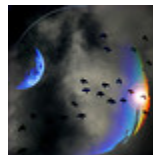


801 Quail Creek Drive
Amarillo, Texas 79124



Christian Church of God Newsletter

Volume 18, Issue 5 May 2009

The PASTOR'S PEN



Hello Brothers & Sisters,

This month of May has within its allotted time two very special and significant celebrations. The 10th day of May is set aside to pay special tribute to our Mothers, those who gave us life, and those who taught us how to live. There is nothing quite like the love of a Mother for her child. Moms are there to catch us when we fall, and applaud us when we succeed, no matter how small the victory.

On 5/9/1914, by an act of Congress, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the 2nd Sunday in May as Mother's Day. He established the day as a time for "**public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country.**"

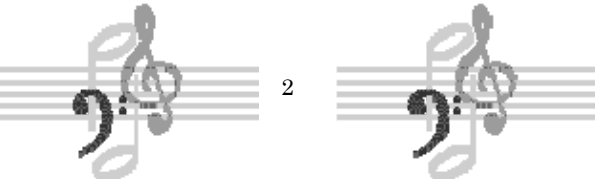
This is the first time in my life that I have no Mother to honor and love. While her spirit lives on in me and I find myself reminded daily of the warmth, guidance and unconditional love she showered upon my brothers and me,

I won't be able to call her this Mother's Day to tell her I love her and wish her joy and happiness. I miss her already, and now I can but look forward to our reunion in the Kingdom.

God gives children parents because they need them; children truly do not know what is good for them. Nobody cares more for a child than "Mom" and "Dad". As children we would be eating candy and ice cream, staying up late and skipping school if it were left up to us instead of Mom or Dad. Manners and etiquette, which are nothing more than expressions of love and concern for others, would evaporate without mothers who love their children too much to allow them to behave badly. Oh, how many times did I hear that expression from Mom.

1 Corinthians 13:11, "*When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.*"

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God's 'Yes' to Life



Whatever God has promised gets stamped with the Yes of Jesus. In him, this is what we preach and pray, the great Amen, God's Yes and our Yes together, gloriously evident. ²¹ God affirms us, making us a sure thing in Christ, putting his Yes within us. ²² By his Spirit he has stamped us with his eternal pledge—a sure beginning of what he is destined to complete.

~2 Cor 1:20-22 (MSG)

All together now—applause for God! Sing songs to the tune of his glory, set glory to the rhythms of his praise.

-Psalms 66:1-2 (MSG)

I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all the marvelous things you have done. I will be filled with

A white-tailed deer drinks from the creek; I want to drink God, deep draughts of God. I'm thirsty for God-alive. I wonder, "Will I ever make it— arrive and drink in God's presence?" Psalms 42:1-2 (MSG)

My soul. All my nature, my inmost self, thirsts. Which is more than hungering; hunger you can palliate, but thirst is awful, insatiable, clamorous, deadly. O to have the most intense craving after the highest good! this is no questionable mark of grace. For God. Not merely for the temple and the ordinances, but for fellowship with God himself. None but spiritual men can sympathize with this thirst. For the living God. Because he lives, and gives to men the living water; therefore we, with greater eagerness, desire him. A dead God is a mere mockery; we loathe such a monstrous deity; but the ever living God, the perennial fountain of life and light and love, is our soul's desire. What are gold, honor, pleasure, but dead idols? May we never pant for these. When shall I come and appear before God? He who loves the Lord loves also the assemblies wherein his name is adored. Vain are all pretences to religion where the outward means of grace have no attraction. David was never so much at home as in the house of the Lord; he was not content with private worship; he did not forsake the place where saints assemble, as the manner of some is. See how pathetically he questions as to the prospect of his again uniting in the joyous gathering! How he repeats and reiterates his desire! After his God, his Elohim (his God to be worshipped, who had entered into covenant with him), he pined even as the drooping flowers for the dew, or the moaning turtle for her mate. It were well if all our gatherings to public worship were viewed as appearances before God, it would then be a sure mark of grace to delight in them. Alas, how many appear before the minister, or their fellow men, and think that enough! "To see the face of God" is a nearer translation of the Hebrew; but the two ideas may be combined—he would see his God and be seen of him: this is worth thirsting after!—Treasury of David, The

