

FOLLOW CHRIST WHEN THE

A huge door of opportunity for
good work has opened up here.
(There is also mushrooming



Christian Church of God Newsletter



From the
**PASTOR'S
DESK**



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Hello My Friends,

On the night after our Sabbath Services August 12th, in the dark of the night, burglars disabled our security alarm at the Church, smashed out a window in the back and ransacked the Lord's House. They made off with our audio-video system, including our sound system console, speakers, VCR and DVD recording equipment. They broke into desks and a filing cabinet, and they stole a small amount of tithe and offering cash. As all of you who have been burglarized know, it is a terribly violated and defiled feeling that makes you sick at your stomach. While costly, things can be replaced, and therefore we are thankful to God that we only suffered material loss.

We were failed by our burglar alarm system. When contacted, the security alarm monitoring representative made a statement that, "the Lord would take care of those thieves." I know she meant it to comfort, but it lead to a question I asked as to why then did we need their alarm service. She had no answer, but it is, I believe, a good question.

We do have faith, we do trust the Lord, so why then would we feel the need to install an alarm system in God's House of Worship and pay a monthly fee for the monitoring service in the hopes of preventing burglaries, vandalism, or destruction by fire? I

think we find a key in Christ's words.

Matt 4:5 *Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" 7 Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'" (NKJV)*

To take measures to protect ourselves is the same reason we wear seatbelts, drive carefully, take vitamins, and avoid jumping off tall buildings. God does expect us to do what we can to take care of ourselves. We should look to our God for that which only God can do, for to expect God to do for us what we can do for ourselves is to belittle and demean the omnipotence and beneficence of our great Father and our loving Lord.

We know that God has given man dominion over this earth (Ps 115: 16). We know that, from the time man and woman chose death over life, this earth has been in a fallen state. So when bad things happen to good people, it is not punishment from the Heavens as Job's friends believed for here is time and chance as Solomon wisely shared with

(Continued on page 6)



2

Praise the Lord.
Praise God in his sanctu-
ary; praise him in his

[Jesus] came to Nazareth where he had been reared. As he always did
on the Sabbath, he went to the meeting place.

Luke 4:16 (MSG)



I rejoiced with those who said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the LORD." — Psalm 122:1

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CHECK THIS
MEDIA

Our sermons
broadcast on

HGRD Radio
9:05 AM
Sunday.

His Powerful Word

11

God means what He says. What He says goes. His powerful Word is sharp as a sur-
geon's scalpel, cutting through everything, whether doubt or defense, laying us
open to listen and obey.
~ Hebrews 4:12, The Message

Beyond the marvels of science in the 21st century comes the clarion voice of a man after God's own
heart, David. As the Holy Spirit spoke with clarity to him, he penned the words of what became the
139th Psalm. May we hear its peaceful but powerful message in the midst of an age that constantly
shouts at us for attention.

- 7 Is there anyplace I can go to avoid your Spirit? to be out of your sight? 8 If I climb to the sky,
you're there! If I go underground, you're there! 9 If I flew on morning's wings to the far western
horizon, 10 You'd find me in a minute— you're already there waiting! 11 Then I said to myself,
"Oh, he even sees me in the dark! At night I'm immersed in the light!" (7-11,MSG)
- Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out; you formed me in my mother's womb. 14 I thank
you, High God—you're breathtaking! Body and soul, I am marvelously made! I worship in adora-
tion—what a creation! 15 You know me inside and out, you know every bone in my body; You
know exactly how I was made, bit by bit, how I was sculpted from nothing into something. 16 Like
an open book, you watched me grow from conception to birth; all the stages of my life were spread
out before you, The days of my life all prepared before I'd even lived one day. (13-16 MSG) / Cf.:
My frame was not hidden from You when I was being formed in secret [and] intricately and curi-
ously wrought [as if embroidered with various colors] in the depths of the earth [a region of dark-
ness and mystery]. (15 AMP) . . . the wonderful composition of the human body, the various impli-
cation of veins, arteries, fibres, membranes, and the 'inexplicable texture' of the whole frame.
"Some think," says Dr. Dodd, "that the allusion to embroidery is still carried on. As the embroiderer
has still his work, pattern, or carton, before him, to which he always recurs; so, by a method as
exact, revere all my members in continuance fashioned, i. e., from the rude embryo or mass they
daily received some degree of figuration; as from the rude skeins of variously coloured silk or wor-
sted, under the artificer's hands, there at length arises an unexpected beauty, and an accurate
harmony of colours and proportions."—Adam Clarke's Commentary
- 17 Your thoughts—how rare, how beautiful! God, I'll never comprehend them! 18 I couldn't even
begin to count them— any more than I could count the sand of the sea. Oh, let me rise in the
morning and live always with you! (17- 18 MSG)

