

Evangelical Protestant Church(GCEPC)®,
Lutheran Evangelical Protestant Church(LEPC)®

BREAKING NEWS!

JESUS SEEN ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

FILM AT ELEVEN, ED!

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He Is Risen! He Is Risen Indeed!
Luke 24:5-6 "Why are you looking among the dead for the living one? (6) He's not here. He has been brought back to life!"



The Phoenix Arizona Botanical Gardens



Evangelical Protestant
Church (GCEPC)® Inc.,

Lutheran Evangelical
Protestant Church (LEPC)®,

We Believe

1. The Holy Scriptures, in the original tongues, is the inspired and inerrant word of God. (Matthew 4:4, 2 Timothy 3:16,17)

2. There is one God, eternal and self-existent, Creator and Ruler of the universe, and manifested through the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (John 1:18, Matthew 3:16-17) We are Trinitarian.

3. Jesus Christ is truly divine and truly human having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. (Matt.1: 18)

4. Jesus Christ died on the cross and shed His blood as a Sacrifice

for our sins; He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Majesty on High. (1 John 2:2)

5. Humankind was created in the image of God, but fell into sin causing separation from God. (Gen. 3:1-24)

6. Salvation has been provided through Jesus Christ for all; and those who repent and believe on Him are born again of the Holy Spirit, receive the gift of eternal life and become the children of God. (John 1:10)

7. Water baptism identifies us with the death and burial of Christ and that we should arise to

walk in newness of life (Matthew 28:19-20)

8. We believe in the ministry of the Holy Spirit to glorify Christ, to convict of sin, to enable the believer to live a godly life, and to empower the Church to carry the gospel into all the world. (Matthew 12:31, Acts 1:8.)

9. In the personal and visible return of Jesus Christ for His Church. (Matthew 24:30, Rev 1:7)

10. In the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved and everlasting separation from God of all those who reject Jesus Christ. (John 1:10-13, Rev 20:11-15)

GCEPC "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2: 8

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The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin
Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and
was buried; he descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he
is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come
again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the
resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

AMEN.

The Evangelical Protestant Journal "Kirchenbote" (Church Messenger) was established in 1885,

Gustav Schmidt became editor. In 1917, the German Evangelical churches in the Pittsburgh area began publication of a monthly entitled The Evangelical Protestant. (Archives Smithfield UCC)

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Editor Rev. Steve Bacon

Bishop's Desk



Spring greetings, Everyone!

Old Mr Groundhog told us in February, 2016 that we would have an early spring and that is certainly true here where I live. The pretty white dogwood trees are starting to pop out and pink, white and lavender azalas are on their heels. Yellow daffodils are peeking out as well. I water hosed my car this morning to get the yellow pollen dust off of it before heading out to do some errands.

God desires his people the church, to recover the lost art of hearing

The weather was already getting warm when I arrived at my store destination. I picked up a few things that I needed. As I was pushing my cart I overheard a little conversation going on from one aisle over. A little boy and his brother were shopping with their grandma. I heard his little voice rise a little higher as he brightly said, "God bless the day, Grandma!" It made me smile. What a precious reminder that it is God who blesses our day, every day! And who might have been the one that taught that little fella about God blessing the day? Might have been Grandma

herself! Never think that you are not having an effect on those around you. I was blessed by their little "company" and they did not even know it. They were just doing what they do, out together, getting a few errands done, too, I suspect. To God be the glory. Great things he has done. Like He said, "A little child shall lead them."

As I write this, we are in the fifth week of Lent and coming up on Palm Sunday. This is today's prayer. Please join me. "Lord, all I want, we want, is to be faithful to You in our life, but so often we fail. Free us from our many sins and guide us to the life we will share with You. We wait for Your promise to be fulfilled with great hope in our hearts and Your praise on our lips. In the Name of Jesus Christ Our Lord, Amen." This magazine may be published after Easter but I pray that all of you will have a thoughtful and inspirational Holy Week that will lead you deeper into the love of Christ and what He did on the cross and through His resurrection before we ever knew Him, before we existed on this earth. All glory to His Name!

This year is a Presidential Election year for the USA. Remember that you can pray for our country wherever you are, whatever you are doing. Do not let busyness trick you into thinking that you do not

have time to pray. There is certainly value in setting aside a quiet time for prayer, reflection, meditation and time in the Lord's Presence but we must not forget that He is always with us. God wants to hear from us. His ear is tuned to us and hears us when we pray for our country, our family, ourselves, others, our ministry. We are followers of Christ. Be ready to pray whenever, wherever because that is what Jesus did. He might want to use you to bless someone else.. "Lord, all I want, we want, is to be faithful to You in our life, but so often we fail. Free us from our many sins and guide us to the life we will share with You. We wait for Your promise to be fulfilled with great hope in our hearts and Your praise on our lips.

In the Name of Jesus Christ Our Lord, Amen." Blessings and Peace to all,

Bishop Nancy Drew

"Lord, all I want, we want, is to be faithful to You in our life, but so often we fail. Free us from our many sins and guide us to the life we will share with You. We wait for Your promise to be fulfilled with great hope in our hearts and Your praise on our lips. In the Name of Jesus Christ Our Lord, Amen"



My greatest desire for all of our ministers is that they would have a close walk with Our Lord, learning His ways, hearing His voice, knowing Him.

Words of Wisdom

By Bishop Jessica Johnston, Spirit Soul and Body Ministries



My prayer and blessing for you is that you will discover and uncover the mysteries of God in His ways and His word. I pray for you a revelation of His grace in your life and that all lessons imparted to you through your message will become revelatory teaching for the flock of God.

Not Everyone Can Go with You

I was taught many years ago that as the Lord calls you higher or let's say deeper not everyone in your life, your circle can go with you. It's not that He doesn't love them it's simply that they may not be able to endure what you will endure and support you in it. They may not understand or be willing to fight. Their lack of support or even being contrary to God's direction to you will be a hindrance. Many also are not ready. They are figuring out their own issues and healing their wounds that may need someone else's help to heal, not yours! Have you ever considered that you are a hindrance to someone else moving higher? If God has told you to move on it may not be and most likely is not just about you, but about them too. Sometimes you will come full circle and be together again, sometimes not. God knows where each person's path leads them and who can travel with them. If He has spoken to break ties then break ties and move on wholly. Don't delay because your presence is filling space someone else may need to step into. There are friends for the hike and friends for the journey. God will always surround you with those you need in your life. In fact many times they are already there but your focus may still be in reaching back for the others. Understand and know that not everyone can go with you.

