

Community Christian Center



The Word
Fellowship
Prayer

The Good Tidings Newsletter

A Report on the Revival at CCC

FEBRUARY, 2012

ERIC GIORGIO, PASTOR

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 2

Pastor's Corner

This month featuring Associate Pastor *Tony Paraspolo*

I've Heard That Before

We have said to God, "Tomorrow I will go and do what



You have for me to do." But have we followed through and done it? Are we doers of the word? I thank the Lord that in our church we have a lot of doers of the word.

I know that this year we're going to need to have a lot more people who are practicing their faith by action. The following are some of the scriptures that remind us of that. The whole bible is repetition, because God knows that if we only hear something once we will probably forget it, so He keeps telling us and teaching us and showing us what to do.

James 1:22,23,25 *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror;... But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.*

James 2 17-20 *Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe — and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?*

These scriptures are telling us that faith without works is something that doesn't work for anybody. I thank God for all the doers we have in this church and we have been blessed because of it, but the time is coming when we need to really step up to get behind what's going on at Community Christian Center, and get behind Pastor Eric in order to start moving in the plans that God has given him for us that we may be a church united and a church growing constantly in the way of the Lord. So I thank you for reading, looking and seeking and wanting to be more like Christ than we ever have been before. For I know this: all of us need more. That's my favorite song, "More".

Thank you. May God bless you and keep you.



Isa 40:31 ...but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Happy Valentine's Day
♥♥♥

A Loving Farewell and Tribute to Pastor Ken and Sandy

It was a beautiful afternoon filled with loving greetings, hugs, laughter and some tears at Pastor Ken and Sandy's retirement party. People who hadn't seen each other in years were reunited at CCC for the purpose of honoring Pastor Ken and Sandy and wishing them well in the future. Our Pastors gave them tribute and we prayed over this couple who we love so much and have done so much for us. We know that God has a plan and a purpose for their lives and is saving the best for last. We miss them very much..



Prayer Walk and Prophecy

by *Joe Hernandez*

as told to Sharon Johnson

Joe Hernandez tells about a time when he and his wife, Margie, were having Bible studies at their home with Ginger as the teacher. One time Ginger brought a prophetess named Joan to the meeting and she prophesied to everyone present: Pastor Tony, Karen, Dexter, Lorraine Lubbers, and Cindy Mendez. To Margie, she said "Testimony, testimony, testimony." It is a fact that Margie did share her testimony many times before she died and several people came to the Lord as a result. When Joan prophesied over Joe, he said she called him, "Mr. Prophet," and he feels that he has had prophetic giftings since then. Subsequently Joan visited CCC one Sunday and, as she walked by, Joe says that he actually saw a brightness all around her.

For several years now Joe Hernandez has been doing Jericho-like walks around Community Christian Center while praying for the church and congregation. When he first started the walks, Pastor Ken had asked how many times he was going to go around the church and Joe said he would pray about it. Another time Pastor Ken asked him how long he was going to do it and Joe says he prayed about it and he feels that the Lord told him to "Just be faithful."

Joe relates that he once saw two ugly demons with fangs and claws in the church parking lot but "they took off running when they saw me," he says.

Another time he was with a group of people eating lunch and he saw that one of the young men's hands looked black. He was puzzled over this and he asked his friend if he also saw that the hands were black. The friend said no, but that the guy sold drugs. Joe had discerned that dark spirit of drugs.

He recounts another time when he was praying at the altar when he saw a demon's face appear in front of him. He said to that demon, "What are you doing here?" Then it disappeared.

Joe recently saw something that looked like a giant cloud shaped like a star with black inside of it. He feels that it was demonic and pertained to the tsunami that hit Japan soon after.

Joe believes that God has given him some giftings of prophecy and discerning of spirits. He has been praying for interpretation. He thanks the Lord for these gifts.

Moved by the Spirit

by *Sharon Johnson*

Luke 2:25-35 *Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ.*

Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

How glorious to be 'moved by the Spirit,' but what if Simeon had a sore foot or was tired - he was probably very old. What if he said to himself "Oh, I will go into the temple courts later when I feel better or it is a more convenient time. God will understand."? He would have missed out on holding the baby Jesus

in his arms and being used by God in a prophesy that is read by millions even to this very day.

