

# Community Christian Center

The Word  
Fellowship  
Prayer

## The Good Tidings Newsletter

A Report on the Revival at CCC



JUNE, 2011

KENNETH CLOWDUS, PASTOR

VOLUME 137

### Godly Direction

by Associate Pastor Mike Stephens

To God be the glory: He is altogether a wonderful Counselor, and this is the point I want to give a testimony about.

One time I had taken my family up to Yosemite on an outing. This was quite a few years ago, as at that time I had a 1974 Gremlin for a car. Well, being an impulsive type person, I had gone up there without a lot of money. And of all things, my little Gremlin got locked out of gear. The gear shift would not go in. At this point I knew I was in a bit of a jam as I did not have much money, at least none for this mess. So I called on the name of my Counselor JESUS!!!! And while I was praying I was telling the Lord, "What am I going to do?" When it comes to mechanical issues I am a guy with two left hands.

Suddenly I felt the prompting of the Holy Spirit and I might add, His Voice, and He said, "Get out and get under the car." My response was, "I don't know what to do."

The Lord said, "But I do."

Well, I got under there and found out the Lord DID know what to do. He showed me the linkage and how it was broken, and then He showed me how to rehook it up. I did it! And praise His awesome name, I drove it all the way home, over 350 miles without a hitch or anything.

When you don't know what to do, PRAY. I've found He always answers. To God be the glory!!! -From March, 2006 Good Tidings Newsletter.

### Caller ID

From May 2006 Good Tidings Newsletter - from the internet

On a Saturday night several weeks ago, this pastor was working late, and decided to call his wife before he left for home. It was about 10:00 PM, but his wife didn't answer the phone.

The pastor let the phone ring many times. He thought it was odd that she didn't answer, but decided to wrap up a few things and try again in a few minutes. When he tried again she answered right away. He asked her why she hadn't answered before, and she said that it hadn't rung at their house. They brushed it off as a fluke and went on their merry way.

The following Monday, the pastor received a call at the church office, which was the phone that he'd used that Saturday night. The man that he spoke with wanted to know why he'd called on Saturday night. The pastor couldn't figure out what the man was talking about. Then the man said, "It rang and rang, but I didn't answer." The pastor remembered the mishap and apologized for disturbing him, explaining that he'd intended to call his wife.

The man said, "That's, OK. Let me tell you my story. You see, I was planning to commit suicide on Saturday night, but before I did, I prayed, 'God if you're there, and you don't want me to do this, give me a sign now.' At that point my phone started to ring. I looked at the caller ID, and it said, 'Almighty God'. I was afraid to answer!"

The reason why it showed on the man's caller ID that the call came from "Almighty God" is because the church that the

pastor attends is called Almighty God Tabernacle!!

### Kids are Funny

Submitted by *Dorothy Thomas* - from the internet

⇒ While walking along the sidewalk in front of his church, our minister heard the intoning of a prayer that nearly made his collar wilt. Apparently, his 5-year-old son and his playmates had found a dead robin. Feeling that proper burial should be performed, they had secured a small box and cotton batting, then dug a hole and made ready for the disposal of the deceased. The minister's son was chosen to say the appropriate prayers and with sonorous dignity intoned his version of what he thought his father always said: 'Glory be unto the Father, and unto the Son, and into the hole he goes.'

⇒ A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages. 'Mama, look what I found,' the boy called out. 'What have you got there, dear?'

With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, 'I think it's Adam's underwear!'

### The Father's Day Story

Historians have recorded that there was a tradition to celebrate Father's Day even thousands of years ago. Their study say that 4,000 years ago in Babylon a son called Elmesu carved a father's day message on a clay card. In his message Elmesu wished his father a long and healthy life. There is no knowledge as to what happened to this father son duo but it is believed that several countries retained the custom of celebrating Father's Day.

The genesis of Father's Day in America is accredited to Ms Sonora Louise Smart Dodd, a doting daughter from Spokane, Washington. Sonora, who was 27 in 1909, began to recognize the hardships her father must have gone through while bringing up his six children alone. When Sonora was 16, her mother had died during childbirth. Sonora's father, a Civil War veteran by the name of William Jackson Smart, raised six children including the newborn on his own. Sonora questioned that if there is a day to recognize mothers then why is not there a day to honor fathers?

