

Community Christian Center

The Word
Fellowship
Prayer

The Good Tidings Newsletter

A Report on the Revival at CCC



DECEMBER, 2011

KENNETH CLOWDUS, PASTOR

VOLUME 142

Pastor's Corner

This month featuring Senior Pastor *Ken Clowdus*

As this will be my final writing in the newsletter, I would like to use this as an opportunity to thank all of those who have made Community Christian Center uniquely the Body of Christ. Truly He has shed His grace on us. Our goal almost 35 years ago was to have a congregation that truly loved the Lord and each



other. That goal has not changed and will continue under the most capable hands of Pastor Eric and Marie.

I also dreamed of planting additional churches and hoping they in turn would do the same. We have a thriving church in Hesperia that still bears the name Community Christian Center and a growing church in the eastern part of Covina which is called United in Him Christian Fellowship.

[We could not have two CCCs in Covina, and this new name fits their congregation]

Pastors J. J. and Denotra of Apple Valley are ordained under our ministry as well as the ongoing ministry of the Blue family by pastors Sylvia and James. Pastors Ed Lujan and Lillian established a strong work after being sent out from C.C.C. Even though they have retired, their efforts are still bearing fruit, with the likes of Albert and Esther, Raymond and Becky, Joe Hernandez, Pete and Lupe and many others.

As Sandy and I leave at the end of this month we feel totally fulfilled and blessed by what God has done. We have made mistakes along the way but God's grace has been more than sufficient. Our congregation values the Word of God, prayer, fellowship and service, all in the proper proportion. Like any family there is some give and take, but overall we get along remarkably well. I was determined that this church would know no man after the flesh but look beyond the exterior and see the treasure, instead of the earthen vessel, and what treasures there are in so many with different ethnic, racial and cultural backgrounds. I believe this is a safe place and whosoever will may come and find love and acceptance and most of all the power of God.

We will never forget you and what you have done to make our lives rich beyond measure. I have no doubt whatsoever that it is time to step down and move into other ministry. If I started naming names that fill my heart with gratitude it would fill the rest of the space, but let me say "Thank each and every one of you". May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace, now and forevermore; until we meet again around the throne with the saints of the ages praising Him forever, who delivered us from the powers of darkness and translated us into His own glorious kingdom.

Editor's Note: We have had the great privilege of being under the

leadership of Pastor Ken and Sandy for varying periods of time over the past 35 years. Words can't say how much we will miss them. We thank God for Pastor and for the uncompromising Christian principles he has taught us, and for seeing the Holy Spirit moving amongst us.

We pray God's richest blessings for them always.

INTERNET BIBLE VERSE STATISTICS

From *biblegatewayblog.com*

You probably won't be surprised to learn that John 3:16 is the most-searched Bible verse, according to Bible Gateway's statistical analysis. We reviewed the behavior of some of the 8 million visitors who stop by the site each month, many of them chasing results provided by Google. I was intrigued to review the top 10 results, which I've listed in reverse order.

Matthew 28:19: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Philippians 4:6: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Romans 12:2: "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Proverbs 3:6: "In all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

Proverbs 3:5: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding."

Genesis 1:1: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

Philippians 4:13: "I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

Romans 8:28: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Jeremiah 29:11: "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'"

John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Four verses come from the Old Testament. Two more come from the Gospels, and four may be found in the Pauline epistles.

Shoe Boxes

Debbie Shaw and LaVonne Adams want to thank everyone who brought a shoe box for Samaritan's Purse Kid's program. We received 23 shoe boxes that will go to children somewhere in the world who would have had no Christmas at all without these gifts. Praise God for the opportunity.

Provision

by Sharon Johnson

(Originally in Dec., 2000 Good Tidings Newsletter)

Taken from a sermon by Hal Lindsay

God knows everything you need or ever will need. What's more, He had plans to provide for you before the foundation of the world. That's a startling statement, but didn't He make provision to cover our sins even before Adam and Eve sinned? Jesus has always known that He was destined for the cross.

There is an amazing example of provision in scripture:

In ancient Israel, sin and evil became so prevalent that God had to put a stop to it. Through His prophets, He warned the people that, if they didn't turn back to Him, He would allow them to be conquered by the Babylonians and be taken captive. The people did not heed the warning and kept on grievously sinning. So, the day came when King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon successfully invaded Palestine and took many captives; he had the finest young Jewish people brought to his palace. Among them was Daniel, a truly remarkable servant of God who never gave up prayer and following the God of the Bible. Even when sorely tested in the Lion's den, he would not give up doing what was right in the eyes of the Lord.

