New Hebrides revival video tape: we are Jesus' reward for all His suffering. Amazing, isn't it?

Valentine's Day

To celebrate Valentine's Day, CCC had a cake and ice cream party with the men serving the women. Chris Holloway and Ray Algorri helped out. As a community project, Walgreens of Covina, and Jason, their representative, gave all the women a very beautiful bouquet of flowers. Also Becky presented a beautiful scrapbook with pictures of past outreaches and church events to Ron and Elsie Cole who head CCC's outreach ministries.



The Amazing Grace of God

by Sharon Johnson

We know man's first sin in the Garden of Eden separated mankind from relationship with God. God really loves us and has sought to restore us to Himself ever since.

In Leviticus you read about animal sacrifices to atone for sin. The directions for the Jewish priests to perform each sacrifice were very, very intricate and the Levites were required to meticulously follow them. There were rules about which animal was to be sacrificed for different sins, how and where to slaughter them, and then what to do with the different animals. There was special clothing that the priests would wear for different circumstances. The animals had to be perfect – without spot or blemish. The blood of the animals was splashed on the altar and put in basins. If something was done wrong there were consequences, some quite severe. I could go on and on about all they had to do. All of it was required so that sins could be covered. And when one sinned again, another sacrifice was required. Since God cannot have relationship with people who have unforgiven sins, this method allowed Him to bless Israel and be a part of the Israelite's life.

But it didn't work very well at all and the Jewish people eventually turned away from God. But our God is very merciful and still wanted to have a relationship with us. He had to provide another sacrifice – one that was not dependent upon us. He sent His son to earth and He lived a perfect life; He was without spot or blemish. He took the place of all those animals who only temporarily covered one's sins. He took our place on the cross – a perfect sacrifice. He shed all his blood on the cross. He died and rose triumphantly, conquering death and sin for us.

Now, all one has to do is accept Him as Savior and He will become your sacrifice whose blood covers all your sins, allowing you to have a beautifully fulfilling relationship with your heavenly Father. It is what we were created for.

What a difference between the Old and New Testament. What a difference for us. What an extreme blessing – no one can ever really fathom how blessed we are. When we sin, we ask God for forgiveness in Jesus' name. And it is done. We have no meticulous rules and regulations to follow in sacrificing animals. Jesus did it all. And when we receive Jesus, we also receive His reward: The Holy Spirit helps us in this life, and a glorious eternity in Heaven awaits us when our time comes. How can we ever thank God enough? Praise His Holy name.

WOMEN'S MEETING

by Stephanie Alexander

Marie was the quest speaker, her message was entitled "No worries". Great message on how it is not God's will for us to worry or be stressed out (citing Romans 5:1-5 and James 1:12).

Marie made some great points: Whatever you can't handle give it to God...Be patient...Be thankful for God has given us much, and Worship God always because it does make a difference.



The Ten Virgins

by Martha Griego as told to Sharon Johnson

Matt 25:1-13 "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep."

"At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' "No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'

"But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut."

"Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!'

"But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.'

"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour. NIV

The Holy Spirit gave a message to Martha Griego recently during prayer at the Tuesday morning Bible study about the above verses concerning the ten virgins. This account is believed to be an end time scenario where Jesus (the bridegroom) returns to earth to take his bride which is the church or body of Christ to heaven with Him in the rapture.

Martha realized that the five virgins who had no oil, at one time did have oil for their lamps. All ten of the virgins represent people who profess to know the Lord, but five of them had become complacent and did not have an ongoing relationship with Jesus. The oil represents the Spirit of God which was not active in the lives of these five. These five are backsliders.

An ongoing relationship with the Lord is the most important thing we can do - we must stay close to Him; to pray, attend church, read the Word and speak to others about the Lord.

When Martha told me about this, the Spirit of the Lord was all over her and she was weeping for those who once were close to the Lord but drifted away and let the things of this world draw them from their first love for the Lord. Remember in Revelation 3:16 how God spoke about the lukewarm? - He said that He was about to spit them out of His mouth. God is so merciful and wants none to be lost so that may be why He gave Martha this message as a warning to anyone who heard it or reads it. He is always there for us, it is we who turn away from Him.

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