

Community Christian Center



The Word
Fellowship
Prayer

The Good Tidings Newsletter

A Report on the Revival at CCC

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Pastor's Corner

This month featuring *Associate Pastor Tony Paraspolo*
Christian Atheists

I will return to the subject of Christian Atheists, but first I want to talk about two beginnings – from Genesis and from the Gospel of John. Genesis 1:1-2: *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.* And John 1:1-4: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.*



Both of these verses are about the same God – our God – and this God is the Trinity; God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. God created us for fellowship with Him and to have a family in His image – a family for fellowship.

Who was born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:13-14 And John 3:3-7, *Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'* "

In my early years of being a Christian, we understood that when we received Christ as our Savior we were "born again" and we had to be born again to go to heaven. Over the years the term "born again" was watered down by the devil and lost its meaning; everyone was using the term and saying they were born again. The term "born again" was replaced with "believing in Jesus." But we need to know what believing in Jesus means. Believe is more than just saying "I believe," because James 2:19 says, *Even the demons believe – and tremble!*, and demons have no part in heaven. Believing in Jesus includes following Him, listening to Him by reading scripture and prayer; and by loving and forgiving as Jesus did; and by doing what He did while He was here on earth.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. John 3:16-17
"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another

Helper, that He may abide with you forever – The Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you." (John 14:16-17)

We need to rely on the Spirit of Truth, which is the Holy Spirit. And we hear and rely on Him through the Word of God. Jesus came for many reason – to love us, to redeem us and to show us who God our Father is. Twenty-one times in the 14th chapter of John, Jesus mentions His Father. That is twenty-one opportunities for us to understand who God our Father is.

"At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you." (John 14:20) This verse brings us into unity with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

John 14:21 *"He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."* As we obey Christ's commandment He says He will manifest (reveal) Himself to us.

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you." (John 14:26) The Holy Spirit cannot bring scripture back to our remembrance unless we have read and studied the scripture. We can't need God's help and pray, "Father, God, bring to my remembrance the things I have not studied."

Jesus speaking in John 16:14-15 says, *"He (God) will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you."* This is another promise that is ours IF we read and study God's Word. *"All things that the father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you."* All that Jesus is we can be, and all that Jesus knows we can know.

Returning to "Christian Atheists," Christian Atheists are "Christians" that live like God does not exist and still believes they are on their way to heaven. They are their own God. They live for themselves, focusing on their own desires and their own beliefs. They go to church. They may even sing in the choir or teach a class; they say "amen"; they talk like a Christian but the true, committed love of Christ is not in them. They are an Atheist Christian.

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: for men will be lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! Always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. (II Timothy 3:1-5, 7)

NOW LET US LIVE ACCORDING TO THE WILL OF THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT; FOR THEIR WILL IS GREATER THAN OUR WILL. OUR GOD WILL NEVER FAIL.

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27)

NEWS FLASHES!

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

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! I trust you had a wonderful Easter as we celebrated the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and the glorious hope of His soon return. Happy Mother's Day to all of our mothers!

Quotes

✂ Politicians are so busy fighting with each other that they have no time to keep their promises. - Pastor Ken

✂ Our greatness lies not so much in being able to remake the world, as it is being able to remake ourselves. - Gandhi

Did You Know?

✂ Never, ever get rid of the desire to climb a tree or run through the sprinklers!

✂ Salsa has surpassed ketchup as top selling condiment in America!

✂ Getting a good night's sleep each night is important. If a person misses out on as little as one half hour of sleep per night for five days, extreme fatigue is likely to result and the person won't be able to function as well.

✂ In Chicago in honor of St. Patrick's Day, they dye the Chicago River green! They use 40 pounds of non-toxic vegetable dye and the color lasts for about five hours.

✂ Movie theater popcorn in America costs more per ounce than filet mignon.

✂ Some 200 hundred American towns and cities and more than 600 schools are name after our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln.

✂ It was so delightful to see little Sofia Paraspolo sing with her mother on Singspiration night.

Bit of Humor

✂ Dear God, I would like to live 900 years like that guy in the Bible. - Jason Age 9

✂ Sign on a church: Try our Sundays. They are better than Ben & Jerry's.

✂ Who worries that his uniform makes him look fat? An insecurity guard.

✂ A woman noticed her husband standing on the bathroom scale, sucking in his stomach. "Ha! That's not going to help." she said. Sure it does," he said. "It's the only way I can see the numbers." - Readers Digest

Person of the Month - Shannon Miller

✂ Shannon struggled for some years to live the Christian life. God wanted to heal him and thanks be to God, Shannon's life was completely turned around. Shannon said he was sentenced to four years in jail. One day he was summoned to go to the judges's chambers and the judge said, "I do not know why I am doing this but you are free to go." This was after serving only seven months. We know who was in control - our Lord!