Many people laughed and joked at Sonora's idea. But that did not stop her. She began a sincere campaign lobbying for the cause of Father's Day. Spokane celebrated its first Father's Day on June 19, 1910. To pay tribute to her affectionate father, Sonora wished that Father's Day be celebrated on her father's birthday on June 5, but it so happened that there was not enough time for preparation and the day came to be celebrated on the third Sunday in the month of June.

In 1972, President Richard Nixon established a permanent national observance of Father's Day on the third Sunday of June.

**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY**

# The Joy Bringer

by Sharon Johnson

Our lives are filled with ups and downs. Sometimes we are elated over the numerous blessings flowing into our lives. Sometimes we are so full of despair we don't want to go on for another minute. And we all have problems – financial, emotional, intellectual, social, physical, and on and on it goes. Some of us have abundance and some of us have scarcity and there are all levels in between. If we look at life from the world's way of looking at it, we think that things can be very unfair. We ask ourselves, "Why can't I have what that other person has?" One can get very bitter with this outlook.

On one particular day a few years ago when I was deeply depressed and complaining about my lot in life, and was comparing my sad, sorry state with the "happy" state of others, I heard in my spirit from the Lord, "Do you want to become a bitter old woman?" My answer was, "NO!"

I have found out (and am still learning) that when there is no earthly joy, there is a Heavenly Joy Bringer – and He is God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is always available to me. He is the cure for all my distresses and He brings comfort to my heart. I'll say it this way: Joy in the Lord drives away the despair in our hearts. As Spurgeon says, "I count it one of the wisest things that, by rejoicing in the Lord, we begin our heaven here below."

So, I can feel sorry for the unsaved or backslidden who have so much in the world – loved by their family, affluent, popular, immersed in the wonderful things this world can provide. They can miss the true reason for life: to become intimate with their Maker and to get to know Him so well that their spirit will mourn for Him if they don't spend time with Him. Fortunes and circumstances change but God does not. They will also miss the plans and purposes God has for them - to be of service in some way to benefit the lives of others for time and for eternity. It's a magnificent thought, "My life is important to the Lord. He can use me to make a difference."

When all the world has gone awry and there is to place to turn our Joy Bringer, the Lord God Almighty, Creator of everything, is there to say, "My precious one, in my presence there is joy forevermore." And His word says, "Break forth into joy oh my soul."

Oh that you may find that deep, inexplicable joy that can be found only in His presence.

## Does God Exist?

Submitted by *Dorothy Glenn Thomas* - from the internet

This is one of the best explanations to a nonbeliever on the nature of God that I have ever seen...

A man went to a barbershop to have his hair cut and his beard trimmed. As the barber began to work, they began to have a good conversation. They talked about so many things and various subjects. When they eventually touched on the subject of God, the barber said: "I don't believe that God exists."

"Why do you say that?" asked the customer.

"Well, you just have to go out in the street to realize that God doesn't exist. Tell me, if God exists, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? If God existed, there would be neither suffering nor pain. I can't imagine a loving God who would allow all of these things."

The customer thought for a moment, but didn't respond because he didn't want to start an argument. The barber finished his job and the customer left the shop.

Just after he left the barbershop, he saw a man in the street with long, stringy, dirty hair and an untrimmed beard. He looked dirty and unkempt. The customer turned back and entered the barber shop again, and he said to the barber: "You know what? Barbers do not exist."

"How can you say that?" asked the surprised barber. "I am here, and I am a barber. And I just worked on you!"

"No!" the customer exclaimed. "Barbers don't exist because if they did, there would be no people with dirty, long hair and untrimmed beards, like that man outside."

"Ah, but barbers DO exist! That's what happens when people do not come to me."

"Exactly!" affirmed the customer. "That's the point! God, too, DOES exist! That's what happens when people do not go to Him and don't look to Him for help. That's why there's so much pain and suffering in the world."

## Why, God, Why?

by Sharon Johnson

-For Nick-

From Sept 2004 Good Tidings Edition

The oyster lying on the ocean bottom was enjoying its time just generally eating all the microorganisms that the sea currents brought to it. It didn't have to work hard and life was really good. Then one dreadful day, a tiny piece of sand somehow worked its way into the shell. What an irritation. What a pain. Day after day, the oyster tried to rid itself of that infernal piece of sand but could not. The oyster went to work to build a very smooth wall around the sand so the situation would at least be tolerable. It was a lot of effort and caused the oyster considerable grief. The oyster said, "Why, God, why? Why do I have to put up with this horrible problem?" The answer was just, "Trust me."

