

Community Christian Center

The Word
Fellowship
Prayer

The Good Tidings Newsletter

A Report on the Revival at CCC



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KENNETH CLOWDUS, PASTOR

VOLUME 112

Pastor's Corner

This month featuring *Associate Pastor Tony Paraspolo*

I'm going to talk of three who suffered in the Bible and see if you recognize who they are. The first one is characterized in the



following three passages: MARK 15:3-4 And the chief priests accused Him of many things, but He answered nothing. Then Pilate asked Him again, saying, "Do You answer nothing? See how many things they testify against You!" NKJV HEBREWS 10:19-20 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, NKJV

HEBREWS 12:2-3 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. NKJV

The second sufferer is found in 2 CORINTHIANS 11:23-28 Are they ministers of Christ? — I speak as a fool — I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness — besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. NKJV

It should be very obvious to us who the two people who are referred to in the above examples. But, let's see if you can recognize the third one and it starts off with: "I don't know why God expects so much from me. He expects me to go to church three times a week, spend more time in prayer, spend more time reading the Bible, go to church in the rain, give when I'm struggling financially, as well as don't eat any food in the sanctuary; and people have talked about me behind my back at church! I don't know if I can stand it anymore, but maybe, in God, I'll be able to do it." Maybe in order to find out who this last person is, all we have to look in the mirror. But, I hope it's none of us. I hope we go and do the things of God willingly, because most of

us really have no idea of the meaning of suffering. We get a little ache in our body and wonder why God allowed it — we wonder why He hasn't healed us. If we lose our job, we wonder why God doesn't love us anymore and worry about what we are going to do for the rest of our lives. And there are so many things we complain about. If we just thought it through, however, the truth is that we're in God's hands, and Jesus Christ died so that we can get answers to all these things in His timing with joy and the love of Jesus Christ in our hearts. And having the Holy Spirit makes it real easy if we're walking in Him.

Thank you and God bless you, may the Lord be with you.

WOMEN'S MEETING

Women's Meeting was very special this month as we discussed some very serious issues that people are going through right now. One of the important things that we found out is that when we discuss the problems of a precious family member or beloved friend, we want that person not to be gossiped about or treated differently than others, but prayed for in love. This meeting provided an open forum to talk about these things in a loving environment. It was a closed meeting so no pictures were taken.

TODAY'S JESUS

by Sharon Johnson

Sometimes I think that the reason unsaved people discount Jesus so quickly is that they look upon Him as a man who walked the earth - a good man who did good things who humbly died on the cross. They don't see the power and they don't see who He really is. The Word Of God confirms that Jesus is God, the Son, the Creator of all things.

I was reading the following passages in Revelation that reaffirmed in me a deep reverence, awe, and healthy fear and respect for the One who died for us. John is speaking:

Rev 1:10-18 It was the Lord's Day, and I was worshiping in the Spirit. Suddenly, I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet blast... When I turned to see who was speaking to me, I saw seven gold lampstands. And standing in the middle of the lampstands was someone like the Son of Man. **He was wearing a long robe with a gold sash across his chest. His head and his hair were white like wool, as white as snow. And his eyes were like flames of fire. His feet were like polished bronze refined in a furnace, and his voice thundered like mighty ocean waves. He held seven stars in his right hand, and a sharp two-edged sword came from his mouth.* And his face was like the sun in all its brilliance.**

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as if I were dead. But he laid his right hand on me and said, "Don't be afraid! I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One. I died, but look-I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave."

*Note: The two-edged sword is a symbol which showed that His words, or His truth, had the power of cutting deep, or penetrating the soul.

Meet Molly

Submitted by *Barbara Parker*

She's a grey speckled pony who was abandoned by her owners when Hurricane Katrina hit southern Louisiana. She spent weeks on her own before finally being rescued and taken to a farm where abandoned animals were stockpiled.

While there, she was attacked by a pit bull terrier and almost died. Her gnawed right front leg became infected, and her vet went to LSU for help, but LSU was overwhelmed, and this pony was a welfare case. You know how that goes.

