

# Community Christian Center



The Word  
Fellowship  
Prayer

## The Good Tidings Newsletter

A Report on the Revival at CCC

JULY, 2011

KENNETH CLOWDUS, PASTOR

VOLUME 138

### Pastor's Corner

This month featuring *Associate Pastor Mike Stephens*  
The following is a message by Pastor Mike's son, Matthew Stephens, Senior/Lead Pastor, Newhope Assembly of God, Santa Ana:

God is good! This past week I got a call from a long-time church member saying that she was going to be leaving the church. NO, that's not why I said God is good. She is a nice person and worked on our outreach team and was involved with our Thursday morning prayer walks. During the call she told me she was leaving the church for various reasons.

One of the reasons she told me kind of stung a little.... Well, OK, a lot. She said she was leaving because,... ahhhhh wouldn't you like to know! Just kidding - she was leaving because she felt she wasn't growing enough spiritually and she felt she needed more teaching. Ouch! In that moment my heart sank. I began to focus on her words and the negativity. In my mind I started to second guess my preaching and teaching. Funny how a comment like that can make your head spin. I questioned whether others felt that way and was debating whether to talk to others just to validate my ability to teach the Word of God.

Anything like that ever happen to you? Maybe not in the preaching aspect, but in another area? One negative comment or opinion makes you look and re-evaluate; makes you forget about all the compliments others have given you. I was taking this one comment/opinion and putting it on a level it didn't belong: wanting to fix it to validate my self-worth and to achieve that desire we all have for everyone to like us. I mean, her opinion had to be right, didn't it?

As I began to mope and ask God why, I got a call from a good friend of mine. I tell you, God has perfect timing, he reminded me of the Word the Lord had spoken over the church. He told me how he had been talking with people and they were so excited about what God was doing here with the new ministries and the Bible School. The class on Intercessory prayer is inspiring people to pray. He told me all of this without even knowing about the call I had received earlier. Funny thing is we never really talk about those types of things, but he said he just really felt God had told him to call and encourage me.

Now, am I going to expect to get a phone call every time somebody says something that may hurt? No. Of course, like you, I would like it though. We as believers need to continue to grow and look to Jesus. We need to try our best and not allow a negative comment or word from somebody to affect who we are and what we do. Sometimes people don't even realize it and God even orchestrates it to reveal the weaknesses in ourselves and the areas that need healing. Some of us are scarred from our younger years and whenever anyone one says something that hurts, we take it as rejection. We have got to take refuge in who God says we are and let go of what others have said that have hurt us, personal or not. Take some time to read your Bible and write down the things God says about you. Write down some of the compliments people in life have given you. Allow God to

minister to those areas in your life that need healing. Take time to be an encourager and lover of people and as you pour out, God and others will pour back into you. Sow love, reap love.

Ah, there I go preaching to myself again. Am I sad she left the church? Yes. Is it going to stop me from moving forward? No. Life continues to go on, and the church still needs a pastor, and there are also countless others that still want to hear the message. I don't think any one of us reading this are quitters anyway, do you?

And for those of you who know us or who are thinking, "Who is this guy?", we love you and are doing great! Joey is leading the youth worship team, Maggie oversees the children's ministry, and I just hang around and watch. See you soon! We have been wanting to come out and visit but heard some people don't go on the web much so I probably need to call - lol. If you are part of this new thing called the net, you can also facebook us at my name sssssshhhhhhhh don't tell anyone - it's a secret lol.

Love you and God Bless.

### He Calls Me Friend

by Sharon Johnson

It just struck me that when Jesus was talking to Moses and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration, He was talking to people just like us. They were people who had already died and gone to Paradise, and were awaiting the redemption that would allow them to go on to Heaven. It seems to me that Jesus just wanted to talk to His friends. Being with His friends may have given Him more resolve and encouragement for the cross awaiting Him. It's very touching. Sometimes He may just want to talk to you, too.

From Palm Sunday until the time of Jesus' crucifixion - about a week - Jesus spent the evenings in Bethany at least part of the time with a friend named Simon who had been healed from leprosy. Bethany was also the home of Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha who were friends of Jesus. It seems to me that during this time He wanted to be in the comfort of His friends.

