

# Community Christian Center

The Word  
Fellowship  
Prayer

## The Good Tidings Newsletter

A Report on the Revival at CCC



OCTOBER, 2009

VOLUME 117

### Pastor's Corner

This month featuring Associate Pastor, *Dustin Paraspolo*

#### Firsts

As I prayed for the Lord's leading on this, my very first article in the Newsletter, I couldn't help but think of other first time experiences that I've had, such as my first day of school that I spent at the fence talking to my mom, and the day I received Christ as my Savior – it was at a Power Team meeting with John Jacobs when I was just 5 years old, and I was baptized shortly after. I remember my first crush: Kelly Kapowski from the TV show *Saved by the Bell*. My first sports hero was Michael Jordan who, to this day, I still don't know too much about. Then there was my first day of High School, football, and all those other embarrassing experiences that the teenage years bring. The first sermon I taught was when I was 16 and was hoping Revival would break out because I thought I had it right on, but everyone else thought it was just cute.



In thinking about this, I would love to write a “going back to your first love message” but what if I told you that I really don't have a “first love”? I was saved at the age of 5. I knew Jesus loved me and that I loved Him but I didn't have the experience of being taken out of the pit of Hell and set on the way to glory. At least not consciously, like I said I was 5. From that point on I learned how to be a Christian. I spoke like one, acted like one and even looked like one wearing Jesus shirts. However, I was really just as lost in my mind as other kids were, I just knew what was expected of me. Sure I loved Jesus and kind of wanted His will in a very child like way, I mean after all I did tell the Lord that I would be a famous Athlete, then be a pastor. I can even remember telling kids about the ‘last days’ when I was in the 4th grade!

But the experience I'm going to talk about is my first encounter with the Holy Spirit. When I was 14 in the summer before my freshmen year, I went to CCC's youth summer camp in Big Bear. The first day was full of fun and the second day, likewise we had fun, but also we had the word, and quiet time with God. But...that Saturday night, the Holy Spirit revealed Himself to all of us in a very real and tangible way. One of our youth leaders challenged us during worship to lift our hands and see what happens. Well, we did and within minutes the anointing was so thick in that place you could almost swim in it. And, at that point my life, my commitment was to do the Lord's will. I became dead to myself and alive in Christ. Sure, I fell short time and time again in high school and still do, but it was different. God was first place in my life and I meant it! Within a couple weeks I was baptized with full understanding. From there God used me to minister to my friends and bring them to church.

If you noticed I did not say anything about “the evidence of speaking in tongues,” I had LEARNED to do that months before. Tongues is a gift that God gives freely; it is an evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit (but not the only one). The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is an infilling and remaining of the Spirit of God. John

1:32-33 NKJ: *And John bore witness, saying, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’* The Prophets of old, some kings and others had experienced the Holy Spirit coming upon them to do a work, but this was much different. The key word here is ‘remained;’ the NLT says “rested”. The Holy Spirit did not just fill Jesus but remained in Him, which gave Jesus the ability to say, “*I and My Father are one,*” John 10:30. Jesus did the Father's will through the working of the Holy Spirit and, likewise, we can walk in Christ through the power and authority of the Holy Spirit which makes us “joint heirs with Christ.” Romans 8:16-18 NKJ: *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is not something that comes and goes. It's not just a feeling you get when you come to church. It's not what makes you Pentecostal. It is the Spirit of God pouring on you and remaining with you for His plan and purpose. Joel 2:28 “*And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions.*” The Holy Spirit to a Christian is like the air we breathe, the Holy Spirit is the very source of our walk with God. Without Him we can't even say, “Jesus is Lord.” 1 Corinth. 12:3 *Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.*

If we truly love Jesus we will keep His commandments and we will not have to look for sufferings, they will come on there own. The times are coming we will “indeed suffer with Him.” However, because we do love Him, He sent us a Helper. John 14:15-17 NKJ: “*If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.*” This Helper will abide with us FOREVER! He will walk and talk with us, He will guide and protect us, but most of all He will help us do the Father's will. The Holy Spirit reminds us who we are and lets us know when we are getting off track. He encourages us. He will help us make the right decisions and He is with us even when we don't feel the goose bumps. With the Holy Spirit we can walk with evidence of being Christians. Galatians 5:22-23 NKJ: *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.*