There are many wonderful things Daniel did. He could interpret dreams that no one else could. Through his revealing and then interpreting of those dreams, we have been given amazing end-time prophesy that is recorded in the Old Testament. He did not take credit but gave glory and honor to God. Eventually, Daniel was given tremendous power and influence in the kingdom, and became truly esteemed by all the astrologers, seers, and advisers in the King's court. He even saved their lives when King Nebuchadnezzar was going to have them all killed for not being able to tell him about his dream. (Another name for these astrologers is 'magi', per New Unger's Bible Dictionary).

Now for the provision part:

Cut to a manger in Bethlehem many centuries later: There our Salvation, baby Jesus, was born to a poor young couple, Mary and Joseph. There were magi or astrologers who travelled from the east to see the child and honor him. They followed a star in order to locate Him and when they found Him they presented Him with expensive gifts worthy of a King: gold, frankincense and myrrh.

When Herod, the secular ruler of Israel, found out about a potential rival for his position (Jesus), he planned to kill the child and tried to trick the wise men into letting him know the whereabouts of this Little One. The magi were warned in a dream about Herod's evil plan and departed Bethlehem from a different route; avoiding the insanely jealous Herod who then ordered his soldiers to kill all the infants less than two years of age - thinking that would eliminate his Problem. Joseph was warned in a dream to take the infant Jesus and Mary and flee to Egypt, thereby keeping the Baby Jesus safe.

I have always wondered how the wise men knew that a great King was to be born and how they were aware that they could follow a star that would guide them to the place where they could find the baby. Hal Lindsey says that Daniel, who had been placed in charge of Nebuchadnezzar's astrologers must have prophesied to them about the future birth of the Christ and that an eastern star would be a sign of the great event and a guide for them. This treasured knowledge was handed down to each new generation of magi. When the day finally came and they identified the star as the long awaited one, they sat out on an arduous

journey that would lead them to the place where the babe was, in order to honor the greatest King that had ever been born. They brought with them the costly gifts.

So that is how Joseph got the means to support Mary and baby Jesus during the time they had to hide out in Egypt, a land where they had no family or resources. You see, centuries before they even had a need, God knew about it and made provision that would come to pass at a crucial time in the future, and He used a greatly beloved servant to be a part of it.

If you have a need, the answer has been provided for by God and it could have been in place for years, decades or even centuries before you were born. Our God is a God of provision, miracles, love, and mercy.

Trivial Pursuits

by Sharon Johnson

Mal 1:6 "A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?" says the Lord Almighty. "It is you, O priests, who show contempt for my name. NIV

One might think, "Oh, those ancient Jews, they were always messing up and straying from the Lord, especially the priests. But, just think about it a moment, didn't Peter call the saints, 'priests'?"

1 Peter 2:9-10 *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

Okay, now we know that the verse in Malachi can pertain to us. So it is very important to examine ourselves because we do not want to bring contempt to the name of our Lord. In reading the rest of Malachi passage we find that the priests were bringing lame and diseased animals to be sacrificed to God. In other words, they brought what was left over and of little value before the Lord and were giving the best to themselves and to their worldly interests.

Yikes, how many times have I said to myself, "You can read the Word later, you have to get this project done now, or watch this TV show, or do this or that." And then I find there is no time left in the day - I'm too tired to read the Word. Isn't that what the priests of Ancient Israel were doing? They were giving preference to worldly things and pursuits, and ignoring the most important things.

It goes on to say that there are many blessings to those who honor Him rightly and there is no hand of blessing to those who willfully do not. But that is not the main reason to spend time with Him in the Word and prayer, the reasons are that He is Love, He has been so good to us, and we owe Him everything - even our very own existence. He really deserves our best. Let's all try harder to be doers of the Word and not just hearers.

God bless you, CCC. I believe this is from the Lord - God directed me to this passage in Malachai today.



There were ten lepers healed, and only one turned back to give thanks, but it is to be noticed that our Lord did not recall the gift from the other nine because of their lack of gratitude. When we begin to lessen our acts of kindness and helpfulness because we think those who receive do not properly appreciate what is done for them, it is time to question our own motives.

-Author: Leaves of Gold

What Would Jesus Do To Get a Bride?

by *Charles Spurgeon*

Hosea 12:12 *Israel served to get a wife, and to pay for her he tended sheep.*

Jacob, while reasoning with Laban, described his hard work and toil, "This twenty years have I been with thee. The sheep which was torn of beasts I brought not unto thee: I bore the loss of it; of my hand didst thou require it, whether stolen by day, or stolen by night. Thus I was; in the day the drought consumed me, and the frost by night; and my sleep departed from mine eyes." Even more toilsome than this was the life of our Saviour here below. He watched over all His sheep till He gave in as His last account, "Of all those whom Thou hast given me I have lost none."