While I am banished from thy house
I mourn in secret, Lord;
"When shall I come and pay my vows,
And hear thy holy word?"
So while I dwell in bonds of clay,
Methinks my soul shall groan,
"When shall I wing my heavenly way
And stand before thy throne?"
I love to see my Lord below,
His church displays his grace;
But upper worlds his glory know
And view him face to face.
I love to worship at his feet,
Though sin attack me there,
But saints exalted near his seat
Have no assaults to fear.
I am pleased to meet him in his court,
And taste his heavenly love,
But still I think his visits short,
Or I too soon remove.
He shines, and I am all delight,
He hides and all is pain;
When will he fix me in his sight,
And never depart again?
Isaac Watts, from his Sermons.
—Treasury of David, The



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"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me— watch how I do it. Learn the **unforced rhythms of grace**. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." ~ Jesus. Matt 11:28-30 (MSG)

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GraceRhythms GraceRhythms

THE SPONTANEITY OF LOVE

"Love suffereth long, and is kind ..." (1Cor. 13:4-8).

Love is not premeditated, it is spontaneous, i.e., it bursts up in extraordinary ways. There is nothing of mathematical certainty in Paul's category of love. We cannot say - "Now I am going to think no evil; I am going to believe all things." The characteristic of love is spontaneity. We do not set the statements of Jesus in front of us as a standard; but when His Spirit is having His way with us, we live according to His standard without knowing it, and on looking back we are amazed at the disinterestedness of a particular emotion, which is the evidence that the spontaneity of real love was there. In everything to do with the life of God in us, its nature is only discerned when it is past.

The springs of love are in God, not in us. It is absurd to look for the love of God in our hearts naturally, it is only there when it has been shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

If we try to prove to God how much we love Him, it is a sure sign that we do not love Him. The evidence of our love for Him is the absolute spontaneity of our love, it comes naturally. In looking back we cannot tell why we did certain things, we did them according to the spontaneous nature of His love in us. The life of God manifests itself in this spontaneous way because the springs of love are in the Holy Ghost (Romans 5:5).

—My Utmost For His Highest

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Grace doesn't preclude lack of effort on our part. Though we experience the overflow of the Spirit —"For through the Holy Spirit who has given to us the "brimming river of the love of God" has overflowed in our hearts" (Romans 5:5, MontgomeryNT)— we must do our part: surrender, cooperate, "walk in the Spirit," apply the Word. Nothing robotic about being a Christian: 'If you are then "risen" with Christ, reach out for the highest gifts of Heaven, where your master reigns in power. Give your heart to the heavenly things, not to the passing things of earth. For, as far as this world is concerned, you are already dead, and your true life is a hidden one in Christ' (Col 3:1-3, Phillips NT). As you do so, open the channel of your heart and let the Spirit of God flow freely, the spontaneous love of God, the marvelous rhythms of grace.



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.
3

Harry Gonzales: Cecilia Gonzales Morris asks that we pray for her father of Albuquerque/Grants, NM. Health problems, weakness.

Shawn Morris: Cecilia's husband, a reservist who is to be deployed in a few weeks.

Gideon Cowan: Friend of Bill Dufur. Suffering emotional problems and requests our prayers for his mental and physical health.

Sheri Bartlett: Continues to have serious health problems.

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

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

Bob Fink: Larry Lyles' daughter's father-in-law, prostate cancer which has metastasized to the bone, undergoing chemo.

Bobbie Gatson: Mother of Velvet Green, nerve and back problems making it difficult for her to walk.

Je Keishalyn Henley: Daughter of Velvet and Gary Green, is incarcerated and having health problems. Pray for an early release.

Benny Ray Hicks: Betty Clark's daughter's brother-in-law, leukemia.

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

Dollie Meil: She is suffering with cerebral palsy.

