

Community Christian Center



The Word
Fellowship
Prayer

The Good Tidings Newsletter

A Report on the Revival at CCC

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KENNETH CLOWDUS, PASTOR

VOLUME 121

Pastor's Corner

This month featuring *Minister Lorraine DeLille*,
Head of Women's Ministry

There Are Greater Days Ahead

Now when He had left speaking, He said unto Simon, launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught... Luke 5:4 (A draught means catching a lot of fish.)

Jesus Christ had been speaking to the multitude, for He had a message for all men. But He had a special message to His own chosen circle of disciples. If He were here today He would still say to every disciple what He said to Peter that day: "Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught."



"Launch Out" Christianity does not ever let us settle down. Whenever a church stops reaching out – it passes out! We must go on to the next street, to the next town, to the next county, to the next country – into all the world. "Go ye into all the world!" This is still the Great Commission. The church, it is our business to preach the gospel to all the world, and the enemy makes it his business to hinder us, if he can.

"Into The Deep" Like so many of us, Peter had a problem. He needed to love Jesus Christ more and to love his (or her) fellow men more. Because, only love can see deeply enough and care strongly enough. "Lovest thou Me?" was the penetrating question Jesus put to Peter, three times. We, too, need (perhaps I should say, I need) to examine deeper my spiritual condition. Is our love deep enough? Do we go into the depths of prayer? Of Bible study? Those who are engaged in the service for the Lord need an experience much higher, deeper, broader, than many have yet thought of having. I should say that's where my heart is. Perhaps you are there already. Maybe we could think also of going into the depths of service, deeper into the world's needs.

"And Let Down Your Nets." Our nets may be old, and worn and torn, like Peter's but the Master says, "Let down your nets." Everyone has talents or should I say, gifts, that Christ can use. We should not worry about other people's nets, and just let down our own. If it is only a sewing needle, use it as Dorcas did. If it is only a sling-shot, use it as David did.

"For A Draught." I believe Miracles will take place when we will yield all our talents to HIM. Look at the draught of fish Peter took that day! He was amazed at what Christ could do with his old, torn net!

Daily, I must launch out – by faith. When you really think of it, He just requires that we BELIEVE! Hallelujah! Lorraine DeLille

WALK THE WALK/DRIVE THE DRIVE

A joke from the internet - submitted by *Joyce Pace*

The light turned yellow, just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the redlight by accelerating through the intersection.

The tailgating woman was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration, as she missed her chance to get through the intersection, dropping her cell phone and makeup.

As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up.

He took her to the police station where she was searched, fingerprinted, photographed, and placed in a holding cell. After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.

He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping off the guy in front of you and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'Follow Me to Sunday-School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk, so naturally.....I assumed you had stolen the car."

My King, My Father in Heaven

From *Prayers to My King* by Sheri Rose Shepherd

Submitted by *Dee Dee Munoz*

I do so desperately need to know your fatherly love for me. I want to feel your arms holding me when I hurt. I want to know your wisdom when I have no idea what to do. I want to experience your protection when I'm in danger and your presence when I'm alone.

Please help me remember how much you love me. Don't ever let go of my hand as I walk through this journey called life. Remind me that I am safe in your arms and that you are always there when I need to run to you. Let me never forget whose child I am. I long to love you not only as God, but as my Daddy in Heaven.

In Jesus' name I pray, Love, Your child who adores You.

"I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." 2 Cor 6:18 NIV



Who is this young beauty?

Hint: She is a much beloved member of our congregation.



Happy Valentine's Day,
ccc

God is the Answer - Duh!

by Sharon Johnson

During the Christmas season I went through some trials which progressively got worse to the point of depression. I started some meditation in the Word to write an article for last month's newsletter and God gave me my answer. I see, now. I was drowning in my own projects, and fears, but only minimally reading the Word. I rediscovered that I must make time to read the word every day, or I will not make it. I get selfish, fearful, defensive, insecure, depressed, greedy, looking at other's faults, in a pity party, with loss of faith, and the wrong focus, etc. When I am like that, it leads to death. It says so in James 14:15: *...and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.*

I just have to be alive to God. The world can be a dull and lonely place without God in it (for me). If you let your circumstances dictate how you feel, then you are on a roller coaster. If your personal circumstances are not happy, and you are without the Spirit of God leading you, your world will turn grey, dull, depressed and hopeless. If you have a life with mostly happy circumstances, then you can be fooled into thinking that you don't need God all that much. With the Holy Spirit leading you, your world is turned into vibrant color with love, life, hope and purpose filling your spirit – no matter what the circumstances. (Notwithstanding legitimate grieving, but with God's help you will be able to make it through that also).

