

Community Christian Center

The Word
Fellowship
Prayer

The Good Tidings Newsletter

A Report on the Revival at CCC



FEBRUARY, 2009

KENNETH CLOWDUS, PASTOR

VOLUME 111

Pastor's Corner

This month featuring *Senior Pastor Ken Clowdus*

To say that we are in uncertain times is a gross understatement. The list of threats that could change our lives forever on this planet is growing and the perils are all too real.

Thank God that he never changes. Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever. If that concept is too lofty for our finite minds to grasp He has broken that principle down into scripture, the Word of God, that is forever settled in heaven. In other words, his promises found in the bible are as trustworthy as God himself. As we face the future, we need to begin to fortify ourselves, not with the evening news, nor with the stock market report, or the latest unemployment figures. These build no faith or assurance whatsoever but tend to generate fear and pessimism.

If we have never before memorized and meditated the word of God, for our survival we must begin immediately. Let us just look at a few examples. Psalm one, for instance, has three power packed verses. Before reading them below, stop and think. Do you know Psalm one? If not, you are probably deficient in the one thing that will keep you strong during these times.

Psalms 1:1-3 (KJV) 1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

This great Psalm was put at the head of the list for a very important reason. Among the other great lessons it teaches, meditation in the word of God assures us that we will stand strong like a tree, where there are rivers of life living waters, we will be fruitful, we will not wither, and whatsoever we do will prosper.

Another test is certain key verses in Proverbs Chapter 4, and if we do not know this scripture by heart we have probably been watching too much Oprah or some other program that will be absolutely no help to us in crisis. Even if we say "ouch" it's not too late and here it is:

Proverbs 4:20-27 (KJV) 20 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. 21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.

22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. 23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. 24 Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee. 25 Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. 26 Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. 27 Turn not

to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.

Don't stop reading, these are just foundational, to help us understand that the word of God will change us on the inside, now look at the words of the Master, Himself.

Matthew 6:25-34 (KJV) 25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? 26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? 27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: 29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? 31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things 33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. 34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

We must, beloved child of God, arm ourselves with the Word of God. If we will take time to memorize these and other scriptures, by adding a verse or two a day to our memory, the meditation will be almost automatic as we will of necessity say it over and over until it forms a permanent groove in our minds. As we do this, based on Psalm one, "whatsoever we do will prosper."

Some Christian Quotes

"The Holy Scriptures are our letters from home." -St. Augustine

"It was Lord who put into my mind (I could feel His hand upon me) that fact that it would be possible to sail from here to the Indies. All who heard of my project rejected it with laughter, ridiculing me. There is no question that the inspiration was from the Holy Spirit, because He comforted me with rays of marvelous inspiration from the Holy Scriptures." -Christopher Columbus... from his journals.

Laura Tassin ASKS...

What would you like to be doing when the trumpet sounds for the last time..when Jesus returns for His people? Where would you like to be found? Pastor Ken and a lot of the leaders of the church believe that it is probably going to happen soon; so it would be very wise for each one of us to live RAPTURE READY at all times. (P.S. Who would want to be found partying at the Crude Dog Bar or cheating on their income tax or....!!!)

Happy Valentine's Day

Faith Miracles and Mercy

by Reverend Laura Tassin

(This article was in the March, 2006 Good Tidings. We are rerunning it because of the importance of tithing and how God is faithful to bless tithers.)

I've grown in the Lord--I'm sure I have, but sometimes you have to look back at some of the tests that you went through. We're not tempted of God, but you do go through tests—not so God can see how we come out, but so He can show us how we'll come out, and show us what's truly in us. You know the Bible says in Hebrews 10:30 that ...the just shall live by faith, and in Hebrews 11:6 it says: Without faith it is impossible to please God. It is truly impossible, you can try to do whatever you want to do thinking you're going to get attention from God, but He says that by faith we, as Christians, must live. Sometimes we can quote those scriptures so well and we know them by heart and everything else, but when an actual test or trial comes up, how do we face that--head on; or do we just buckle under, give up, and throw our hands up?

I want to share with you what happened to me years ago. I really thought I was a faith person at that time back in the seventies. I was a single mom raising two kids alone and working at the DMV when I lost my first home; I was put out of it. I had just enough money to pay for the first month's rent somewhere else; or to pay for a motel which would allow me to pay my tithes. I chose to pay my tithes, and so my family and I were staying in a motel room.

