

Community Christian Center



The Word
Fellowship
Prayer

The Good Tidings Newsletter

A Report on the Revival at CCC

AUGUST, 2015

ERIC GIORGIO, PASTOR

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Pastor's Corner

This month featuring *Associate Pastor Tony Paraspolo*
The Vine and the Branches

We Are the Branches

John 15:1,4 *"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser... Abide in Me, and I in you. As the **branch** cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me..."*

I was coming back with a CCC brother from visiting a family member who needed some spiritual guidance and fortunately we were able to do it. On the way back I noticed a wall on the 210 Fwy that had branches coming over it to cover the wall, and I thought of the body of Christ as branches. But then I noticed that at the bottom of the wall in some places the branches came right through the brick and I thought that this is a good illustration that, if God can get that branch through a brick, He could surely get understanding to you and me that we need desperately. I know that the gospel of John chapters 13-17 tells about the Last Supper where Jesus met with His disciples and told them what they needed to be, what they needed to do, as well as answering their questions. So I'm going to give some of those scripture verses and I hope you will read them and gain wisdom from them. We are blessed to have anointed teaching in our church from all the wonderful people who preach and teach, but it will not profit us if we're not taking it in and putting it into practice in our lives. I'm sometimes guilty of that like a lot of us, because I love what's said but I haven't always taken it to heart. We're getting to a place and time where we need to take the Word very seriously, otherwise, tragically, some of us may be in that group that falls away from faith in God.



I'll start with John 13:34-35 *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another; By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."* I use this as my key verses because this is what it's about – the love for one another: He loved us so much and we, also, should follow His loving example.

Some other branches are in John 14:13-15; 23 & 26; John 16:13-15 and in these scriptures He talks about the Holy Spirit and our authority and what goes on in our lives and, if we don't move in the Spirit and understand that the Father and Son are One and we are One in them also, we are going miss a good branch and I don't ever want anyone to get chopped off. (You can also read John 15: 1, 2, 5, 11, 14, 17, 26 & 27, . They're all short verses – so it sounds like a lot but it's not.)

In John 15:5 It says, *I am the vine and you are the branches He who abides in me and I in Him bears much fruit for without me you can do nothing.* We need to remember how much we need Jesus at all times - He loves to be before us and not behind us.

John 17:16-17 *They are not of the world, just as I am not of*

the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. We have that truth in the Word, and we have the promise that He sanctifies us. All we have to do is move and act in Him. We have received many good messages in this church about the importance of giving God special time in prayer, and I thank our pastors who are in agreement about this, and I have been blessed by doing it. Let's understand that we're not of this world so why do we deal with it so much, why do we try to do everything that the world says?

As Pastor Mike would say, "I'm closing." John 15:11 *"These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full."* God wants to give us joy, along with peace, along with a life that has eternity in it. And He wants so much to be a part of our lives, but the only way He can do that is if we're part of His life.

And the other closing scripture is John 17:13 *But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.*

I thank you that we, in this church, will be like branches abiding in Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Lee and Joyce Mansker

Pastor Lee and Joyce Mansker "came home" to CCC for a visit last month. It was wonderful to see them. Pastor Lee was an associate pastor here at CCC for many years and Joyce was a member of our praise team - remembered for the fabulous trio with Faye Smith and Sharron Bonessa.

Pastor Lee and Joyce founded Community Christian Center in Hesperia several years ago and it is still going strong. They announced their recent retirement. CCC Hesperia is now under the pastorate of Tom and Velda Morris, their son, who is "a mighty man of God," per Pastor Lee. Tom grew up attending our church. Pastor Lee and Joyce will be doing a lot of traveling and are looking forward to it. We thank them for all the work they have done for the Lord and wish them "happy trails" and God's blessing for the future.



DR. MILA MERCADER

Last month Dr. Mila Mercader led a seminar at CCC teaching Godly principles on how to be a successful business person. Her message was very anointed and inspiring. Afterward, she prayed for and gave words of knowledge to all who came forward. It was a very special time of blessing and the Spirit of God was so awesome. She will be returning to CCC in the future and, if at all possible, it would be a huge blessing to anyone who attends. Her book, [Kingdom Operation ...Walking with Father](#) is available online. Her website is www.mightydove.org



NEWS FLASHES!

by CCC's Roving Reporter, **Debbie Shaw**

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Here we are in the middle of summer, the schools will be resuming soon. I pray you have a relaxed, pleasant end of summer.

Did You Know?