I can only truly live with the Holy Spirit's guidance. Why do we care so much about what we have and what others think of us: James 1:9 *The brother (or sister) in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position.* In the Word of God, some things are just the opposite of the way the world looks at them.

I just know that I must walk humbly with my Lord and let Him lead me. I must be fed daily on the Word of God. I must spend time daily in prayer and meditation. I must always ask God for forgiveness for all the times I have missed the mark. I agree with John Newton, and truly thank God for using me in His service at times, but, most of all, for loving and saving a wretch like me.

When You Wander Off

A Writing of Charles Spurgeon

"I sought him, but I found him not." --Song of Solomon 3:1

Tell me where you lost the company of Christ, and I will tell you the most likely place to find Him. Have you lost Christ in the closet by stopping prayer? Then it is there you must seek and find Him. Did you lose Christ by sin? You will find Christ in no other way but by the giving up of the sin, and seeking by the Holy Spirit to mortify the member in which the lust doth dwell. Did you lose Christ by neglecting the Scriptures? You must find Christ in the Scriptures. It is a true proverb, "Look for a thing where you dropped it, it is there." So look for Christ where you lost Him, for He has not gone away. But it is hard work to go back for Christ. Twenty miles onward is easier than to go one mile back for the lost evidence.

Take care, then, when you find your Master, to cling close to Him. But how is it you have lost Him? One would have thought you would never have parted with such a precious friend, whose presence is so sweet, whose words are so comforting, and whose company is so dear to you! How is it that you did not watch Him every moment for fear of losing sight of Him? Yet, since you have let Him go, what a mercy that you are seeking Him, even though you mournfully groan, "O that I knew where I might find Him!" Go on seeking, for it is dangerous to be without thy Lord. Without Christ you are like a sheep without its shepherd; like a tree without water at its roots; like a dry leaf in the tempest--not bound to the tree of life. With thine whole heart seek Him, and He will be

found of thee: only give thyself thoroughly up to the search, and truly, thou shalt yet discover Him to thy joy and gladness.

QUESTIONS

And how can we be sure that we belong to Him?

By obeying his commandments. If someone says, "I belong to God," but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and does not live in the truth. 1 John 2:4 NLT
(But if you do sin, there is someone to plead for you before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who pleases God completely. He is the sacrifice for our sins. He takes away not only our sins but the sins of all the world. 1 John 2:1-2 NLT)

How do we know that we really love God?

Those who obey God's word really do love Him. 1 John 2:3

What is more important: An excitingly romantic fling, a stunning new car, a beautiful home or- eternal life?

For the world offers only the **lust** for physical pleasure, the **lust** for everything we see, and **pride** in our possessions. These are not from the Father. They are from this evil world. And this world is fading away, along with everything it craves. But if you do the will of God, you will live forever. 1 John 2:16-17

What proves that we have passed from death to eternal life?

If we love our Christian brothers and sisters, it proves that we have passed from death to eternal life. 1 John 3:14

Ever felt guilty - even though you confessed your sin and asked for forgiveness?

...so we will be confident when we stand before the Lord, **even if our hearts condemn us.** For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. 1 John 3:19-20

Where were you before this world began?

You were in the mind of God. "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,..." Jer 1:5

The Proposal

Our hearts were warmed when Shannon O'Donnell proposed marriage to Brenda Leon, on bended knee during a Sunday morning service last month. The lady accepted and there will be wedding bells very soon for this lovely (and lively) couple. They believe God has given them a vision of working together for the Lord, and we do too. We wish all of God's blessings upon them.



Crabby Old Man

Submitted by *Sandra Bunch*

When an old man died in the geriatric ward of a nursing home in North Platte, Nebraska, it was believed that he had nothing left of any value. Later, when the nurses were going through his meager possessions, they found this poem. Its quality and content so impressed the staff that copies were made and distributed to every nurse in the hospital. The old man's sole bequest to posterity has since appeared in the Christmas edition of the St. Louis Association for Mental Health's magazine. This little old man, with nothing left to give to the world, is now the author of this 'anonymous' poem winging across the Internet.