Fire Shut Up in My Bones

Jeremiah 20:9, "But if I say, I will not mention his word or speak anymore in his name, his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in, indeed, I cannot."

These are the words of Jeremiah the prophet. He had been delivering messages of violence and destruction to Israel and Judah due to their worship of idols and breaking covenant with the Lord. Jeremiah was even punished by the high priest of the temple - beaten and shackled. His words were not welcomed even by his own. He was weary but recognized that he could not hold back. I think a lot of Christians feel this way today but have held back for so long that they would rather experience pain of withholding than being persecuted for speaking the truth. Our silence in our families, our work place even our churches is killing us from the inside out. The voice of the world and all that screams out against God and His holiness does not hesitate to speak. Why are we so hesitant and hold back? We know the end times will bring greater persecution. I believe God is preparing us now to overcome fear of persecution and let the fire go forth.

The Flip Side

Healing is wonderful. Wholeness is our goal. How we get there is most of the time hard. It's a process. There are suddenlies along the way but for the most part you have to seek, learn and apply God's word and His truth to the lie that brought wounding and pain. The flip side is something that I want to bring attention to and that is when someone takes the knowledge and process and moves beyond healing and into control. The very thing they fought to get free from they do themselves. They control to prevent more pain. Instead of healthy boundaries they build a fort. They are suspicious and feel that others are trying to wound them when



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Words of Wisdom

By Bishop Jessica Johnston, Spirit Soul and Body Ministries

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in reality people are many times ignorant of what they are doing or are doing what they were taught. This is an opportunity for you to teach them what you have learned. The other piece of this is setting unrealistic standards and expectations that people cannot attain to. There can be a pride in learning the truth and you feel others should act or treat you a certain way, but remember they are sinners too. So in rejoicing in your healing be careful that you don't ostracize the world in order to keep from being hurt again. You WILL be hurt again because we are imperfect. To walk in forgiveness does not mean you set up your life in a way that you don't give opportunity to be hurt. It means you do, you take risks, but now that you've learned how to forgive you can still maintain your healing and be whole.

The Outside

There is no more painful place to be but on the outside of something. Being excluded or pushed to the outside or looking through the window at something you want to be a part of. For many of us this happened on the playground or as a teenager with clicks we had in school. Now before I move on, this does not exclude God's direction to you. If you aren't supposed to be a part of something you should not be feeling you are on the outside but rather grateful for His direction and move on to what He has for you. What I am speaking of is the pain experienced when it is something you have been called to or at least were placed in for a time and season of your life but yet you felt you were on the outside. This many times can be your own woundedness that needs to be healed or it could be the actions of those around you that hurt you. The enemy is work to push you out. So what do you do? Pray, forgive first, explore your own wounds and let Jehovah heal them so you are more secure in who you are. If you feel led to stay, go to that person or person(s) and confront the behavior lovingly because some do not know they have done this, others do and you will have to be prepared for that. If you are to go do not delay in going as it fills up time and space that God desires to bless you in somewhere else. I have experienced this pain on and off throughout my life less so when I realized I belonged to someone, to Christ. I still however have to keep my own heart before the Lord that I do not do this nor allow this strategy to continue to hurt me but take action if needed. Wisdom is the order of the day!

Recalibrate

I heard a message last night that encouraged us to recalibrate our relationships from time to time. Re-introduce yourself to those in your life, even those close as you change and transform over time. If you have grown but the dynamics, perceptions or assumptions of one another are the same the relationship grows stale and can grow cold. Recalibrate!



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Walk In The Spirit

Bishop David Church



Bishop Dr.
David A.
Church
Director of
Missions

To reach the lost and bring them into the Kingdom of God requires that we return to *God's way* of building the Church, discarding man's methods with those given us by Jesus Christ who said "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"

Galatians 5:19-21 *"I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."*

Why do we keep going back to our sin, to alcohol, or drugs or sexual sins? Why do we fall over and over in our attempt to lead a righteous life? Why are we so weak in our resolve to follow the commandments of Christ? Why do we find ourselves bargaining with God, as do many "jailhouse converts?" Are we really even saved? Then why do we keep sinning? Have we really believed the Gospel as taught by the Apostle Paul? Are we relying on a wrong idea of God, a false god, or our own goodness?

Maybe we don't really believe God concerning our new position in Christ! We do not live by the new life, but walk in the flesh! The "new man" is not in control, but the "old man" rules our life, the flesh with its desires that caused so much destruction in our life already, and will lead to perdition if we continue upon that road. Why do we keep going back to our old sins and feed the flesh?

We might come to Christ for salvation, but many, if not most professing Christians, try to walk through life in their own power instead of by the power of the Holy Spirit! Where is our heart and our mind? On things above? On the things of the world we can't or won't let go of? We must realize who we are if we are going to live for the glory of Jesus Christ! We must believe who we belong to, and trust in Him who began the good work in us to also finish it! Realize who you are in Christ!

I run into many who believe they are saved because at one time in their life, perhaps as a young child, walked the aisle in Sunday School or Vacation Bible School and "received Christ." Yet many years later they are bound by drugs or alcohol abuse and nothing is detectable in their life of the earlier "conversion" they profess to have experienced. What happened? Where did Christ go if He was earlier "received" by the child? He promised to never leave or forsake us, so what happened?

Many so-called professions of Christ were the results of manipulation of a person's emotions. Fear of Hell is instilled, and the person is hounded to make a "decision for Christ" immediately before it is too late. The main problem is that the decision is not ours to make. It is God's. John 1:13 tells us *"who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."* Willing someone to "get saved" is fruitless, because it is not of our will but of God's will to bring salvation in His own timing. Our job is only to plant the seeds and to water them, but only God can cause new life to sprout and grow. The Holy Spirit alone can and must bring true conviction of sin (John 16:8), the Father must bring the person to Christ (John 6:44), and the person must believe (trust) the Gospel which results in their salvation (Romans 10:10).

To repeat, Paul tells us in our passage *"Now the works of the flesh are evident"* and are readily seen as being inherently wrong even among pagan cultures. People groups that have never heard of the Bible recognize the sins of stealing, murder, adultery and bearing false witness (lying) as crimes or taboos that corrupt a society if allowed to flourish. How can this be? How have biblical

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principles become known and recognized as Truth without the Scriptures being brought to them, the proverbial native of the darkest and unreachable jungle?

