

# Community Christian Center



The Word  
Fellowship  
Prayer

## The Good Tidings Newsletter

A Report on the Revival at CCC

JANUARY, 2011

KENNETH CLOWDUS, PASTOR

VOLUME 132

### Pastor's Corner

This month featuring *Pastor of the New CCC of Baldwin Park, Dennis Ponce*

Happy New Year to our Lord and to the saints of CCC. It is an honor and we thank God for the opportunity to share our hearts about the ending of one season in our lives and the beginning of another.



Wow! What a year 2010 was. Like any other it had its ups and downs, but last year was like no other. There have been many chapters in our walk with God, but in this season Jesus showed us how important it is to stay steadfast in the things of the Lord. The enemy isn't

going to clue you in on how he is going to disrupt your lives. Therefore, loved ones, stay in God's word and you will be able to defeat every evil work of the devil!

Weeks ago, Denise and I were contacted with an opportunity of a lifetime - one we could only dream of - to fulfill God's calling in our lives. Denise and I have committed our lives to do whatever the Lord asks of us and our next mission will be no different. Don't get me wrong, it means a lot to us to pastor our own church, but I really didn't know that's where He was leading us. But, whatever assignment God asks of us, we will say, "Yes, Lord!"

When this opportunity arose to pioneer a new CCC in Baldwin Park, we were excited and scared at the same time. We asked ourselves if we were ready. The bible says that the footsteps of a righteous man are ordered of God and He shows this in His word.

Recently while reading my word, God took me to 2 Samuel Chapter 7 vs 5: (which is entitled, 'God's Covenant with David') *Thus says the Lord, would you build a house for me to dwell in?* I shared this scripture with a couple of people and they were not encouraging, they said David wasn't to build the temple. They were skeptical and thought that maybe we should not go. But then I read David Wilkerson's newsletter on a 'Skeptic's Guide to Crossing the Jordan' which gives seven reasons not to cross the Jordan, but we all know that in the end, Joshua did cross the Jordan and Israel possessed the land and were blessed.

We need God's manifested Spirit to rise up in us, so when He gives us a word, we will have power to do what He sends us to do. 2 Samuel Chapter 7 verse 11 says, *He will make you a house.* He sees you in there because God's not looking for another temple, church, hall, convention center or retreat center. He is looking for a heart, a person, a human temple, a human house where He can dwell. So, how can we not go? Wilkerson ends with, "I urge you to trust God to lead you across your Jordan and let Him silence the voice of every skeptic. God's plan 'A' for you won't be defeated."

God bless you and please continue to pray for us. We have a big job ahead of us and we need God's strength to do it.

### BILLY'S AMAZING BUTTON EXPANDER



Close-up view.

When things get a little tight, don't throw away those old coats because an innovative device is now available: Billy's exciting Button Expander. To order your very own Button Expander for just \$19.95, contact Billy Corcoran and, if you call within one hour, you receive two Button Expanders for the price of one - just pay separate shipping and handling of \$25.99. These are flying off our shelves so order quickly while supplies last.

### Baby Dedication



Precious four month old *Elijah Isaiah Gomez* was dedicated to the Lord last month by parents, Nancy and Josh Gomez and brother, Josh Gomez. The godparents are Cindy and Tony; and the great grandparents are Ray and Becky Gomez.



Jesus loves children and even started the dedication and blessing of the children tradition: Matt

19:14-15 Jesus said, *"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."* When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there. NIV



-When we get full of ourselves we get empty of God!

-Strive to be first: first to nod, first to smile, first to compliment and first to forgive. ...Submitted by Susie Algorri

# Happy New Year, CCC

Will 2011 be the year Jesus returns?

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# My Destiny

by *Jim Conrad*

A kind of blighted destiny was very likely in store for me since my birth. I was born into a large, very poor family in the 1930's. I had an alcoholic father and my mother was, in her Christian belief, bound to the man permanently. I was the forth in a family of six, and I knew I was not wanted; so, very early in my life sadness and depression began to dog me. It was fixed in my mind that I was not worth much.

It took a war and labor shortages to get me all kinds of employment. The wages were pretty much fixed at 50 cents an hour. The pursuit of money was on, but the old saying, "money burns a hole in my pocket," was too true for me.