But after surgeon Rustin Moore met Molly, he changed his mind. He saw how the pony was careful to lie down on different sides so she didn't seem to get sores, and how she allowed people to handle her. She protected her injured leg. She constantly shifted her weight and didn't overload her good leg. She was a smart pony with a serious survival ethic.



Moore agreed to remove her leg below the knee, and a temporary artificial limb was built. Molly walked out of the clinic and her story really begins there. 'This was the right horse and the right owner,' Moore insists. Molly happened to be a one-in-a-million patient. She's tough as nails, but sweet, and she was willing to cope with pain. She

made it obvious she understood that she was in trouble. The other important factor, according to Moore, is having a truly committed and compliant owner who is dedicated to providing the daily care required over the lifetime of the horse.

Molly's story turns into a parable for life in post-Katrina Louisiana. The little pony gained weight, and her mane finally felt a comb. A human prosthesis designer built her a leg.

The prosthetic has given Molly a whole new life, Allison Barca DVM, Molly's regular vet, reports. And she asks for it. She will put her little limb out, and come to you and let you know that she wants you to put it on. Sometimes she wants you to take it off too. And sometimes, Molly gets away from Barca. 'It can be pretty bad when you can't catch a three-legged horse,' she laughs.

Most important of all, Molly has a job now. Kay, the rescue farm owner, started taking Molly to shelters, hospitals, nursing homes, and rehabilitation centers. Anywhere she thought that people needed hope. Wherever Molly went, she showed people her pluck. She inspired people, and she had a good time doing it.

'It's obvious to me that Molly had a bigger role to play in life, Moore said. She survived the hurricane, she survived a horrible injury, and now she is giving hope to others.' Barca concluded, 'She's not back to normal, but she's going to be better. To me, she could be a symbol for New Orleans itself.'

Wherever Molly goes, she leaves a smiley hoof print behind because on her most recent prosthesis she has the smiley face emblem embossed on the bottom of the horse shoe. Editor's Note: God has given us many wonderful animal friends. A horse is an animal that He specifically designed to respond to humans in a unique and special way. Molly's story tugs at our heartstrings and proves God's blessings to us with animals.



Being Empowered by the Holy Spirit

by *Reverend Laura Tassin*

I had prayed, and asked God if I should go to the L.A. Mission last month because a rain storm was forecast on the day I was to go. I was also concerned about two of the people in the ministry with me: Lena Hernandez and her son, James Ybarra, because they live quite a distance away and it would be difficult to get to the church, go downtown, and then drive back in the rain. I even asked the noon prayer group to pray about it. But I found no peace in staying home so I decided I better go. Sure enough, when I got up in the morning it was raining cats and dogs. But we went anyway.

I was led to preach on being filled with the Holy Spirit. I was giving the group an example of how the disciples were before they were filled with the Holy Spirit and what a distinct difference there was in them afterwards. Before, they were afraid and in hiding; after, they were filled with boldness. I also expounded on the difference of being filled with the Holy Spirit and of being immersed in the Holy Spirit. At the end of the message, all of the people there wanted the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives. (Because of the rain, there were over 400 people inside!) Over 25 people came up to receive the Lord and to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

One stood out, a man of about 42 whose name was Randy. He told me that at one time he had been a pianist in the church. But some friends convinced him to play worldly music outside of the church and, he got introduced to drugs which led to his downfall. He answered the altar call and said that he was rededicating his life to the Lord and that he wanted to be filled with the Holy Spirit. He also said that his parents hadn't heard from him in years; they probably thought he was dead. During the message, I had been prompted by the Holy Spirit to say that there was someone in the audience who wanted to take their own life, but that there was always hope in the Lord and a reason to live. Randy told me that it was he who wanted to take his own life the day before because he had nothing to live for. Praise God that he came forward. He asked a favor of me – would I please get in touch with his mom and ask his mom could he please come home. I told him I would.

When I got home, I called his mother and both of his parents got on the phone when they heard me say, "Randy." They wanted to know how I knew Randy and where I knew him from. I told them that I go down to the L.A. Mission to speak once a month and that Randy had been there and informed me that his parents had not heard from him in years and asked me to contact them. The mother asked me to please get in touch with him and tell him, "Yes, come on home." The father said the same thing. I told them that he was on the street and I had no way to contact him but that he had given me a message for them that he was on his way home. This made them very happy.

