

# Community Christian Center



The Word  
Fellowship  
Prayer

## The Good Tidings Newsletter

A Report on the Revival at CCC

NOVEMBER, 2011

KENNETH CLOWDUS, PASTOR

VOLUME 141

### Pastor's Corner

This month featuring Associate Pastor *Mike Stephens*  
Hi Gang, Greetings in the awesome name of Jesus!  
As we approach another Thanksgiving Day, I am reminded



that there is so very much that I have to be thankful for. 1Thessalonians 5:18 *In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

Actually, every day to us is a day of thanksgiving, because this is the day the Lord has made and (we) will rejoice in it. I don't ever want to take my salvation for granted. How blessed is the man whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered

(completely removed), in Jesus. *Blessed is the man to whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.* (Psalm 32:1-2). No wonder David wrote in Psalm 103, *Bless the Lord, Oh my soul, and forget not all His benefits, who forgives all your iniquities and healeth all your diseases.*

It is His glorious presence that makes all in this life worthwhile. I cannot forget His awesome love for me. I was so undone by my sin; so lost - so alone without hope. Yes, I was full of despair. He had to look at me with mercy, for I had nothing to commend myself to Him. No wonder 1 Corinthians 9:15 says, *Thanks be unto God for this unspeakable gift;* which is the most precious gift any of us can ever receive - JESUS. Oh, praise His name forever and ever. Worthy is the Lamb, for (us) sinners slain. He wasn't slain for His sins...He had none. But He was wounded for my transgressions and for yours.

THANKSGIVING has now become an everyday thing for me, because no matter what I go through in this life, JESUS is with me, every day in every way. There is none like Him. Let me shout it LOUD and long, "Jesus forgives, Jesus saves, Jesus heals - all because of His own great mercy. He is merciful and His mercy endures forever. Oh, I praise You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Oh, just rejoice in your God, for nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Nothing: famine, stress, nakedness, angels,...nothing, no nothing. Let your conversation be without covetousness, for He has promised never to leave you nor forsake you - Heb 13:5. You are greatly loved of God.

Fight on, soldier of the cross. Endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. Cast all your care upon Him for He careth for you (and is always thinking of you) - 1 Peter 5:7. Our life is all about Jesus. Let's give thanks in all things not FOR all things. Our promise and our treasure is not here, but in heaven.

Thank you so much for letting me share my heart with you as we approach this special Thanksgiving Day. And thank you for your love for the saints. - Pastor Mike

Happy Thanksgiving, CCC

THANK YOU, *Susie Algorri* for sharing a clipping from a 1991 San Gabriel Valley Tribune newspaper article. The original piece would be hard to read here so we have retyped the article below:

### Pesky bird develops a taste for religion

By Chris Ettycholou  
Staff Writer

COVINA - The newest and noisiest member of the congregation at the Community Christian Center is a wandering woodpecker that has developed a taste for the church bell tower.

Pastor Ken Clowdus actually noticed the bird about a year ago, when it began pecking sizable holes as it made its way around the wood structure.

"It made kind of a pattern of holes that are perfectly round," the pastor said. "It looks like he's a very neat woodpecker."

Fortunately, because of the location on the building, the woodpecker's noisy dining cannot be heard inside the church during services.

At first the pastor thought nothing of the bird, a common sight in his native Oklahoma, but the woodpecker's persistence has turned a few heads among members of the congregation, he said.

County Animal Control officials say problems with woodpeckers are rare, and in fact these birds usually stay closer to natural areas like the mountains. Though it remains unclear what type of woodpecker this is, the California woodpecker eats acorns and in the autumn stores them in tree trunks by drilling a hole for each acorn.

Some woodpeckers are more destructive and drill into power poles so much that the poles become weakened.

Though this particular bird is more of a curiosity than a nuisance, Clowdus wonders what the woodpecker is finding in the wood and hopes the structure isn't infested with any destructive bugs.

"Hopefully it's a blessing," he said.

Note: The above picture is not the original picture of CCC's woodpecker.

Thumbnail pix of the original article (Right).

Martha Griego relates that Pastor Ken and Foster fixed the woodpecker problem, possibly by putting metal around the area during the remodel.

But, wait, there's more to report on bird assaults. Angry crows began pecking on CCC's upper windows really hard to the point that the windows could have broken. Pastor Ken believes they did this because they saw their own reflections in the glass and thought it was other crows who were trying to take over their territory. Teddy Bear stuffed animals have been placed in the windows to be used as scare crows or "scare bears" and the attacks have stopped.