- ✂ The space shuttle has no engines when it reenters the earth's atmosphere it doesn't drop straight down; it glides.
- ✂ Dr. Jonas Salk created the vaccine for polio in 1954 which helped to dramatically reduce the incidence of this debilitating illness.
- ✂ The Kentucky Derby horse race track (Churchill Downs) is 1 1/4 miles long.
- ✂ My grandson, Eric, is hiking the Appalachian Trail and has hiked 1,600 miles with 560 miles yet to go. His estimated completion time is in September. Eric hiked with his dog, Penie, who carried her own backpack and some of her own food & water. She had to leave the trail and go home because of a bad cut to her paw.



Eric's dog, Penie

- ✂ The Old Testament leads to Jesus - the law teaches about sin and our need of a Savior. - Pastor Al
- ✂ June's ladies' fellowship was a delight. Melba Redd and Stephanie Alexander spoke. Melba spoke on Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. Everything has a season. We cannot rush God, He has a plan for us and works on His own timetable. Rom 8:28 *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.* Stephanie spoke on Phil 4:1-7. Because the Israelites did not believe God they wandered in the desert 40 years on a trip that should have taken eleven days. "No matter what you face, God is a big God"
- ✂ Women's fellowship is a wonderful time of guest speakers, fellowship and, of course, great food! Just fun stuff!
- ✂ On Father's Day, Pastor Eric spoke on the role of fathers. Fathers provide for and protect their children. They lead them in the way of righteousness and they discipline them. The role of a father is so important in the lives of children.
- ✂ Wherever you go, no matter what the weather, always bring your own sunshine. - Anthony J. D'Angelo

Person of the Month - Mike Paraspolo

✂ Mike is head of our Drama Dept. At the present time he is writing a script to be presented in the near future. He is also an usher. Mike has been blessed with a large, close-knit family, many of whom attend CCC. Mike believes that the hand of God was on his family long before any of them met the Lord Jesus.



When he was four years old he was hit in the head by a baseball bat and was paralyzed for one year. The doctor said he would never walk and would be in a vegetable state for the rest of his life. But he was touched by God and became every whit whole. He says that his grandmother was praying for him. Praise God.

Mike likes to tell the story about a time when he and his

nephew, Tony, had gone fishing - they had not caught a single fish. The Lord told Mike to say to Tony, "In the name of Jesus catch a fish." He said he was not saying that. Finally he got enough courage to follow the Lord's instructions, so he said, "In the name of Jesus, catch a fish!" The pole bent and Tony caught a fish!!

Mike's favorite Bible verse is Romans 8:28 *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.*

Bit O' Humor

- ✂ Lauren age 9 writes, Dear Pastor, I think a lot more people would probably come to your church if you moved it to Disneyland.
- ✂ Horse sense: A degree of wisdom that keeps one from betting on the races.
- ✂ Never, ever get rid of the desire to climb a tree or run through the sprinklers. Amen! Amen!

Misc.

- ✂ Zech 10:1 *Ask the Lord for rain in the time of the latter rain. The Lord will make flashing clouds; He will give them showers of rain, grass in the field for everyone.* NKJV
 - ✂ Friend: The greatest friend we have is the Lord Jesus. To have a friend you must be a friend. Our earthly friends play such an important role in our lives - they are our comforters, encouragers, our companions in Christ, and much more. A man who has a friend must be friendly, *but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.* -Prov 18:24. Abraham was a friend of God. Jesus called Lazarus, whom he raised from the dead, a friend. Friends are precious in our lives and they must be loved and nurtured. "I could not find help anywhere but finally you appeared and now I am afraid of nothing." - Author of quote is unknown
 - ✂ See ya later - so long for now. Your Roving Reporter, aka Jr. Scoop.
- May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.* Rom 16:24.

ASANTE Update

by **Stephanie Alexander**

I've always wanted to sponsor a child in Africa and that desire came to fruition when Asante Ministries blessed us with a beautiful presentation at our church this year. It was then that some of us had an opportunity to become the sponsor of a child in East Africa. After their glorious production we had the opportunity to choose the child we wanted to sponsor. What a wonderful chance to be a blessing. It warmed my heart when I received correspondence from my "child" thanking me and telling me about her family and interest. If one is interested you can join Asante Ministries for a short term missions trip to East Africa and visit your "child," their home and family. God is so good, I thank him for the opportunity.

Editor's Note: Per correspondence that Stephanie received, Orthance Mukeshimara is 15 years old and is in the tenth grade. She has a mother and two big brothers. She likes math and chemistry, singing, music, and dancing. She really likes to study. She is very grateful for Stephanie's help.