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse..." Romans 1:18-20

God reveals these principles in the very fabric of Creation itself! The Truth and glory of God is declared in the Heavens to be seen by all. Also,

"who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them" Romans 2:15

So we see from Scripture that the Creator's existence can be postulated from Creation itself, but also that right and wrong is written on the very hearts of all who were born. This is part of the image of God we were formed with. We call it a conscience: the voice within telling us what is right or wrong. Although the conscience can be seared and quieted to the point it is no longer heard, as in those labeled as sociopaths, it still exists even within fallen Man.

We know something is wrong yet do it anyway because our nature as a fallen creature, a sinner, causes us to be drawn to sin much as a moth is drawn to the light of a candle at its own peril. Play with fire (sin) and you will be burned. Perhaps not immediately, but it is inevitable. We reap what we sow, and there is no way around it. If we will but remain in Christ upon the path, He leads us by His Holy Spirit and we will be rewarded at the bema seat of Christ and hear as did the servant in Matthew 25:21

"Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord."

But we must remain in Christ for that is where our salvation lies. Being in Christ means we must continually believe and trust in Him for our final deliverance from the grave and eternal separation from God. Believing is not a onetime event that guarantees salvation, in is only the first step on the narrow path. True, we are saved by grace through faith alone in Christ's atoning sacrifice upon the Cross. We cannot instigate salvation any more than we can cause a seed to sprout by our own will. All life, including our regeneration unto eternal life when we truly become born again, is a work of God. We had nothing to do with it and we were passive. But our sanctification is synergistic, placing ourselves into God's hands and allowing Him to work within us as He will. But we still have a will to choose right or wrong actions. Proof of the existence of a will is the fact that the Bible itself tells us to choose in many passages. Asking us to choose without us having a real choice would not be truthful, so would not be from the Spirit of Truth. We were created as moral Beings with the ability to choose to obey God or our own will. We chose wrong in the Garden of Eden, and each individual carries within themselves this fallen nature. Theologians call it *Original Sin*. Want evidence of it? Look at babies and small children. Do you have to teach them to be rebellious and disobedient? Must they be taught selfishness, to take things from others, or to lie? An emphatic "NO." It is an inherent part of us that comes naturally because it is in our nature. We are not sinners because we commit sins, but rather we sin because we are sinners by nature. We are rebels, resisting the will of God even as Christians *unless we yield* to the leading of the Holy Spirit. But what happens if we do not yield to the Spirit, and instead return to the old "works of the flesh?"

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Walk In The Spirit

Bishop David Church



Bishop Dr.
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To reach the lost and bring them into the Kingdom of God requires that we return to God's way of building the Church, discarding man's methods with those given us by Jesus Christ who said "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"

What happens if we don't repent and return to the Lord, to walk in righteousness and holiness as we are commanded? Are we still saved if we die in sin, believing the heresy of "Once Saved, Always Saved" regardless of our lifestyle and the choices we make later? Does having "Eternal Life" mean living forever in Heaven regardless of whether we continue believing and trusting in the Lord for our salvation while here on the earth? For these answers we must search only the Scriptures and not rely on the doctrines taught by those that have mingled Greek philosophy and the Scriptures, such as St. Augustine with his Platonism, or Thomas Aquinas who filtered Christian doctrine through Aristotle to become his "Summa Theologica". John Calvin's writings are based on St. Augustine's theology, not from the Scriptures directly, and it from his writings that Calvin's doctrines developed. From Calvin we get the so-called "Doctrines of Grace", previously called Calvinism, derived by his followers from the *Institutes of the Christian Religion* written by John Calvin.

This is the foundational teaching of that which is called the "Once Saved Always Saved" doctrine by both its adherents and detractors. It is based on the flow (flaw?) of logic called the Five Points of Calvinism, nicknamed T.U.L.I.P. as the acronym for:

Total depravity: Man is dead spiritually without any ability to choose God

Unconditional Election: Chosen to salvation, or unto perdition by God's decree

Limited Atonement: Christ died only for the elect chosen to salvation

Irresistible Grace: God's grace cannot be resisted

Preservation of the Saints: Preserved by God so you can't be lost

There is a small seed of truth in each statement of T.U.L.I.P., but not the complete truth as revealed within the Scriptures by the Holy Spirit. We try as Greeks (Gentiles) to accept all doctrinal truth within an either/ or framework, analyzing teachings by either this is true, or that is true, so one must be false, instead of recognizing that occasionally two doctrines can and must be held in tension as done in the Jewish mindset and Scriptural exegesis by Midrash. A prime example of so-called conflicting doctrines in the Scriptures are those that generate the Calvinist versus Arminian debate.

1. We are given the freedom of choice by God and enabled to choose to serve the Lord willfully, or we may choose serving our own will, ultimately making Satan our god, which would be to reject Christ.
2. We are elected, or chosen in Christ, by God in eternity past according to the counsel of God. We are decreed unto salvation in Christ without any participation in our election unto salvation. We are either saved or condemned to Hell without the possibility of changing our destination.

Both of these doctrines are true, but distortion in our understanding is inherent in the second. Both are completely biblical. The problem lies in the fact that they are logically incompatible in appearance. The Calvinist's inability to understand that just because God knows something does not mean that He decreed it to be, and He doesn't have to learn anything to know it. He is outside Creation and inside Creation at the same time, and knows everything that has or will happen at the same time. That is why the Scriptures can make statements such as Christ was "slain before the foundation of the world" and "we are seated with Christ in the heavenly places" although these occurred (or will occur?) outside of the space-time that we dwell in. To us, events are causal and sequential. To God, who sits outside our time space continuum, they are always in the present "now" which is why we can receive prophetic revelation that is always 100% accurate.

"And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15

We are brought to Christ by the Father, and we either believe in Him or walk away in unbelief

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according to the Bible, but Calvinism does not leave us with this choice to accept or reject the truth. According to Calvin's teaching we cannot choose because, again, we are dead spiritually. We must be regenerated *before* we can even have faith, which could in theory leave an unbelieving yet regenerate man which is impossible. They convolute the issue by saying it is not a sequential order in time, but rather a necessary order logically. But the biblical definition of death is not an inability to choose God unless we are first regenerated. Death is defined as a separation, physical death being separated from our physical body, and spiritual death being our soul's separation from God in both the present and in eternity if found without Christ.