# Life is Superior to Death

by Charles Spurgeon

Slightly modernized by Sharon Johnson

"A living dog is better than a dead lion." Ecclesiastes 9:4

Life is a precious thing, and is far superior to death! This is certainly true in spiritual things. It is better to be the least in the kingdom of heaven than the greatest out of it. The lowest degree of grace is superior to the noblest product of an unregenerate nature. Where the Holy Ghost implants divine life in the soul, there is a precious deposit which none of the refinements of education can equal. The thief on the cross excels Caesar on his throne; Lazarus among the dogs is better than Cicero among the senators; and the most unlettered Christian is in the sight of God superior to Plato or any of the best known worldly philosophers.

A life filled with the Holy Spirit of God is the highest and noblest attainment, and men without it are only crude specimens of a lifeless material; they need to be born again for they are dead in trespasses and sins.

A living, loving, gospel sermon, however unlearned in matter and unpolished in style, is better than the finest speech devoid of the anointing and power. A living dog keeps better watch than a dead lion, and is of more service to his master; and so the poorest spiritual preacher is infinitely to be preferred to the exquisite orator who has no wisdom but that of words, no energy but that of the sound of his own voice.

It is the same with our prayers and other religious exercises; if we are made alive in them by the Holy Spirit, they are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ, though we may think them to be worthless things; while our grand performances in which our hearts were absent, like dead lions, are mere carrion in the sight of the living God.

O for living groans, living sighs, living despondencies, rather than lifeless songs and dead calms. Better anything than death. The snarlings of the dog of hell will at least keep us awake, but dead faith and dead profession, what greater curses can a man have? Quicken us, quicken us, O Lord!

**Editor's Note:** Amen, Lord, awaken us and bring revival!

## I Wish...

by Sharon Johnson

I have always wanted to understand things. I have an insatiable curiosity. I would like to understand physics or just simple mechanics. I would like to be a computer genius and be able to write programs. I would like to grasp new concepts immediately. In other words in the world of the intellect – I would like to be able to leap tall buildings in a single bound – Whoosh. But, alas and alac, I only have an okay intellect and I will have to wait till I get to heaven before it is all understood by me and my pea brain.

I have always wanted to sing – tra la, or play a musical instrument. Wouldn't it be wonderful to sit down at a piano and just tickle those ivories until they made the soul soar with beautiful melody? LaVonne can. Rick and the praise team can sing and play instruments. BUT – not me. I can almost carry a tune. My range is but a few paltry notes. And me and the sounds that frogs make have a lot in common!

I could go on about the things I wish I could do or be, but I am just plain, simple...me. Sigh.

Oh wait, I wish I were a brilliant conversationalist. When Sharon speaks, everyone listens. Just a moment while I LOL.

I was reading this morning in the first chapter of 1 Corinthians. 1 Cor 1:4-8 *I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in*

*every way — in all your speaking and in all your knowledge— because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. NIV*

He is writing to all of the Corinthians. There is no differentiation amongst people who receive spiritual gifts and knowledge. Hooray! We can all be fully enriched in speech and knowledge in Christ Jesus. From the least to the greatest person, we all can be blessed with God's riches. I always say that Jesus is the great equalizer. In Him, there is no rich nor poor, no black nor white nor yellow, no male nor female, etc. We are all equally loved and qualified to receive His blessings, provision, spiritual gifts, and eventually heaven.

Isn't He wonderful? As we draw closer to Him, He will reveal His gifts and callings, and the purpose He has for our lives. And in the meantime, He has given people intellect and special talents to enhance this world that He created for us. Thank you, Jesus.



God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing. -C. S. Lewis

## United in Him

Women's Conference

UIH Women's conference was held Oct 30 at CCC. The praise and worship was awesome - full of the precious presence of the Holy Spirit. The women danced before the Lord joyfully. They also deeply worshipped Him - many with tears. One of the ladies said that she felt a renewal of her spirit and a reconnection with God. The testimonies were very uplifting and emotional. Denise Ponce, the keynote speaker, gave an anointed message. The theme of the meeting was to turn away from Egypt (our old way of life) and turn to Israel which represents walking with the Lord in humility and purpose. Habakkuk 2:3 *For this vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it will speak.*



# Baptisms



Emma McHugh Ricky L. Hoffman



Kayla F. Cano Anthony J. Silva  
Matt 28:18-20

Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." NIV



## MONEY WILL BUY...

- A bed **but not** sleep.
- Books **but not** brains
- Food **but not** appetite.
- Finery **but not** beauty.
- A house **but not** a home.
- Medicine **but not** health.
- Luxuries **but not** culture.
- Amusement **but not** happiness.
- A crucifix **but not** a Saviour.
- A church pew **but not** heaven.
- The good life **but not** eternal life.

