

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 **Senior Pastor Eric Giorgio**

The Spirit of Unity

By E. Giorgio

God wants to unite us. He does not want people to be divided or be at odds with one another. He wants people to live in harmony and at peace with each another.

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Psalm 133:1). Notice, the words "good and pleasant." It was not enough to identify unity with "good". God does not exaggerate. Look, He used another descriptive word, "pleasant." Many a time, we express ourselves in similar ways. When you find an exceptional restaurant, you might describe it by saying it's "good food." But when you really, really like it, you use other words to make your point. I think God is telling us the great importance of unity.



When people live in unity, peace prevails. There is harmony, and working together becomes easy. Projects are finished in less time, with better efficiency. How are these wonderful things accomplished? Because there is unity between the people and they choose to work together in peace.

If the spirit of division succeeds in any work place, chaos and disagreement rule the atmosphere. Workers complain, they find reasons to hinder progress. And obstacles of greater proportion develop one after another.

Eve and the Serpent

"Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, 'Has God indeed said...'" (Genesis 3:1). Notice how the serpent threw a wedge to divide. He sowed the seeds of doubt into the situation. Unfortunately, Eve listened to those poisonous words. And in a matter of time, she acted upon them.

The devil will always come to divide. His first and foremost desire is to separate you from God. "Does God really love you? If He did, how come you are in all these terrible conditions?" Beware, these are poisonous words designed to alienate you from God.

If you allow the spirit of division into your life, you will learn to become miserable and extremely selfish. If you don't trust God, you surely will not trust any person. In time, every person around you will become a suspect. They cannot be trusted.

This same spirit of division worked in Judas. He lived and worked with the Lord Jesus. He saw the miracles. He heard the gracious words. He witnessed all the wonderful works of God on a daily basis. But when the spirit of division came, instead of rebuking and rejecting it, he decided to listen to that evil spirit.

You and I always have choices. We can listen to God and agree with Him wholeheartedly. When we choose His way, we will reject every voice that wants to cause division. We will choose to stand on the Word of God, regardless of the circumstances. What we see with our natural eyes and what we understand with our natural mind does not determine the reality of things around us.

David faced Goliath with words that he believed. He did not have superior physical weapons to defeat the giant. But he had the Words of God. He realized that his own covenant with God was enough to face and defeat the giant.

Unity Creates Bond of Peace

"I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with long-suffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:1-3). Pay close attention to these words. Paul calls himself the prisoner of the Lord. He is beseeching the people to walk worthy of their calling. Then, he laid down the requirements: lowliness, gentleness, long-suffering, bearing with one another in love. Why all these steps? To keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

We read daily in the news how the Democrats and Republicans are at odds. No wonder truly lasting works are eluding us. We know more about their disagreement than their agreement. Such a set up cannot work. It will become more chaotic and confusing. Let us continue to pray that the spirit of division will be completely stopped. We need the spirit of unity in our nation.

If we don't control this divisive spirit, it will continue to sow seeds of doubt and fear between races, between political groups, between men and women, etc. And if our source of truth happens to be the six o'clock news, the devil has already succeeded. But we are the believers in Jesus Christ, and we will not allow that divisive spirit to succeed. We have authority to stop it and to demolish its stronghold in our society.

Conclusion

There are three steps you and I can follow to resist the spirit of division. These steps can bring about a lasting and dynamic change. Jesus said, *"All things are possible to him who believes"* (Mark 9:23). We are believers in God. We trust His living Words. His Words are true even when we don't see the results in manifestation. When Jesus sent the blind man to go and wash his eyes, the man obeyed. He was still blind. He received the miracle when he followed the instruction and washed. His blind eyes opened and he saw everything. Naaman also did not see the miracle until he went and dipped in the river seven times.

First, we need to believe the Word of God more than the words of the enemy which come to separate us from God. Eve listened and acted on the doubtful words. But Abram listened and acted on the faith words. So let us be like Abram and soon our names will change from weakness to strength in God.

(Continued on the next page...)