God uses ordinary people like us to accomplish great things for His kingdom. I pray that none of us ever resists the Holy Spirit's prompting because of circumstances or fear - what could we miss? Only in heaven will we find out and probably weep in bitter regret until Jesus wipes our tears away.

COVERED

submitted by *Laura Tassin*

Me (in a tizzy): God, can I ask you something?

GOD: Sure.

Me: Promise you won't get mad?

GOD: I promise.

Me (frustrated): Why did you let so much stuff happen to me today?

GOD: What do you mean?

Me: Well I woke up late.

GOD: Yes

Me: My car took forever to start.

GOD: Okay....

Me (growling): At lunch, they made my sandwich wrong and I had to wait.

GOD: Hmmmm..

Me: On the way home, my phone went dead, just as I picked up a call.

GOD: All right.

Me (loudly): And to top it all off, when I got home, I just wanted to soak my feet in my foot massager and relax, but it wouldn't work. Nothing went right today! Why did you do that?

GOD: Well let me see..... the death angel was at your bed this morning and I had to send one of the other angels to battle him for your life. I let you sleep through that.

Me (humbled): Oh...

GOD: I didn't let your car start because there was a drunk driver on your route that might have hit you if you were on the road.

Me (ashamed):

GOD: The first person who made your sandwich today was sick and I didn't want you to catch what they have, I knew you couldn't afford to miss work.

Me (embarrassed): Oh.....

GOD: Your phone went dead because the person that was calling was going to give a false witness about what you said on that call, I didn't even let you talk to them so you would be covered.

Me (softly): I see God

GOD: Oh and that foot massager, it had a short that was going to throw out all of the power in your house tonight. I didn't think you wanted to be in the dark.

Me: I'm sorry God.

GOD: Don't be sorry, just learn to trust me...in all things, the good and the bad.

Me: I WILL trust you God.

GOD: And don't doubt that my plan for your day is always better than your plan.

Me: I won't God. And let me just tell you God, thank you for everything today.

GOD: You're welcome child. It was just another day being your God and I love looking after my children.

Scriptural References: II Samuel 22:31, Prov 3:5, Heb 2:13

THE PASTOR'S CAT

from the internet

submitted by my cousin *Carol Thomas*

Dwight Nelson recently told a true story about the pastor of his church. He had a kitten that climbed up a tree in his backyard and then was afraid to come down. The pastor coaxed, offered warm milk, etc. The kitty would not come down.

The tree was not sturdy enough to climb, so the pastor decided that if he tied a rope to his car and pulled it until the tree bent down, he could then reach up and get the kitten.

That's what he did, all the while checking his progress in the car. He then figured if he went just a little bit farther, the tree would be bent sufficiently for him to reach the kitten. But as he moved the car a little farther forward, the rope broke.

The tree went 'boing!' and the kitten instantly sailed through the air - out of sight.

The pastor felt terrible. He walked all over the neighborhood asking people if they'd seen a little kitten. No, nobody had seen a stray kitten. So he prayed, "Lord, I just commit this kitten to your keeping," and went on about his business.

A few days later he was at the grocery store, and met one of his church members. He happened to look into her shopping cart and was amazed to see cat food. This woman was a cat hater and everyone knew it, so he asked her, "Why are you buying cat food when you hate cats so much?"

She replied, "You won't believe this," and then told him how her little girl had been begging her for a cat, but she kept refusing. Then a few days before, the child had begged again, so the Mom finally told her little girl, "Well, if God gives you a cat, I'll let you keep it."

She told the pastor, "I watched my child go out in the yard, get on her knees, and ask God for a cat. And really, Pastor, you won't believe this, but I saw it with my own eyes. A kitten suddenly came flying out of the blue sky, with its paws outspread, and landed right in front of her."

Never underestimate the Power of God and His unique sense of humor.

Cartwheels

I remember another instance of God's marvelous hand working on our behalf in a humorous way. I heard a lady give this testimony on TBN years ago. I might have a few

of the details wrong but the story is true.