Crabby Old Man

What do you see nurses? What do you see?
What are you thinking When you're looking at me?
A crabby old man Not very wise,
Uncertain of habit With faraway eyes?

Who dribbles his food And makes no reply.
When you say in a loud voice 'I do wish you'd try!'
Who seems not to notice The things that you do.
And forever is losing A sock or shoe?

Who, resisting or not Lets you do as you will,
With bathing and feeding The long day to fill?
Is that what you're thinking? Is that what you see?
Then open your eyes, nurse You're not looking at me.

I'll tell you who I am. As I sit here so still,
As I do at your bidding, As I eat at your will.
I'm a small child of t-en With a father and mother,
Brothers and sisters Who love one another.

A young boy of Sixteen With wings on his feet..
Dreaming that soon now A lover he'll meet.
A groom soon at Twenty My heart gives a leap.
Remembering, the vows That I promised to keep.

At Twenty-Five, now I have young of my own.
Who need me to guide And a secure happy home.
A man of Thirty My young now grown fast,
Bound to each other With ties that should last.

At Forty, my young sons Have grown and are gone,
But my woman's beside me To see I don't mourn.
At Fifty, once more, babies play 'round my knee,
Again, we know children My loved one and me.

Dark days are upon me My wife is now dead.
I look at the future Shudder with dread.
For my young are all rearing Young of their own.
And I think of the years And the love that I've known.

I'm now an old man And nature is cruel.
Tis jest to make old age Look like a fool.
The body, it crumbles Grace and vigor, depart.
There is now a stone Where I once had a heart.

But inside this old carcass A young guy still dwells,
And now and again My battered heart swells.

I remember the joys I remember the pain.
And I'm loving and living Life over again.

I think of the years, all too few Gone too fast.
And accept the stark fact That nothing can last.
So open your eyes, people Open and see.
Not a crabby old man Look closer See ME!!

Remember this poem when you next meet an older person who you might brush aside without looking at the young soul within. We will all, one day, be there, too! (Or already are.)

Editor's Note: Our spirit is eternal - it does not age; our bodies do because of the consequences of original sin - the thing that brought us human beings the "cruelties of old age." Treat the elderly well because, if Jesus tarries and you live, you will be that old person yourself and you will find out that you don't feel any different on the inside than when you were a teenager!!! ...And thank God we all will be given new bodies and will be young forever after Jesus returns.

Just one more thought: If you don't have Jesus as your savior, then you just look back at your life and remember. If you have Him in your heart - oh, the glories in heaven that you have to look forward to. ...And you will not go out of the world alone, you will take with you all the love you have shown to others, all the good things you have done for Him, and, at their time, all the people you have touched for the Lord. It is a total win - win situation.



Olivier Melnik (with Pastor Ken in picture) from Chosen People Ministries gave a Sunday morning message which was very powerful and anointed. We are so glad to support our messianic Jewish brothers and sisters. Please remember to pray for them.

Baby Dedication

Some files were lost in a computer melt down or possibly due to personal error and so I apologize to Brianna and Javier Herrera, because the pictures of the dedication of their baby, Zachary, are sadly not to be found anywhere. Zachary was born October, 2009 and is the great grandson of Bob and Rachel Kelly who helped start CCC many years ago, and who have since went home to be with the Lord. These young parents might not have those pictures but they do have an adorable little baby boy, blessed and dedicated to the Lord.



Pix
from
2001
Little
Lambs
&
Pastors



Kitchen Korner

...from the kitchen of *Dee Paraspolo*

The world is full of people who need someone who understands. Jesus understood the multitudes. He taught them. He healed them. He had compassion on them; wept over them; loved them and he died for them. Love is something we often take for granted – the love of others and the love of God. Jesus said, "Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for a friend." Love includes listening, understanding and compassion. The following was sent to me through the internet - author is unknown. It is an endearing story that describes the quality of love and understanding rather well.