He knows we need comfort too. It is good to have friends and family to go to when we're facing trials. It is even better to know that we can always go to Him. He understands because He faced trials too. Ultimately God sees us through. Sometimes our friends can't be with us or there are times when we feel everyone has deserted us, but God never does. He, who calls you friend, is always faithful. Spend some time with Him each day. He's the best company and He really is your best friend forever. He's our BFF.



HAPPY 4TH OF  
JULY, 2011

GOD BLESS AMERICA

# WOMENS Meetine



Women's Ministries celebrated the birth of Sofia Marie Paraspolo - daughter of Pastor Dustin and Sara Paraspolo. She was born on April 30, 2011 six weeks premature. She weighed 4 lbs and 15 oz. She is growing and thriving now and I heard she weighs 9 lbs as of this writing. Sara had been confined to hospital bed rest for several weeks prior to the birth, to insure the baby's safety; she did it cheerfully and gracefully. But, now, look what the Lord has done! I believe that is a victory wave in the top picture.

**"Sometimes God allows His people to hit bottom,** if that's what it takes to bring them to their senses. And if we're depending on anything other than God, He'll remove things we're trusting in, so that we'll have no place to turn but Him. It's much easier to just turn to Him willingly, but He'll wait until you hit bottom, if that's what it takes." ~ Pastor Chuck Smith.

Submitted by *Sherry Bonessa*

**A Prayer for the Weary** by Sheri Rose Shepherd from His Princess Warrior: I pray in Jesus' name, that you will be refreshed by His love and learn to lay your burdens at His feet. I pray that you will stand on His promises and find rest in knowing your God will take care of you. I pray you will allow Him to comfort and restore you from the inside out. May you have the peace of knowing that the Creator of everything loves you. May you be strengthened in Him so that you will be ready for victory over any battle you face. In Jesus Name, Amen. ^



---

## Baptisms



*Jacqueline A. Clough*



*Avery Seiler*

Five people were baptized at CCC last month, including Sandy Clowdus' brother's wife, Jacqueline, from Florida. Baptism is a powerfully meaningful moment in a person's life. It symbolizes the burying of the old sinful life under the water and rising up clean and new in Christ Jesus. Pastor Ken emphasized the imparting of spiritual gifts at this time, and we do pray that our newly baptized brothers and sisters be filled to overflowing with the gifts of the Spirit. May God bless them and keep them, and give them ministries at His timing.



*Liz Enriquez*



*Hannah*



*Joshua*

---

## Baby Dedication



*Sofia Marie Paraspolo* was dedicated to the Lord last month. Her proud parents Pastor Dustin and Sara Paraspolo and her proud grandparents, Pastor Tony & Dee Paraspolo, and Tony & Sue Nunez were present, as well as numerous members of the family. It was a joyous occasion and Sofia is a miracle baby. For such a tiny little sweetie, she has already deeply touched our hearts and we look forward to see her grow up in the beauty and grace of our Lord.

## EXCITING NEWS!!!

We have had many testimonies of the miraculous in this newsletter during the last 12 years since it began (May of 1999). I think the Lord has given me a plan to publish many of these articles in an e-pub book that will be available to all e-readers - Kindle, Ipad, Nook, Ipad, and on the computer. I will have to work on legalities, etc. But wouldn't it be fantastic to have our miracle stories made available to many more people? Just think of how many people we could touch for the Lord - that is our goal as Christians. So pray for me to do the right thing and be led of the Holy Spirit.

It 'just so happens' that my sister, Marty Bunch, is learning to be an expert in e-pub and that my cousin, Celia Clifford, is an excellent proof-reader and editor. God is good. I will need a lot of help. If you have contributed in the past, I may be contacting you about using your testimony.

**MOST IMPORTANTLY:** Please, if you have testimonies of miracles that the Lord has done for you or through you, please contact me, Sharon Johnson, at 626 960-9863, so that they can be included to touch people's hearts and lives through this newsletter and through the e-pub. God bless you all. I'm excited about this and I hope you are too.

---

## Kitchen Korner

...from the kitchen of *Dee Paraspolo*

June slid by so quickly that I did not realize it was time for the July Newsletter. Thus, I went to my archived articles and chose one from July 2007. May God bless each of you this Independence Holiday weekend.

