

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

FOUR HINDRANCES TO BEING FRUITFUL

from a Message by *Senior Pastor Eric Giorgio*

From the Parable of the Sower Mark 4:1-20

1. A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. The enemy comes and takes the Word of God out of your heart as soon as you hear it. You forget the Word.

To overcome this hindrance, when you hear the Word, let it dwell in your heart. Think about it and meditate on it.

2. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. This hindrance happens to people who accept the Word of God joyfully and gladly. But, when pressure and stresses come, they let the pressures and persecution completely overshadow the Word and it is stolen out of them.

To overcome this hindrance, we must remember to place the utmost importance on what God says. Keep your eye on your Creator. He's called us to a high purpose.

3. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. This hindrance occurs when you hear the Word but worldly things choke it out. Things like the deceitfulness of riches, the lusts of life, and just the busyness of everyday life. Thus, the Word of God, which is able to make us fruitful is choked out.

To overcome this hindrance, make time for the Word and prayer. Keep your eye on the goal of being effective for God and not on worldly things that will pass away; focus on eternal things.

4. But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience. (Luke 8:15 NKJV) This hindrance is lack of patience. It is when you don't allow time for the Word to work and to grow in you. You could fall away and lose the wonderful opportunity to fulfill God's plan and purpose in your life.

To overcome this hindrance: Gal 6:9-10 *Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity let us do good to all people...NIV*

The Word has the ability to change you and to make your way successful. But it's up to each of us to keep the Word faithfully so we can produce thirty, sixty and hundred percent results.

FASTING Scientific/Spiritual

From CBN.com

Scientists are once again discovering the health benefits of practices in the Bible, like fasting. A new study shows that fasting dramatically strengthens the immune system.

Researchers at the University of Southern California studied humans, as well as mice, who went without food for two to four days at a time over a six-month period.

That fasting triggered their bodies to get rid of old, inefficient cells and regenerate new, healthy ones.

This could make fasting a key to aging well because as we get older, our immune system weakens, making us vulnerable to illness.

Fasting could also benefit people going through chemotherapy or those suffering from autoimmune disorders.

Fasting reduces the enzyme PKA, clearing the way for stem cells to renew and lowering levels of the IGF-1 growth hormone, which is linked to cancer.

One of the study's authors compared fasting to removing excess baggage from a plane.

"When you starve, the system tries to save energy," Valter Longo, director of the USC Longevity Institute, explained.

"And one of the things it can do to save energy is to recycle a lot of the immune cells that are not needed, especially those that may be damaged," he said.

So what's good for our spiritual health also appears to be good for our physical health.

Psalm 27 - The Lord is My Strength

by *Albert Gomez*

Strength: The confident assurance that comes from knowing that whatever I face, my Savior walks beside me, guiding, supporting, and providing everything I need. Praise the Lord!

Photos from the Church Picnic



NEWS FLASHES!

by CCC's Roving Reporter, *Debbie Shaw*

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I trust you have had a fun-filled summer, CCC. Now we shift gears as we look forward to the holidays, wonderful activities and celebrations of the fall season.

Congratulations!

✂ Our own, Astrid Paraspolo, received her teaching certificate and now is a full-time math teacher at Covina High School. Congratulations! She has stepped down from her position as head of the children's ministry at CCC. She has been wonderful with our children and we have had memorable vacation Bible schools, children's events and many other things. We know the students at Covina High will greatly benefit from her capable leadership.



Did you know?

✂ Each engine on a Boeing 747 weighs almost 9,500 pounds, cost about eight million dollars and provides about 60,000 pounds of thrust and burns about 12 gallons of fuel per minute when cruising. Altogether the four engines account for about five percent of the total weight of a full 747 upon takeoff. - from The Flying Book

✂ The airplane stays up because it doesn't have time to fall. - Orville Wright

✂ Hope is the heart beat of the soul. - Michelle Horst

✂ Queen Elizabeth of England who is 89 years old, is the longest reigning monarch - 63 years, seven months and two days (as of this writing) - in the history of England - PBS

✂ Pastor Eric is the first minister Laura Gomer called Pastor; her first Pastor she called Dad!!

Person of the Month - Laura Gomer

Laura is the Secretary-Treasurer for the church as well as the nursery coordinator. Laura's vision for the nursery is to have a peaceful, colorful atmosphere for our children who are taught to interact with others - preparing them for Sunday School.

I met Laura when she was about eight years old and in pigtails.

