

Christian Church of God

801 Quail Creek Drive
Amarillo, Texas 79124



Christian Church of God Newsletter



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Hello Brethren,

As we bid farewell to the year 2011 and welcome 2012, I pray that each and every one of you enters this New Year filled with hope, cheer and commitment. Thanks so much for your loyal commitment to this Work through your presence, your work and your tithes and offerings. 2011 was a difficult year for us financially and unless our financial support picks up, soon we will have to make some difficult decisions.

We have much to do and there are so few of us. But, we must not be discouraged because we lack the might and strength of man, for God is with us. When much is accomplished by many it is by the strength of man,

when much is accomplished by a few, which has been God's tradition for His Church ever since sending out just 11 witnesses to the greatest truth ever told, the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord and savior, it is of God.

2 Thess 2:13, *"But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, 14 to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle. 16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Fa-*



Then the LORD said to me,
"Write my answer plainly on
tablets, so that a runner can
carry the correct message to
others." Hab 2:2
(NLT)





Let us go into His tabernacle; Let us worship at His footstool (Psalms 132:7, NKJV). / Behold, bless the LORD, All *you* servants of the LORD, Who by night stand in the house of the LORD! ² Lift up your hands *in* the sanctuary, And bless the LORD. ³ The LORD who made heaven and earth Bless you from Zion! (Psalms 134:1-3, NKJV) /Praise the name of the LORD. Praise him, you servants of the LORD ² who are standing in the house of the LORD, in the courtyards of the house of our God. ³ Praise the LORD because he is good. Make music to praise his name because his name is beautiful (Psalms 135:1-3, GW).

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OUR SERMONS
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A MORAL COMPASS₁₁



Directional Principles for Right Living

Give me your lantern and compass, give me a map, so I can find my way to the sacred mountain. (Psalm 43:3, MSG) O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8, NLT)

PSALM 119

This Psalm is called the Alphabet of Divine Love, the Paradise of all the Doctrines, the Storehouse of the Holy Spirit, the School of Truth, also the deep mystery of the Scriptures, **where the whole moral discipline of all the virtues shines brightly**. And as all moral instruction is delightful, therefore this Psalm, because excelling in this kind of instruction, should be called delightful, inasmuch as it surpasses the rest. The other Psalms, truly, as lesser stars shine somewhat; but this burns with the meridian heat of its full brightness, and is wholly resplendent with moral loveliness. {Johannes Paulus Palanterius, 1600. – Treasury of David}

Here are a few of this Psalm’s ‘directional principles’:

God’s Ten Commandments are our basic Moral Compass: “With my whole heart I have sought You; oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!” (Vv.10-11, NKJV).

God’s Law promotes Honesty and Truth: “Remove from me the way of lying, And grant me Your law graciously. I have chosen the way of truth; Your judgments I have laid before me” (Vv 29-30, NKJV).

God’s Compass points us toward the True Values of life: “Incline my heart to Your testimonies, And not to covetousness. Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, And revive me in Your way” (Vv 36-37, NKJV).

God’s Word shows us the way of Hope and Comfort: “Remember the word to Your servant, upon which You have caused me to hope. This is my comfort in my affliction, For Your word has given me life” (Vv 49-50 NKJV).

God directs us to Fellowship with our spiritual brethren: “I am a companion of all who fear You, and of those who keep Your precepts” (Vv 63, NKJV).

God expects us to take Personal Responsibility to consult His map: “I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep Your word. I have not departed from Your judgments, for You Yourself have taught me” (Vv 101-102, NKJV).

God’s Way is one of Happiness and Joy: “Your testimonies I have taken as a heritage forever, For they are the rejoicing of my heart” (Vv 111, NKJV).

Planning Your Future

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Fear not for the future, weep not for the past.

When it comes to the future, there are three kinds of people: those who let it happen, those who make it happen, and those who wonder what happened.

“Finish each day and be done with it.

You have done what you could; some blunders and absurdities have crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day; you shall begin it serenely and with too high a spirit to be encumbered with your old nonsense.”