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Second, when doubtful words come, and they will come in one form or another, keep the unity of the Spirit with God. Don't allow anything or anyone to separate you from the promises that God has given you in His Words. You see, whether we see it or not, His Words are eternal. "By His stripes you were healed" are His Words. You can stand on these healing words, regardless of your feelings. These promises of healing are written for our sakes. They are repeated in various places throughout the Bible so that we can stand on them and not be moved. In other words, any situation that comes to separate me from the Word of God must be resisted. Let the Spirit of unity with God and unity with His Words work in our situations. Do not allow the spirit of division distract you from Him.

Third, where unity prevails God has commanded His blessing and His anointing (Psalm 133:2-3). What does this mean? It means that God has already released blessings for us when we choose to keep our harmony with Him and other people based on His Words. It means that chaos and confusion cannot come into our lives. It means that the divisive spirit becomes helpless and non-effective in our lives.

Will you decide today to walk in harmony with God? Will you pray and ask Him to reveal this truth to you so that you have the wisdom of God to distinguish the spirits of division when they show their ugly heads? They might show up in your family, in your church, in your work place or in your city. Don't follow them. Don't let them into your heart by listening to them and by acting on their poisonous words of doubt. Believe God and walk in unity with Him. God bless you as you do your part to live the life of harmony with God, with his people and within yourself! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

NEWS FLASHES!

by CCC's Roving Reporter, *Debbie Shaw*

Happy Easter to all! What a glorious time of the year. Our blessed hope is in the Resurrection of our Lord.

✂ Easter is celebrated on the Sunday after Passover, as established by the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D.

✂ Wisdom is understanding of how little you know. Pastor Brian

Did you know?

✂ The early church accepted all people without compromising the Word of God. - Pastor Al.

✂ Afflictions are but the shadow of God's wings. -George MacDonald.

✂ When Jesus came riding on a donkey on Palm Sunday, people laid garments on the ground so the donkey would not walk on dirt. (It was a symbol of recognition of royalty.) Matt 21:8.

✂ Featured CCC Person this month is Sharon Redfern.



Who is director of Hospitality at CCC, with the help of volunteers, Betty, Penny and Ruth. Every event is a beautiful occasion. In her early teens Sharon worked in a restaurant where she learned to set up. Her vision for her ministry is that every event will be an elegant occasion.

Sharon has 3 children, 2 girls and 1 boy. Robert was her rebel for 2 years she had no contact with him. One day she was traveling on San Bernardino Rd. when she saw him at

a phone booth. All this time he had been just a few blocks away,

In conversation he did not acknowledge that they had not been in contact for two years. God is so merciful!

Sharon's favorite Bible verse is Psalms 93. *The first verse is: The Lord reigns, he is robed in majesty; the Lord is robed in majesty and is armed with strength. The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved.* NIV

Bit of Humor

✂ Teacher "If there are five children and the mother has only four potatoes to share among them, how would she do it? Tommy said, "Mash them."

✂ Why was the clock banned from the libraries? It tocked too much!

✂ Dear God, I bet it is very hard for you to love everybody in the whole world. There are only four people in our family and I can never do it. Julie age 8

✂ After attending Sunday School, Sarah informed her mother that Solomon had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

Misc.

✂ Now isn't then. Now is the beginning. - Chris Evert.

✂ They say, "To serve is to love," and I think to serve is to heal too. - Viola Davis

✂ "Feed your faith and your doubts will starve to death. - Debbie Macomber

✂ During WWII, Germany occupied many of the European countries, but the people rose up and formed a Resistance force. They were very brave and did a great deal of damage to the enemy through sabotage and killing Nazis. These guerilla bands were well organized and aggressive. Of course, it was not without retaliation from the enemy - many people lost their lives. They believed in the cause and wanted to be free, so they stood strong.

So we, as Christians, who love and serve the Lord, stand firm in our faith and belief.

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



The Holy spirit is hovering over you ready to go, act, create, strike, bless, heal, raise the dead, cut each bad habit, and forgive - all in the name of Jesus. -Pastor Eric

WHICH WAY TO HEAVEN?

