

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 Holy Spirit & You

The book of Acts tells us that the apostles experienced multiplication in the church. Multitudes were added constantly. And when they experienced that type of supernatural growth, problems came up with it. But, it was a good kind of problem.



"Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution" (Acts 6:1). Conflicts and

problems are parts of growth for any organization. So what were the leaders supposed to do? They could not ignore the issues. They needed to resolve them quickly. They needed effective solutions.

In this case, the disciples found the solution by the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. *"We should not leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business"* (Acts 6:2-3).

Their answer brought an immediate solution to a volatile situation. They described their own responsibilities to the word of God and prayer. Then, they put forth a specific activity for the group to seek out men among them. They also described the qualifications for the men to be chosen. Finally, they set the order that those qualified would be appointed by the apostles.

The Holy Spirit at Work

A few chapters later, another great controversy arose on the subject of circumcision. Some argued passionately that the new believers must be circumcised to complete their salvation. Others argued against such a practice just as vigorously. This conflict caused so great a commotion that Paul and Barnabas had to go to Jerusalem to seek a lasting solution.

The apostles met again to discuss the issues. Their discussions were not very productive. As they prayed and sought the Lord, their answer came. *"For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden ..."* (Acts 15:28). Notice their response, "it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us", and that became their method of operation.

These disciples sought the help of the Holy Spirit in all their important decisions. When Barnabas and Saul were set apart for their work, the Holy Spirit directed them.

"As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, 'Now separate for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to

which I have called them'" (Acts 13:2). The Holy Spirit first spoke to Barnabas and Saul; then, He spoke to the leaders to agree with His directions. What a wonderful way to run their church businesses!

After Barnabas and Saul set out to do their assigned ministries, the Holy Spirit was still actively working with them. *"Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia"* (Acts 16:6). Wait a minute, were they not sent to preach the gospel? Yes, they were. But the Holy Spirit knew where and when they were to preach.

How many people with good intentions make mistakes by preaching to a person that is not ready to receive? Sometimes our untimely words can cause more problems than solutions. May the Holy Spirit guide us as He led those disciples as they listened to His instruction!

Our Responsibilities

Let us look at the words of Jesus about the Holy Spirit. *"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come"* (John 16:12-13).

Notice the words of Jesus: **First**, He told them that He had many things to tell them, but they could not understand the concepts. Why not? Because it takes the illumination and revelation of the Holy Spirit to understand God's words. Without His help, our interpretation will be wrong. The Holy Spirit knows the meaning of the word of God more than we do. That's why Jesus said that they could not bear the words at that time.

Second, when the Holy Spirit comes, *"He will guide you into all truth."* Please note that half-truth is not "all truth." Part truth or three-quarter truth is not "all truth." Even 99% truth cannot qualify as "all truth."

The disciples could have made great errors if they missed the Holy Spirit's guidance on serving the neglected widows. They also would have made a big mistake in the issue of circumcision. Paul and Barnabas would have missed it, if they just went into Asia at the wrong time following their own conviction.

Sometimes, many well-intentioned believers make decisions without "all truth." They reason that the idea looks good enough. And the idea may be 80% or even 90% right. But, it's not "all truth." We believe that's why Jesus said that the Holy Spirit will lead us into "all truth."

Third, the Holy Spirit has no personal or private agenda. *"He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak."* Our desire should be to do the will of God at all times. *"Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."* In some instances, we tend to choose what we see as good instead of asking the direction of the Holy Spirit. Seeking His guidance should be one of our main responsibilities.

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Conclusion

Here are some helpful guidelines for us to follow. If we want to please God, the Holy Spirit will always guide us in both the small and complicated issues of our daily lives.

One, let us determine to give ourselves to prayer and the word like the apostles did. They determined not to be side-tracked from their mission. Serving tables is very important. But, it's not to replace the prayer and word ministries.

Two, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you into "all truth" concerning the issues you face. Don't try to decide on your own. As you pray and seek Him, He will guide you as He did Barnabas and Saul. The Holy Spirit spoke to them and confirmed it with the others, as they ministered to the Lord in prayer and fasting.