She is very capable and dependable - even from a very young age. Another lady and myself were in charge of the girls club at CCC. We decided to take the girls on a camping trip. We adults could not put the tent together. Laura stepped in and in no time flat she had it all set up for us. She was about eight years old at the time.

Laura said that one year she, her husband David and baby Nick were in the Christmas program as Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. Everyone thought it was Kathy Hoover who played Mary because Laura had a brunette wig on.

David and Laura own their own business. They are manufacturing representatives in the heating and air conditioning trade.

Laura and David have two children, Lindsay is a high school senior. She plans to go to Mt Sac for two years and then on to Biola. And Nick is employed as an apprentice in the field of electronics.

Bit of Humor

✂ Dear God, We had a good time at church today. Wish you could have been there. - Matthew age 7

✂ A duck walks into a drugstore and tells the guy behind the

counter, "Give me a chapstick and put it on my bill."

✂ When asked to explain his job, the minister said, "The Lord is the Great physician and I'm His HMO."

Guest Speaker

✂ Dr. Ferguson was our special speaker on a Wednesday evening service. It is a delight to hear him - he encourages us with a special word each time he is here. He said, "Love never fails. We must speak up for our love for the Lord and our faith in Him. We want people to see God in us and not even see us." The doctor was accompanied by his cute little dog, Roy. While Dr. Ferguson was speaking, Roy got loose and went on the stage and just made himself at home!

Misc...

✂ You are not groomed by the things of this world, but by the Word of God. - Chris Holloway.

✂ Have you noticed how our Youth Department has grown? Thank you, Lord. Also thanks to Sara and Dustin, the Youth Leaders.

✂ Pastor Al has completed the Book of Acts in our Sunday School class. We are now starting a study of Romans. Pastor Al said that if you gain an understanding of Romans, you should gain an understanding of all scripture.

✂ Thank you, Jesus, for the wonderful rain we had recently.

✂ When I visited my son in Tennessee, he had a chocolate lab named, Argos, who would accompany me on my walk around the seven acres of my son's property. Also Penie, their other dog would go. If I got behind while walking, Argos would come back and check on me. He did the same with Terry, my daughter-in-law. He was a wonderful companion. One day last week his collar was not functioning properly and he went to the main road and was struck by a vehicle and killed. That was one sad day, but then I said "Thank you, Lord for letting me know this very fine dog." God brings into our lives certain people and animals, etc. for a short time - sometimes. We often wonder why they are with us for such a short period, but then we thank God for the short term joy that was brought into our lives. God is good and knows our lives from the beginning to the end.

✂ I am returning to Tennessee on October 6th for four months.

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

Welcome New Members



Valuable

by *Emma Thornett*

To my single friends (and the married) - Someone marrying you will not make you valuable. Doing things for other people will not make you valuable. You cannot be made valuable, because you already are valuable. You are valuable because God Almighty himself tenderly created you—in his own image, no less! You were valuable the minute God wrote your days in His book (Ps 139:13-16), and nothing that happens to you in this life can change that.

Happy 95th Birthday, Louise Formosa



Louise celebrated her 95th birthday last month. She has served the Lord for over 80 years!!! She loves to help people and she prays for CCC all the time. Everyone loves her so much. Her signature phrase is that she's feeling "fine and dandy and sweet as candy." And we agree.

The Wannamaker Outreach



Photos of Outreach by Sharon, Belle, and Pastor Eric

More Picnic Photos



Kitchen Korner

from the kitchen of *Dee Paraspolo*

With Christ's help, we can all make a difference. Let's choose to make the right choice. This story is from the internet. The author is Elizabeth Silance Ballard.

As she stood in front of her 5th grade class on the very first day of school, she told the children an untruth – a lie. Like most teachers, she looked at her students and said she loved them all the same. However, that was impossible, because there in the front row, slumped in his seat, was a little boy named Teddy Stoddard.

Mrs. Thompson had watched Teddy the year before and noticed that he did not play well with the other children, that his clothes were messy and that he constantly needed a bath. In addition, Teddy could be unpleasant.

It got to the point where Mrs. Thompson would actually take delight in marking his papers with a broad red pen, making bold X's and then putting a big "F" at the top of his papers.

At the school where Mrs. Thompson taught, she was required to review each child's past records and she put Teddy's off until last. However, when she reviewed his file, she was in for a surprise.