His hair was wet with dew, and His locks with the drops of the night. Sleep departed from His eyes, for all night He was in prayer wrestling for His people. One night Peter must be pleaded for; and then another claims His tearful intercession. No shepherd sitting beneath the cold skies, looking up to the stars, could ever utter complaints about of the hardness of his toil as Jesus Christ could have brought, if He had chosen to do so, because of the extreme difficulty of His service in order to procure His spouse--

"Cold mountains and the midnight air,
Witnessed the fervour of His prayer;
The desert His temptations knew,
His conflict and His victory too."

It is sweet to dwell upon the spiritual parallel of Laban having required all the sheep at Jacob's hand. If they were torn of beasts, Jacob must make it good; if any of them died, he must stand as surety for the whole. Was not the toil of Jesus for His Church the toil of one who was under care, obligations to bring every believing one safe to the hand of Him who had committed them to His charge? Look upon toiling Jacob, and you see a representation of Him of whom we read, "He shall feed His flock like a shepherd."

Editor's Note: You are more precious to Jesus than His own life, dear reader, He loves you and proved it by taking your sins upon Himself and then dying in agony on the cross. He did all that and much more, so that you could be included in the Bride of Christ. He will always care for you like the Good Shepherd who tenderly cares for His flock.



'Twas the Month Before Christmas

from the internet

Submitted by *Dorothy Glenn Thomas*

'Twas the month before Christmas

When all through our land,
Few Christians were praying -
Few taking a stand.
See, the PC Police had taken away -
The reason for Christmas - we're told not to say.

The children were told by their schools not to sing
About Shepherds and Wise Men and Angels and things.

It might hurt people's feelings, the teachers would say,
December 25th is just a 'Holiday.'

Yet the shoppers were ready with cash,
checks and credit,
Pushing folks down to the floor just to get it!
CDs from Bieber, an X BOX, an I-Pod,
Something was changing, something quite odd!

Retailers promoted Ramadan and Kwanzaa,
In hopes to sell books by Franken & Fonda.

Target was hanging their trees upside down,
At Lowe's the word Christmas - was no where to be found.
At K-Mart & Staples & Penny's & Sears,
You won't hear the word Christmas; it won't touch your ears.
Inclusive, sensitive, Di-ver-si-ty
Are words that were used to intimidate me.

Now Daschle, Now Darden, Now Sharpton,
Wolf Blitzen
On Barney, on Nancy, on Kerry, on Clinton!
At the top of the Senate, there arose such a clatter,
To eliminate Jesus, in all public matter.

And we spoke not a word, as they took away our faith,
Forbidden to speak of salvation and grace.
The true Gift of Christmas was exchanged and discarded,
The reason for the season, needs to be restarted.

So as you celebrate "Winter Break" under your "Dream Tree,"
Sipping your Starbucks, listen to me.
Choose your words carefully, choose what you say...
Shout MERRY CHRISTMAS, and not

Happy Holiday!

JESUS is the Reason for the season!!!

Editor's Note: More Christians are speaking up now than when this was written but we have to keep up the good fight for our Lord.

Hope

by *Donald Burnett*

November 24th, 2011

Having no hope it's like a life without a dream; but when we come to know God, He gives us life and he gives us hope; for now, and for tomorrow and for forever.

From Time to Eternity

Taken from *Hope for Each Day*

by *Billy Graham*

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December, 3 entry:

We give thanks to God ... Because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven. Colossians 1:3,5

Once I stood in London to watch Queen Elizabeth return from an overseas trip. I saw the parade of dignitaries, the marching bands, the crack troops, the waving flags. I saw all the splendor that accompanies the homecoming of a queen.

However, that was nothing compared to the homecoming of a true believer. At that moment of death, the believer enters Heaven itself, carried upward by the angels to the glorious welcome awaiting the redeemed (Luke 16:22).

From our human viewpoint death is always tinged with sadness. It is not wrong to mourn the loss of a loved one; Jesus wept at the grave of His friend Lazarus (John 11:35).

But the Christian should never consider the death of a fellow believer as a tragedy. Paul said we should not "grieve like the rest of men, who have not hope" (1Thess, 4:13 NIV). Yes, we have hope! The way to Heaven may lie through the valley of the shadow of death, but the angels accompany us all the way—and beyond is Heaven, our glorious home.



Editor's Note: As of this date, our wonderful 93 year old brother, Reverend Billy Graham, is in the hospital recovering from pneumonia. Please pray for him and his family. His ministries have been a blessing to a great many people.