Years later a young lady was betrothed to the young man that she loved so much. When he placed a lovely, iridescent pearl necklace around her neck, tears of joy slid from her eyes as she gazed at the wonderful present. The oyster said, "At last, I know why I went through all of that – to bless one made in the image of God, Himself. I am thankful for the suffering and hardships because I know it was well worth it. Something rare and beautiful came of it."

We have many trials and grief in this life – some people suffer much more than others. We ask, "Why, God, why?" And the answer is, "Just trust me."

Some day we will walk the beautiful streets of heaven where the very air is filled with love and there is no pain or tears – just eternal joy and happiness. We probably won't think too much about the life we led before heaven but, if we do ask Jesus, "Why did we have to suffer?" I believe He will gently remind us that He also suffered greatly - for a purpose: to save us and restore us to relationship to God. He may also tell us what was accomplished by our suffering and, I believe, that we will totally agree with Him and even thank Him for those problems because we will see the good that was derived from them.

He then may take us outside the city and point to the awesomely gorgeous gates made out of one solid pearl and say, "Your struggles are symbolized here forever as a memorial. You made something beautiful out of a very painful situation and it will never be forgotten. Thank you."

Rev 21:21 *The twelve gates were made of pearls—each gate from a single pearl!*



# Mother's Day



CCC had a special time to honor mothers on Mother's Day. Pastor Ken and the congregation prayed blessings over their lives and the lives of their children.



## New Prayers



It was so unique and delightful last month when Pastor Ken asked people who had never prayed for others to come to the altar and pray for those in the congregation who had needs. God blessed us with a strong anointing during those prayers.

## CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES

*Olivier Melnik* of Chosen People Ministries spoke at CCC last month. His outreach is to the Jewish people. CCC stands with the Jewish people and Israel. Olivier told a beautiful story of how he led his own father to the Lord just before he died and his mother was saved at that time as well. He had been praying for them for decades and had previously told us on several occasions about his hope for their salvation. It was



sad to lose his father but he rejoices that he is now in heaven with Jesus. It was a beautiful story told with tears and laughter. We appreciate this ministry very much. P.S. Don't give up praying for your unsaved loved ones!

## Great Candid Shot



*Jim Christopherson and Pastor Mike Stephens*



*Sharon Redfern* always prepares great lunches for Women's Meetings, and she always sets a lovely table for us too. She's a blessing.



## Kitchen Korner

...from the kitchen of *Dee Paraspolo*

### The Visiting Pastor

After a few of the usual Sunday evening Hymns, the church's Pastor stood up, walked over to the pulpit and before he gave 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," he began, "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 looking somewhat interested in his story. The aged minister continued with his story. "Grabbing a rescue line, the father had to make the most excruciating decision of his life: to which boy would he throw the other end of the life 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 swells 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 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 lifeline 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 have 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."

## WOMEN'S MEETING

### Women Encouraging Women, In Christ

by *Melba Redd*

I prayed and prepared for the Women's meeting message last month and, as the days went by, the Holy Spirit led me to various scriptures and passages to study. But none seemed to be for the "actual" message. I studied excerpts from Esther, Psalms, Proverbs and the New Testament. As it turned out, I found out that the study was for my own personal encouragement. It then occurred to me that that was the message: Encouragement!

The overall objective of Women's ministry is: "Women Encouraging Women, In Christ." The Lord is reminding us women to do exactly this. We must encourage one another and love one another, unconditionally. We must forgive and release past offenses as well because there is no room or time for holding on to unforgiveness - we are in the end times. Do not be dismayed or filled with anxiety. We are commanded to spread the gospel and to win souls over to the Lord. We must also be ready to love and nurture precious new additions to the body of Christ. Some may come with emotional hurts and wounds, and God can use us to help them. So be of good courage and be ready to encourage.

**To God Be The Glory! Hallelujah!**

Rom1:12 *...that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.*

Women's Meeting speakers:



*Dolly Guevara*



*Melba Redd*

### Women's Ministry Announcement

A Baby Shower is planned for *Pastor Dustin and Sara Paraspolo* celebrating the birth of baby *Sofia Marie Paraspolo*. The shower will follow the Women's Ministry open forum meeting on Sat., June 11th. Men are welcome to attend the coed shower which will begin at approximately 11a.m.

Pastor Dustin and Sara are registered at Target and Burlington Coat Factory.

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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) Clowdus

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