The Lord had another wonderful experience for me. There was a man in the control booth by the name of Roger. He asked James if I would go back there and pray for him since he couldn't leave the control booth. This man was from Alabama and he listened to the whole message. He said that he had to come all the way from Alabama to hear about the Holy Spirit because he was from a denomination that didn't teach on it. So he also received the infilling and was so appreciative. He thanked God and was so excited just praising God.

I thank God for the opportunity to minister to the mission on behalf of CCC (rain or shine). I thank God for all of the team members: Ruby Mitchell, Dan & Jackie O'Donnell, Dale & Chance Cotton, as well as Lena and James. (See last page of newsletter for update to Randy's story.)

Entering into Eternal Life



CCC is going to miss our beloved brother, Bob Cloud. He passed away on January 10, 2009 at the age of 75. He and his wife, Gloria, have been attending CCC for many years and they are the nicest and sweetest couple. They had been married just under 52 years.

Bob had a strong faith in the Lord and stood on the promises in the Word many times throughout his life and, he reported that it works!

He loved to read the Bible and pray and regularly attended the Tuesday/Thursday noon prayer meeting. He had a special love for the persecuted Christians around the world and would pray for them quite often.

We know that Bob is experiencing joy unspeakable and full of glory in the presence of the Lord after a lifetime devoted to God.

Gloria wants to thank everyone for their kindness and help during this time.



We lovingly remember, Raymond Gomez Jr., son of Raymond and Rebecca Gomez. Born on August 26, 1958 and passed away in his sleep on February 21, 2009.



We are also saddened to say goodbye to our good friend and brother, Elder, Cal Henk. He passed away last month of a brain aneurism at age, 84.

He has brightened our lives with humor, wit and wisdom. He was always ready to give a word of scripture and pray with anyone who asked or needed it. He really loved God - you could just hear it in his voice when he spoke with heartfelt love and reverence of our Lord. He had a gentle and loving spirit.

He headed the Excellency in Singles group and was always willing to help out in Men's Meeting or one of the Bible studies. He supported the church outreach program and attended nearly all of the outreaches. He was a Gideon for many years. He was in regular attendance at Thursday noon prayer.

We will sorely miss him, but we know he is walking streets of gold with his beloved wife, Carol, and best of all - for him - he is in the presence of God.



The Jew

Submitted by *Cal Henk*

Scattered by God's avenging hand,
Afflicted and forlorn,
Sad wanderers from their pleasant land,
Do Judah's children mourn,
And e'en in Christian countries, few
Breathe thoughts of pity for the Jew.

Yet listen, Gentile, do you love
The Bible's precious page?
Then let your heart with kindness move
To Israel's heritage.
Who traced those lines of love for you?
Each sacred writer was a Jew.

And then as years and ages passed,
And nations rose and fell,
Though clouds and darkness oft were cast
O'er captive Israel.
The oracles of God for you
Were kept in safety by the Jew.

And when the great Messiah came
For guilty man to bleed,
He did not take an angel's name,
No - born of Abraham's seed -
Jesus, who gave His life for you,
The gentle Savior was a Jew.

And though His own received Him not,
And turned in pride away,
Whence is the Gentile's happier lot;
Are you more just than they?
No: God in pity turned to you -
Have you no pity for the Jew?

Go, then, and bend your knee to pray
For Israel's ancient race,
Ask the dear Savior every day
To call them by His grace:
Go, for a debt of love is due
From Christian Gentiles to the Jew.