Special Event

Between the holy days during the Festival of Tab-
ernacles, on the weekly Sabbath of September 29th, the Chris-
tian Church of God will host a special meal for a time of fellow-
ship. It will follow our regular service. Sermon:
WILL THE REAL ISRAEL PLEASE STAND UP?



Heart Beats

10

Jerry McClenagan

*I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Marvelous are Your works,
And that my soul knows very well. (Psalms 139:14, NKJV)*

With your arm bent at the elbow hold your hand in front of you. Now make a fist. That is the approximate size of your heart!

I don't remember the countdown before I became enshrouded in oblivion. Using portions of my body the surgeon skillfully added new avenues of passage for the flow of my blood . . . well, not all my blood. The quadruple bypass now completed, all that remained were the days and hours of recuperation.

Written over three thousand years ago are these words: "For the life of the flesh is in the blood, . . . Lev 17:11 (NKJV). These literal words of the Bible are used repeatedly in a figurative sense to convey to us the spiritual realities of our relationship with God. The literal basis for this is so exciting in itself that as we contemplate it our spirits praise God with the psalmist: "Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb" (Psalms 139:14-15, NLT).

With the same wonder and awe, we examine our personal spiritual life:

- Wisdom speaks: "My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to a man's whole body. Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life" (Prov 4:20-23, NIV). Even spiritual attentiveness results in physical benefits.
- A frequent side effect of bypass surgery is fibrillation of the heart—a muscular twitching involving individual muscle fibers acting without coordination. This experience leaves one depleted and lackadaisical. On the spiritual side we have Christ's words: "Do not let your hearts be troubled (distressed, agitated) . . ." (John 14:1, AMP).
- In Scripture, "heart" is frequently used in the sense of one's emotional and psychological essence. René Descartes describes six primary emotions: admiration, love, hate, desire, joy and sadness. Paul, in Philippians, encourages us to pray with this objective: "and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:7, NKJV).

The throbbing organ in our chest testifies to the skill and wisdom of our Creator. It is vital to life. And Scripture shows us how vital the spiritual lessons are to our eternal welfare.

Father, you hold our beating hearts in your hands. You are the Master Surgeon, whose Son has said, "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand" (John 10:28-29, NKJV). We trust you to keep us in your Eternal Care. Amen.

3



PRAYER REQUESTS: " . . . The prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up; . . . Pray for one another that you may be healed."
— James 5:15-16.