...Submitted by *Gloria Cloud*

## Humorous Stuff

Submitted by *Jim Christopherson*

Wife to Pastor on his way to church:  
"Don't call anyone a sinner until you've taken the collection."

Dear Pastor, My mother says our church is 150 years old. You sure don't look that old to me. Signed, Lisa, age 9.

Dear Pastor, I am a very religious person and I never do anything bad on Sundays. Signed, Roger, age 7.

Dear Pastor, I like going to church except when there is something better to do. Signed, Teddy, age 10.

# TRUNK OR TREAT



# Kitchen Korner

from the kitchen of *Dee Paraspolo*  
**Praying Hands**

Albrecht Durer was the father of a large German family in the fifteenth century. He was a goldsmith by profession and worked almost eighteen hours a day at his trade and any other paying chore he could find in the neighborhood to care for his family. Despite their seemingly hopeless condition, two of Albrecht Durer's 18 children had a dream. They both wanted to pursue their talent for art. They knew their father would never be financially able to send either of them to Nuremburg to study at the Academy of Arts.

After many long discussions, the two boys finally worked out a pact. They would toss a coin. The loser would go down into the nearby mines and, with his earnings, support his brother while he attended the Academy. Then, when that brother who won the toss completed his studies, he would support the other brother at the Academy, either with sales of his artwork or, if necessary, by laboring in the mines. They tossed a coin on a Sunday morning after church. Albrecht Durer won the toss and Albert went down into the mines. For the next four years Albert financed his brother, whose work at the Academy was almost an immediate sensation. Albrecht's etchings, his woodcuts, and his oils were far better than those of most of his professors, and by the time he graduated, he was beginning to earn considerable fees for his commissioned works.

When the young artist returned to his village, the Durer family held a festive dinner to celebrate Albrecht's triumphant homecoming. After the meal, Albrecht rose from his honored position at the head of the table to drink a toast to his beloved brother for the years of sacrifice that had enabled Albrecht to fulfill his ambition. His closing words were, "And now, Albert, blessed brother of mine, it is your turn to go to Nuremburg to pursue your dream, and I will take care of you."

Albert rose and wiped tears from his cheeks. He glanced down the table at the faces he loved, and then, holding up his hands, he said softly, "No, brother. I cannot go. It is too late for me. Look what four years in the mines have done to my hands! The bones in every finger have been smashed at least once, I cannot even hold a glass to return your toast, much less make delicate lines on parchment or canvas with a pen or a brush. No, brother . . . for me it is too late."

Shortly thereafter, to pay homage to Albert for all that he had sacrificed, Albrecht Durer painstakingly drew his brother's abused hands with palms together and thin fingers stretched skyward. He called his powerful drawing simply "Hands."

More than 450 years later, hundreds of Albrecht Durer's masterpieces hang in museums around the world. But his most familiar, most loved work is the one of his brother's hands; one that we know as "The Praying Hands."

It is THANKSGIVING time. Fold your hands in prayer. Give thanks for all who have sacrificed for you. Start with the sacrifice Jesus made for you. "Greater love has no man than this . . ." Thank Him for his sacrifice. Then thank your parents, your family, your pastors, teachers, friends and anyone else who has given of themselves for you. After you have thanked others, then stretch out your hands and give of yourself; give of your time and give of your resources. Join in this year as our church again will be helping those in need with a Thanksgiving Box Dinner. Help someone else have a blessed Thanksgiving. I pray that



God will pour out blessings on each that sacrifice so others may be blessed. And I pray that God will bless those who truly appreciate the sacrifices made by others on their behalf.

Adapted from the Internet. Author: Unknown

## Women's Meeting Pictures

in Yucaipa (Apple Country) last month



Is that *Stephanie Alexander* standing with those two bankrobbers? She's probably witnessing to them.



Why is it that some Christians, although they hear many sermons, make but slow advances in the divine life? Because they neglect their closets, and do not thoughtfully meditate on God's Word.

-Charles Spurgeon

Submitted by *Sharry Bonessa*

Sharry submitted this great quote through email. We really appreciate all the things that our congregation contribute to CCC's Newsletter. If you see something you would like to share with others, please email it to [sharonsue@roadrunner.com](mailto:sharonsue@roadrunner.com) or you can give it to Sharon Johnson or Stephanie Alexander at church.

Together we can put together an uplifting, inspiring, humorous, newsletter for all to enjoy. Each month all four pages have to be filled and sometimes it is daunting, but God always comes through. Thank you and God bless every contributor, and every reader.

### 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

### The Good Tidings Newsletter

Sharon Johnson, Editor & Publisher

email: [sharonsue@roadrunner.com](mailto:sharonsue@roadrunner.com)