Angels Explained By Children

From the Internet

- ☉ I only know the names of two angels, Hark and Harold. -Gregory, 5
- ☉ Everybody's got it all wrong. Angels don't wear halos anymore. I forget why, but scientists are working on it. Olive, 9
- ☉ My guardian angel helps me with math, but he's not much good for science. -Henry,
- ☉ Angels don't eat, but they drink milk from Holy Cows!!! -Jack, 6
- ☉ Angels talk all the way while they're fly-

- ing you up to heaven. The main subject is where you went wrong before you got dead. -Daniel, 9
- ☉ When an angel gets mad, he takes a deep breath and counts to ten. And when he lets out his breath, somewhere there's a tornado. -Reagan, 10
- ☉ Angels live in cloud houses made by God and his son, who's a very good carpenter. -Jared, 8

- ☉ All angels are girls because they gotta wear dresses and boys didn't go for it. -Antonio, 9
- ☉ Some of the angels are in charge of helping heal sick animals and pets. And if they don't make the animals better, they help the child get over it. -Vicki, 8
- ☉ What I don't get about angels is why, when someone is in love, they shoot arrows at them. -Sarah, 7

MEMORY VERSES

Pastor Ken is encouraging the congregation of CCC to meditate on the Word by memorizing verses. He taught us that you can find great joy, even in this uncertain world, by getting to know God in His Word. Below are the verses he selected for the month of March.

Psalm 1

1. Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful;
2. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he **meditates** day and night.
3. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he does shall prosper.
4. The ungodly are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind drives away.
5. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.
6. For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Psalm 23

1. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
2. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.
3. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
4. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
5. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over.
6. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

If we memorize three verses a week - we will know two chapters of Psalms by the time Pastor selects the passages for next month. We have used the New King James version in the newsletter, but you may use another version if you wish.

UPDATE

from 'Being Empowered by the Holy Spirit' on page 2

Laura Tassin reports that Randy called her a few days after the L.A. Mission experience where he rededicated his life and was filled with the Holy Spirit.

He told her that he was calling from home!!! He was praising God and thanking Laura. Laura said that she could hear his mom in the background - all excited and happy. God is wonderful and it is so awesome to work for Him and see His hand touching people's lives.

The Good Tidings Newsletter
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The Sin of Eve

by Sharon Johnson

The sin of Eve was somewhat like the sin of Satan who, a created being, declared himself to be God, the Creator. In the form of a snake, Satan encouraged Eve to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. She succumbed to this temptation, even though she knew that eating the fruit had been forbidden, and that God had given Adam and her a warning that they would surely die if they ate of its fruit.

The thought of being like God and knowing good and evil was a beguiling thought to Eve, and the fruit looked so luscious and tempting. She was deceived by the father of all lies and we know the disastrous results.

I believe what the Word says, but I could never understand what was so bad about knowing good and evil. Shouldn't we know that murder is evil and that helping people is good? So you can see what my line of thinking was.

But, through a message given by Pastor Ken and through some observations about the changes in this country since the 50's, I think I now know what it means.

I think it means that people feel they can determine for themselves what is right and wrong. This is what is being taught in our schools, God help us. It means that lying is okay if it helps our own agenda. We can take those office supplies from work, after all didn't we work overtime once and not get paid for it. We can cheat on our school tests or our income tax because it doesn't hurt anybody, does it? Why can't we use marijuana, it's not as bad as alcohol and it really should be legalized. Why shouldn't we vote for same sex marriage, don't we care what those poor people are going through? I could go on and on until we are justifying even murder.

There is only One Being who has the infinite wisdom to determine what is truly good and what is truly evil and that is God. Since He is the creator, He also has the right to make those determinations. He gave us a book full of His wisdom, a conscience and the Holy Spirit who is our counselor and guide. He has to be our standard or we will end up with chaos, each man doing his own thing - it's probably why we have so many wars and strife.

Somehow we must get it into our heads that, in order to please God and not fall into the sin of making the decisions of what is good and evil on our own, we must apply the Word of God to ourselves and do what It says as best we can with God's help. I have been in situations where Christians are talking about how bad it is to gossip and then, within a few minutes, some gossiping begins. In marriages, friendships, business dealings, school, and all aspects of life, we have to learn to actually apply the Word to how we conduct ourselves. And, we are nobody else's judge, other people have to find this truth for themselves.

I ask God to help me and you all to live according to His rules, plans and purposes. He is God, let us be His obedient children. Joy comes when we live life this way.

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