

Community Christian Center

The Word
Fellowship
Prayer

The Good Tidings Newsletter

A Report on the Revival at CCC



SEPTEMBER, 2011

KENNETH CLOWDUS, PASTOR

VOLUME 139

Pastor's Corner

This month featuring *Associate Pastor Dustin Paraspolo*

The Father's Love

I had the most incredible day of my life on April 30, 2011. God decided to bring my daughter Sofia into this world for His plan and purpose. First I'd like to tell you a little about our journey to this day.



Well, I can tell you this, the bible wasn't joking when speaking about a wife: Proverbs 18:22 *He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the LORD.* I have an amazing wife! God has truly blessed me with her.

In the 21st week of pregnancy Sara and I woke up to a scare, at 2:30a.m. Sara woke up bleeding. Of course all kinds of thoughts and emotions go through your mind, but we first prayed and then called the doctor. We headed to Arcadia Methodist Hospital with a prayer that the baby would kick on the way there. It was also my prayer that the Lord would let me know first if there was any bad news because I did not want to hear it from the doctor. Well the Lord gave us peace and comfort, and...the baby kicked before we got there! When we arrived they started hooking Sara up to the monitor and, as they were doing so, I prayed, "Father please in Jesus name let us hear that heart beat right away." And the moment that monitor touched her belly we heard a strong heartbeat. The nurse even said, "wow! It usually takes at least few minutes to find the baby's heartbeat." We were in faith believing, but it sure was a great relief to hear that beautiful sound. We found out that the problem was Placenta Previa.

We again had a very similar experience in the 27th week and then again in the 28th. It was at that time that the doctor decided to keep Sara in the hospital for the duration of the pregnancy. Let me tell you God gave us such a comfort and peace that we just knew He was in control and things were going to be OK. *Philippians 4:7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.* We actually found ourselves comforting others and telling everyone that it was going to be OK, but let me tell you living in a hospital is just no fun. However, my wife Sara took it with a smile on her face and joy in her heart. The medical staff said that a lot of patients go stir-crazy after a week or so, so try to keep busy. Sara did so well there and was often a comfort to the nurses and other patients. I would often walk in her room and there would be 3 or 4 nurses in there just hanging out. She took the opportunity to witness and

share the love of the Christ. The medical staff there truly loved Sara. They said she was such a breath of fresh air and they didn't want her to leave. Sara was expected to deliver within a couple of weeks but it didn't happen until 5 weeks later on April 30th.

That entire day was a whole lot of fun, I brought the youth down to the hospital to pay Sara a surprise visit and that went wonderfully. We then had dinner at In-n-Out and finally went to see a very inspiring movie called 'Soul Surfer.' On the way home I received a "911 emergency. Please call me" text from Sara, she let me know that I was going to be a dad that night. Such excitement came over me that I can't even begin to explain. I asked the leader, Tony, to put the pedal to the metal because I had to get the hospital ASAP! Needless to say the whole car was pretty pumped up. I left for the hospital from church. I tried getting on the 210 freeway from the Azusa on ramp and that was closed so I went through a residential area to catch the Vernon on ramp but it was also closed - the whole time I was on the phone with Sara filled with all kinds of excitement. I finally got to the hospital only to find that they were doing some sort of security check and the hospital was closed. One of the workers saw me out there and so I forced the door open, told him I was going to be a father, and he let me through.

When at last I got to Sara, we quickly were moved to the surgery room. So, I put on the hospital gown and got ready, but they were having a very hard time giving Sara the local anesthetic. The doctor said she lost count after the 8th time they poked her in the spine. So they had to put her to sleep and I was no longer allowed in. I was praying and pacing full of excitement waiting to see her, I finally heard the sweetest little cry I've ever heard. My heart sank into my stomach and I was filled with an over whelming feeling of love. It was in just that moment in time that my life was changed. One of the nurses snuck me over to a window so I could see Sofia. What a sight to see, she was beautiful. Walking into the waiting room to show pictures to friends and family will never be forgotten, it was one of the best days of my life.

Sofia had to be in the NICU for a while - they said 2 weeks to a month was a realistic time table, but in just one week she was sent home because, in their words, "there is no medical reason to keep her here". So on Mother's Day Sofia came home. We had such a wonderful time at home sharing with friends and family, it was a great night.

This experience helped me get a better understanding of the Father's Love. In just a moment's time I met someone that I am willing to lay my life down for. It was truly love at first sound.

So how about our Father, who invented love? God is Love. This experience brought life to John 3:16 for me. It became more personal. It sincerely bothers me to see Sofia cry or struggle; I can't even imagine the way God must have felt when Jesus was beaten, denied by everyone, and then hung on a cross. I'm still not sure any of us really understand it, but when you consider all the times He showed us love and mercy, from the flood, to the wilderness, to the way we treated Jesus, to the present time...it can only be explained as the Father's Love.