The woman said that she was sitting on the back of the stage with some other people while the pastor was preaching the Sunday sermon. At the end just before the altar call, she got a strong feeling that God was asking her to perform cartwheels across the stage. Although she was capable of it she fought off the feeling - just knowing people would think she had lost her mind. The feeling just got stronger, and more intense, so as the Pastor was giving the altar call, even though she felt extremely foolish, she started doing cartwheels behind him.

All of the sudden a man in the audience came running down the aisle to accept the Lord as his Savior. He said that he had told the Lord that the only way he would believe is if someone did cartwheels across the stage.

Pam's Story

Submitted by *Laura Tassin*

from Dr. Gerald B. (Jerry) Kieschnic President Emeritus, The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod "Perspectives", Volume III Number 15-December 15, 2011

In a recent e-mail, I read about a woman named Pam, who knows the pain of considering abortion. More than 24 years ago, she and her husband Bob were serving as missionaries to the Philippines and praying for a fifth child. Pam contracted amoebic dysentery, an infection of the intestine caused by a parasite found in contaminated food or drink. She went into a coma and was treated with strong antibiotics before they discovered she was pregnant.

Doctors urged her to abort the baby for her own safety and told her that the medicines had caused irreversible damage to her baby. She refused the abortion and cited her Christian faith as the reason for her hope that her son would be born without the devastating disabilities physicians predicted. Pam said the doctors didn't think of it as a life, they thought of it as a mass of fetal tissue.

While pregnant, Pam nearly lost their baby four times but refused to consider abortion. She recalled making a pledge to God with her husband: "If you will give us a son, we'll name him Timothy and we'll make him a preacher."

Pam ultimately spent the last two months of her pregnancy in bed and eventually gave birth to a healthy baby boy August 14, 1987. Pam's youngest son is

indeed a preacher. He preaches in prisons, makes hospital visits, and serves with his father's ministry in the Philippines. He also plays football. Pam's son is Tim Tebow.

The University of Florida's star quarterback became the first sophomore in history to win college football's highest award, the Heisman Trophy. His current role as quarterback of the Denver Broncos has provided an incredible platform for Christian witness. As a result, he is being called The Mile-High Messiah.

Tim's notoriety and the family's inspiring story have given Pam numerous opportunities to speak on behalf of women's centers across the country. Pam Tebow believes that every little baby you save matters. I pray her tribe will increase!

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always!

*The Quarterback
& John 3:16*

by *Sharon Johnson*

Tim Tebow is Denver Bronco's quarterback who kneels in prayer during his NFL football games, and there was a time at Florida State when he would write in eye black on his eyelids: "John 3:16". He has received much notoriety and criticism for this, but that doesn't stop him - he loves the Lord.

We saw a wonderful example of God's sense of humor when Denver won the first post-season game against Pittsburgh this year - they were definitely the underdog and no one thought they could win. Tim Tebow threw a stunning pass in overtime that won the game. But that was not the humor part - it was when the game statistics were counted up and reported. Tim had thrown 316 yards passing with a 31.6 yard average. John 3:16. Even the newscasters had to report on this and God got the glory and us Denver Bronco fans (I've just become one even though my son had been one for years) were happy. Denver lost to the Patriots the following week, but they will be back!

John 3:16 *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.*



Nothing in this world can satisfy the soul like Jesus can. Nothing has any lasting meaning except your relationship with Jesus and the things you do as His servant. Quit looking - there is nothing. - Sharon Johnson

Kitchen Korner

from the kitchen of *Dee Paraspolo*

An Open Letter to my husband:

Happy 10th anniversary.

I saw you years before we ever met. I lived in the apartments down the street from you and I walked. But I did not walk by your house. I made sure I turned the corner and went down the other street. That's because at 6:00ish there were guys pouring out of your house and I didn't want to have to "morning" anyone - especially not guys at 6:00 am. By the way, "morning" is a statement of fact - it is not a cheerful greeting.

I first saw my church-to-be when I moved a mile or so from it and walked through the neighborhood. It was clean and beautiful. The steeple was both tall and charming. I liked the looks of it. I heard my first sermon from the church steps on the west side of the building. I sat there on a Wednesday evening. Pastor Ken preached about Elijah - or was it Elisha?

