

Community Christian Center



The Word
Fellowship
Prayer

The Good Tidings Newsletter

A Report on the Revival at CCC

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ERIC GIORGIO, PASTOR

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Pastor's Corner

This month featuring Associate Pastor *Dustin Paraspolo*

A New Day

Welcome to a New Day in this New Year here at Community Christian Center. We just finished another year full challenges and heartaches, but also blessings and victories. 2011 was the



best year of my life, capped off by the best Christmas I ever had and a blessed New Year's Eve. We experienced an anointed transition of Pastors here that was nothing short of God's ordained will.

Philippians 3:13 (NLT) 13 *No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead.* As this New Year and new chapter

begins let's not dwell on what was, rather let's get excited for what is and what lies ahead. What "was" was absolutely amazing, we were blessed with leadership sent from God, and there is really nothing that can truly express our gratitude to God for what he did through our beloved Pastor Ken and Sandy. It made us who we are today and filled us with some of the greatest memories of our lives. However, the best is yet to come. So let's get ready for what God has for us in the here, now, and what lies ahead.

We have been blessed again with leadership sent from God Himself. We need to get behind our Pastor and stand with him more than we ever have before. If God has placed us on His revival map then we need to get ready for it. Let's make our New Year's resolution to draw close to God, to seek His face and hear His voice.

2012 has drawn as much hype if not more than Y2K. This year is already starting out with long exaggerated coverage of our next presidential election, and you can already see just how overly analyzed this year will be. Don't be shaken by it. We are not of this world nor should we act like this world, instead we ought to set our affections on Him. Colossians 3:1-3 (NLT) *Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. 2 Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. 3 For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. If we can stand tall and not be shaken, keeping our eyes on the Creator who loves us then we will share in all His Glory.* Colossians 3:4 *And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.* AMEN.

I am looking forward to what the Lord has in store for us here at Community Christian Center this year. God bless you.

Good Things in Store

by Reverend Daniel Mugathi

Submitted by *Kathy Hoover*

"...time and chance happen to them all"

(Ecclesiastes 9:11, NIV)

As I was praying for you this is what come immediately in my heart: When God laid out the plans for our lives, He lined up the right places, the right breaks, and the right opportunities that we needed to fulfill our destiny and calling. The Scripture talks about how time and chance will come together for every person. In other words, there are moments of favor that God has already released into your future. If you'll let that sink down into your heart today, it will change your whole outlook on your future and your decision concerning this issue.

So many people miss out on the good things because they allow fear to distract them and hold them back. They say, "What if I fail when I do this and leave that?" "What if they don't like me where the Lord is leading me?" "What if I make the wrong decision or mistake?" To that I say, "What if you succeed, sister or brother?" "What if they like you?" "What if you do it better than anyone else?"

That's expecting God's goodness and favor. And when you go out each day with an attitude of faith and expectancy, you'll see those good things He has in store. You'll walk into divine moments of favor, moments of blessing, moments of increase; and you'll be fully equipped to live the life of victory!



Divine Alphabet

Submitted by *Bettie Clark*

Although things are not perfect

Because of trial or pain

Continue in thanksgiving

Do not begin to blame

Even when the times are hard

Fierce winds are bound to blow

God is forever able

Hold on to what you know

Imagine life without His love

Joy would cease to be

Keep thanking Him for all the things

Love imparts to thee

Move out of "Camp Complaining"

No weapon that is known

On earth can yield the power

Praise can do alone

Quit looking at the future

Redeem the time at hand

Start every day with worship

To "thank" is a command

Until we see Him coming

Victorious in the sky

We'll run the race with gratitude

X-acting God most high

Yes, there'll be good times and yes some will be bad, but...

Zion waits in glory...where none are ever sad!