(Cont'd Next Page)

(Cont'd from front page) 1 John 3:1 (NLT) 1 See how very much our Father loves us, for He calls us his children, and that is what we are! How wonderful to know that He calls us His very own. Oh how He loves us! Romans 8:38-39 (NLT) 38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. 39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. WOW!!! The Father's love is truly indescribable and remember this is the way He feels toward you. God bless!

Back to School Program

by Pastor Dustin and Sara Paraspolo

Although school is already in session, there are still kids within our church who need our help to supply them with new school clothes and supplies.

If you are able, a money donation or gift card to Walmart will help tremendously. You can also sponsor a child for \$50.

If you have any questions regarding this program, please see Pastor Dustin or Sara. Thank you, church!!

A VERY EMOTIONAL ANNOUNCEMENT: PASTOR KEN TO RETIRE

With tears in his eyes at times, our beloved Pastor Ken Clowds, announced this month that he will be retiring at the end of the year. He gave the reason as concern about health issues. He reports that he had fervently sought God's will in prayer for a long period of time and he gave careful consideration to the welfare of the congregation of CCC before making this difficult decision. It should be noted that he has a pastor's heart and wants the best for the flock God has given him and the church that he established almost 35 years ago - under Holy Spirit guidance.

After much prayer, Pastor Ken chose Pastor Enrico Giorgio as his successor because he feels Pastor Enrico has the same heart for God and spiritual outlook as he does. Pastor Enrico pastors the Ethiopian Church in Los Angeles and holds a healing service the first Friday of every month at CCC as well. He and his wife, Marie, reside in Covina. Marie is the daughter of retired Pastor Walt La Pointe who is a good friend of CCC.

Although Pastor Ken loves being our pastor, he feels strongly that the Lord has led him to this decision. He says that he feels sad but has great peace about it. Laura Gomer, his daughter, says that his family also feels that this is the right thing to do at this time.

Many tears have been shed by the congregation over this announcement. Our hearts are broken because we will miss our Pastor Ken & Sandy, but we will support his decision and his choice of successor. There will be more to say in future Good Tidings editions.



Baptisms



Rick Brown



Linda Brown



Ron Cole



Elsie Cole



Barbara Knight



Desiree Hurta



Gloria Vick



Dave Vick

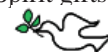


Linda Vick



Josh Aguilar

Baptisms are always a very special time. It is obedience to our Lord's Word that we must be baptised in water, and in the Holy Spirit. We rejoice and celebrate with those baptised last month - CCC Covina with Pastor Ken and CCC Baldwin Park with Pastor Dennis. We pray that all of them will be gifted with all the wonderful Holy Spirit gifts and be used mightily in the Kingdom.



Kitchen Korner

...from the kitchen of *Dee Paraspolo*

Here is something I received from the internet (author unknown). I think our students might enjoy it as they begin a new school year...and parents will enjoy more.

SON'S ATTITUDE:

My son came home from school one day,
With a smirk upon his face.
He decided he was smart enough,
To put me in my place.

"Guess what I learned in Civics Two,
that's taught by Mr. Wright?
It's all about the laws today,
The 'Children's Bill of Rights.'"

"It says I need not clean my room,
Don't have to cut my hair
No one can tell me what to think,
Or speak, or what to wear."

"I have freedom from religion,
And regardless what you say,
I don't have to bow my head,
And I sure don't have to pray."

"I can wear earrings if I want,
And pierce my tongue & nose.
I can read & watch what're I like,
Get tattoos from head to toe."

"And if you ever spank me,
I'll charge you with a crime.
I'll back up all my charges,
With the marks on my behind."

"Don't you ever touch me,
My body's only for my use,
Not for your hugs and kisses,
that's just more child abuse."

"Don't preach about your morals,
Like your Mama did to you.
That's nothing more than mind control,
And it's illegal too!"

"Mom, I have these children's rights,
So you can't influence me,
Or I'll call Children's Service Division,
Better known as C.S.D."

MOM'S REPLY AND THOUGHTS:

Of course my first instinct was
To toss him out the door.
But the chance to teach him a lesson
Made me think a little more.

I mulled it over carefully,
I couldn't let this go.
A smile crept upon my face,

he's messing with a pro.

Next day I took him shopping
At the local Goodwill Store...
I told him, "Pick out all you want,
there's shirts & pants galore."

"I've called and checked with C.S.D.
Who said they didn't care
If I bought you K-Mart shoes
Instead of those Nike Airs."

"I've canceled that appointment
To take your driver's test.
The C.S.D. is unconcerned
So I'll decide what's best."

I said "No time to stop and eat,
Or pick up stuff to munch.
And tomorrow you can start to learn
To make your own sack lunch."

"Just save the raging appetite,
And wait till dinner time.
We're having liver and onions,
A favorite dish of mine."