- Sheri Bartlett:** Julia McKinney's daughter, having serious health problems.
- Debbie Blodgett:** Friend of Cancace Sellers, has been diagnosed with breast cancer.
- Amber & Dylan Clark:** Grandchildren of Betty Clark, cerebral palsy.
- Vickie Crevoi:** Sister of Linda Booth, Chronic Progressive MS.
- DeAnne DeLuna:** Larry Lyles' stepdaughter, completed treatment for breast cancer.
- Velvet Green:** Gary's wife, schizophrenia. She is not doing well.
- Randy Gnessett:** Friend of Candace Sellers, received a lung transplant. Somewhat improved & Is in stable condition.
- Je Keishalyn Henley:** Daughter of Velvet and Gary Green, is incarcerated.
- Jackson Huse:** 6 year old boy with inoperable brain tumor. Neighbor of Shorty & Patty Fuessel.
- C.D. McKinney:** Julia's husband's heart arrhythmia is somewhat improved.
- Anna Law:** Lupus & kidney failure. Is in need of kidney transplant.
- Dollie Meil:** Cerebral palsy. She is growing weak.
- Rose Munholland:** Betty Clark's sister's mother-in-law, cancer and complications from treatment.
- C.L. Osterloh:** Undergoing dialysis
- Ted Rankin:** Undergoing physical therapy, following back surgery. He is showing slight improvement.
- Kathryn Scott:** Friend of the Baileys; severe MS, losing use of arms and swallowing ability.
- Emma Searl:** Less than 1-year old, Spina Bifida & staph infection.
- Wilson Stewart:** Diagnosed with prostate cancer, numbness and difficulty swallowing.
- Jeanne Vincent:** C. B. and Darrel Sehorn's sister diagnosed with breast cancer, which has metastasized to the bone.
- Ron Vorheis:** Admitted to VA Hospital, ICU, bleeding ulcer. Suffering from macular degeneration and heart arrhythmia.
- Bob Wertz:** Achalasia, esophagus disorder, recently underwent a surgical procedure for this condition and is much improved.
- Ruth Wertz:** suffering with Lyme disease, an inflammatory disease transmitted by ticks.

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I hear by the Grapevine

4

I have reprinted
the following as it
came to me via

What a beautiful Sabbath Morning! **YHWH** is so good! This morning I stepped out on my new back porch and saw the pink and white **Crepe Myrtles** blooming and the **green Oak trees** growing outside the brick fence across my back yard. I could hear the Mourning Doves calling and the Mocking Birds singing. I could hear crows way off in the distance. 20 yards from my back door is a fountain and I could hear the water bubbling in it. Because we are out of the apartment, I didn't hear the airport, or the sirens, or the interstate, or the dope dealers hawking their crack and crank next door. **FATHER** has given me a new job and the Sabbath back, after all these months. My **big black dog** is bounding about in the yard shaking his tennis ball (or what's left of it) and growling to show me what a fierce protector he is. I stood there "**in the cool of the day**" half expecting the **Great Master Builder of The Universe** to come and visit me. I believe that He did and I know He was smiling, because He knows how grateful we are, for these wonderful blessings that He has restored to us after our long walk through the "**Fiery Furnace**". I want to thank you all of the others who sent up the fervent prayers on our behalf. Our love to you all. ~Merle Vines

CELEBRATIONS / AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

Birthdays:

Reba Bailey	8-10
Ken Hamilton	8-09
Savannah Sellers	8-18
C.B. Sehorn	9-02

Anniversaries:

Candace & James Sellers	8-15
Trish & Ken Hamilton	8-15
Jody & Joe Kirkpatrick	8-15
Jerry & Martha McClenagan	8-26

Congratulations!

To Candace Sellers who as a confession of her faith was baptized on August 12th.



LifePoints

9



Good and upright is the LORD;
Therefore He teaches sinners in the way.
The humble He guides in justice,
And the humble He teaches His way.
All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth,
To such as keep His covenant and His testimonies
Psalms 25:8-10 (NKJV)

From 'Abundant Living,' by E. Stanley Jones (pg. 255):
I suppose the great problem to God is how to guide us and not override us. He must guide us and develop us as persons at the same time. To lead us and at the same time produce initiative in us is a task worthy of divine wisdom. . . . God will guide us in one or more or all of these ways:

- He gives us general guidance through the character and person of Christ
- He guides us through the collective experience of the Church
- He guides us through the counsel of good people
- He guides through opening providences—matching us against some opening opportunity or need
- He guides through natural law and its discoveries through science
- He guides through a heightened moral intelligence

and insight [as] we become personalities who are capable of exercising sound moral judgments

- He guides through the direct voice of the Spirit within us [speaking] to us in unmistakable terms in the depths of our being

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will guide you with My eye
Psalms 32:8 (NKJV)



For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he

8



LORD AND MASTER, I WILL TAKE TIME THIS MONTH TO LOOK AT MY HEART MIRROR AND EXAMINE MYSELF IN RESPECT TO

“ . . .who *then* is *willing* to consecrate his service this day unto the LORD?” 1 Chron 29:5

“Thy people shall be *willing* [*volunteers* (NKJV)] in the day of thy power.” Psalms 110:3