Shannon turned to the Lord and away from the old life. He now attends church regularly and makes a good living driving a truck.

He and his wife, Marlene, have seven children and one grandson between them.

They are grateful to all the many people who have helped them and thank them all, but want to give special thanks to Ray and Susie Algorri and Bill Trisler. Shannon and Marlene are a beautiful example



of God's grace and mercy. Shannon's favorite Bible verse is John 10:9 *I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture.*

Election

✂ As we are in an election year, please pray for the right persons to take these important positions for the good of our country.

So long for now, your roving reporter, aka Jr. Scoop
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Romans 16:20

A Miracle

by **Sharon Johnson**

During a prayer meeting at CCC the Lord gave me a song to tell the others about. I looked up the lyrics on my iPhone. After praying in tongues for a time, we met together to discuss what the Lord had revealed to us. Martha Griego said that the Lord had told her that we have to conform to the likeness of Jesus so that He will transform us, and that rivers of living water will flow from us even unto healings.

It was my turn so I picked up my iPhone and read the lyrics to the song the Lord had given me, "I Am Standing on the Solid Rock."

I then set my iPhone down on the chair beside me. It had turned dark with nothing on it when all of a sudden it came to life and started flashing. There was something written on it. I picked it up to see what was happening and was astonished to see a Bible verse: Romans:8:29 *For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.* We were amazed because this verse confirmed the word given to Martha. There is no explanation for why my iPhone showed this verse except a miracle. It must be very important to God that we understand His transforming power. There are three people who witnessed this miracle.

I think He chose my iPhone because He knew I would write about it in order to encourage others. In these last days drawing close to Jesus is imperative. We must stand on the Solid Rock of Jesus and let Him conform us to His likeness so that we can be effective for His use.

I remain amazed. God is still in the miracle business!!!

Alphabet Faith

From the internet

A grandfather was walking through his yard when he heard his granddaughter repeating the alphabet in a tone of voice that sounded like a prayer. He asked her what she was doing. The little girl explained: "I'm praying, but I can't think of exactly the right words, so I'm just saying all the letters, and God will put them together for me, because He knows what I'm thinking."
- Charles B. Vaughan.

A True Hero

A facebook entry from my Texas cousin, **Helen Cook Hall**

A true hero of the Titanic: Rev. John Harper, widower, single father. Placed his daughter Nana on a lifeboat, and began crying out, "Women and children, to the life boats!" He was also seen witnessing to those on board. After the ship sank, Harper was seen swimming from survivor to survivor, crying out, "Are you saved?" and leading people to Jesus. One man refused Christ. Harper gave him his life jacket, saying, "Then you need this more than I do." Harper swam away to witness to others, and then returned. This time, the man with Harper's life jacket professed faith in Christ. Shortly after that, Harper, freezing and tired, succumbed to the ocean, crying out, "Believe on the Name of the Lord Jesus and you will be saved!"

Zeda Stade

9/10/1927 - 3/31/2016

Beloved Mother, Grandmother and Friend

Zeda attended CCC for 25 years or more. She attended with her wonderful sister, Lorraine Lubbers. She was a people person and loved to go out for lunch or just to have coffee. She was a tiny bit sassy at times but her heart was pure gold. She cared deeply about others and attended intercessory prayer meetings for years. She endured much tragedy in her life with the loss of two children, her sister, Lorraine and her husband Clovis, but she bore it well. She was very strong and courageous. She took in her granddaughter, Shannon in 1993 and raised her. Shannon and her husband, Chris, took excellent care of Zeda for the last few years of her life. They were so loving and kind to her and always there when she needed them. God will bless them for that. We love Zeda and will miss her but know she is up in heaven and we will see her again.



S*T*A*R*S*

by Sharon Johnson

When a superstar dies, it shocks and saddens us. We love them for their talent; we get to know them and will miss them. I'm thinking of the recent death of Prince, but there is also Michael Jackson, Elvis Presley, and many others. People talk about the legacy that these stars will leave and how they will be remembered. We pray that they knew Jesus because that is truly the most important thing – much more important than fame, money, talent, popularity, and etc.

The benefits of stardom only last for as long as they are alive. When they die God will judge them just as He does all of us. The story of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31) tells how things really are after death. The rich man who was lauded and celebrated on earth and had everything while he was alive, found himself in torment after his death. And then there was Lazarus who was a very poor beggar on earth, but he found himself in paradise after he died. Whether they inherited paradise or torment after death was determined by how they honored God and not by the earthly things that they acquired while

they were alive.

But there is another aspect of stardom that I would like to talk about.

There are at least two verses in the Bible that talk about humans shining like stars. The first verse I found was in Daniel. Daniel 12:2-3 *"Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever."* NIV This is true super stardom and it will last forever.

The second verse is found in Philippians 2:14 *"Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe..."* NIV Wow! This means that we can shine like stars today while we walk this earth.