Well one day I gave one of my DMV co-workers a ride home after work. Now, no one at the DMV knew that I didn't have a permanent place to live. I would go to work everyday and minister to the people there, lifting their spirits, while deep down I was hurting so bad. I dropped this girl at her home and, on that block they had a house that was for rent. It was a very beautiful home and it was big; I just knew that I couldn't afford it, but I knew God could. So I stopped and asked the lady if I could see the house, and she said, "Sure." When I walked into the foyer of the house I got goose bumps all over and I said, "Lord, thank you, this home is mine. This is mine." So I claimed that place. Yes, this was a time when we were claiming things. I've also learned that, yes, you can claim things as long as it's not for someone else--you don't covet anyone else's things. I told the lady, "My birthday is in a couple of days and so I am claiming this place for myself and that you'll call me." And she just looked at me like I was crazy, and she said, "But I haven't shown the house to anybody yet so when people come I have to show it to them." I said, "Oh that's fine, but you'll call me."

So, that night, I went back to the motel, and my children and I were lying up in bed together, and I was crying out to the Lord and praying. I thought my son and daughter were asleep (mind you my children and I were in the same bed) and I said, "Lord, where are you? What will my children think of this? How are You going to look to my children?" My son turned around and said, "God's right here in the bed with us, Mom. Don't worry about it. He's right here with us. He'll take care of us." And that blessed me so much.

Well anyway, a week or so later the lady called me at work to tell me I could rent the house. I just thanked God and I moved into the house. Let me tell you: this was of the Lord! I moved into the house not realizing that I didn't have the first month's rent or the cleaning fee or whatever they charged. I

needed \$1500.00 but didn't even realize it, I just wasn't thinking, I truly was not thinking. I was just going by faith up to that point. Anyway, I moved into the house and, this was of the Lord because it was the next day that the landlord called me to tell me he would be by to pick up the rent. And all of the sudden, oh my God, I panicked: the rent, the rent!! "Oh, my God," I said, "Lord, I moved into these people's house and I don't even have the rent. What was I thinking? Lord, help me."

Panic set in; let me tell you panic set in. I called all over; I called New Orleans, and spoke with my father. He just thought I was a complete fool to move into someone's house and not have the rent, and he would not send the money to me; I guess he thought he was teaching me a lesson, I don't know. But anyway, all that evening I was crying and praying before the Lord, "Lord I need \$1500.00. Where in the world am I going to get \$1500 from?" I had no idea in the world where I was going to get it.

That night my daughter and her fiancé were going to a gala event at Crenshaw Christian Center, and they were all dressed up, and having a wonderful, wonderful time. Well I was left at home alone to pray. I prayed, I am not kidding you, I prayed for at least six hours--just crying and snottng and crying and begging the Lord. I didn't know what I was going to do because the landlord said that I would have to move out because I didn't have the money. I said, "Lord I know You didn't bring me here to do this."

As I was praying, I kept hearing the Lord say, "Praise Me." Well I kept refusing to praise Him because I didn't see anything to praise Him for. So I just kept beating on the floor, "I will not praise You. I will not praise You." Well, unbeknownst to me, every time I would say, "Praise You," during my prayer it would move my daughter and her fiancé (at that precise time) to get up with the idea of coming home to where I was, and every time I would say, "No, I won't praise You," then they would sit down; they didn't understand what was going on. We all came to understand why later.

During my struggles, the Lord opened my mind and gave me a vision--a serious vision. I could see that there was a big tug of war going on. Jesus was on one side pulling a rope, and Satan was on the other side also pulling. There was a big puddle of mud in the middle. All I could see of Satan was his big mouth just smiling or grinning because every time I would say 'no' to God, Satan was winning. What was happening was I was losing my mind, and the Lord was showing me to stay fast, and in order to keep my mind, I had to praise Him. Well then I just went completely crazy the other way and said, "I praise You, I praise You, I praise You, I praise You." I just went on and on and on.

As I was doing this, it was moving my daughter and her fiancé to come to me. Well I didn't know why they were coming home and they didn't know why they were leaving the party; I didn't realize they were coming to me. I kept on banging on the floor and saying, "I praise You." Well after a certain amount of time doing this, the rope snapped (in my vision), Satan fell, and Jesus was standing. Oh God, just thinking of this breaks my heart. Oh my God, all I had to do was just praise Him, but I had rebelled and didn't want to do it. All that time He stood by me, knowing that I didn't understand.