Teddy's first grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is a bright child with a ready laugh. He does his work neatly and has good manners. He is a joy to be around."

His second grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is an excellent student, well-liked by his classmates, but he is troubled because his mother has a terminal illness and life at home must be a struggle."

His third grade teacher wrote, "His mother's death has been hard on him. He tries to do his best, but his father doesn't show much interest and his home life will soon affect him if some steps aren't taken."

Teddy's fourth grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is withdrawn and doesn't show much interest in school. He doesn't have many friends and he sometimes sleeps in class."

By now, Mrs. Thompson realized the problem and she was ashamed of herself. She felt even worse when her students brought her Christmas presents, wrapped in beautiful ribbons and bright paper, except for Teddy's. His present was clumsily wrapped in heavy, brown paper that he got from a grocery bag. Mrs. Thompson took pains to open it in the middle of the other presents. Some of the children started to laugh when she found a rhinestone bracelet with some of the stones missing and a bottle that was one-quarter full of perfume. But she stifled the children's laughter when she exclaimed how pretty the bracelet was, putting it on, and dabbing some of the perfume on her wrist. Teddy Stoddard stayed after school that day just long enough to say, "Mrs. Thompson, today you smell just like my Mom used to." After the children left, she cried for at least an hour.

On that very day, she quit teaching reading, writing and arithmetic. Instead, she began to teach children. Mrs. Thompson paid particular attention to Teddy. As she worked with him, his mind seemed to come alive. The more she encouraged him, the faster he responded. By the end of the year, Teddy had become one of the smartest children in the class and despite her lie that she would love all the children the same, Teddy became one of her "teacher's pets."

A year later, she found a note under her door, from Teddy, telling her that she was the best teacher he ever had in his whole life.

Six years went by before she got another note from Teddy. He then wrote that he had finished high school, third in his class and she was still the best teacher he ever had in his life.

Four years after that, she got another letter, saying that while things had been tough at times, he'd stayed in school, had

stuck with it and would soon graduate from college with the highest of honors. He assured Mrs. Thompson that she was still the best and favorite teacher he had ever had in his whole life.

Then four more years passed and another letter came. This time he wrote that after he got his bachelor's degree, he decided to go a little further. The letter explained that she was still the best and favorite teacher he ever had. But now his name was a little longer . . . the letter was signed, Theodore F. Stoddard, MD.

The story does not end there. You see, there was another letter that spring. Teddy said he had met this girl and was going to be married. He explained his father had died a couple of years before and he was wondering if Mrs. Thompson might agree to sit at the wedding in the place that was usually reserved for the mother of the groom.

Of course, Mrs. Thompson did. And she wore that bracelet, the one with several rhinestones missing. Moreover, she made sure she was wearing the perfume that Teddy remembered his mother wearing on their last Christmas together.

They hugged each other. Dr. Stoddard whispered in Mrs. Thompson's ear, "Thank you for believing in me. Thank you so much for making me feel important and showing me that I could make a difference.

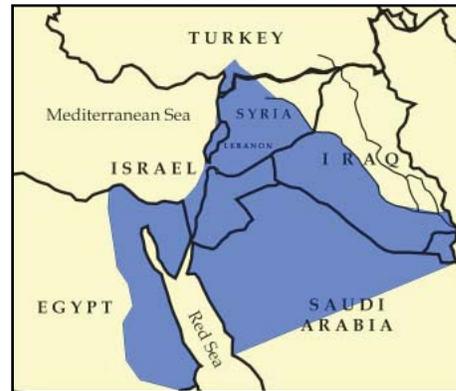
Mrs. Thompson, with tears in her eyes, whispered back, saying, "Teddy, you have it all wrong. You were the one who taught me that I could make a difference. I didn't know how to teach until I met you."

God Bless Our Grandchildren.

by *Dee Paraspolo*

Hannah is my 10 year old granddaughter. She was here last year in May with her mother and sisters. Her mother sent me a text to share what Hannah had said about me. Per Hannah, "Grandma is the best kind of Grandma. She's old but she doesn't act her age. She knows what kids like and does it with us...like roller coasters and Christmas in May."

Future Israeli Boundaries



Genesis 15:18 reads: "To your descendants I give this land from the River of Egypt to the Great River, the river Euphrates." Moses announced to the Jews in Deuteronomy 11:24 *Every place where you set your foot will be yours: Your territory will extend from the desert*

to Lebanon, and from the Euphrates River to the western sea. NIV

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