Three, when He instructs you, obey. Obedience is the key to your success. King Saul missed it because he chose to disobey. He was sent to destroy the Amalekites, but he saved the king and some good looking cattle to sacrifice to God. He was told that obedience is better than sacrifice at any time.

It's our sincere prayer that God would bless you abundantly. The Holy Spirit & you are the dynamic duo. You will succeed immensely if you allow Him to lead you into "all truth." May the Lord bless you in everything you say, everything you do, and in all the days of your life! We pray for you in Jesus' Name! Amen!

9 / 11

from the Internet

A man from Norfolk ,VA called a local radio station to share this on Sept 11, 2003, TWO YEARS AFTER THE TRAGEDIES OF 9/11/2001.

His name was Robert Matthews. These are his words:

A few weeks before Sept. 11th, my wife and I found out we were going to have our first child. She planned a trip out to California to visit her sister. On our way to the airport, we prayed that God would grant my wife a safe trip and be with her. Shortly after I said 'amen,' we both heard a loud pop and the car shook violently. We had blown out a tire. I replaced the tire as quickly as I could, but we still missed her flight. Both very upset we drove home.

I received a call from my father who was retired NYFD. He asked what my wife's flight number was, but I explained that we missed the flight.

My father informed me that her flight was the one that crashed into the southern tower. I was too shocked to speak. My father also had more news for me; he was going to help. 'This is not something I can't just sit by for; I have to do something.'

I was concerned for his safety, of course, but more because he had never given his life to Christ. After a brief debate, I knew his mind was made up. Before he got off of the phone, he said, 'take good care of my grandchild.' Those were the last words I ever heard my father say; he died while helping in the rescue effort.

My joy that my prayer of safety for my wife had been answered quickly became anger. I was angry at God, at my father, and at myself. I had gone for nearly two years blaming God for taking my father away. My son would never know his grandfather, my father had never accepted Christ, and I never got to say good-bye.

Then something happened. About two months ago, I was sitting at home with my wife and my son, when there was a knock on the door. I looked at my wife, but I could tell she wasn't expecting anyone. I opened the door to a couple with a small child.

The man looked at me and asked if my father's name was Jake Matthews. I told him it was. He quickly grabbed my hand and said, 'I never got the chance to meet your father, but it is an honor to meet his son.'

He explained to me that his wife had worked in the World Trade Center and had been caught inside after the attack. She was pregnant and had been caught under debris. He then explained that my father had been the one to find his wife and free her. My eyes welled up with tears as I thought of my father giving his life for people like this. He then said, 'there is something else you need to know.'

His wife then told me that as my father worked to free her, she talked to him and led him to Christ. I began sobbing at the news.

Now I know that when I get to Heaven, my father will be standing beside Jesus to welcome me, and that this family would be able to thank him themselves ..

When their baby boy was born, they named him Jacob Matthew, in honor of the man who gave his life so that a mother and baby could live.

Chris and Michele

Wedding Bells rang for our own Michelle Pope and Chris Sloan on August 7th, and we were so happy to witness these two strong Christians being joined together in matrimony. What a united force for the Lord they will make. Their marriage is a testimony to God's love and grace. We pray for great happiness in their lives and that God will richly bless them.



A prayer of blessing for Miriam Tabler and her family as they are moving to Idaho. We will miss her very much.



Chris Holloway and family blessed us in August with beautiful and anointed music



NEWS FLASHES!

by CCC's Roving Reporter, *Debbie Shaw*

Greetings in the name
of our Lord Jesus Christ!



A Welcome and a Good Bye

✂ Welcome to CCC, Faith, a student at APU. She is staying with Pastor Ken and Sandy. Faith is from Lancaster, PA where her father pastors an Ethiopian church. She is here to finish her Masters in Social Services. She has studied in India. We are glad to have you with us and pray you enjoy your time in So. Calif.

✂ Miriam Tabler has moved to Coeur d'Alene with her grandson and family. Miriam started attending CCC in 2002. She was very involved in the helps ministry, convalescent hospital ministry, as well as helping and driving persons with special needs. Miriam, we will miss you. We know that wherever you go, you will be a blessing.