When my daughter and her fiancé came, he said, "Oh my God, Ms. Tassin, what is wrong with you?" He said that because my eyes were swollen as I had been crying and praying for six hours, and I looked like a total mess, I'm sure. And I told him, "You know, Dean, I moved into this house by faith not realizing I needed money to move in. What an idiot, I just went by faith."

So he just hugged me and started crying, and he said, "Last week the Lord told me to give you this check." It was a check that he and my daughter had received for reimbursement of a deposit on a house that they had tried to purchase. It was for \$1500.00!!! He had stashed it in the glove compartment of his car because he couldn't believe that the Lord was telling him to give me the money. I guess he just wanted to hold on to it. So anyway, there was the \$1500.00.

That was one of my first miracles, and it made me see that if you obey God, you don't have to worry about where the money is going to come from, He will make a way, He will give you the money or He will make a way to escape. Well anyway, all that night I couldn't sleep because it was too late to call the landlord to tell him that I had the money so I called and woke him up the next morning and said, "I have the \$1500.00, I have the \$1500.00; the check is in my son-in-law's name, but I can go and cash it, is that okay?" So he just sighed on the phone and said, Well that's fine, we'll just start all over again."

So God gave me another chance. But I had actually moved out on faith, and then lost my faith, and then regained my faith to know for certain that God can put all things together. My daughter had no way of knowing what I was going through, no way of knowing that they were holding the money that I needed to keep me in that house, and I had no way of knowing that they had it, and that God had told my son-in-law-to-be to bring this money to me.

It just goes to show you that He's a faithful God. He's a trustworthy God, and if we put our faith in Him, and not in man, that He will make that way of escape; He will give you exactly what you need. Ask God for guidance and expect Him to supervise the circumstances of your life. He knew and He knows that I'm a tither; He knew that I needed Him desperately and He came to my rescue. That was one of the first miracles I had in my life, and I wanted to share it. I believe someone who's reading this will know that whatever they're going through, if they just trust God and don't look to man, just trust God, He will help them. He will never leave you nor forsake you. He'll never turn His back on you. And like the saying goes, 'He's got your back!' So God bless you and thank you.

Laura Tassin, Servant of the Lord



A Fish Story

My name is *Mike Paraspolo* and I've been coming to CCC for 17 years. The other day I was thinking about how God loves to show Himself to us, and I was reminded about something that that happened to me about ten years ago. It was my nephew Tony's 18th birthday and I thought it would be great to take him fishing, as I love to fish. Eric Carrouche had told me about Laguna Niguel Lake and he assured me that there were tons of fish in this lake, so I asked Tony if he would like to go fishing for his birthday and he said, "Yes."

So we arrived at the lake at 6am and began fishing right away, and didn't catch anything. At noon I was getting frustrated and asked God - "Hey, God, it's my nephew Tony's birthday and I really want him to catch a fish." I wanted Tony to have a good time - not just standing by the lake, but actually catching at least one fish.

So, as I was sitting there, I opened up my Bible and started reading and praying, and I believe the Lord told me to speak it out loud for Tony to catch a fish. And I was like, "Lord I don't want my nephew to think I'm crazy!" So I kept praying and reading and about ten minutes went by, and I believe the Lord was prompting me to exercise my faith.

So I finally just went ahead and said - out loud: "In the name of Jesus, Catch a fish!" And at that exact time the pole bent and my nephew began reeling a fish in. He kept turning around looking at me and then looking at the lake and then looking at me and said, "You said in the name of Jesus! You said in the name of Jesus!" He repeated this about four times as he caught that fish, and we thanked God. I really learned that day how God likes to reveal Himself to us.

I just talked to Tony about this event the other day to make sure I had my facts right and he said that it was the only fish he ever caught in his life and something he'll never forget as long as he lives.

A Dog Story

by *Mike Paraspolo*

Another interesting story is about a dog named Blackie, a family pet who had been in the Paraspolo family for well over ten years. As you all well know, a family dog is like one of the children. Blackie was a great dog and we all loved her.

We almost lost her one Fourth of July many years ago. She was home alone when the fireworks started going off in our neighborhood, and she became so scared

that she broke through the front window and ran away. The whole Paraspolo family was terribly upset by this, especially my nephews: Dustin, Adam, and Chris. So they started praying.

(I recently spoke to them in order to refresh my memory). Chris told me that he had prayed and God told him that the dog was going to come back in three days, which would have been July 8. And I (the guy with all the faith) remember telling Chris that if it doesn't happen, not to be mad at God; because I didn't want Chris to get his hopes up and then be hurt if it didn't happen.