Ain't It Wonderful? I'm Going to Jail!

by Sharon Johnson

My all-time favorite line from a movie is "Ain't it wonderful? I'm going to jail." It was spoken by Jimmy Stewart who played George Bailey in 'It's a Wonderful Life.' The story goes that George, who was a very talented man from the small town of Bedford Falls, gives up his dream of an adventurous life in the world in order to save his father's savings and loan business. He and his wife settle down and help build a great number of houses for the town's residents and generally promote good will to all.

The story goes on that, at the most inopportune time when the bank examiner is examining his books, his uncle loses \$8,000.00, of the Savings and Loan's assets, a huge amount of money at the time. George becomes so angry and distraught that he plans to kill himself for the insurance money, but an angel shows him what life in Bedford Falls and for his family would have been without him.

No circumstances changed. In his mind he still was in severe trouble and would have to go to jail for bank embezzlement or fraud, even though he was innocent. His family would be ruined and his good reputation would be gone. But yet, he began joyfully running down the snowlined streets of town, shouting, "Merry Christmas" to all he passed and then he made that terrific statement - "Ain't it wonderful? I'm going to jail."

What could have changed him so much to go from being suicidal to openly rejoicing? The difference was his attitude. He learned a lot about himself during his trial, and he knew that his life really had counted for something good, despite his current predicament.

As we know, his wife and friends came together to raise the money to cover the losses and he was saved from having to go to prison, and he was even called, "the richest man in town."

We Christians should be called, "the richest people in the world," because we have an even better reason to be happy even in difficult circumstances because our lives count for good. We make a difference. Our prayers are very effective: they have saved lives, healed people, provided jobs, healed relationships, etc. We have also fed hungry people, clothed them, helped the persecuted, helped many people in times of trouble, and, best of all, we have brought people to the Lord so that they will spend eternity in heaven just because of our testimony. We give God the glory and praise Him for the opportunities, we know it is His power working through us that brings about so much good. God's Word says "All things work together for good..."

He also said Count it all joy.

So as Christians we should never give up, but rather look at what the Lord has done through us. We can say, no matter what the circumstances, "Ain't it wonderful, I'm ... And, we may be experiencing some deeply trying things, but our attitudes can change when we see what God has done through us and what the world may have been like without us. Our lives in Christ are so very rich, indeed.

P.S. I do not advocate the use of the word, "ain't."



"It was wonderful to see the change soon made in the manners of our inhabitants...From being thoughtless or indifferent about religion, it seemed as if all the world were growing religious, so that one could not walk through the town in an evening without hearing psalms sung in different families of every street." - Benjamin Franklin [Philadelphia, 1730's, on the effects of George Whitefield's preaching]

Baptism

The last baptism performed at Community Christian Center by Pastor Ken was of a young man, Jeff Barum, who is a friend of Shawn Miller and Ray and Susie Algorri. Sorry we were unable to get the picture of the baptism yet but we do have a picture of Jeff at the Wannamaker Christmas outreach - already serving Jesus by serving up hot dogs.

We pray God continues to bless him and use him in the Kingdom.



The Wannamaker Outreach



These are a few pictures of the Wannamaker outreach. To hear a report of the outreach, please read Dee Paraspolo's Kitchen Korner on the last page. It is a real blessing to see that we are making a difference.



James 1:12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. NIV

Installation of Senior Pastor Eric Giorgio and wife, Marie

On New Years Eve - a very appropriate date for the start of something new - Pastor Eric Giorgio and his wife, Marie, were installed as senior pastors of Community Christian Center by Pastor Ken and Sandy along with our elders and deacons plus many good pastor friends. It was a beautiful ceremony. We felt the precious presence of the Holy Spirit right there with us and in us.



The Christmas Banquet aka the White Elephant Gift Exchange



Kitchen Korner

from the kitchen of *Dee Paraspolo*

Did we hear an almost audible sigh of relief that 2011 is over? Not because it was bad but because, like other years, it ended in such a bustle of activity - oh, we have a wonderful never-ending time of too many lunches, too many Christmas parties, banquets, sweets and far too much shopping. I don't think we would change any of it, but it seems that as we get to the end of each year it gets overloaded with busyness. This year was no exception, but this December also had it's ah-ha moments. Those beautiful times where we are glad to be a part of celebrating the season of Christ's birth.