Miriam's favorite Bible verse is Ps 119:11 *Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.* NKJV

Did You Know?

✂ 400 Years after the last prophesy of the Old Testament, the word once again came through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

✂ The discovery of a new dish does more for the happiness of the human race than the discovery of a new star.

✂ Richard & Marie Moreno have a five month old great granddaughter, Samantha Isabella (Left). What a little cutie she is!

✂ In aviation lingo, the word 'stall' has nothing to do with an unplanned loss of engine power - which is called engine failure.



When a fighter jet zooms up into the air at steep angles, the lift is based on their powerful engines rather than on the wings. Commercial jet airliners and small craft, however, have to rise slowly in order to keep from stalling. Taken from [The Flying Book](#).

Person of the Month is Al Olguin

✂ Al is a big part of CCC's Mobile outreach ministries (assisted by Elsie Cole and Ray Algorri). He and Pastor Tony also lead men's fellowship. Al teaches the adult Sunday school class. He and Pastor Mike go once a month to minister at Skid Row. Al and his wife, Josie, are also involved in prison ministry. Al's vision is to reach a lost world and equip the saints, fulfilling the great commission.

Al, his son, grandson and great grandson have a custom upholstery business since 1978. They work with interior designers. His trade takes him to some beautiful homes.

Al has four children, all serve the Lord except for one and Al is praying for him. He has 13 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

His favorite Bible verse is Romans 1:5 *Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name...*

Interesting facts: When Al was a teenager he raised fancy pigeons and exhibited them at the LA County fair. Al went with Nicky Cruz Ministries to London for a crusade. He said that he and Josie have been blessed to be able to travel.

Bit O' Humor

✂ Dear Pastor, I'm sorry I couldn't leave more money in the of-

fering plate. Could you please have a sermon about a raise in my allowance. Stephanie - age 10.

✂ A man was speeding down the highway at 80 mph. The posted speed limit was 60. He was stopped by a policeman who asked the man's wife, "Does he always speed like this?" She said, "Only when he is drunk. OOPS!"

✂ As the Sunday school teacher described how Lot's wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt, little Jimmy interrupted, "My mommy looked back once while she was driving and she turned into a telephone pole!"

More...

✂ CCC went to see the Dead Sea scrolls at the Calif. Science Center last month. Pastor Eric and Marie went with us and it was great to have them join us.



Photo by Stephanie Alexander

✂ "Faith isn't the ability to believe long and far into the misty future. It is simply taking God at His word and taking the next step." - Joni Eareckson Tada

✂ Abraham was tested by God - Genesis chapter 22. God told him to take his son, Isaac's life, for an offering. Abraham, Isaac, and two young men traveled to a place of sacrifice. Abraham told the two men, "Stay here for we will come back to you." This was a statement of faith because Abraham knew Isaac was the child of promise. God provided a ram for the sacrifice instead of Isaac. He counted Abraham's faith as righteousness.

✂ My grandson, Eric will have finished his six month hike on the Appalachian Trail by September 1st. The trail starts in Springer Mountain in Georgia and ends in Katahdin, Maine - 2,167 miles. The Pacific Crest Trail is 2,650 miles, the Continental Divide Trail is 3,100 miles. The Appalachian Trail is the shortest trail but it is the most difficult. The hikers all have trail names. Eric is D.G. meaning 'delayed gratification' because he waits to eat his best snacks till he is on the top of a peak. Another name for the trail is the "long green tunnel." Eric has lost 60 lbs and hikes 18 miles per day - approximately 85 miles per week. Only 10% of those who start - finish. He has worn out four pairs of hiking boots. There are "trail angels" who furnish a home-cooked meal at different times. I am thankful that Eric has been able to complete this wonderful experience.



Eric with a feathered friend on the Trail

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

Kitchen Korner

from the kitchen of *Dee Paraspolo*

I am pleased to provide to you a chapter from my daughter's first book Our Stories: Tales from the Bible's "Extras" by Deborah Gatchel

The Love of a Father

(Mark 5:21-43)

by *Deborah Gatchel*

I sit by her bed fanning her, bathing her head with cool water, hoping, somehow, to release her from the fever. I've called many doctors. None of them offered any help. I've cried out to God, fasted, begged and pleaded, but still no change.