Adam said that he went up to the altar at church and was praying for Blackie to come home, and he believed that God said that she'd be home on July 8. He says that was the first time he ever heard God speak to Him audibly, and he was amazed. And then, later that day, Dustin came up to me and told me he was praying and believed God said to him that Blackie would come back on Thursday (which also happened to be July 8), and I said to him as well, "Look if she doesn't come back it's not God's fault." Because I didn't want them to be hurt by this, and some other adults in the family told him the same thing.

On July 7, I was having some pain and went to the emergency room. I went in about 9pm and didn't get home until about 12:30am on July 8 when everybody in the family was asleep. I remember coming out of the bathroom and there was Blackie just sitting in the hallway (we had left the window open for her) and it just so happened to be July 8 - the very date God had given my three young nephews. Editor's Note: God cares about everything in our lives, even the pets He gives us. He also speaks to young and old alike.

New Members



CCC congratulates the new members, Donald Urett (left) and Bobina Black (right). Lorraine Stinson (center) is the teacher of the new member's class.



Kitchen Korner

...from the kitchen of *Dee Paraspolo*

"Love is patient. Love is kind. Love does not envy, it does not boast. Love is not proud. Love is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered. Love keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil. Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

Just above those verses in the 13th chapter of First Corinthians, God tells us that our words and our speech without love is nothing. "If I speak with the tongue of men and of angels and have not God's love, I am nothing" . . . God also tells us spiritual gifts without love is nothing. "If I have the gift of prophecy and can understand all mysteries . . . but have not God's love, I am nothing." And then God says that our sacrifices - what we give of ourselves to others, be it physical such as food, clothes or money; or spiritual such as prayer, comfort or counseling - sacrifices are all nothing without love. "If I give all that I possess to the poor and surrender my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing."

Children sometimes have a better concept of love than those of us who are more "mature" in the affairs of life. Here are just a few quips from young children that have been passed around the internet. They question that was asked was, "What does love mean?" The children provided a wide array of answers.

"Love is when mommy gives daddy the best piece of chicken."
Elaine-age 5

"You really shouldn't say 'I love you,' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget." Jessica-age 8

"Love is what makes you smile when you are tired." Terry-age 4

"Love is what's in the room at Christmas, if you stop opening presents and listen." Bobby-age 7

"If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate." Nikka-age 6

"When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth."
Billy-age 4

"Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well." Tommy-age 6

We as a nation use the word love in so many ways. We love our new car. We love the sunny weather, a rainy day or the snow at Big Bear. We love eating out. We love our home, a baby, oatmeal and wind chimes. We love our dog, cat and kids. We throw the word love around more carelessly than any other culture. We use it so loosely that it has lost its true meaning.

"For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son."

"Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for a friend."

"Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, all thy soul and all thy strength."

We can take lessons from the children who haven't yet been

polluted by the many, many faces of "love." An elderly gentleman had recently lost his wife. He was sitting in his yard crying. When his four year old neighbor saw the tears, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. Later when his mother asked what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said, "Nothing, I just helped him cry."

. . . "and thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself."

Prayer Requests

Pastor Tony and the people who attend the Tuesday/Thursday noon prayer meeting would like to invite you to come out and be a part of this ministry to the Lord. God has been faithful to His Word and has answered a tremendous amount of our prayers - as He does with all who pray. We just feel privileged and blessed to be His servants.

If you have a problem or need, we would love to pray for you. Just put the information on a prayer request card and then give it to Pastor Tony Paraspolo or Sharon Johnson. We will pray for the needs on the cards for a year or more or until God answers the prayer.

God has truly made CCC a house of prayer as there are prayer meetings everyday of the week and several times on some days.

Baptism



Sue Moxley was baptized last month by her brother, Evangelist, *Dennis Ponce*. It was a very touching moment in time. Her mother, Joyce Pace, was also present.



In the picture (left) *Dennis Ponce*, is showing off his foot. There had been a huge lump on that foot, but after prayer, the lump

was totally gone. Jesus is in the healing business at CCC and in the body of Christ. Hallelujah!!!



Community Christian Center

165 West Dexter Street
Covina, California 91723

Phone No.: (626)331-2059

www.communitychristiancenter.org

Pastor Ken & Sandy Clowdus

Assoc. Pastors: Tony Paraspolo & Mike Stephens

The Good Tidings Newsletter

Sharon Johnson, Editor & Publisher
email: sharonsue@roadrunner.com