We aren't seeking this kind of super stardom because we are seeking the bright Morning Star and that is Jesus Christ. However, these are the awe-inspiring results of following Him.

Appointed



Benjamin and Dolores Arredondo have been appointed Children's Ministry Leaders. We pray God's guidance and anointing over them and know that they will be a blessing to our children.

Remembering the Past



Joe & Angel - Dec, 2008



Children are the frosting on the cake of life. -Marie Giorgio
The Holy Spirit - Don't leave home with out Him. -Pastor Eric Giorgio

New Member - Welcome



Karen Whitfield

Untimely

From a Bayless Conley video clip sent by

Laura Tassin

Bayless Conley tells of the time at age 10 when he and his friend found out that on a stingray bicycle you could pop a wheelie and the back fender of the bike would create a long, deep hole in the grass of a lawn. So they decided to try it out on a certain neighbor's yard who was on vacation. They met up when it was dark and went to the yard and had fun cutting so many parts of that lawn that it was totally wrecked. Just when they finished they saw the lights of a car headed right for that property. They got on their bikes and tried to get away but Bayless was caught by the returning neighbor's son who had jumped out of the car to get him. The police were called, and every other neighbor came out to see what was happening. He was crying and looking at the handcuffs while being surrounded by cops and people all lecturing him about how wrong he was. His parents weren't home so they had to wait in the street for a long time until they could finally come and collect him. Bayless said, "Needless to say that was a very bad night for me."

He said, "Had I known my neighbors were coming home that night I wouldn't have done that." The moral of the story is, we do not know when Jesus is returning. We know it is soon. All the signs point to it. We want to be ready and not be caught up in worldly things and we want to be right with the Lord. If we are not, it would be far more serious than having a bad night. Are you ready for Jesus' return?

Happy Mother' Day,
☺☺☺

Kitchen Korner

from the kitchen of *Dee Paraspolo*

Mother's Day

by *Charles R. Swindoll*

A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies...

Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised... Proverbs 31:10 & 28-30

If there is one attitude families are guilty of more than any other when it comes to mothers, it is presumption...taking them for granted...being nearly blind on occasion to the load moms carry. This was reinforced in my mind last week as I was thumbing through a row of crazy greeting cards at a local drugstore. Time and again the joke in the card drew its humor from this obvious attitude that pervades a household: Forget the housework, Mom. It's your day. Besides, you can always do double duty and catch up on Monday!

But my favorite was a great big card that looked like a third grader had printed it. On it was a little boy with a dirty face and torn pants pulling a wagon load of toys. On the front it read: "Mom, I remember the little prayer you used to say for me every day . . ." and inside, "God help you if you do that again!"

Jimmy Dean, the country-western singer, does a number that always leaves me with a big knot in my throat. It's entitled "I Owe You." In the song a man is looking through his wallet and comes across a number of long-standing "I owe you's" to his mother . . . which he names one by one.

Borrowing that idea, I suggest you who have been guilty of presumption unfold some of your own. "I owe you's" that are now yellow with age. Consider the priceless value of the one woman who made your life possible – your mother.

Think about her example, her support, her humor, her counsel, her humility, her hospitality, her insight, her patience, her sacrifices. Her faith. Her hope. Her love.

Old "honest Abe" was correct when he said: "He is not poor who has a godly mother." Indebted, but not poor.

Moms, on Mother's Day Sunday we rise up and call you blessed. But knowing you, you'll feel uneasy in the limelight. You'll probably look for a place to hide. True servants are like that.

You are probably going to be taken out to eat (which will add to our indebtedness.) But in all honesty, it won't come anywhere near expressing our gratitude.

So moms, live it up on Sunday. It's all yours. My advice? Shake up the family for a change. Order steak and lobster! Mother's Day should not be just one day a year.

Mother

A song by *Howard Johnson* (c. 1915)

M... is for the million things she gave me,

O ... means only that she's growing old,

T ... is for the tears she shed to save me,

H ... is for her heart of purest gold;

E ... is for her eyes, with love-light shining,

R ... means right, and right she'll always be.

Put them all together, they spell "MOTHER," A word that means the world to me.

Trivia Note: Howard Johnson also wrote "I Scream, You Scream, We all Scream for Ice Cream." One of my favorites! LOL - Editor

From Hell to Heaven - The Documentary

Mike Paraspolo is filming a documentary film about the life of John Galbreath. The cameraman is Nick Gomer. The film will be entitled "From Hell to Heaven."

The filming has been done at CCC with some location shooting at the men's retreat. Pastor Eric, Marie, Pastor Mike and Pastor Ken will be seen in the film along with John Galbreath, Henry Saenz, Chris Sloan and Mike Paraspolo, and the congregation of CCC. We look forward to seeing this production. Below are a few pictures of the filming.



John Galbreath
Jesus changed his life



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