

Community Christian Center



The Word
Fellowship
Prayer

The Good Tidings Newsletter

A Report on the Revival at CCC

MAY, 2009

KENNETH CLOWDUS, PASTOR

VOLUME 113

Pastor's Corner

This month *someone* (me) didn't notify one of our Pastors that it was her turn (guess which one) to do the P.Corner so I used *Pastor David Wilkerson's* urgent message to the body of Christ:

I am compelled by the Holy Spirit to send out an urgent message to all on our mailing list, and to friends and to bishops we have met all over the world.

AN EARTH-SHATTERING CALAMITY IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN. IT IS GOING TO BE SO FRIGHTENING, WE ARE ALL GOING TO TREMBLE — EVEN THE GODLIEST AMONG US.

For ten years I have been warning about a thousand fires coming to New York City. It will engulf the whole megaplex, including areas of New Jersey and Connecticut. Major cities all across America will experience riots and blazing fires — such as we saw in Watts, Los Angeles, years ago.

There will be riots and fires in cities worldwide. There will be looting — including Times Square, New York City. What we are experiencing now is not a recession, not even a depression. We are under God's wrath. In Psalm 11 it is written, "If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?" (v. 3).

God is judging the raging sins of America and the nations. He is destroying the secular foundations.

The prophet Jeremiah pleaded with wicked Israel, "God is fashioning a calamity against you and devising a plan against you. Oh turn back each of you from your evil way, and reform your ways and deeds. But they will say, It's hopeless! For we are going to follow our own plans, and each of us will act according to the stubbornness of his evil heart" (Jeremiah 18:11-12).

In Psalm 11:6, David warns, "Upon the wicked he will rain snares (coals of fire)...fire...burning wind...will be the portion of their cup." Why? David answered, "Because the Lord is righteous" (v. 7). This is a righteous judgment — just as in the judgments of Sodom and in Noah's generation.

WHAT SHALL THE RIGHTEOUS DO? WHAT ABOUT GOD'S PEOPLE?

First, I give you a practical word I received for my own direction. Lay in store a thirty-day supply of food, toiletries and other essentials. In major cities, grocery stores are emptied in an hour at the sign of an impending disaster.

As for our spiritual reaction, we have but two options. This is outlined in Psalm 11. We "flee like a bird to a mountain." Or, as David says, "He fixed his eyes on the Lord on his throne in heaven — his eyes beholding, his eyelids testing the sons of men" (v. 4). "In the Lord I take refuge" (v. 1).

I will say to my soul: No need to run...no need to hide. This is God's righteous work. I will behold our Lord on his throne, with his eye of tender, loving kindness watching over every step I take — trusting that he will deliver his people even through floods, fires, calamities, tests, trials of all kinds.

Note: I do not know when these things will come to pass, but I know it is not far off. I have unburdened my soul to you. Do with the

message as you choose.

God bless and keep you. In Christ, DAVID WILKERSON

A Picture of God's Plan



The above picture is very meaningful, to me. It was taken here at CCC just before Olivier Melnik, from Chosen People Ministries, gave a great presentation about the hidden, Christian meaning of the passover seder. I didn't know if anyone else saw what I saw in the picture, but some probably did.

The picture shows the Jewish Passover Seder on the table where the cup of redemption and the unleavened bread sit. The Seder started in Egypt on the night the angel of death passed over the homes of the Jews who had placed the blood of the lamb over their door posts. Passover has continued through the years, and included the upper room celebration where Jesus instituted holy communion.

At that time, Jesus gave a new meaning to the bread, He said, This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the above picture you see those words on the table in the foreground.

About the blood He said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is shed for you." In the background of the picture you see a cross which depicts where Jesus shed that blood and gave up His body for us.

You see the symbolic elements of the body and blood of Christ sitting on the little communion table as well as the Bible where the old covenant was replaced by the new covenant that Jesus spoke of.

And we see the praisers in the background - worshipping God because He miraculously provided salvation and eternal life for us - if we choose to accept that gift.

It's like a miniature picture of God's redemptive plan.

LOOK UP

Submitted by *Stephanie Alexander*

From the Internet

THE BUZZARD:

If you put a buzzard in a pen that is 6 feet by 8 feet and is entirely open at the top, the bird, in spite of its ability to fly, will be an absolute prisoner. The reason is that a buzzard always begins a flight from the ground with a run of 10 to 12 feet. Without space to run, as is its habit, it will not even attempt to fly, but will remain a prisoner for life in a small jail with no top.

THE BAT:

The ordinary bat that flies around at night, a remarkable nimble creature in the air, cannot take off from a level place. If it is placed on the floor or flat ground, all it can do is shuffle about helplessly and, no doubt, painfully, until it reaches some slight elevation from which it can throw itself into the air. Then, at once, it takes off like a flash.