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

“... Everything belongs to you: ... the whole world and life and death; the present and the future. Everything belongs to you, and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.”

~1 Corinthians 3:21-23 (NLT)

There is indeed a future, and your hope will never be cut off.

~Prov 23:18 (GW)

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

~ Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)



"One of the most tragic things I know about human nature is that all of us tend to put off living. We are all dreaming of some magical rose garden over the horizon - instead of enjoying the roses that are blooming outside our windows today."

~ Dale Carnegie

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.

Amber & Dylan Clark: Grandchildren of Betty Clark, cerebral palsy.

Betty Clark: She is having pulmonary difficulties.

Dan Copenhauer: Betty Clark's brother, pneumonia.

Vickie Crevoi: Sister of Linda Booth, Chronic Progressive MS.

Mary Jo Flatt: James Bailey's sister. She is still undergoing treatment for bladder cancer and is dealing with the side effects of the procedures.

Velvet Green: Suffers from schizophrenia and is having a hard time right now.

Anna Law: In need of a kidney transplant; she has dialysis three times a week.

Dollie Meil: She suffers with cerebral palsy and lung problems. Has been moved to Grace House Bldg. 3 Room 3, 6502 4th Street, Lubbock, TX 79416

Ted Rankin: MS; he is looking into alternative treatment.

Helen Arnold-Maker, friend of Jerry and Martha, writes, “After a CT scan and surgical biopsy of tumors in my upper chest, a surgical biopsy determined these lymph nodes contained stage four breast cancer cells. On November 30, 2011, I began a daily arimidex pill. I have not felt ill and I intend to make a complete recovery.” She asks for our prayers.

IF YOU HAVE UPDATES OR NEW REQUESTS PLEASE INFORM THE EDITOR.

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Half-way there!

We have received donations for \$1,800 towards the \$3,100 we spent on our new **AC**. We still need \$1,200 to pay for this unexpected expense. Please put what you can in the special AC offering box or mail it to

P.O. Box 33134. Amarillo, TX 79120.

Thanks for stepping up & doing your share!

Celebrations

JANUARY

Birthdays:

Helen Kennedy	01-01
Virginia Sellers	01-02
Francis Carlson	01-04
Rudolph Rankin	01-15
Norma Hamilton	01-25
Roy Carlson	01-31
Vanessa Lawrence	01-22

Anniversaries:

Linda & Darrell Sehorn	01-06
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FEBRUARY

Birthdays:

Merle Vines	02/08
Candace Sellers	02/13

Anniversaries:

Henry & Virginia Sellers	02/14
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Condolences

To the family of CORNELIA McALISTER
who died December 24, 2011 at the age of 93.

Setting Goals for 2012

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Expect that your plan can and will change. Life has a funny way of throwing unexpected things at us, and flexibility is required to complete anything but the simplest goal. Sometimes the goal itself will even change. Most of all, recognize partial successes at every step along the way. Just as a resolution isn't accomplished the day it's stated, neither is it accomplished the day you reach your goal. Rather, it's accomplished in many small increments along the way. Acknowledge these incremental successes as they come.

- **Do so by making them align with God's desire for your life, trusting Him to enable you: "We plan the way we want to live, but only God makes us able to live it" (Prov 16:9, MSG).**
- **Do so to God's glory: "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor 10:31, NKJV).**
- **Do so with an awareness of the uncertainty of life: "Look here, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit.' How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone. What you ought to say is, 'If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that.' Otherwise you are boasting about your own plans, and all such boasting is evil" (James 4:13-16, NLT).**
- **Do so with this as the overarching goal: "Do everything without complaining and arguing, so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people" (Phil 2:14-15, NLT).**
- **Do so with God's Kingdom as the goal: "... my brothers, I do not consider myself to have 'arrived', spiritually, nor do I consider myself already perfect. But I keep going on, grasping ever more firmly that purpose for which Christ grasped me. My brothers, I do not consider myself to have fully grasped it even now. But I do concentrate on this: I leave the past behind and with hands outstretched to whatever lies ahead I go straight for the goal - my reward the honour of being called by God in Christ" (Phil 3:12, JBP).**