“For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely *willing*, imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God. 2 Cor 8:3-5 (NKJV)

“And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a *willing mind*, for the LORD searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.” 1 Chron 28:9 (NIV)

“Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and uphold me with a *willing spirit*.” Psalms 51:12 (AMP)



5

Announcements

Holy Day Services

Festival of Trumpets

September 13th / Celebrating Jesus Christ's
2nd coming as the King of Kings

Day of Atonement

September 22nd

Celebrating Jesus Christ as our Atonement

Festival of Tabernacles

1st Holy Day – September 27th

Celebrating our King Jesus Christ & the Kingdom of God.

Festival Sabbath – September 29th

Special Event TBA / see page 11

Last Great Day of The Festival – October 4th

Celebrating Jesus Christ, the Great Judge of Judgment Day

NOTE: all services:

Classes 11 a.m. Worship Services 11:45 a.m.



From the PASTOR'S DESK

us in Eccl 9:11, "I returned, and saw under the⁶ sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all."

Jesus elaborated in Luke 13:1, "There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 And Jesus answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? 3 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. 4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

And of course there is evil ever present in this world where Satan is "the prince of the power of the air" (Eph. 2:2).

Jesus suffered beating, humiliation and crucifixion. Paul suffered from some chronic eye disorder. All the Apostles, save John, suffered brutal martyrdom, and John died in prison. Was it something they did? No! Was there something wrong with their relationship with God? No! Were they lacking faith? No! We are not promised freedom from trials, adversities, pain and suffering, at least not until the Kingdom, we are however promised deliverance as Paul confirmed in 1 Cor 10:13, "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."

And comfort in 2 Cor 1:3, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."

In a future time, with the advent of the King-

dom of God, God Himself will take over the reigns and thus the millennial paradise, as described in John's revelation vision, will be ushered in.

Rev 21:3, "And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

We will know joy without bounds... for we knew sadness & despair.

We will know peace & tranquility... for we knew trouble & tribulation.

We will know freedom... for we knew imprisonment.

We will know health... for we knew sickness.

We will know exhilaration... for we knew pain.

We will know happiness... for we knew tears.

We will know togetherness ... for we knew loneliness.

We will know good... for we knew evil.

We will know love... for we knew hate.

We will know eternity... For we knew death!

John 18:36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world."

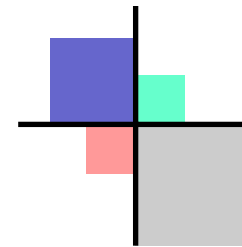
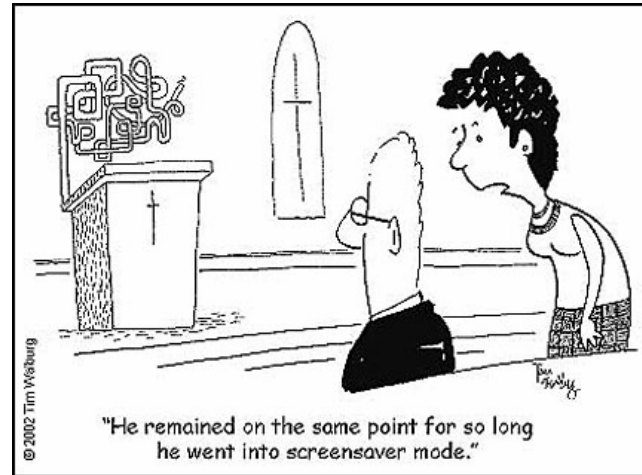
And so we pray," thy kingdom come".

In the Lord's Service,

Jeff Booth

Chuckles

A cheerful disposition is good for your health;
gloom and doom leave you bone-tired.



THE RABBI AND THE PRIEST met at the town's annual picnic. Old friends, they began their usual banter.

"This ham is really delicious," the priest teased the rabbi. "You really ought to try it. I know it's against your religion, but you just haven't lived until you've tried Mrs. Hall's prized Virginia Baked Ham. Tell me, when are you going to break down and have some?"

The rabbi looked at his friend with a big grin, and said, "At your wedding."