The Calvinist's reason for this doctrine is that it protects the sovereignty of God, by completely moving our own belief from the equation which allows us to choose or to turn away. We will believe only if God decrees it. I submit that in the Calvinist's theological concept God is not the God as presented in the Bible, who created us as moral beings and desires us to *choose* to love and serve Him willfully rather than being a programmed robot required by their fatalistic philosophy, with absolutely *all* choice and actions predetermined from eternity past, decreed so therefore unchangeable. Their God seems not able to make a creature with a will of its own, therefore I submit that the God of the Calvinist is not the omnipotent all powerful God of Israel and Creator of all that there is because He cannot allow a choice to be made by another, although "we are commanded to make them!?" What is even more absurd is that according to Calvinism the choice for any action made is God's by His immutable decree from eternity past, yet we are the ones that are held responsible for our actions, who are held guilty for our sins, and we will pay for it in Hell. This logic reminds me of Flip Wilson's character Geraldine Jones saying "the Devil made me do it" in order to justify her sinful actions.

In Calvinism no one can never come to an assurance of faith because all people are created for a decreed destination: Heaven or Hell, Salvation or Perdition. One who is created for eternal suffering in Hell and the Lake of Fire cannot be saved, and will not be allowed to come to Christ for salvation. Only those "decreed unto salvation" will be brought to belief in Christ, and that will not be of their own choice either. This is a complete distortion of the teaching of the Word of God. In John 3:16 we are told by the Lord Jesus Christ himself

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

That salvation is totally the work of God is clear in Scripture, for *"by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight"* (Romans 3:20). The Bible teaches us that are called and chosen by the Lord (John 15:16) although we are also told to choose life (Deuteronomy 30:19). We are drawn to Christ by the Father (John 6:44) and drawn to Him by His being lifted up, or crucified (John 12:32) but we must obey the Gospel and believe or choose to remain in unbelief. Life is given us by Christ who also prevents that life from being plucked from His hand (John 10:28) but nothing prevents us from becoming an apostate if we choose not to persevere. We do not just decide to be born again, the "when and where" is God's decision (John 1:13). Jesus *"gives life to whom He will"* (John 5:21) but He would have all come to repentance (2Peter 3:9). The Bible commands everyone to repent (Acts 3:19, 17:30) and to believe in Christ (Acts 16:31). If God only allows those decreed for repentance and rejects all others it is not a true offer of salvation. It is like having two kids standing in front of you and offering candy to both, but only giving it to one of them while telling

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Walk In The Spirit

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To reach the lost and bring them into the Kingdom of God requires that we return to *God's way* of building the Church, discarding man's methods with those given us by Jesus Christ who said "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"

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the other it was not an effectual offer, only a general offer. But I thank the Lord that He gives all of us the grace to repent if we so choose. Again we see "apparently" non-compatible doctrines that are both true. We just don't have the same viewpoint God has.

Whoever believes, or whosoever in the King James Version, is to be taken in the normal English usage in context of Scripture. It means *all* people that are called (and *all* are) and who believe in the Gospel are saved. It does not made any inference whatsoever concerning a previous decree unto election. All who believe in the Son of God and trust in the Gospel will have everlasting or eternal life. What of Jesus' statement in John 12:32?

"And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."

All are drawn to Him, *but the choice to bow at the foot of the Cross and to belief in Him as our Savior is ours.* Both the abilities to believe and to not believe are choices sovereignly bestowed upon us by our Creator. Therein lies our responsibility concerning the question asked by Christ "Who do you say I AM?"

The root of our proclivity towards returning to our sin is unbelief. We often do not without any reservation even believe or take heed to the biblical warnings, such as the one in Galatians 5:21 concerning the works of the flesh

"...that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."

This warning, softened and swept away by their rejection of the terms in Scripture becomes "losing your rewards" to the "Once Saved Always Saved" believer, rather than being cast into the Lake of Fire as the verse implies. But the verse emphatically states that those people who are practicing these things without their true repentance are going to Hell. This should not and cannot be diluted. Unrepentant habitual sins does far more than only cause a break in the person's fellowship with Christ, and following with only their loss of rewards. Unrepentant sin brings one's ultimate destruction and eternal separation from God in the Lake of Fire

Our hope in Christ lies in the first verse found above in the beginning:

"I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh"

Within each born again child of God the Holy Spirit dwells, leading us along the path of faith and righteousness, illuminating Truth and warning us away from the sin that would destroy us. He is our Teacher, our Counselor, the One who watches over our soul, and is also the One bringing us to the perfect transformation in becoming the image of Christ. We walk, or live purposely, in the Spirit by absorbing the Word of God through personal study and by being in prayer on a regular basis. It must become part of our being. We must learn to eat and breathe prayer and Bible study because we are transformed by the renewing of our mind according to Paul in Romans 12:2. The more of God's voice within us, the less we will listen to our own or to the voice of the Tempter. Look at the following verses:

Ephesians 5:8 *"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light..."*

Galatians 2:20 *"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."*

(Continued on page 11)

Walk In The Spirit

Bishop David Church

A close reading reveals portions of these statements are in the past tense: *you were once darkness* and *I have been crucified*. In darkness is how we lived as unregenerate sinners, and upon conversion our old nature was crucified with Christ. Presently, now as Christians, these verses state *now you are light* and *the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith*. If this is true, and it is since God is not a man that He should lie, we do not ever have to ever return to our old sinful habits. If we would not just give verbal assent to our position in Christ, but actually believe and walk in these Truths, we would well be on our way to fulfilling God's will for our lives to becoming conformed to the image of Christ. We will also be proving that we truly love Jesus by our obedience to His commandments. We are told in James "*Be doers of the Word and not hearers only.*" In love He gave Himself to the painful death on the Cross for our transgressions. Can we not love Him enough to obey His commandments as He asks?

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, and they are fornication, uncleanness, loose conduct, idolatry, practice of spiritism, enmities, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, contentions, divisions, sects, envies, drunken bouts, revelries, and things like these. As to these things I am forewarning YOU, the same way as I did forewarn YOU, that those who practice such things will not inherit God's kingdom.