Ted Rankin: Tests show he has increased brain lesions, indicating MS.

Kathryn Scott: Friend of the Baileys; severe MS.

Wilson Stewart: Diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Ron Vorheis: He is still having serious health issues, but has more good days than bad.

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

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Celebrations

Birthdays:

Glennis McAlister	5-4
Linda Sehorn	5-16
Jeff Booth	5-19
Joe Kirkpatrick	5-19
Thomas Vines	5-19
Janet Voss	5-27

Anniversaries:

Shannon & Russ Stephens	5-20
Bill & Jackie Ballew	5-24

Volunteers Honored

At a dinner given by Texan Nursing & Rehab included Martha & Jerry McCle-nagan for their music ministry

A Mother's Love

A Mother's love is something
that no one can explain,
It is made of deep devotion
and of sacrifice and pain,
It is endless and unselfish
and enduring come what may
For nothing can destroy it
or take that love away . . .
It is patient and forgiving
when all others are forsaking,
And it never fails or falters
even though the heart is breaking . . .
It believes beyond believing
when the world around condemns,
And it glows with all the beauty
of the rarest, brightest gems . . .
It is far beyond defining,
it defies all explanation,
And it still remains a secret
like the mysteries of creation . . .
A many splendored miracle
man cannot understand
And another wondrous evidence
of God's tender guiding hand.

Helen Steiner Rice



Pentecost



Pentecost

Sunday, May 31st

C.E.P. Bible Class: 11:00 a.m.
Holyday Worship Service: 11:45 a.m.

Steak Cook-Out

Sunday, May 31st, 1:00 p.m.



Heartbeats

Editorial
Jerry McClenagan

Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. Prov 4:23 (NIV)

ONE MAN'S PLEASANT RAIN is another's storm.

That is often the way of the weather in my part of the world. I sometimes remark to my wife, "Well, we got the good part of the rain . . . not as much as other parts of the Golden Spread, but at least we received the gentle part." And when we get the "bad" part all we can do is try to survive its onslaught: hail, wind, lightning, flash floods, blizzards.

The great thunderheads we view at a distance are awesome in their beauty. I'm reminded of the words in Job: "Fair weather cometh out of the north: with God *is terrible majesty*" (Job37: 22, KJV). Or, as The Message puts it, "so a terrible beauty streams from God."

Is it not true in other respects, such as economically? The values of international currencies is an example: weak dollar, strong Euro.

The greater point is our respective needs as Christians. That is why we need to stick together, pray for each other, support and encourage each other:

- ". . . pray for one another, that you may be healed. . ." (James 5: 16, NKJV).
- "Be kindly affectionate to one another

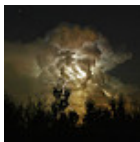
with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; . . . continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality" (Romans 12: 10-13, NKJV).

- "Christ, who is the head of his body, the church . . . makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love" (Eph 4: 15-16, NLT).
- "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching" (Heb 10: 24-25, NKJV).

When you are in the crux of the storm you hope others are praying for you, rooting for you, reaching for you with a helping hand.

When you see someone else in the path of the storm make sure you return the favor!

■



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Mothers love us, protect us, teach us, show us, and civilize us. Surely there is no more cherished, yet humbling, idea than the conviction that parents hold in their hands the power to shape their child's tomorrows. Much of what we are, we owe to Moms.

The greatest gift any of us can give our mother is to make her proud, and Mothers are easily inclined to be proud of their offspring.

Matthew 19:19, "*Honour thy father and thy mother:*"

The second celebration of the month, no, not my birthday, is May 31st, the Day of Pentecost— celebrating the pouring out of the Holy Spirit by our Heavenly Father. The victory at Calvary brings us the joy of Pentecost. The cross shows that you were worth dying for, and God's Perfect Son paid the supreme price for you. The resurrection of Jesus reveals that you are worth living for. Our savior has made it possible for our Father in Heaven to fill us with His Holy Spirit so that we may bring forth fruit— the fruit of the spirit as described by the Apostle Paul in the fifth chapter of his letter to the Church at Galatia. Our Father in

Heaven, more than any parent on earth, knew that we as children need the loving guidance of the spirit to lead us into all truth and to show us what is good for us.