As Christians we should not be religious but we should be Christians that simply follow Christ. We were not called to be ‘Holy Rollers,’ but - *a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is our reasonable service*”. Romans 12:1-2 NKJ: *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you* (Cont on next page)

(Cont from front page) may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. This is a daily devotion to our Lord Jesus Christ that can only be performed through the equipping and infilling of the Holy Spirit in Jesus name. Amen. God Bless, Pastor Dustin

## My Birthday Premiere



Starring Lorraine Stinson - with 3 songs written & performed by her. Danny Lopez Director & Assoc. D/P, Film Editor, Assoc. Producer. Mike Paraspolo. Also Casting Director. Written & produced by Sharon Johnson.

Executive Producer: The Lord, Jesus Christ (Photo unavailable)



Wonderful Cast and Crew of My Birthday

Standing: Michele Watts, Claudia Petrzilek, Shannon O'Donnell, Daniel O'Donnell (behind the balloon - sorry!), Stephanie Alexander, Don Fish, Miracle Jackson, Adrian McHugh, George Mitchell, Chris Paraspolo, Victor Zachariou, Mike Paraspolo. Seated: Gloria Alexander, Jackie Watt, Danny Lopez, April Montgomery, Lorraine Stinson, Sharon Johnson, Frances Douroux. Missing: Guy Cozza, Eric Shakelford, Mark Forrest, Adam Paraspolo.



And the 'Oscar' for Best Actress in a Lead Role went to Lorraine Stinson who gave a powerfully emotional performance as Rose.



'My Birthday' logo on the Marquee of The Covina Center for the Performing Arts.

We got rave reviews, from our friends, relatives and church family, that is. Next month, stories of how the film touched lives.

I want to thank Pastor Ken for the opportunity to do this project. I want to thank Pastor Mike, Pastor Tony, Laura Tassin, Martha Griego, the Tuesday/Thursday prayer group and everyone at CCC for their prayers and support. I also want to thank the extras and all who gave of their time and talent to make this film happen. It takes a village to make a film - we found that out. But it takes an awesome God to use people such as we to do things for His Kingdom that we never, in our wildest imaginations, thought would happen. Hang on, saints of God, He is a God of more - more is coming to CCC and He may just use you next time. God bless, I love you, Sharon Johnson.

## Ministry Anointing



Above are pictures taken on a Sunday evening when the people of CCC involved in the various ministries were anointed by pastors and elders to go forth in power to fulfill the call of God on their lives. God has blessed CCC with many ministries and many powerful ministers. In fact, most everyone in the church is a part of ministry. That's so amazing - thank you, God. I believe that working for the Lord is where it's at. If you want to stay faithful, find out what God wants you to do...and don't be afraid to take a risk; if He calls you to do something, He will enable you to do it.

## The Wanamaker Outreach



It was a great day at Wanamaker - the weather was perfect. We brought food, clothing, raffle prizes, our old friend, 'Goliath', plus our love for the community and the Good News of the Gospel. Many young voices said the sinner's prayer with Al Olguin that day and the following day, a Sunday, several Wanamaker people attended CCC and came forward at the altar call - including the young lady who won the bike in the raffle! God is working mightily amongst us. Pastor Tony believes that this is the beginning of the revival we have been praying for!

# Jesus Loves Me

Submitted by *Dorothy Glenn Thomas*

From the Internet - Author Unknown

While watching a little TV on Sunday instead of going to church, I watched a church in Atlanta honoring one of its senior pastors who had been retired many years. He was 92 at that time and I wondered why the church even bothered to ask the old gentleman to preach at that age.

After a warm welcome, introduction of this speaker, and as the applause quieted down, he rose from his high back chair and walked slowly, with great effort and a sliding gait to the podium. Without a note or written paper of any kind he placed both hands on the pulpit to steady himself and then quietly and slowly he began to speak.

"When I was asked to come here today and talk to you, your pastor asked me to tell you what was the greatest lesson ever learned in my 50-odd years of preaching. I thought about it for a few days and boiled it down to just one thing that made the most difference in my life and sustained me through all my trials. The one thing that I could always rely on when tears and heartbreak and pain and fear and sorrow paralyzed me. The only thing that would comfort was this verse:

Jesus loves me this I know,  
For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong,  
We are weak but He is strong.....  
Yes, Jesus loves me....  
The Bible tells me so."