Men's Fellowship also sponsors a child from Africa and have posted their correspondence on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. And, there are more sponsors from CCC. We rejoice with all who support these children in the name of Jesus and the difference it will make in their lives.



In Loving Remembrance of Ron Cole

July 10, 1941 - June 29, 2015

Our wonderful co-laborer in Christ, Ron Cole, went home to be with the Lord On June 29th.

There are no words to say how much we will miss him here at CCC. He and his beloved wife, Elsie, began attending CCC in 2009,



became members in 2010, and were baptized in 2011. They said that they came here because they wanted to work and the church they had been attending wouldn't let them.

And work they did. In time Ron became head of the outreach ministry and led the men's fellowship. He and Elsie were especially effective in the Thanksgiving dinners giveaway and the Wannamaker outreaches. Many, many people had a bountiful Thanksgiving because of their efforts along with their team of CCC'ers. Their son and members of the family also helped. Ron and Elsie even started a ministry at Covina Farmer's Market reaching out to the public. Ron also took pictures and helped this Newsletter on many occasions providing pictures and articles. He was always dependable, if he said he was going to do something, he would. And he would do it with a kind and generous heart. He was loving and accepting of all.

He met Elsie while he was a sailor in the Navy and they were married in 1961. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and uncle who was always there for his family. His son quipped that he was in the Navy and that made him a sailor who went to CCC. And we were so blessed that he did.

Ron said before he left us that he was in a win-win situation: if he went home, he would be with Jesus and if he stayed here, he would be with his family and friends. We know that we will see him again and in the meantime he is full of joy in the presence of our Savior.

Please remember to pray for Elsie and her family that the God of all comfort will be with them.



YOUTH NIGHT



Our awesome youth spoke about their Arizona trip and of the wonderful times they had swimming, cliff jumping, rafting, playing games, but more importantly in prayer, worship and growing closer to the Lord. They blessed us so much with deeply felt testimony and also humor. We then worshipped together and the youth prayed for the congregation. It was a very special night. Pastor Dustin and Sara Paraspolo are the youth leaders.

Kitchen Korner

from the kitchen of *Dee Paraspolo*

A STORY: This was posted by my niece and is a perfectly beautiful illustration of our Loving God and how both believers and non-believers view God.

In a mother's womb were two babies. One asked the other: "Do you believe in life after delivery?"

The other replied, "Why, of course. There has to be something after delivery. Maybe we are here to prepare ourselves for what we will be later."

Nonsense, said the first. "There can't be life after delivery. What kind of life would that be?"

The second said, "I don't know, but I think there will be more light than here. Maybe we will walk with our legs, eat with our mouths or use our hands for something besides sucking our thumb. Maybe we will have other senses that we don't understand now."

The first replied, "That is absurd. Walking is impossible. And eating with our mouths? Ridiculous! The umbilical cord supplies nutrition and everything we need. And the umbilical cord is so short walking on our legs would be impossible. Life after delivery is to be logically ruled out."

The second insisted. "Well I think there is something and I think it will be different than it is here. Maybe we won't need this umbilical cord anymore."

The first replied, "Nonsense! And moreover if there is life after delivery, why has no one ever come back from there. Delivery is the end of life, and in the after-delivery there is nothing but darkness and silence and oblivion. It takes us nowhere. We are to enjoy our life 'now' because there is nothing more."

"Well, I don't know," said the second, "Surely we will meet Mother and She will take care of us."

The first replied, "Mother. You actually believe in Mother? That's laughable. If Mother exists, then where is She now?"

The second said, "She is all around us. We are surrounded by her. We are of Her. It is in Her that we live. Without Her this world of ours would not and could not exist."

Said the first, "Well I don't see Her, so it is only logical to conclude that She does not exist."

To which the second replied, "Sometimes, when you are silent and you focus and you really listen you can feel Her presence and you can hear Her heartbeat and hear Her loving voice singing over you or talking to you from above - but you have to be still and focus on Her loving presence. You will never experience the beauty of Her love unless you take your mind off this world and center your attention on Her." -Author unknown



Editor's correction: This is the complete article that Dee submitted for June. The last three paragraphs and picture were inadvertently left out. I sincerely apologize for the mistake. Dee was very gracious about the matter and said that the final paragraph completes the story and poignantly tells the beauty of our fellowship with God when we take our mind off ourselves and focus on our Creator God.

CANDID SHOTS



Pastor Ken said he was shielding the camera from glare

Baptisms



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