A farmer had some puppies he needed to sell. He painted a sign advertising the four pups and set about nailing it to a post on the edge of his yard. As he was driving the last nail into the post, he felt a tug on his overalls. He looked down into the eyes of a little boy.

"Mister," he said, "I want to buy one of your puppies."

"Well," said the farmer, as he rubbed the sweat off the back of his neck, "These puppies come from fine parents and cost a good deal of money."

The boy dropped his head for a moment. Then reaching deep into his pocket, he pulled out a handful of change and held it up to the farmer. "I've got thirty-nine cents. Is that enough to take a look?"

"Sure," said the farmer. And with that he let out a whistle.

"Here, Dolly!" he called.

Out from the doghouse and down the ramp ran Dolly followed by four little balls of fur. The little boy pressed his face against the chain link fence. His eyes danced with delight. As the dogs made their way to the fence, the little boy noticed something else stirring inside the doghouse. Slowly another little ball of fur appeared; this one noticeably smaller. Down the ramp it slid. Then in a somewhat awkward manner, the little pup began hobbling toward the others, doing its best to catch up.

"I want that one," the little boy said, pointing to the runt.

The farmer knelt down at the boy's side and said, "Son, you don't want that puppy. He will never be able to run and play with you like these other dogs would."

With that the little boy stepped back from the fence, reached down, and began rolling up one leg of his trousers. In doing so he revealed a steel brace running down both sides of his leg attaching itself to a specially made shoe. Looking back up at the farmer, he said, "You see sir, I don't run too well myself, and he will need someone who understands."

With tears in his eyes, the farmer reached down and picked up the little pup. Holding it carefully he handed it to the boy.

"How much?" asked the little boy.

"No charge," answered the farmer, "There's no charge for love."

This Will Give You Chills

Submitted by *Bettie Clark*

Author Unknown - From the Internet

After a few of the usual Sunday evening hymns, the church's

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pastor slowly stood up, walked over to the pulpit and, before giving his sermon for the evening, briefly introduced a guest minister who was in the service that evening. In the introduction the pastor told the congregation that the guest minister was one of his dearest childhood friends and that he wanted him to have a few moments to greet the church and share whatever he felt would be appropriate for the service.

With that, an elderly man stepped up to the pulpit and began to speak. "A father, his son, and a friend of his son were sailing off the Pacific coast when a fast approaching storm blocked any attempt to get back to the shore. The waves were so high that even though the father was an experienced sailor, he could not keep the boat upright and the three were swept into the ocean as the boat capsized."

The old man hesitated for a moment, making eye contact with two teenagers who were, for the first time since the service began looking somewhat interested in his story. The aged minister continued with his story, "Grabbing a rescue line, that father had to make the most excruciating decision of his life: to which boy would he throw the other end of the line. He only had seconds to make the decision. The father knew that his son was a Christian and he also knew that his son's friend was not. The agony of his decision could not be matched by the torrent of waves.

As the father yelled out, 'I love you, son!' he threw out the life line to his son's friend. By the time the father had pulled the friend back to the capsized boat, his son had disappeared beneath the raging seas into the black of night. His body was never recovered."

By this time the two teenagers were sitting up straight in the pew, anxiously waiting for the next words to come out of the old minister's mouth. "The father," he continued, "knew his son would step into eternity with Jesus and he could not bear the thought of his son's friend stepping into an eternity without Jesus...therefore, he sacrificed his son to save the son's friend. How great is the love of God that He should do the same for us. Our heavenly Father sacrificed His only begotten Son that we could be saved. I urge you to accept His offer to rescue you and take a hold of the life line He is throwing out to you in this service." With that, the old man turned and sat back down in his chair as silence filled the room.

The pastor again walked slowly to the pulpit and delivered a brief sermon with an invitation at the end. However, no one responded to the appeal. Within minutes after the service ended, the two teenagers were at the old man's side. "That was a nice story," politely stated one of them, "but I don't think it was very realistic for a father to give up his only son's life in hopes that the other boy would become a Christian."

"Well, You've got a point there," the old man replied. Glancing down at his worn Bible, a big smile broadened his narrow face. He once again looked up at the boys and said, "It sure isn't very realistic, is it? But I'm standing here today to tell you that story gives me a glimpse of what it must have been like for God to give up His Son for me. You see...I was that father and your pastor is my son's friend."

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