***** Kitchen Korner *****

from the kitchen of *Dee Paraspolo*

CHRISTMAS Through God's Eyes!

For those of you who have know me, you don't hear me say enduring things about hot weather or the Southern California heat. It amazes me that God put me in a climate that is so contrary to temperatures that I enjoy. Anything above 70 - 75 degrees gets a very unkind review from my lips.

One way I've handle the heat (besides reminding God that His daughter loves cool breezes) is to turn the air conditioner in my car to extra cold, full air and then play Christmas music. It is just as beautiful to hear "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem" in the middle of August as it is in mid-December. Besides I really don't understand why "Christmas music" is relegated to the 4.2 weeks between the day after Thanksgiving and Christmas day. I guess I'll always maintain the mindset of my younger years when I was growing up: where the outdoor's "frightful weather and delightful fires" and winter wonderland was just as beautiful in November and February as it was on Christmas Day.

I may as well confess, I've lost something in some of my grandkid's generation. My granddaughters that live on the humid Gulf Coast of Texas wrap up in sweaters and blankets when it gets down to 85 degrees. I received a letter from my granddaughter in Idaho earlier this weekend in which she complained that it snowed a little; she hates the snow and she thinks that winter is way too long. Then there is my eight-year-old Colorado grandson. He worked this summer for neighbors and at the Farmer's Market in order to save half the money for his season ski ticket - he looks forward to winter.

Back to air conditioners and Christmas music. As I was listening to a CD in the stifling heat of early November a phrase of one of the songs caught my attention. The song says, "I want to see Christmas through your eyes. I want everything to be alright." It's a parent wanting to see the love, joy and excitement of Christmas through the eyes of her child.

It has caused me to spend time thinking about what our Christmas looks like through God's eyes. What would I see if I could see Christmas through God's eyes? What would I see at my house, if I were looking through the eyes of The One who gave His only Son? Through God's eyes would I see grateful hearts or selfish hearts? Would I see me more interest in a Christmas tree than in the tree of Calvary? Would I see me more interested in Christmas lights than I am in The Light of the World? Through God's eyes would I see me thankful for the food in the pantry or whining because I can't eat out? Does God see my Christmas wish list longer than the list of scriptures I have memorized? Has Santa Claus replaced my remembrance of the Christ Child? Through God's eyes, would I see "I saw Mama Kissing Santa Claus" a more important song than "Mary, did you know when you kissed your Boy, you kissed the face of God." What would I see if I could see Christmas through God's eyes?

Jesse is fond of traditions and we have several that he can count on. Besides the standard decorating the house and tree, he knows that there will be several nativity scenes of various sizes around the house. He know that Christmas morning after opening stockings we will stop and have hot chocolate and Christmas cookies that we made the week before, and he knows we will read the story of Christ's birth from Matthew and Luke.

It's not that we should not decorate, write Christmas cards, wrap packages and have traditions that we and our children can

count on - they are a part of life. But through God's eyes, have these things become more important than His Son who sacrificed the glories of heaven? Has Santa Claus Coming to Town become the tune hummed on our lips, rather than Away in a Manger or Silent Night, Holy Night? What does He who knows the thoughts and intents of our heart . . . He who formed us in the womb . . . He who sees our coming in and our going out . . . What does God see? What would I see if I were to see Christmas at my house through God's eyes?

Have a blessed and Merry Christ-Filled Christmas.

WOMEN'S MEETING

Marlene Schultz spoke at women's meeting last month on the topic, "choices." She is soft spoken, but her message was very



powerful. The biblical reference she used is Joshua 24:15 *...then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, ...But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."*

She spoke of God's provision as put forth in the word, that is that most of the provision we receive is based upon the choices we make in our lives - will we follow God or not? He wants to extend

His hand of blessing ot us but sometimes we prevent Him from doing so by our wrong choices.

Our annual women's Christmas breakfast will be held at Millies on December 10th at 9:30am. We will be having an ornament gift exchange, so be sure to join in the fun and bring your wrapped Christmas tree ornament. Hope to see you there.



Slide Show

Please set aside Sunday, December 18 at 6pm as a date to attend CCC's evening service at 6pm. We will be presenting a very special slide show celebrating the 35th anniversary of CCC as well as honoring its founders, Pastor Ken and Sandy. We will serve birthday cake, ice cream, coffee and soft drinks after the meeting. We can all get nostalgic together as we remember the great people and the wonderful things that God has done through CCC and the operation of the Holy spirit. over the years.

MERRY CHRISTMAS*, CCC

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