He asked "Can I please rent a movie,
To watch on my VCR?"
"Sorry, but I sold your TV,
For new tires on my car."

"I also rented out your room,
You'll take the couch instead.
The C.S.D. Requires
Just a roof above your head."

"Your clothing won't be trendy now,
I'll choose what we eat.
That allowance that you used to get,
Will buy me something neat."

"I'm selling off your jet ski,
Dirt-bike & roller blades.
Check out the 'Parents Bill of Rights',
It's in effect today!"

"Hey hot shot, are you crying,
Why are you on your knees?
Are you asking God to help you out,
Instead of C.S.D?"
Remember to pray for our kids as they
return to school this month.

WOMEN'S MEETING

by *Melba Redd*

Director of Women's Ministries
Last month, 20 women participated
in the all night prayer meeting. To say
the Holy Spirit moved mightily, is an
understatement. The presence of God was
unmistakable and undeniable. His holy

presence was evidenced in various ways
including individual and corporate prayer.

Stephanie Alexander and Dee Paraspolo served as speakers. Each shared touching and anointed messages from the Lord. During the night, we laughed; we shared; we cried; and lifted each other up. As we took turns reading Psalms 119, it was amazing how the passages had direct meaning to the reader. From comments received the next day, we learned that lives were changed and breakthroughs achieved.

This meeting was open to all women who desired to attend. We gathered together from 8:00p.m. on Friday, August 12th until 8:00a.m. Saturday, August 13th. The meeting ended with breakfast at Millie's Restaurant. At the request of various ladies, another prayer meeting will be planned in the near future.

We will be celebrating the anniversary of women's ministry on Saturday, Sept 10 at 9:30a.m. Speakers for this meeting will be Marie Giorgio and Melba Redd. A pot luck luncheon will follow at 11:00a.m.

We cordially extend an invitation to all and will be delighted to see you there.

Error of Omission...

from the July edition of the Good Tidings:

We would like to add the proud grandparents of Sofia Marie Paraspolo, Donna and Billy Paver, mother and stepfather of Dustin, to those attending the baby dedication. We love you!



Pictures & Videos Needed

CCC will be putting on a slide show in December commemorating its 35 years as a church. We are so honored to have Pastor Ken as the narrator. How special it will be.

We need pictures - old and new - to put in the slide show. Please search your albums and bring the pictures to Sharon Johnson or Stephanie Alexander in a file or envelope with your name on it. If you have pictures on discs or flash drives, even better. We can also use videos. All will be returned to you.

We really appreciate your help. God bless you.

How Sweet the Sound of Amazing Grace

by Joe Edwards of *The Associated Press*
submitted by *Cecilia Clifford*

"Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see."

It has endured for more than two centuries, offering hope to those grieving or searching for meaning to life. With its simple melody and message of salvation, "Amazing Grace" is a global music sensation.

As music lingo would describe it, the song is No. 1 with a bullet. Will Elvis' "Hound Dog" last 200 years? Michael Jackson's "Beat It"? Lady Gaga's "Poker Face"? "Amazing Grace" already has and keeps on going.

Says Cliff Barrows, who led choirs all over the world for decades at Billy Graham crusades: "We will sing this song until Jesus comes and it may be one of our theme songs in heaven around the throne."

"Amazing Grace" has been recorded more than 6,600 times. "It may be the most recorded song on the planet," said Jerry Bailey, executive at Broadcast Music, Inc., of Nashville.

The song was written in 1779 (or a few years earlier) by John Newton, an English poet and clergyman who died in 1807. Newton, as a young man, deserted the English Navy, was recaptured and punished and became involved in slave trading. He later had a religious awakening during a storm at sea before becoming a prolific hymn composer.

More than two centuries later, it's a fixture across spiritual and secular culture. It's been played at some of the country's most somber gatherings: Memorial services following the 9-11 terrorist attacks, the Oklahoma City bombing and the attack that killed 32 students at Virginia Tech.

The lyrics are mostly one syllable and, with few high notes and just one octave, are easy to sing. It's no challenge like "The Star-Spangled Banner."

In music industry circles "Amazing Grace" is in public domain. This means no one gets royalties for the song except those who have written alternate versions of it.

Handel's "Alleluia Chorus," a rival to "Amazing Grace" as a spiritual favorite, has been recorded about 500 times, far fewer than "Amazing Grace." And "How Great Thou Are" didn't get popularized in the U.S. for 170 years after "Amazing Grace" was written.

Barrows says "Amazing Grace" will be around "as long as there is sin in the world and need for forgiveness and the need for the daily presence of a living, loving, giving savior to be our guide and strength each day."

Editor's Note: There is strong speculation that the melody that John Newton used for "Amazing Grace" was taken from a song that he heard the slaves sing aboard ship as they crossed the Atlantic on their way to captivity in an unknown land and destiny.

Pictures from the Wanamaker **OUTREACH**



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