I was invited to attend my church-to-be by a friend from the church where we were both attending. She said I would love this little church - and she was right. She said it was a spirit-filled church - and she was right. It's been my church home for 16 years. I met you at church. I don't remember when we met. It wasn't important to me. I met a lot of people and you were just another person. I fell in love with my church, the ministries in my church, the prayer times, and the Bible studies . . . but I didn't fall in love with you. I drank in the love of the people and fed on God's Word. I was at home.

I was a college student when we met. I worked full time, had raised my kids and went to school. With all the busyness in my life, I like to say that, "I did in nine years what most people can do in four" - I got my college degree. My kids were grown. They had all "flown the coop". (I'm a country girl and understand that kind of talk.) You were working too and teaching and counseling at our church. I attended your Bible Studies. I finished school. You asked me to go with you to counsel. A year or so later you asked me out for dinner. And moving swiftly on we were married a couple years after that.

We were content to serve God together. Our wedding invitation said "Having chosen to serve God together Tony and Dee invite you . . ." We had often said that we would just serve God together until Jesus returned. God has allowed us to do wonderful fun things together. I had never been to New York until you took me home to your family. You had never traveled on dirt roads until I took you to my home to mine. We've taken road trips. We've been to Georgia. And we went to Japan. But traveling hasn't been the best part. The best has been serving Jesus together - seeing ten years of life changes that God has orchestrated while we walked with Him. He has opened doors and pushed us through them. He has slammed doors in our faces. And in all cases we knew it was our God leading us.

So as we are getting older and just in case you forgot or you think that I forgot, I want you to know that I still love you. I try to remind you of that every day. There are lots of things I love about you. (Besides that you usually have dinner ready when I get home from work.) I love your faithfulness to God. I see you reading your Bible. I see you praying. I see you studying. I sit in your Bible Study. I love that I can talk to you and can ask you questions. I hear you minister on the phone--helping someone know the love of Jesus through your words. You listen to me and encourage me. You are excited for me when I share a special

moment with you.

For all you do and all you are; I love you Pastor Tony.

Happy Anniversary.



Love and Commitment

by *Richard Moreno*

I was brought up as a Catholic and, when I was young, I remember my mother would say, "God is going to punish you," whenever I did something wrong, so the fear of God is very real to me. I have experienced the punishment of the Lord. (See Hebrews 5:6-11...*For whom the Lord loves He chastens...*) I have also experienced the miracles He has done in my life.

In 1999, I met my wife, Marie, who was already a Christian. I really wanted to marry her but she said that I needed to dedicate my life to Jesus and be in the church before she would consent.

I must say the first trial was breaking the curse of drinking. At Faith Community Church in Covina, Jim Reeves gave an altar call, "If anyone out there would like to give their life over to Christ, come forward to me." I felt warm and tears were coming out of my eyes. I then stepped forward to the altar with others. I gave my life over to the Lord Jesus Christ. My life has been blessed ever so much since then. Marie and I were married the following year at Calvary Chapel in L.A. where we served the Lord.

I remember two years after I was laid off from my job. I was walking, trying to let off steam for what had happened to me. So I started running faster and faster and I heard God's voice saying, "I'm with You." There was so much comfort in His voice and I felt His love for me. I know that even when I have my trials, He's there with His love. We continue being servants for Christ here at Community Christian Center of Covina.

Marie and I have a strong belief that God, in His wisdom and provision, has established marriage as a covenant relationship, a sacred and lifelong promise. We have an unconditional love for one another and believe that God intends for the marriage covenant to reflect His promise to never leave us nor forsake us.

Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it. Psalm 127:1

With all love to the "Lord Jesus Christ."

Editor's Note: These are beautiful love stories. God's plan of marriage is awesome. I have heard many men say that their lives were turned around by the love of a good woman. Happy Valentine's Day to all CCC'ers - married or not. Jesus is our best Valentine.

Community Christian Center

165 West Dexter Street

Covina, California 91723

Phone No.: (626) 331-2059

www.communitychristiancenter.org

Senior Pastor: Eric (and Marie) Giorgio

Associate Pastors: Tony Paraspolo, Mike Stephens,
& Dustin Paraspolo

The Good Tidings Newsletter

Sharon Johnson, Editor & Publisher

email: sharonsue@roadrunner.com