Reverend Billy Graham tells of a time early in his ministry when he arrived in a small town to preach a sermon. Wanting to mail a letter, he asked a young boy where the post office was. When the boy had told him, Dr. Graham thanked him and said, "If you'll come to the Baptist Church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to heaven."

The boy replied, "I don't think I'll be there... You don't even know your way to the post office."

Perspective

by Sharon Johnson

We humans look at things differently than God does. Our perspective is finite while God's perspective is infinite. When a loved one goes home to be with the Lord, we grieve, but the Bible says in Ps 116:15 *Precious in the sight of the Lord Is the death of His saints.* That's quite a difference in perspective. God rejoices when each beloved individual will be with Him for eternity. (This doesn't mean that God doesn't care about our pain and loss. He cares very deeply and He gives comfort and support to us when we are grieving or in distress. He also sends people to help us through these times, and He strengthens us. Jesus wept because of the suffering of those mourning the death of Lazarus, even though He knew He was going to raise him from the dead. Jesus also knew his own personal grief - He suffered the loss of His earthly father, Joseph, who was not present during Jesus' ministry so He has experienced grief Himself.)

When there is war, most times we hate having to fight it or send our loved ones to be in harm's way in order to stop our enemies. But God uses us to defeat evil. WWII is a prime example of that - where the very evil dictator Hitler was stopped. Also out of the horrors of WWII a nation was reborn - Israel. God's chosen people were regathered - God's promise was fulfilled. Israel had to be a nation before the end times could come, which will bring an eventual end to all evil and suffering. That is God's goal.

There are numerous instances of personal tragedies that God may have seen as good, but where we are horrified. Nick Vujicic is an example of that. He was born without arms or legs - thought of as tragic here on earth, but in heaven there was rejoicing because Nick turned to God and became an inspiration and a hope to millions as he overcame this adversity through his faith in God. He is married with children, a worldwide known minister, and a happy man.

I know someone who is a quadriplegic due to a motorcycle accident at age 19. He is now a Christian and he told me he would have never turned to Christ and would have been a horrible person without that accident.

It is very easy for us to question why God does this or that, or why, by our limited human perspective, it seems like the laws and punishments in the Old Testament are severe. But He is love and He is God, our creator. His perspective is different than ours and we accept that He knows infinitely more than we do. His plan to bring forth an eternal covering for our sins through Jesus

was the object of the Old Testament. What kind of love is this to send your only Son to die for unworthy people?

The Bible says, *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;*... Proverbs 3-5.

The enemy of our souls would lie to us and accuse God of bringing bad things and he will use our limited human perspective to do this. If this happens to you, don't allow it. Trust the One who died for you and when we die or when He returns, He wants to take us to heaven to be His bride forever where joy, peace, love, happiness, adventure and much, much more await. I choose to trust Him in all things and lean not on my own understanding.

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose - Romans 8:28. God has worked out the best plan for each one of us. Truly, we will thank Him in Heaven for each trial and for the way He orchestrated our lives for great good.

The Last Day

From the Feb 2007 Good Tidings
Submitted by Stephanie Alexander

Ten things God won't ask on that day:

God won't ask what kind of car you drove. He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.

God won't ask the square footage of your house, He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.

God won't ask about the clothes you had in your closet. He'll ask how many you helped to clothe.

God won't ask what your highest salary was. He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.

God won't ask what your job title was. He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.

God won't ask how many friends you had. He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.

God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived. He'll ask how you treated your neighbors.

God won't ask about the color of your

skin. He'll ask about the content of your character.

God won't ask why it took you so long to seek salvation. He'll lovingly take you to your mansion in heaven and not to the gates of Hell.

God won't ask how many accepted His Son and the free gift of salvation because you witnessed to them. You will be able to see them all for yourself in heaven and they will be there with you for eternity.

CCC CANDID SHOTS



Happy
Resurrection Day,
CCC

The Man Whom Jesus Passed

by Deborah Gatchel

I've sat in this same spot as long as I can remember. Sitting. Begging.