When we accept Jesus Christ and are baptized our Father joins or marries our spirits—His spirit with your spirit— so we are one with God. This baptism of the spirit begins the process of God imbuing us with His spirit as we make ourselves available and pliant. The Holy Spirit does not go where it is not welcome and invited. If we truly give ourselves over to the Lord in total surrender, making ourselves completely and totally available to the Lord, the overflowing of the Holy Spirit will give evidence of Jesus Christ's presence in us. If God is in us, surely He will shine through.

We have much to give thanks for this Mother's Day and much to celebrate this Pentecost . . . so thank your mother and praise your God!

In the Service of Our Lord,

Jeff Beath





Door Openers

“For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. . .how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”
Luke 11:10, 13 (NKJV)

"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 11 If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" Luke 11:9-13 (NKJV)

HAVE WE STOPPED ASKING?

Fifty days after Passover: Pentecost. Jesus told His disciples: "What comes next is very important: I am sending what my Father promised to you, so stay here in the city until he arrives, until you're equipped with power from on high" (Luke 24:49, MSG); He told them, "You don't get to know the time. Timing is the Father's business. 8 What you'll get is the Holy Spirit. And when the Holy Spirit comes on you, you will be able to be my witnesses in Jerusalem, all over Judea and Samaria, even to the ends of the world" (Acts 1:7-8, MSG). Then Peter would announce in his very first sermon, Peter said, "Change your life. Turn to God and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, so your sins are

forgiven. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38, MSG).

And that became the pattern for receiving this precious gift.

But oftentimes the Christian's guage shows Empty. So Paul reminds us, ". . . but be filled with the Spirit," (Eph 5:18, NKJV). The Greek suggests "be always filling"— "ever be filled and stimulated with the [Holy] Spirit" (AMP).

How long since we've checked our guages lately? "Twould be a good season to do so. A good time to "knock, and [find] it will be opened." To rediscover that our heavenly Father will "give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" To "drink the Spirit of God, huge draughts of him" (Eph 5:18, MSG)!

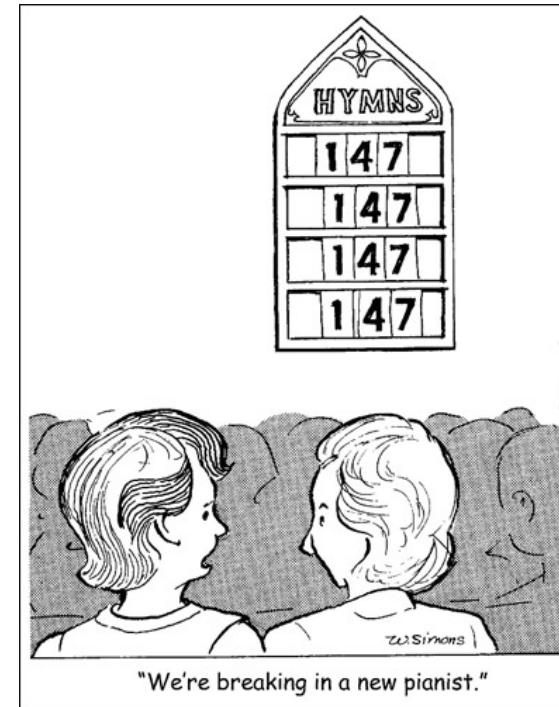
"As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?" (Psalms 42:1-2, NKJV) We have Christ's own promise: "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Rivers of living water will brim and spill out of the depths of anyone who believes in me this way, just as the Scripture says." (He said this in regard to the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were about to receive. . .)" (John 7:37-39, MSG).

He'll open that door . . . Yearly . . . Monthly . . . Daily. Just knock. ■

CHUCKLES

7

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



"We're breaking in a new pianist."



"Oldies Night" at the contemporary church.



"Looks like the new pastor's met everybody."