I'm just skimming through my life to get to the good part. So I served a ten year Navy hitch which gave me opportunities to see many foreign countries in Europe and to learn a love of alcohol. By a miracle, I was given an honorable discharge. In civilian life my drinking continued without the benefit of bunk and board that I had in the service, so I became homeless and hopeless at thirty-three. Then AA became my hope and God took all desire for booze away. That changed my destiny, though I didn't know it at the time.

The early years were difficult financially. The 50 cents an hour gave me something like \$63.00 a week. My expenses were pretty well covered but not by much. In 1963, I attended a huge Billy Graham crusade at the Coliseum only because I was trying to impress a widow with two children. That relationship never happened but I filled out a card with my personal information at the Crusade. Soon after, I received a letter of request for donations. At first I laughed at the idea that they would think I could spare \$15.00. But, then I had an unexpected idea that was so contrary to my normal thoughts but yet so clear: "This thing is good that they do," and so I sent \$15.00, then \$15.00 every month and, as a result, I received Decision Magazine. Lately, I realized that as Isaac sowed in famine so did I – without even a clue.

Perhaps my reaching out to God in my childhood had resulted in my openness to His voice. As a six-year old boy I did yearn for Him for just a moment, then kind of discounted the experience, but God did not discount it. I credit His presence as reason for my survival and liberty. I now realize He does all for me so I may do all for Him and His purposes.

Sowing in famine made Isaac rich quick but my harvest was slower in coming. But – it did come by paid training for machine operation followed by a better paying shop job. Then I obtained a twenty five year Post Office career that set me up for a retirement.

Marriage happened in 1972 in my third year as a postal employee. It was troubled from the start since it was a mismatch of age and background. The marriage failed after fourteen years. The final blow came as I rededicated my life to Christ and began to require more of my paycheck be given to God. That was not to her liking. We separated for some years before the divorce and I took responsibility for most of the bills plus I paid child support and alimony. I thought, "Here comes the famine!" My pay, at first, was not enough to cover all payments, so common sense would be to stop tithing, but I did tithe, in fact, I became a tither for good. Sowing in famine was not on my mind, I just had a peace as my overdrawn account was lent Master Card loans. My harvest was quicker this time as overtime pay and God's blessing started bringing me out of the hole in a few months.

I intended to be briefer in this narrative and just witness to the power of giving. It is always true that no one can out give God. The proof is in the miracle house I own, the late model car I drive, sufficiency in all things, but more than anything else, is the good will I have from man and my Lord. Like the song, "You can take everything

but give me Jesus."

My counsel to anyone is this: All that you have is God-given so don't cling to it in insecurity, but freely give as God shows you to give. Put your faith and trust in Him, let Him show you real security and remember that eternal security beats Social Security by a long shot. Sow in the time of the famine. I did not know what I was doing! When I came to myself, as it were, it was one of the lowest points of my life, if not the lowest (but there have been others that came very close). I had drank my last beer ever and walked out of a codependent relationship to rent a rundown room in a rundown house which I could barely afford with my part time job as service station attendant. But even though I had practically nothing, I was happier than I had been in years. You might say it was a strange happiness and that was because I had begun a new life in sobriety. I had just enough money to keep rent paid and food and after some weeks an automobile. My boss sold it to me for \$5.00 a week for 20 weeks. So you can imagine what kind of car it was, but it ran and gave transport for many hurting alcoholic to and from AA meetings.

The meagerness of my living could be compared to a famine. So here I was living mainly on pork & beans and wieners with no savings, just a small checking account. Here's why I remember that dinky checking account which I almost forgot about: BGEA – Billy Graham sent me a request for money! I almost laughed out loud. How could they ask me, poor as I was, for money. But my thoughts went something like: "BGEA does good things like saving souls, etc." I used the check they enclosed which was blank where bank name and other info could be filled in. \$5.00 was the amount they requested so I sent it. That's why I recall having a small checking account. I also began receiving Decision Magazine which, at the time, was two pages long. It was a monthly commitment.