Galatians 5:19-21

Allow Me to Introduce Myself



Dr. Rev. Miguel Contreras, PhD, ThD

My name is Miguel Angel Contreras . I am the founding and chairmen emeritus of the Federal Hispanic Law Enforcement Officers Association and the principal agent and representative of a class action lawsuit of discrimination filed in 1995 against the Legacy U.S. Customs Service, later reorganized into the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. In 2007, a U.S. District Court dismissed the class action on only one issue, the case, *Miguel A. Contreras, et al v. U.S. Department of Homeland Security* . I am a leader with a firm commitment to diverse ethnic communities worldwide and I have been recognized for my work ethics in the areas of leadership, civil rights advocate, social ethics, reform, and reconciliation. As a noted criminal justice, law enforcement, security management, and community leader for more than 30 years, my expertise and extensive background in these subject areas have resulted in my being called for consultation with various organizations on issues dealing with law enforcement, security management, U.S. Customs, U.S. immigration issues, society, and social justice. I served for 30 years with distinction as a Supervisory Criminal Investigator and as a journeyman criminal investigator with Federal Law Enforcement Agencies, such as the US Department of Homeland Security's Bureau of Immigration & Customs Enforcement, US Customs Service's Offices of Investigations and Internal Affairs, US Drug Enforcement Administration, US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms, US Immigration & Naturalization Service, and US Defense Investigative Service, . I served with the Lansing Police Department as a police officer and corrections officer with the Ingham County Sheriff's Department, Michigan, in the late 1970s. I retired from federal law enforcement service on October 4, 2006. I have lectured foreign national federal police personnel in national security issues, and has traveled to several countries as a Federal law enforcement official. I hold a Certified Protection Professional (CPP), designation granted by the American Society for Industrial Security, a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), designation granted by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, a Diplomat of the American Board of Law Enforcement Experts (DABLEE), designation granted by the American College of Forensic Examiners, and Certified Security Supervisor (CSS) and Certified Protection Officer (CPO), designations granted by the International Foundation for Protection Officers. I have been a driving-force of numerous coalitions across ideological, cultural and social spectrum, and have served on numerous local, regional and national boards assisting communities. I received my Associate Applied of Science degree and Associate in Business at Arizona Western College, and Lansing Community College, respectively, and a Bachelor's of Art degree in Criminal Justice Administration at Michigan State University, a Master in Theology and Apologetics, and a Doctor of Theology degree at Calvin School of Apologetics & Theology, a Master of Theology in Christian Counseling, a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Theology, and a Doctor in Theology in Pastoral Counseling at Northwestern Theological Seminary, . He also conducted advanced graduate studies in security management at the University of Leicester, Leicester, UK, . In January 2005, I received an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Northwestern Theological Seminary. I am a former minister and pastor with the Assemblies of God and have offered totally free Christian counseling and preached for free at the Crossroads Mission Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Center and at other locations in Yuma, AZ and nation-wide. I have always volunteered my pastoral, preaching or Christian Counseling services.

I turned 60 years-old...the Lord has been good to me...lots of blessings and some burdens...but with Him.....living a Christian life is a great joy! Dr. Rev. Miguel Contreras, PhD, ThD

Should Christians vote or be involved in politics?

The question has been asked, "If Christians should vote or be involved in politics?" I believe the answer is 'yes' and 'yes' and here is why.

We have a responsibility before the Lord to pray and find out who HE has appointed to serve. We are to respect that person because they will be God's servant to us. Then we are to "anoint" that person (as Samuel anointed David as king) with our vote that the kingdom's of this world might become the kingdoms of our God. David was a Jewish believer, worshiper and lover of the same God we serve. God sent Samuel the Prophet/Seer to anoint David above others to be King of Israel. God was interested in the politics of that day and chose who he wanted to lead Israel. These authorities are ministers to us and we in the USA have the right and privilege of choosing who our governmental ministers will be with the Lord's guidance.



Bishop
Nancy Drew

**Blessed
is the nation
whose God
is the LORD**

Psalms 33: 12

He is the one who puts kings in place and takes them out of place. We are God's ambassadors from heaven to earth. We must be faithful in that duty as our King has sent us whether to be voters or leaders. God has told us that blessed is the "nation" whose God is the Lord. Nation is a geographical term with boundaries including civil laws with administrators of those laws. The governing authorities come from God and were instituted by God as His servants. He appoints them. They are ministers of God to us. It is ours to pray to know

what He wants our involvement to be and how He wants us to vote to put into office those people that He desires.

"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority EXCEPT FROM GOD, and those that exist have been INSTITUTED BY GOD God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what GOD HAS APPOINTED, and those who resist will incur judgment. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, 4 for HE IS GOD'S SERVANT for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For HE IS THE AVENGER WHO CARRIES OUT GOD'S WRATH ON THE WRONGDOER. 5 Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, FOR THE AUTHORITIES ARE MINISTERS OF GOD, attending to this very thing. 7 Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, RESPECT TO WHOM RESPECT IS OWED, honor to whom honor is owed." (Romans 13:1-7)

Shining Light in Darkness



Rev. Dr. Thomas
Peavy Board Certified
Crisis Chaplain

Where is this nation going? I hear that question more and more often these days as events in our nation and the world seem to spin in a tornadic funnel of animosity and destruction. Commentators warn us of an angry electorate. Political parties rail against those who do not share their political and world view and the church divides itself along political, sectarian and denominational boundaries. Candidates for political office demagogue their opposition and resort to crude insensitive disingenuous attacks while their supporters resort to 1930's Brown Shirt-like tactics to intimidate and silence any who oppose or hold a challenging view. Gangs, unions, and so called Social Justice organizations championing politically motivated agendas spew hateful rhetoric and slogans, attack and kill peace officers, and destroy private and public property while being supported by public officials and activist bent on radical change of the social order.

These are indeed troubling times and a toxic-like darkness threatens societal fabric. Is there any wonder that many are afraid and ask is this nation and the world going to Hell? To many the toxicity is apparent in the greater US culture. Entertainment has become course and filled with hateful vulgar language and activity. The institutions of society are under assault. The church, Christians, the family, religious icons, businesses, marriage and a host of traditional institutions and organizations are fair game for insult, intimidation, ridicule and litigation.

Television, radio, social networks, and print media produce a chorus of visual, auditory and tactile opportunity to spread toxins into the psyche of the public. Scripted shows cheapen the institution of marriage, demean women and place value on the hedonistic self-abusing and godless behaviors of cast members in an attempt to have these become acceptable and desired.

I sit, listen and read in amazement about state legislative bodies attempting to craft legislation to protect ministers, priests and other clergy from litigation for daring to stand on God's word, their Ordination Questions and Vows and refusing to compromise on these foundations of their faith. I hear Clergy offer that one should not offer prayer in the name of Jesus or wear clerical attire for fear of offending others. I pray and I hope that this nation has not gone to a place where darkness rules and flesh overpowers. As I think about these and other situations I ask myself "What are you doing about it?" "Do you care?" I believe I/we should care because God cares.