THE BUMBLEBEE:

A bumblebee, if dropped into an open tumbler, will be there until it dies, unless it is taken out. It never sees the means of escape at the top, but persists in trying to find some way out through the sides near the bottom. It will seek a way where none exists, until it completely destroys itself.

PEOPLE:

In many ways, we are like the buzzard, the bat, and the bumblebee. We struggle about with all our problems and frustrations, never realizing that all we have to do is look up!!! Look up to the Lord... That's the answer, the escape route and the solution to any problem! Just look up.

The Comforter Has Come

by *Joe Hernandez*

When I worked in construction, I made friends with Tom who is a Christian also. He called me once and asked me if I would like some extra work. I said that I would and went to his house to work on the roof over his garage. I was invited to stay for dinner and accepted. I felt honored when I was asked to say grace, and I prayed for Tom, and his mom and dad who were there with us, and blessed their home.

One day Tom came by and he looked really sad. He said somebody had cut a hole in his fence and took his dog. I could tell by the tears in his eyes that he loved his 'best friend'. I prayed for Tom, and shared a true story with him of a mother whose son ran away. Every morning and evening she would go in her back yard and face north, then east, south and west, and put her hands to her mouth and yell her son's name, calling him to come home. And, eventually he did. Praise God.

I told Tom to go to his back yard and stand facing north, then east, south and west and put his hands to his mouth and call his dog's name, calling him to come home. I told him that God uses the foolish things to confound the wise. He did not question anything I said but agreed with me and went home. I don't remember how many days later that Tom came over and told me that every day when he came home from work, he would go to his back yard and face each direction and put his hands to his mouth calling his best friend's name. He was so excited because while he was driving home from work down my street, he saw a dog running in the middle of the street. As he drove closer he saw that it was his best friend running toward Him. I could see Tom hopping out of his truck and running toward his long lost friend. His dog jumped on him and they were hugging and kissing each other. Both were so happy to see each

other. Tom said he saw a rope still tied around the dog's neck and the other end of the rope looked like it had been ripped loose. We started praising and rejoicing together and thanking the Lord.

The Holy Spirit worked through Tom to bless my wife, Margie, and I when we lost our oldest son. After the funeral services were over, we came home to receive our family and friends. My wife and I were deeply hurting inside and grieving. We both were standing on the driveway when Tom drove up. I hadn't seen him in quite a while and he didn't know about our son. Tom said, "I was home and the Lord told me to come and see you." He said that he knew why God sent him, and he began to share words of comfort for about 10 or 15 minutes, words that gave my wife and me so much peace and joy. I know it was the Holy Spirit who was speaking through Tom. Not one word was added, only what was meant to be said to comfort my wife and me. When Tom left, my Margie and I embraced each other and we knew that the Comforter had come.

Resurrection Day Pageant



In April our kids were very cute and entertaining as they sang and recited for the Resurrection Day Pageant. We always enjoy their praises to our Lord. Thanks to Cathy Johnson, Michele Watts, Linda Stephens, and Melba Redd for their time and hard work in putting the program together.

SONRISE

Pastor Ken gave the traditional sunrise service message on Resurrection Sunday. He completed the message very quickly in about 45 minutes or so, and he asked the congregation if there was any reason why they had to stay any longer - thinking everyone would agree. But, Al Olguin quipped, "What, could you not wait with me one hour?," quoting the scripture in the gospels. Everyone started laughing. And Pastor repeated that story during the regular services and you can see the results on the faces of the ushers: Albert Gomez and Henry Saenz.



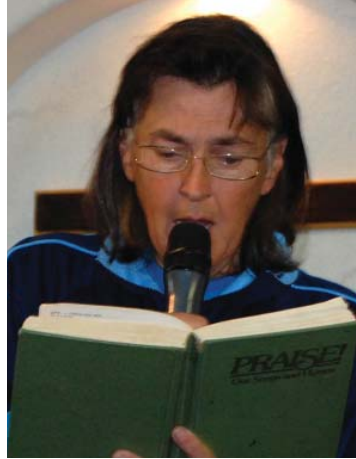
Singspiration



Jesse Paraspolo on Flute -
"We Will Rock You"



"We Will Never Forget" -
Elder Tony Briton



"For Those Tears I Died" -
Bobina Black



In Memory of Cal Henk - **Edie Monaco** sang "If I Be Lifted Up"



Lorraine Stinson - her own:
"Thank You for the Bible"



Caitlyn Jenkins "How Far the East is from the West." And with **Heather Paraspolo** "Holy, Holy"



Pastor Cliff and Nancy Shoelz
"There is a River"



Lorraine, Faye, Sharron sang "Surely" - (not Shirley!)