Every day it's the same. My friends carry me out, lay out my mat by the gate, sit me down and hand me my cup. And I ask passers-by for a penny to feed me. Every. Single. Day.

Some people cross to the other side of the road so they don't have to pass near me. Others drop a coin on my mat as they go by. Few look at me. No one stops to talk to me. Ever. For forty years.

And as the sun goes down, my friends come to gather me with my belongings so I can rest to come back and do it the next day. Again.

Not much changes. At least nothing that affects me.

There was that one man. I thought, maybe.... But no.

Jesus, they called him. He made quite a stir for several years. They said he healed people. If he touched a blind man, that man could see. If he said a sick person was well, he was. They say he even brought some people back to life. And lame men... Well, that's what they say. But I still sit here.

I saw him once – that Jesus. I was sitting here by my gate and he came by to go into the temple. All good Jews do that, you know. I'd go in, too, but they won't let me. They say I'm cursed. I would honor God if they would let me. But they don't let me.

But Jesus went in, with his crowds pressing around him, everyone excited. I called to him. I pleaded and begged for him to heal me. He heard me. I know he did. He looked right at me. His eyes were so sad, like he was hurting. I almost thought he was going to come over to me, but then he turned his back and walked away. Who is this Jesus? No one to me. Just another face in the crowd. Another who can't – or won't – help.

Just a few days later, they arrested him. I guess they found him to be a charlatan, because they crucified him. I haven't seen a crucifixion, with my legs the way they are, I just sit here. I can't go that far. But I see them dragging their crosses out the gate. It's not pretty. I don't suppose that Jesus deserved it just for his game. He probably didn't mean for it to get so far out of hand.

A couple days after that, there was some uproar that he had come back to life. I suppose his friends didn't want to face the truth, so they kept up his story. But there comes a time to let it go. It's been four months now and they just won't quit. Let the man die already! Let him die.

They were quiet for almost two months, but the next feast – they must like the show of the crowds – they pulled a new one. Something about the spirit of Jesus coming from heaven and giving all of them His power. Whatever it was, now they won't stop. Every day I hear more and more people talking about this Jesus. It's worse than when he was alive. And, of course, they have to come to the temple to talk about it, so I can't get away from it. I wish one of them would ask me what I think. I'd tell them what I think of their... their... Jesus.

Oh look, here they come now. Two of them. The ones they call John and Peter. Joy, they're crossing to me – arguing. Maybe they want to know what I think.

"Look at me," Peter is saying.

Okay, I'll look, but I want you to look at me. Look at what your Jesus refused to touch.

"You can't do that." John is telling him. "What if it doesn't

work?"

Peter looks in my eyes. "I have no silver or gold."
Listen to your friend and don't waste my time. I don't want to hear what you have to say.

"But what I do have, I'll give you."

What would a Galilean have that I want? A fishing net? I don't need a net. Go home.

"In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth..."

Don't say that name and do not grab my arms. That's not the way to move me.

"Get up and walk!"

My legs hurt – no not hurt – tingle and And move. My legs are moving. I am standing. I am standing on my own! I am walking. I can jump! I can run!

"Look at me. Look what God has done for me! These men, these friends of Jesus! Look what He's done for me!"

Gloria's COPs

by Gloria Cloud as told to Sharon Johnson

Gloria comes from a family of people who worked in law



enforcement. This included her grandfather, her sister and a brother. Her son, John, is also a retired police officer. Her grandfather was a cop and proud of it. The word 'cop' that we hear so often came from the term, "Constable on Patrol" which has a positive connotation.

Her grandson, Joel,

recently graduated from Azusa Pacific University. He is currently attending the Police Academy. This June, he will become a Police officer for a local Police Department.

A Prayer for Police Officers

(from the internet)

Keep each Police Officer from harm today,

Grant each officer good judgment & wisdom,

To act in proper balance with each situation faced.

Fill each heart with courage and understanding,

Fill their spirit with strength to do what is right & needed.

Protect each Officer from harm as they serve us.

If they must fire a weapon, make their shot sure & true.

Bless the Police as they protect us and risk their lives to keep us safe and secure.

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