Heartbeats

Editorial
Jerry McClenagan

Guard your heart more than anything else, because the source of your life flows from it. ~Proverbs 4:23 (GW)

The epicenter of the 'Dust Bowl' in the 'Dirty Thirties' was about seventy-five miles west of my birthplace and home. This area is the focal point of Timothy Eagan's book, *The Worst Hard Time*. I just completed reading this well-written saga of that era, totally captivated by it. Since I was born three weeks before Black Sunday, April 14, 1935, I have no memory of those days except for a fleeting one as the dust 'rollers' tapered off in that decade. The people of that hardest-hit area—southeast Colorado, southwest Kansas, northeast New Mexico, and western Oklahoma Panhandle—suffered doubly because of the Great Depression.

I took two months to read this book because of its emotional impact. I would stop periodically to think about how it must have affected my parents and grandparents. The positive aspect is that it has given me a more thankful attitude; today's trials are petty by comparison.

The words of the Apostle James come to mind:

"When all kinds of trials and temptations crowd into your lives my brothers, don't resent them as intruders, but welcome them as friends! Realise that they come to test your faith and to produce in you the quality of endurance" (James 1:2, Phillips NT).

I am flabbergasted at the resilience and fortitude of those hardy pioneers of the Dust Bowl . . . even as I am amazed by the early pioneers of Faith. I am forced to ask myself how I would have endured some of the 'worst hard' times—whether seventy years ago or twenty, forty, or sixty centuries ago!

I take comfort in the words of Jesus as he gave his disciples a thumbnail synopsis of coming hard times, adding, "Be not troubled" (Matt. 24:6). Seems impossible, doesn't it? Later, in that same discourse, he said, "But not a hair of your head shall be lost. By your patience possess your souls" (Luke 21:18-19, NKJV), showing his power to sustain us if we persevere in patient trust.

Jesus was saying to us that regardless of how difficult various times in our lives may be, that we need to look for the silver lining in the storm clouds. Here's how Peterson states it: "keep your head and don't panic" (Matt 24:6, MSG).

As you plan for this year (see page 9) and trust God for your future (note page 10), do so by "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith" (Heb 12:2). ■

[CONT.
FROM
PAGE
ONE]



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ther, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, 17 comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work."

I commend and thank each and every one of you who have pitched in, doing your part, carrying your load and shouldering the responsibility of your calling. God has brought us together for a purpose. The truths He has revealed to us are founded in the scriptures, the Word of God, not in any ideas or writings of man. Let us not lose our "pearl of great price."

1 Cor 15:58, *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."*

Thanks to you who keep the Church clean and sparkling, green and groomed: thanks to each of you who work the audio equipment and the audio/video recording; for those of you who copy and mail out the sermon DVDs for our Sermon Outreach Mission. Thanks to you who create and publish the weekly bulletins and monthly newsletter; thanks for keeping up the Church's Web Page. Thanks to you who teach the Adult and Children's Bible CEP Classes; thanks for those who look after the lists, finances and clerical duties; thanks to you who bring sermons of truth and beautiful music of praise to our Sabbath Worship Services. Thanks for all your hard work...the fruit born is good. I know that you do not serve for recognition or commendation, but rather for the glory of God and Christ, but I commend and thank each of you for your unflagging faithfulness.

1 Cor 1:26, *"For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. 27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence. 30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God — and righteousness and sanctification and redemption — 31 that, as it is written, 'He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.'"*

To God be the Glory! And as Paul, I find myself filled with a grateful heart for you, my brethren!

1 Thess 1:2, *"We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, 3 remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, 4 knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God. 5 For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake."*

I give thanks to God for you,

Jeff Booth

Rory McClenagan

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Rory is one of three grandchildren of Jerry and Martha McClenagan living in Smithers, B.C., Canada. His parents are Don and Pam McClenagan. Rory, who is eleven years of age, wrote and presented the following one Sabbath morning.]