So I sowed in famine and no one knew it, even though I was tempted at times to boast that I was a big, generous person. Now I realize that there was certain reaping. First came a better estimate of myself – way down deep inside – I was rich! I was like generous rich givers – philanthropists – looking back I can see that my year of paid training on machines was like harvest – then two years of steady employment in a shop close to my home. After which I was hired by the Postal service when they were begging for help. Only now do I recognize how God was faithful when I sowed in time of famine. But there's more: the next low place in my life was when the family had broken up. I was out, as it were, on the street again and financially ruined - almost. I was thousands of dollars in debt and did not have enough income to cover my expenses. That's when the Lord required a tithe and I became a tither – Wow! How can one make it on 90% when 100% was not enough? Not to go into too much, detail but when I sowed the seed in the time of famine, the reaping has been miraculous.

To begin with I became more at peace because I trusted God like never before. The people I lived with for one year were spiritual warriors, a Jamaican older couple and I drew strength from them. In less than a year I was able to make offerings of large amounts. Then the Lord God would show up in ways like when I gave five dollars to the church car wash and immediately raked a five dollar bill from some Christmas tree branches. There were so many, too many similar things to list. The most amazing blessing was when my prayer request for a house was granted when I was an unemployed Postal retiree. Not a chance! I could not have gotten any kind of home loan, but God put me into ownership of a fine house in a fine neighborhood in a fine city! It has been my residence for 16 years and I've made all payments so the equity is substantial. All I can say is that good gave the 100-fold for my sowing in famine.

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## WOMEN'S MEETING

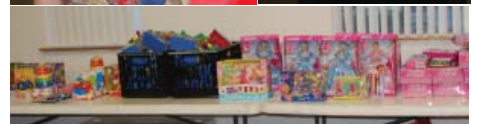
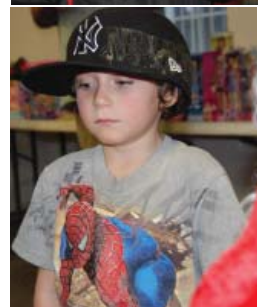


Christmas breakfast at Millie's - what a blessing to have special time with the women of the church. We thank God for Women's Ministry.

## The Christmas Party



## The Christmas Outreach



# Kitchen Korner

...from the kitchen of *Dee Paraspolo*

## GLASS OF MILK

One day, a poor boy who was selling goods from door to door to pay his way through school, found he had only one thin dime left, and he was hungry. He decided he would ask for a meal at the next house. However, he lost his nerve when a lovely young woman opened the door.

Instead of a meal he asked for a drink of water! She thought he looked hungry so brought him a large glass of milk. He drank it so slowly, and then asked, "How much do I owe you?"

"You don't owe me anything," she replied. "Mother has taught us never to accept pay for a kindness."

He said... "Then I thank you from my heart."

As Howard Kelly left that house, he not only felt stronger physically, but his faith in God and man was strong also. He had been ready to give up and quit.

Many year's later that same young woman became critically ill. The local doctors were baffled. They finally sent her to the big city, where they called in specialists to study her rare disease. Dr. Howard Kelly was called in for the consultation.

When he heard the name of the town she came from, a strange light filled his eyes. Immediately he rose and went down the hall of the hospital to her room. Dressed in his doctor's gown he went in to see her. He recognized her at once. He went back to the consultation room determined to do his best to save her life. From that day he gave special attention to her case. After a long struggle, the battle was won.

Dr. Kelly requested the business office to pass the final bill to him for approval. He looked at it, then wrote something on the edge, and the bill was sent to her room. She feared to open it, for she was sure it would take the rest of her life to pay for it all. Finally she looked, and something caught her attention on the side of the bill. She read these words ...

"Paid in full with one glass of milk" (Signed) Dr. Howard Kelly.

Tears of joy flooded her eyes as her happy heart prayed:

"Thank You, God, that Your love has spread abroad through human hearts and hands."

May we all give much kindness to those in need and never expect pay. Happy New Year!



## The Christmas Pageant



*The Good Tidings Newsletter*  
 Sharon Johnson, Editor & Publisher  
 e-mail: sharonsue@roadrunner.com



As always our children were delightful in the presentation of the Christmas story. Wanda Lee, the new Director of Children's Ministry, did an excellent job. Please check out CCC's web site for all of the pictures.



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*Community Christian Center*

165 West Dexter Street

Covina, California 91723

Phone No.: (626) 331-2059

[www.communitychristiancenter.org](http://www.communitychristiancenter.org)

Senior Pastor: Ken (& Sandy) Clowdus

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