When he finished, the church was quiet. You actually could hear his foot steps as he shuffled back to his chair. I don't believe I will ever forget it.

A pastor once stated, "I always noticed that it was the adults who chose the children's hymn 'Jesus Loves Me' (for the children of course) during a hymn sing, and it was the adults who sang the loudest because I could see they knew it the best."

JESUS LOVES ME - Senior's Version

Jesus loves me, this I know,  
Though my hair is white as snow  
Though my sight is growing dim,  
Still He bids me trust in Him.  
(CHORUS)  
Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.  
Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so.

Though my steps are oh, so slow,  
With my hand in His I'll go  
On through life, let come what may,  
He'll be there to lead the way.  
(CHORUS)

When the nights are dark and long,  
In my heart He puts a song..  
Telling me in words so clear,  
"Have no fear, for I am near."  
(CHORUS)

When my work on earth is done,  
And life's victories have been won.  
He will take me home above,  
Then I'll understand His love.  
(CHORUS)

I love Jesus, does He know?  
Have I ever told Him so?  
Jesus loves to hear me say,  
That I love Him every day.  
(CHORUS)



## Friendship with the Father by Reverend Laura Tassin

(From January, 2004 Good Tidings)

I am learning how to become a lady of faith, purity, contentment, and patience as I pursue a personal and intimate relationship with the Lord. I want to be one of the people that the Father desires to have intimate fellowship with.

The Old Testament says that Abraham and Moses were called friends of God. In the New Testament, Jesus teaches that friendship with God is not reserved for the elite, the chosen, or the few. Anyone who follows Christ, obeys His commands and loves others can be His friend. Jesus said, "*No longer I call you servants...but I have called you friends.*" John 15:15 One of the best ways to know the Lord – I'm not saying it's the only way, but the best way – is prayer.

We are to be watchful intercessors who are diligently seeking to know the Lord's will in the midst of trying circumstances. Accepting brokenness is a must for becoming a true vessel of the Lord, and, it is a stepping stone to revival in our hearts, our homes, and our churches. Brokenness alone brings us to the wonderful revelation of how deep and great our Lord's mercy really is.

Before we can enter into a season of Holy Spirit powered prayer, we – like the disciples – need to come to Jesus and say, "*Lord, teach us how to pray...*" Luke 11:1 Let the Holy Spirit teach you how you can release the unique gifts and anointing that the Lord has placed within you.

It is a tragedy that often times we give

up on prayer so easily. We are created for more than just devotional prayer. The Lord is saying, "Jump into the water!" Get together with other people and learn to pray together. Jer 26:8 If the Lord is going to establish a 'house of prayer,' we are going to have to learn to get together and say, "Yes, Lord." We want the Lord to orchestrate and guide us into the way He has for us.

If we don't get on fire for God alone, we may need to get in a place where someone else is on fire and catch a little bit of what they have. Community prayer meetings can encourage us. Jesus wants us to learn to pray corporately and also alone. Real anointed, divine intercessory prayer occurs both when you are praying alone to God and also when the church comes together. Luke 11:2-4 and Luke 11:5-8.

Some don't really want to know God intimately – it would break their hearts. If we get close to God and He begins to share even a portion of His heart, we become overwhelmed. We may begin to cry when we see that God's heart is so loving and yet so broken over the sins of the world. His heart is broken over the downfallen, lukewarm state of the church and the backslidden hearts. Have you ever had a dry time in prayer? Perhaps a better question would be: who hasn't?

1. Pray with a willingness to wait.
2. Pray with perseverance. We are to continue praying for what we want over and over, keeping at it until we receive answers. We bring our request to God repeatedly. We partake of His presence repetitiously and give Him more opportunities to change our hearts.
3. Pray with readiness.
4. Pray with confidence. Like Habakkuk, we have to have a willingness to wait. We must wait on God with a willingness to pray. Waiting and praying go together.

The more you pray, the closer you get to that intimate fellowship with the Father.