My first ah-ha moment was our annual Christmas Church banquet. If you were there you sat in our beautifully decorated church and were served a fantastic four-course meal by the youth. Our youth helped decorate, served us with professionalism and helped clean up after. We could not have been taken care of better anywhere else. Here's a terrific Ah-ha to our youth.

Our Wannamaker Outreach was another wonderful evening. A Christ-honoring Santa Claus gave every child and young person a toy, a gift or gift card for food at local fast food locations. Toward the very end of the evening a six or seven year old girl came up to Santa. She had a heavy, half-filled trash bag and wanted to sit on Santa lap. Once settled on his knee she said she had brought the toys in the bag to give to the children that didn't have anything for Christmas. Her mother added to what her daughter was saying by telling Santa that last year she and her family had nothing and our church had helped them with food and had given gifts to her children. She continued by saying that they now had work and were doing well and her children did not want toys from the church; they wanted to give toys to some of the children that needed them this year. Ah-ha, let us all take a lesson from these children.

As we were wrapping up at Wannamaker, a lady handed Pastor Tony a card. He read it when he got home and asked that I share with each of you that help at the outreach. It reads "Thank you so much for coming to our neighborhood. Here at Covina Gardens there are so many families in need. Some children that I know only have one gift. Thanks to God for placing people like you that have such a big heart and the children have at least one present. Thank you for the In & Out gift cards that will feed my children when they come back from visiting their father.. God Bless All of You," Bertha

Also this month there were smaller Ah-ha moments, when our church children used scripture, song and dance to blessed us with the story of Jesus birth. Ron and Elsie Cole celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Congratulations to a precious couple. The Paraspolo family celebrates the birth of Abel Anthony, born to Adam and Astrid on December 24. And Tony and I had our own precious times as family was over and friends dropped by for coffee and to visit. So even with all the busyness and tiring days, we had many blessing. I thank each and every one of my church family for a wonderful 2011, and we can look forward to following the Holy Spirit in all that He has for us in the new year.



1 Peter 1:2 *God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and his Spirit has made you holy.* NLT - It's amazing to think that we have been **chosen** by God even before He made the world. It makes us feel very special and exceedingly grateful - and so very humble - because most of us know how utterly unworthy we are.

THE SLIDE SHOW

by Sharon Johnson

Community Christian Center's 35th anniversary was commemorated in a slide show in December - even though it was a few months earlier than the actual anniversary date. It was a great night and there was a large crowd of CCC'ers in attendance. It was wonderful to look out at your beautiful faces in the audience. One could feel the atmosphere charged with the Holy Spirit's presence that was saying one thing (to me) and that was FAMILY. I believe that was the message of the slide show and the message of the night - we are family.

We give tribute to Pastor Ken and Sandy for building this church, and leaving us with a rich heritage of Christian fellowship as well as biblically based values and a desire to seek a close relationship with Jesus. I believe the Holy Spirit urges us to keep that heritage going and to support our new Pastor Eric and his wife, Marie.

I am truly sorry for not seeing that I had left some very loved and valued people's pictures out of the show, but they will be included in the DVD's that will be provided to our congregation. Plus - watch out, there may be more slide shows coming.

God bless you, CCC family, I pray this is a very happy and blessed New Year. We wish Pastor Ken and Sandy all the best. We can't thank them enough, ever, for all that they have done for us - they will always be in our hearts.



WOMEN'S MEETING



Our Women's meeting was held at Millie's this month for our traditional Christmas breakfast celebrating the birth of our precious Lord Jesus - the Christ child. It is because of Him that we can have a loving fellowship with each other. Ornament gifts were exchanged and everyone had a good time.

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

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Sharon Johnson, Editor & Publisher

email: sharonsue@roadrunner.com