HOW TO PRAY SINCERELY

When we pray, we usually quickly think of problems, then state those problems, and leave it at that. Most usually, we will not think exactly whom we're praying to—God. Even if we get that far, we usually don't think about what and who God is. And finally, we usually don't even believe that those problems are going to be answered. You may insist that you do, but if you really believed, you would be praying a lot more. I hope this paper will help you pray sincerely.

One of the first things we have to do is think of who God is. We could easily answer: peace, love, wisdom and many more traits. But then, do you really believe that God is these traits? For example, if you heard of a person who was so wise he could answer anything, he could show you what to do in certain situations, he could even answer a math problem you were wondering about for years; and what if that very famous person asked you specifically to converse with him? Even though he could've asked rich and famous people, he asked you. You couldn't only ask him one question but as many as you wanted. You would most likely jump on the offer and feel extremely gratified to the man. And even though that man was famous, he was not proud and took pity on your problems. What is that person had even saved your life? You might insist on giving him something, but all he asked was that you love. You would most likely try to love others with your whole heart. If you really believed God was like this person, but much more, you would be praising, asking questions and thanking Him the majority of

the day. You may ask yourself: why don't I?

Here is an example of how you should pray:

- First of all, think of God saving you from death. Try to believe this and thank him whole-heartedly. This may take several minutes but will become easier as you do it more.
- Next, think of something good, small or a big thing, that happened in the last few days. Now try to think that that little joyful happening was by God.
- If this goes well, then think of a problem or something you really want, and pray it.

In group prayers, it may be difficult to pray sincerely, but a good time to is when you're praying by yourself and you have as much time as you want. Finally, to sum it up, I'll leave you with a couple of tips:

- Always begin your prayer with thoughts of thankfulness.
- When you're on your own never begin your prayer until you have a complete sincere heart.
- Believe that God is right in front of you listening to your earnest prayers.
- Trust Him; believe that your problems will be answered, your worries solved, and that all will turn out well.
- Don't be discouraged because it takes long! You'll get better at praying sincerely.



Chuckles

A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit saps a person's strength.
~ Prov 17:22 (NLT)

McHUMOR.com by T. McCracken



"If you see the congregation start to fall asleep, could you give me a little microphone feedback?"

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A Calvinist and an Arminian square off...

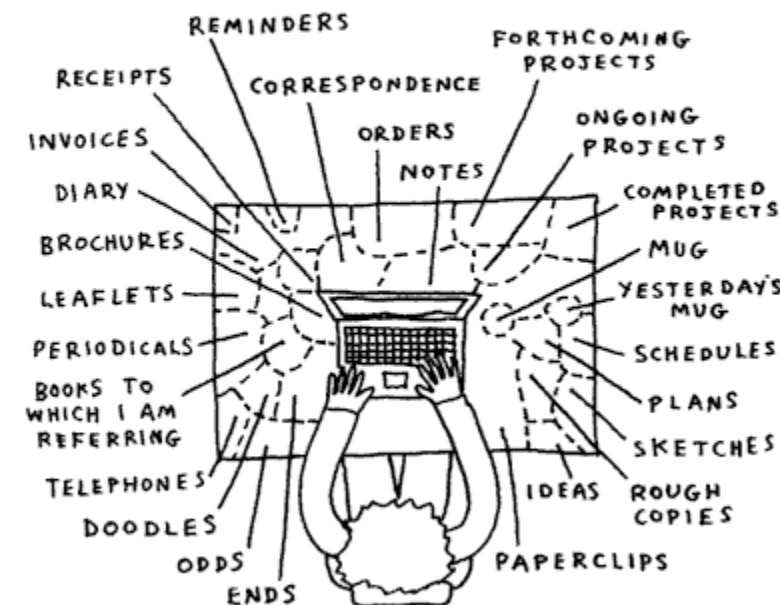


"Loved the sermon. Hated casual Sunday."



HOW I ORGANISE MY DESK

THE AREAS ARE ALLOTTED THUS:



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◀NEW YEAR RESOLUTION?