Perhaps a revisit to Genesis may offer a place of beginning and the understanding of darkness. Genesis 1:2 says that in the beginning the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. Bad things happen in darkness and God's answer was "Let there be Light." Darkness cannot over power light.

To quote my pastor, "As God created the world, physical darkness was meant to function in harmony with light ... so that light and darkness could complement each other, work together in collaboration with each other but things changed and conditions arose to a place where darkness and light are at odds with each other. Eventually the struggle of light and darkness would permeate the whole realm of creation. It even permeated the spiritual realm into the war for the souls of humankind." My how man has come to the place where this disharmony is evident and to the place where there are few if any among the populace who will stand for the light.

In Ezekiel 22:30 God's word says "And I sought for a man among them that should make up the hedge and stand in the gap before me for the land that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

(Continued on page 15)

Shining Light in Darkness

(Continued from page 14)

There is a giant gap in this country, problems, wrongs, and darkness is everywhere. If we are true to ourselves, we must admit there are people in our lives, in the nation, and the world who try to instill in us fear to intimidate in hope of reducing the brilliance of God-given light. God wants the truth out. He wants His light to shine in the darkness. He needs good men and women to go forth and bring this nation, its people, and His churches back from the darkness.

As I think about the struggle between light and darkness I recall a portion of my pastor's sermon on this topic. He stated "For too long we have allowed ourselves to be drawn into a struggle over the light. We have been willing to sell out to the darkness in order to keep peace and be comfortable." When we look at the world in which we are living after and after such a long time of dimming down the light we find people are afraid, fearful, suspicious, and miserable because they have allowed darkness to control and now they are afraid to stand for the light.

In Psalm 94:16 we read "Who will rise up for me against the evildoers? Or who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity?" God asks the same question today. Who will rise up? In today's church there are many who see no harm in new designations, reimagining scriptures, reimagining God, adoption of creeds and confession in the name of diversity and adoption of secular and political agendas to curry favor and attract membership. The acceptance of the darkness is heard in words like it fits the world we live in and is so inclusive. These very efforts to compromise are secular and evidence of the darkness opening the door of opportunity for additional erosions.

On a recent drive home from church business in an adjoining state, I was thinking about the meeting I had just attended and I recalled many of the same accommodations to darkness I have noted and several more unique efforts at giving in to the secular. As I drove a verse that has been meaningful to me for some time seemed to play itself in my thought. I heard with clarity Isaiah 6:8 "And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, Whom shall I send? Who will go for us? Then I said Here Am I, send me." These are powerful words that should inform us. The battle for light cannot be waged by allowing darkness the upper hand. The battle must not allow physical, spiritual or psychological intimidation to keep us from shining our light. The forces of darkness not only want to overpower our light but if they can they will obliterate it.

To some the battle is unsettling and the importance is ignored. There is allowance for forces of evil, injustice, envy and other darkness to take away from our light. For some there is a loss of confidence, assurance and even trust in God. This must not be. Stop allowing darkness to gain the upper hand. Let us continue as those who have said, Here I am. Send me. We must understand and be firm in allowing our light to shine. Legislators cannot appropriate our light. Government cannot diminish our light. People and non-believers cannot silence our voice or shade our light. In Christ, God has given us light and that light is to shine at all times, especially around the darkness. We must not sell out the light God has given us to the world and human desires. We must stand as a challenge to the darkness even in our discomfort.

My thanks to the Rev, G. Taylor Brown and David J. Stewart for materials and ideas presented here.

All Praises be to God.

Rev, Thom

Most Christians View Their Faith as a Force for Good

Articles in Faith & Christianity • March 16, 2016

The recent furor over evangelical support for Donald Trump has illuminated the deep divisions among faith segments in America, particularly when it comes to politics. Though Barna's data shows Cruz as the preferred candidate among evangelicals during the primaries, there is still wide swaths of evangelical support for the controversial billionaire.

There are varying theories on Trump's growing popularity among the devout, but in an age of secularism and religious antagonism, when Christians are increasingly tense, it's no wonder support for a hardline candidate who vows to protect Christians, is growing. But, despite experiencing those tensions, people of faith are optimistic about their role in society.

In research conducted for David Kinnaman's new book *Good Faith*, Barna looked at how people of faith are feeling in society today. Though large numbers believe they are misunderstood, persecuted, and marginalized, most feel as though their faith is not only essential, but a force for good in today's world.

The Tension of Being a Person of Faith

Among those who consider themselves a "person of faith," Barna asked how they feel, personally, in society today. Looking at the broadest segment of practicing Christians, a group that includes Catholics, evangelicals, and mainline churchgoers, a majority say they feel misunderstood (54%), and persecuted (52%), while many others use terms like "marginalized" (44%), "sidelined" (40%), "silenced" (38%), "afraid to speak up" (31%), and "afraid to look stupid" (23%) to describe living their faith in today's world.

Millennial practicing Christians, in particular, are getting hit from all sides. They are more likely than other practicing Christians to feel the negative repercussions of their faith. Most feel persecuted (60%) and misunderstood (65%), and almost half (47%) say they feel "afraid to speak up." In addition to millennial practicing Christians, evangelicals are just as likely to perceive their experience of faith in culture in these negative terms. They feel equally as misunderstood (65%) and persecuted (60%) as millennial practicing Christians, and even feel slightly more silenced (50% compared to 46%) than their younger counterparts. Both groups report *relatively* higher than average numbers compared to the rest of the faith segments represented.

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Most Christians View Their Faith as a Force for Good

The Tension of Being a Person of Faith

Thinking about your faith, how do you feel, personally, in society today?

% "very" + "somewhat" accurate

	% US Adults	% Evangelicals	% Practicing Christians	% Practicing Christian Millennials	% Other Faiths
Misunderstood	41	65	54	65	57
Persecuted	33	60	52	60	45
Marginalized	31	53	44	48	33
Sidelined	29	48	40	59	36
Silenced	28	50	38	46	34
Afraid to speak up	23	32	31	47	22
Afraid to look stupid	19	21	23	38	19

Source: Barna OmniPoll, August 2015, *N* = 1,000
base: people who consider themselves a "person of faith"

Good Faith in Society

The majority of people of faith, even though they feel misunderstood, persecuted, and marginalized—and as Barna has reported more recently, are increasingly viewed as *extreme*—believe their faith is not only a force for good, but a *primarily* positive contribution to society. Large majorities of practicing Christians, especially millennials and evangelicals, report two confident attitudes: they feel they are a force for good, and they feel they are essential. Even the *lowest* percentage among each faith segment represented here who believe their faith is a force for good is nearly nine in 10 (88%).