### SONGS OF FREEDOM

From millennium to millennium of history we can find songs of freedom. After Moses had led the children of Israel through the Red Sea and out of the bondage of Egypt, Miriam sang:

“I will sing unto the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider thrown into the sea.”

David sang many songs of freedom, as recorded in the Psalms. His soul was freed as he wept and sang:

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation. . .”

Paul and Silas at Philippi were freed both spiritually and physically as they sang freedom songs of praise to God from the stockades of the prison in Philippi.

During the War of 1812, while waiting in the predawn darkness, Francis Scott Key strained his eyes for a glimpse of the American flag that would tell him that Fort McHenry had not surrendered to the British. When at last daylight broke and our majestic flag still flew over the fort, Key was inspired to write the lyrics to what is now our national anthem:

“Oh, Say can you see by the dawn’s early light. What so proudly we hailed in the twilight’s last gleaming. Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro’ the perilous fight . . . gave proof thro’ the night that our flag was still there.”

We delight as we celebrate our nation’s independence. We stand tall and proud as we salute the red, white and blue – the symbol of our freedom. And we should stand taller, more proud and truly blessed beyond measure; as we raise our hearts and both of our hands to sing of Calvary and the shed blood of our Savior. These are the songs of freedom of our Christian heritage:

“On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame. And I love that old cross. . .”

“The cross upon which Jesus died is a shelter in which we can hide, and His grace so free is sufficient for me; as wide as the ocean as deep as the sea”

“Down at the cross where my Savior died, down where for cleansing from sin I cried, there to my heart was the blood applied – Glory to His name.”

“T’was His blood, His precious blood that stained that old rugged cross, T’was His blood that paid the awful cost; O, soul so far away, come and plunge today in the blood that stained the old rugged cross.”

The blood of Jesus Christ speaks of much more freedom than does any song that has ever been written or any poem that

has been penned about the freedom of a nation. As great as these other songs may be; only the blood that stains the old rugged cross can cleanse our lives of sin and offer us the gift of eternal life.

## Spirit in the Classroom

by *Kristy Duggan*

excerpted from *Chicken Soup for the Soul*

by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen & LeAnn Thieman

Published by Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing 2010

Pages 306 - 307

A teacher was addressing her eight grade classroom, and at their urging, she told them about an experience she had when she was a teenager:

I attended a church youth group on Wednesday nights when I was in high school. One night while I was sitting on the floor in the audience listening to the youth pastor, I heard a voice in my head. It kept saying, “Go take the microphone. I have something for you to say.” I argued with the voice in my head, looking around to see if anyone else was hearing things.

The voice reassured me, “Go up on stage. Tell the man that you need the microphone. I will give you the words.” I argued some more, seriously beginning to worry that I had lost my mind!

However, I found myself on the small stage, interrupting the pastor who was just about to dismiss the group to play games. He gave me the microphone and I stood facing the audience of about sixty teenagers, my peers.

I don’t know where the words came from but I heard myself saying, “Someone here tonight is planning to commit suicide. The Lord has asked me to come up here and tell you not to do it. He has a plan for you and loves you. Tell someone how you feel.”

I sat down fast and was in shock at what I had done. Now, the story could end here, with my friends looking at me oddly, but it doesn’t. A couple of months later, my mom bumped into a woman from the church, an acquaintance of hers. They exchanged pleasantries and then the woman told my mom a story about her daughter. She had been planning to commit suicide but didn’t. She arrived home one night after youth group and told her mom what she was thinking about doing and what I had said that night.

Looking around, I noticed that my students were very quiet as they listened to me reminisce. I smiled. “I have shared this story with only a few people. It still gives me goose bumps to think about it.”

As I took a deep breath and wondered if I had said too much in a public school, the classroom radio popped on, loudly playing the song “Spirit in the Sky.” No one was near the radio.

The whole class sat in awed silence for several moments. Everyone looked around a bit dazed, listening to the Spirit in the Sky...and our classroom.

*The Good Tidings Newsletter*

Sharon Johnson, Editor & Publisher  
e-mail: sharonsue@roadrunner.com



*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) Clowds

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