His Servant, Laura Tassin

"The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, **but trembles when we pray.**" *Samuel Chadwick*

"Our prayers lay the track down which God's power can come. Like a mighty locomotive, his power is irresistible, but it cannot reach us without rails." *Watchman Nee*

"Prayerlessness is a sin" *Corrie Ten Boom*



## Kitchen Korner

...from the kitchen of *Dee Paraspolo*

Another summer is long-gone. When we were preparing for family to come over for Memorial Day, I told Tony that summer was almost over. My statement went something like this, "It's Memorial Day. In two weeks school is out, then Heather starts summer school, right after that is the Fourth of July, next Jesse and I are going to Colorado, summer school is over and then the youth trip to Arizona, after that it is August and we have to buy school clothes. It's just like I told you, summer is over." So after all of that - summer is over!

Our children are back to school. They are bringing what they learn at school home with them. And we pray the things we teach our children at home will carry over into their time at school and outside the home. It was no mistake that God told us to "Train our children in the way they should go." After we have done our part of training, praying, leading, guiding and listening; we then watch them grow. In listening we learn what the Holy Spirit is doing in their lives.

My son called a short time ago from Colorado to tell Tony and me a story. They live about 40 miles out of Colorado Springs and he and my grandson were traveling home.

Samuel is six and he asked his father, "How does God get things?"

"What do you mean, get things?" his dad asked.

"Well, I had two candies and I put a candy in the basket they sent around in kid's church, and I want to know how God is going to get it."

His dad replied, "Do you remember when you played soccer?"

"Yes."

"And we paid \$35.00 for you to play."

"Yes."

"Who was the money for?"

"It was for me so I could play soccer."

"Did you get the money?"

"No, the soccer people got it."

"That's right," replied his father, "and when we put money in the offering, it is for God, but our pastor and others use the money to do the things God needs done. But the money is still for God."

A long silence. Then a thoughtful statement from the back seat of the car, "I guess I have a lot to learn before I can be a pastor."

And Colorado is not the only place where God is working in our children. In June I went to end-of-the-year open house at Jesse's school to share with him the progress of his final semester. In his book titled, *Writing from My Year in Fourth Grade*, by Jesse Paraspolo, he had many excellent stories. I am going to share (in his words, punctuation and spelling) one of his writings that merits recognition. With Jesse's permission here is his writing titled, 'My Hero':

"Jesus Christ is my hero because he died for my transgressions. Every day I say Philipans 4:13. It says, 'I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.'

Every day I say a prayer for him loving me so much. He gave his life, so I thank him for everything he has done.

He is my Lord and savior. I don't care who tells me different. I will always pray when I grow up. He will always be my Lord.

Jesus is the most enchanted person in the universe. Jesus can do anything and everything. That's why I chose Jesus Christ, for my hero."

To those that teach our children in our church, know that your labor is not in vain. If you stop and listen -- somewhere beyond the wiggles, whispers and giggles -- you will hear the stories and lessons being repeated from the mouths of our kids. Your faithfulness is reflected in our children.

Editor's Note about Jesse's writing: WOW!

### Back to School Program

Thank you church so much, for another successful Back to School Program! Your loving donations were able to provide 7 deserving youth with school supplies, new clothes & necessities for this coming school year! If you could only see their faces of excitement when told they were going to be blessed with things they need. Church, you have made some unfortunate financial times a little easier for some families by your gracious hearts! No matter how much you donated, it made a difference! I know I can speak for these kids when I say: THANK YOU!!! With love, *Sara Paraspolo*



### Reminder:

Please sign up to take your picture for the new church directory!

Photography Dates: October 15, 16, & 17.

See *Laura Gomer* or *Sara Paraspolo* for more details.

This is the perfect opportunity to take your family portrait for the holidays, as well as filling in our new church directory.

Taking your picture is FREE, unless you decide to purchase one. Price sheets are available upon making your appointment, but there is no pressure to buy.

If you have small children, you are encouraged to bring any kind of prop or favorite toy. You're also welcome to bring your family pets.

We hope you decide to participate! We thank you, & are blessed to have you as a part of this church family. *Sara Paraspolo*

### WOMENS MEETING

*Lorraine DeLille* gave an anointed message: When Plans Change. *Donna Ponce* gave her testimony on how God 'showed up' in her hospital room to heal her and touch her life in a very dramatic way. Songstress, *Sharron Bonessa*, sang beautifully for us.



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