Almost all evangelicals (98%) believe their faith is a force for good, and more than nine in 10 (93%) believe they are essential. However, evangelicals consistently report scores that differ from the other faith groups, providing valuable insight into this segment. For instance, evangelicals report the lowest levels of acceptance among all people of faith. A mere 57 percent feel they are accepted, 24 percent lower than all those who

Most Christians View Their Faith as a Force for Good

(Continued from page 17)

consider themselves a person of faith. In addition to that, only seven in 10 (71%) feel they are empowered, the second lowest percentage among the groups. Though these numbers are still fairly positive, they are *relatively* low among the various faith groups.

Evangelicals also feel their faith is distinctive at a rate much higher than average (86% compared to 60% among all people of faith). So although evangelicals appear confident about their faith and its potential as a force for good in the world, they feel more marginalized (less empowered, or accepted) than any other group. This is consistent with the previous table and the story it tells about evangelicals and their higher than average feelings of persecution and marginalization. It appears that evangelicals are more likely than any other faith segment to perceive they are losing cultural capital.

Practicing Christian millennials are another standout group for similar reasons. They are the group

Good Faith in Society

Thinking about your faith, how do you feel, personally, in society today?

% "very" + "somewhat" accurate

	% US Adults	% Evangelicals	% Practicing Christians	% Practicing Christian Millennials	% Other Faiths
A force for good	88	98	93	91	88
Accepted	81	57	78	74	61
Essential	75	93	86	77	76
Empowered	69	71	78	81	76
Distinctive	60	86	76	73	72
Countercultural	31	42	40	62	31

Source: Barna OmniPoll, August 2015, N = 1,000
base: people who consider themselves a "person of faith"

(Continued on page 17)

Most Christians View Their Faith as a Force for Good

most likely to feel as though their faith is countercultural, at over six in 10 (62%), a rate 20 percent higher than any other group. Coming of age in a more secular American context, it's not hard to imagine younger generations feeling more countercultural about their faith than the broader Christian population. Interestingly though, they are also more likely to feel empowered (81% compared to 69% among all people of faith) than the rest of the faith segments.

What the Research Means

"Believers are feeling significant pressure," says David Kinnaman, president of Barna Group and the lead designer and analyst on the study. "There is a shared sense that the cultural tide is turning against religious conviction, and people of faith are starting to feel the effects of this growing antagonism in tangible ways."

"It's encouraging to see how many Christians still feel optimistic about the positive role their faith can play in society today," continues Kinnaman. "So it makes sense that Christians feel frustrated when they possess something they feel is so good for the world, that ends up being marginalized."

"We see an inclination among Christians to either respond by forcing their beliefs or shrinking back from offering them, but living with good faith is the true way forward into an uncertain future," concludes Kinnaman. "This means being the people of God who, through the power of the Holy Spirit at work in us, help the world and the people in it to flourish."

Comment on this research and follow our work:

Twitter: @davidkinnaman | @roxyleestone | @barnagroup

Facebook: Barna Group

About the Research

The study on which these findings are based was conducted via online surveys from August 17 to August 21, 2015. A total of 1,000 interviews were conducted. The sample error is plus or minus 3.0 percentage points at the 95-percent confidence level. The completion rate was 66% percent.

Minimal statistical weighting was used to calibrate the sample to known population percentages in relation to demographic variables. The online study is derived from a probability panel, which means that respondents are recruited for inclusion in the research based on physical mailing addresses, not an opt-in online panel. Those randomly selected households without Internet access are provided an Internet-enabled device to complete surveys

"Evangelicals" are those who meet nine sets of criteria, including having made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ that is still important in their life today and believing that, when they die, they will go to heaven because they have confessed their sins and accepted Jesus Christ as their savior. The seven other conditions for evangelicals include saying their faith is very important in their life today; believing they have a personal responsibility to share their religious beliefs about Christ with non-Christians; believing that Satan exists; believing that Jesus Christ lived a sinless life on earth; asserting that the Bible is accurate in all that it teaches; believing that eternal salvation is possible only through grace, not works; and describing God as the all-knowing, all-powerful, perfect deity who created the universe and still rules it today. Being classified as an evangelical is not dependent upon church attendance or the denominational affiliation of the church attended. Respondents were not asked to describe themselves as "evangelical."

"Other faith" indicates respondents who self-identify with a religion other than Christianity.

"Practicing Christians" are self-identified Christians who have attended a church service in the past month and say their religious faith is very important in their life.

Will Your House Be Next?

In 1906 Revival broke out starting at a house where people met regularly for prayer and Bible Study. We in America are in desperate need of a new Jesus Revolution. We NEED an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. We NEED to be overwhelmed by the goodness of God. Many are saying that the judgment of God is coming to America. I think America has already been, not judged in the sense of wrath but chastized as a Country that God loves. The day, however, will come when, according to Holy Scripture, all nations will stand before Christ to be judged and their works displayed. But, now what we NEED is God Himself. It is amazing how God moves and that in 1906 He had His eye on this little group of people to use them for His purpose and to bless His people, this Nation and the whole earth. What great loving kindness and mercy Our God shows to us. COULD YOUR HOUSE BE NEXT? COULD GOD USE YOU TO BRING ASTOUNDING RENEWAL, JESUS REVOLUTION, AWAKENING TO US AGAIN? Lord, we call out to You, come to us, use us, according to Your glory! (Bishop Nancy Drew)



The Bonnie Brae House in Los Angeles is the place where the catalytic fire for the Azusa Street Re-

vival was first ignited. In those early meetings at the Asberry house on Bonnie Brae Street, there were only about fifteen people including children, many of them coming from Julia Hutchins' mission. Even though William J. Seymour had yet to receive the "evidence" of speaking in tongues, he continued to teach about it. On April 9, 1906, just before leaving



for the prayer meeting, Seymour's friend Edward Lee began to speak in tongues after he laid hands on and prayed for him. After this, Lee, Seymour, and the others walked the couple blocks up the street to the Asberry home on Bonnie Brae Street for the 7:30 p.m. prayer meeting.

There, a handful of African-American saints gathered together because they wanted to encounter God in a greater measure. They had a song, a few prayers, and several testimonies released. Seymour shared the testimony of how Lee spoke in tongues less than two hours before. He then began to preach from Acts 2:4:

Will Your House Be Next?