My daughter, my only daughter. What would I do without you? Who will rush out to greet me every day when I come home? Who will bring me my cup? And stand beside your mother during Sabbath prayers? Twelve years is not long enough. You were supposed to give me grandchildren. My learning, my money, my position in the synagogue means nothing. Without my daughter, what will I do?

The other synagogue leaders have come. To comfort me. To pray with me. I appreciate their concern, but, oh – they cannot save my daughter. I need to be alone.

The streets are empty. Only an old man sits on his stool by his house.

I greet him. "Where is everyone?"

He points to the crowds gathered on the seashore. "The Rabbi Jesus has returned."

Jesus. The Rabbi. With strange teachings. But with authority. Authority over demons. And sickness. I lean against a house and pull at my beard. Sickness. Would Jesus -?

No, Jesus despises the synagogue leaders. He is always talking against us. Calling us hypocrites. But my daughter. He could heal her. I know he could. And He has never turned anyone away. What would the others think? They fear this Jesus. Hate Him. But my daughter.

I stumble on a stone and fall, scraping my knees and hands. When did I start running? No matter. My heart is guiding my feet better than my head. I must get to Jesus. He can heal my daughter.

These people. These crowds. Why are they in my way? Move. Don't you know who I am? Get out of my way. I need to see Jesus. The shock on their faces when they see who pushed them. I don't care. My daughter. I must get to Jesus.

I'm here. In front of the Man who can heal my daughter. He's talking. I don't know what He's saying. I don't know what I'm doing. How do I get his attention?

I'm at His feet, on my face before Him. How did I get here? "Rabbi, please. My baby girl. She's dying. Please, come touch her. Heal her. Please."

He takes me by the hand and lifts me to my feet. He looks me in the eye. "Take Me to her."

He will go! He will heal her! Move out of my way, before it's too late. Down this street. This way, up on the hill. We're almost there. No, why are You stopping?

He's turning and asking the crowd who touched Him. Everyone touched You. What does it matter? You're not a schoolboy who needs to worry about everyone else. We must hurry. My daughter.

That woman? I know her. She is sick with a woman's disease. Her husband even sent her away. Why is she here? She shouldn't be around people. She'll make us all unclean.

Finally, He's sent her away. Come. Let's go. My daughter. No. I don't see that face. There is no reason for him to be

rushing this way unless he brings me news I don't want to hear. I will hide in the crowds. If you can't tell me, then it isn't so.

My friend. I feel your touch on my shoulders. I hear your words. I cannot believe them. My daughter. No. The Rabbi is beside me, holding me up, whispering in my ear. He says, "She will live. Don't be afraid. Just believe."

Believe. What is there to believe? She is dead. But once again, as my mind argues, my heart moves my feet. We climb the hill to my home. My empty home. My lifeless home. I can already hear the mourners and musicians. Of course they all must come out. It's my child after all. The synagogue rulers. But what good does it do? At least the crowds aren't following. Jesus must have sent them away.

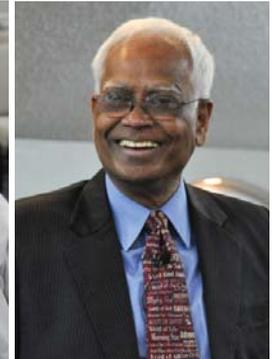
We enter the house. My wife throws herself into my arms, sobbing. I try to comfort her, but what do I say? Jesus sends everyone away. All of them. He tells them she's not dead. Oh, how I wish it were true. They laugh at Him, but they go. Does everyone always do what He says?

I show Him to the room. My precious girl. Lying so still. No more struggling for breath. My daughter. I can't go to her. But Jesus does. He takes her hand. "Child, get up."

And she does. She sits, then she stands. And she smiles at me again, rushing to my arms. My daughter!



Congratulations to Don and Jan Truax on their 60th wedding anniversary!!!



Pastor George - India Evangelist



Marie with her daughter and son-in-law.

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