Sharron Bonessa, Faye Smith, LaVonne Adams, "I Love the Lord"



Sharron Bonessa, Faye Smith and Joyce Mansker,

(Rt) They sang: "I Wouldn't Take Nothing for My Journey Now" Then, by popular demand, they sang "Ain't No Grave" and "God is Able." Joyce sang "God of the Mountain." Pastor Ken said, "If that don't light your fire, then your wood's wet!"



Pastor Ken Clowdus -recited, by memory, "the greatest sermon ever written," The Sermon on the Mount

Kitchen Korner

...from the kitchen of *Dee Paraspolo*

Here is a beautiful, thoughtful story of a conversation between a grandmother and her granddaughter. To all our mothers, "Happy Mother's Day," and to all many blessings to you walk in the ways of our Lord.

Grandma, some ninety plus years, sat feebly on the patio bench. She didn't move, just sat with her head down staring at her hands. When I sat down beside her she didn't acknowledge my presence and the longer I sat I wondered if she was OK.

Finally, not really wanting to disturb her but wanting to check on her at the same time, I asked her if she was OK. She raised her head and looked at me and smiled.

"Yes, I'm fine, thank you for asking," she said in a clear strong voice.

"I didn't mean to disturb you, grandma, but you were just sitting here staring at your hands and I wanted to make sure you were OK," I explained to her.

"Have you ever looked at your hands," she asked. "I mean really looked at your hands?"

I slowly opened my hands and stared down at them. I turned them over, palms up and then palms down. No, I guess I had never really looked at my hands as I tried to figure out the point she was making. Grandma smiled and related this story:

"Stop and think for a moment about the hands you have, how they have served you well throughout your years. These hands, though wrinkled, shriveled and weak have been the tools I have used all my life to reach out and grab and embrace life. They braced and caught my fall when as a toddler I crashed upon the floor. They put food in my mouth and clothes on my back. As a child my mother taught me to fold them in prayer. They tied my shoes and pulled on my boots. They held my husband and wiped my tears when he went off to war. They have been dirty, scraped and raw, swollen and bent. They were uneasy and clumsy when I tried to hold my newborn son. Decorated with my wedding band they showed the world that I was married and loved someone special. They wrote my letters to him and trembled and shook when I buried my parents and spouse. They have held my children and grandchildren, consoled neighbors, and shook in fists of anger when I didn't understand. They have covered my face, combed my hair, and washed and cleansed the rest of my body. They have been sticky and wet, bent and broken, dried and raw. And to this day when not much of anything else of me works real well these hands hold me up, lay me down, and again continue to fold in prayer. These hands are the mark of where I've been and the ruggedness of life. But more importantly it will be these hands that God will reach out and take when he leads me home. And with my hands He will lift me to His side and there I will use these hands to touch the face of Christ."

I will never look at my hands the same again. But I remember God reached out and took my grandma's hands and led her home. When my hands are hurt or sore or when I stroke the face of my children and husband I think of grandma. I know she has been stroked and caressed and held by the hands of God. I, too, want to touch the face of God and feel His hands upon my face.

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Ordination



On March 8, 2009, Dustin Paraspolo was ordained as Pastor. He and his wife, Sarah, have excelled as youth ministers and they have a gifting for touching young hearts.

Dustin was raised in church at CCC. His grandfather is Pastor Tony Paraspolo and his mother is Donna Paraspolo Paver.

It is so apparent that Dustin has answered the Lord's call to devote his life for the furtherance of the Kingdom of God. He and Sarah are a huge blessing to CCC and we pray God continue to anoint them and use them for His glory. We pray that young lives are touched and changed under their ministry. God bless them and keep them.

THERE'S ROOM AT THE CROSS FOR ME

by *Sharon Johnson*

The Lord has given me a wonderful revelation – it is a way of handling stressful situations.

This is what I learned, have put into practice, and found that works for me. At the point where things become very stressful to me, and nothing seems to work to correct the situation, I just remember Jesus on the cross – He didn't deserve that horrible punishment at all. Then, I take up my cross; that is, I get up on it, in my spirit, and die to myself to become alive to Jesus. It's no longer my rights or my wounds that matter but it is sharing in His sufferings (to a very small degree, I know). I'm not lonely up there because Jesus is with me and I find that being up there fellowshiping with Him is much better than being in the flesh. This way of handling things is very comforting to me and it leads to victory over my out of control emotions.

A lot of people probably already knew this but it is a new way of thinking about things for me and it really helps.

MY BIRTHDAY



The film, "My Birthday" is in the editing stage at this time. There will be a 'premiere' at the church sometime in June or July and everyone will be invited. Mike Paraspolo and Sharon Johnson want to thank everyone for their help, support, and prayers.

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