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.” Acts 2:1-4 (NIV)

Then something happened that they had all been waiting and longing for. God crashed into that meeting like never before and someone started to speak in tongues. Several others got baptized in the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues as well. Ruth Asberry’s cousin Jennie Evans Moore, who lived across the street, was resting on a stool, when she suddenly fell to the ground and began to speak in tongues. She is known as one of the first women in Los Angeles to speak in tongues during this time.

She recalled that it felt like a vessel broke inside of her and water “surged” through her entire being. When this rush came to her lips, she spoke in six different languages that she had seen earlier in a vision. These tongues were each interpreted in English. Following this release, Jennie, who had never played the piano before, walked over to the piano and played it under the anointing while singing in tongues. She recounted the story in an article called “Music from Heaven” in the Azusa Mission’s newspaper called The Apostolic Faith:

For years before this wonderful experience came to us, we as a family, were seeking to know the fullness of God, and He was filling us with His presence until we could hardly contain the power... On April 9, 1906, I was praising the Lord from the depths of my heart at home, and when the evening came and we attended the meeting the power of God fell and I was baptized in the Holy Ghost and fire, with the evidence of speaking in tongues...As I thought thereon and looked to God, it seemed as if a vessel broke within me and water surged up through my being, which when it reached my mouth came out in a torrent of speech in the languages which God had given me...I sang under the power of the Spirit in many languages, the interpretation both words and music which I had never before heard, and in the home where the meeting was being held, the Spirit led me to the piano, where I played and sang under inspiration, although I had not learned to play. (Jennie Moore, The Apostolic Faith 1:8 (312 Azusa Street, Los Angeles, CA: May, 1907), 3.

A few days later on April 12, 1906, Seymour spoke in tongues for the first time after tarrying with a white brother and not giving up until he “came through” at nearly four o’clock in the morning.

Crowds of both black and white people from Smale’s First New Testament Church, Hutchins’ mission, and other Holiness groups in the area came to the house on Bonnie Brae Street to see and partake in what God was doing. At one point, the house swelled with people so much that the front porch caved in. No one was injured, but they realized that they had outgrown the house and it was time to get a larger place. Within a week, they moved to a vacant building at 312 Azusa Street, which used to be a Methodist Episcopal church before it had been damaged by a fire.

*The above is an excerpt from new book "Ignite Azusa: Positioning for a New Jesus Revolution" with the following authors, Jennifer A. Miskov, Ph.D. (Destiny House), Heidi Baker, Ph.D. (Iris Global), Lou Engle (TheCall), and Bill Johnson (Bethel Church.)

Why is Good Friday called "good"

Why is Good Friday called "good" when what was done to Jesus was so horrible? Here's why:

Romans 5:8, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." First Peter 3:18 tells us, "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit."

The Bible does not tell us to remember Christ's death by observing a special day but gives us the liberty to do so. (Rom. 14:5) However, the Bible is not silent on remembering Christ's death. Here is what Jesus said, "and when He had given thanks, He broke it (bread) and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same manner He also took the cup (wine) after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes."

1 Corin. 11:24-26 Amen.

"But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed." Isaiah 53:5

"They took Jesus therefore: and he went out, bearing the cross for himself, unto the place called The place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew Golgotha: where they crucified him.." John 19:17

What Jesus did was for our good and His glory.



The "Back Page"

Now Thank We All Our God

*"The time has come," the Walrus said,
 "To talk of many things:
 Of shoes--and ships--and sealing-wax--
 Of cabbages--and kings--
 And why the sea is boiling hot--
 And whether pigs have wings."
 "But wait a bit," the Oysters cried,
 "Before we have our chat;
 For some of us are out of breath,
 And all of us are fat!"
 "No hurry!" said the Carpenter.
 They thanked him much for that.
 "A loaf of bread," the Walrus said,
 "Is what we chiefly need:
 Pepper and vinegar besides
 Are very good indeed--
 Now if you're ready, Oysters dear,
 We can begin to feed."
 "But not on us!" the Oysters cried,
 Turning a little blue.
 "After such kindness, that would be
 A dismal thing to do!"
 "The night is fine," the Walrus said.
 "Do you admire the view?"
 "It was so kind of you to come!
 And you are very nice!"
 The Carpenter said nothing but
 "Cut us another slice:
 I wish you were not quite so deaf--
 I've had to ask you twice!"
 "It seems a shame," the Walrus said,
 "To play them such a trick,
 After we've brought them out so far,
 And made them trot so quick!"
 The Carpenter said nothing but
 "The butter's spread too thick!"
 "I weep for you," the Walrus said:
 "I deeply sympathize."
 With sobs and tears he sorted out
 Those of the largest size,*

*Holding his pocket-handkerchief
 Before his streaming eyes.
 "O Oysters," said the Carpenter,
 "You've had a pleasant run!
 Shall we be trotting
 home again?"
 But answer came
 there none--
 And this was scarcely
 odd, because
 They'd eaten every
 one.
 The Walrus and The
 Carpenter
 Lewis Carroll*

If I didn't know any better I would say that is one of the candidates talking to voters they are trying to convince to vote for them.

I am afraid I find the Presidential field very underwhelming. I can't imagine supporting anyone running for President in 2016.

I imagine that is the way many people felt following Jesus's death on the cross. The leader they were following was dead, what were they going to do? Friday and Saturday must have been very dark indeed.

Then Sunday morning came! Jesus rose from the grave and lives!

Hope was restored and even better

salvation had been won! God is alive and well and is in command, command for those who follow Him and in command for those who fight Him.

In 2016 Society is trying to blot out all mention of God and His son Jesus Christ from the public venue.

Society wants God removed from our money, our buildings and our public events.

"The time has come," the Walrus said, "To talk of many things:



Steve & Teddy 9/28/1951

The very God that Society would wipe from our consciousness is the very God who loves the world so much that he sent His only Son to die on a cross for our salvation.

Society may turn it's back on God but God will not turn His back on Society. With the candidates to choose from it may seem like God is, what is really happening is what happens when Society turns it's back on God.

Prayer is what is needed right now, prayer for healing and prayer for guidance.

My candidate as always is Jesus Christ!

Pastor Steve

From the Editor

Deadline for Summer magazine is May 15, 2016. I will try and put it together in the best light and we will all praise God in the process. May the blessings of Christ be with you all. ED.



Is he done yet?

BUSINESS NAME

