

The Faithful Word

December 2009

“Proclaiming a Greater Victory”

Edition 85

Join Us For Service

Sunday Services

Sunday School: 9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship: 11:00 A.M.
Pastoral Teaching: 6:00 P.M.
Evening Worship: 7:30 P.M.

Tuesday Service

Prayer & Bible Band 10:00
A.M.

Wednesday Rehearsals

Youth Choir: 6:00 P.M.
Inspirational Choir: 7:30 P.M.

Thursday Services

Y.P.W.W.: 6:30 P.M.
Youth Service: 7:30 P.M.

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Greater Victory C.O.G.I.C.

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www.greatervictoryonline.org



Supt. George A. Martin &
Evangelist Ida Martin

From the Pastor's Desk

Obedience Requires Sacrifice

Reference Scriptures: I Samuel 15:22-23b; Mark 10:1722

*A selection submitted by Pastor Martin to help those in need.

All through history we have observed that people would rather do something than to be obedient to the Spirit of God. We would rather give material things to people than to love them. Monetary gifts are cheaper than love. We would rather give money to Jesus than to take up our cross and follow him. So, in this study we will emphasize the fact that obedience requires sacrifice.

Although obedience requires sacrifice, you cannot substitute sacrifice for obedience. In I Samuel 15:22-23b, we see the consequences of Saul's disobeying God to offer a sacrifice. God instructed Saul through Samuel that the Lord does not delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much in obeying the voice of the Lord. "To obey is better than sacrifice." Because Saul rejected the word of the Lord, the Lord rejected Saul as king. As disciples of Jesus, we must make sacrifices. However, our sacrifices must grow out of our obedience to

the Lord rather than a substitute for obedience.

In the Mark 10:1722 passage, we see that sincere submission is essential to salvation. In order to be saved, one must be willing to do whatever Jesus asks of him. Often Jesus asks us to do things that seem drastic to test where our affection is.

Disciples of Jesus must seek spiritual things above material or visible things. In both scriptures above, both Saul and the young man who came to Jesus had their minds focused on material things rather than spiritual things.

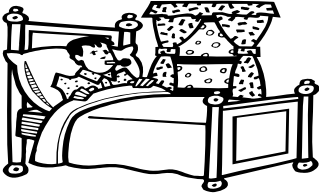




December

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 Dea. Develon Whitfield
 Sis. Brenda Smith
 Bro. William Schuler
 Bro. Ravon Steele
 Sis. Regina Byrd
 Dea. Dario Gordon
 Evg. Evelyn Tahiru

Sick and Shut-In



Please remember those who are sick and shut-in. Keep them in your prayers.

Sometimes a kind word, a phone call, or even a smile can make a world of difference.

*Please remember the Herndon family in prayer.

Message From the Sunday School

***If you know your Bible, the Sunday School needs you.

If you don't know your Bible, you need to come to Sunday School each Sunday morning at 9:30am.

Evangelist Stephanie Harris - Sunday School Supt.

Education Connection: How Dads Can Stay Involved Ideas for connecting with your kids at every age

Source: www.focusonthefamily.com

Preschool

- Go on a walk with your child, and collect leaves or other objects that reflect the changing seasons.
- Create habits that help you connect with your wife and kids, such as phone calls from work or special "daddy" time when you walk through the doorway at the end of the day.
- Post pictures of your children where you'll see them on the way home from work (on your car dashboard, for example). As you look at the pictures, tell yourself, "The next few hours are the most important in my entire day."
- Tell your child a funny story, using voices, motions, facial expressions and sound effects to make it come alive.
- What causes laughter and silliness in your daughter? What brings that mischievous grin to your son's face? Find out, and then capitalize on it for the benefit of your relationship.
- Get on your child's level — squatting, kneeling or lying on the floor — when talking to or playing with him or her.
- Carve out a few hours when you can give your child focused attention, doing nothing other than getting to know him or her better.
- Read a book with your child, asking lots of questions as you go.
- Be the one to jump up and help when your child has a need. Those are priceless opportunities — and Mom probably could use a break!

Elementary

- Clear some time this weekend, and ask your child, "What would you like to do together?"
- At your child's sports events, make it your goal to be conspicuously and contagiously positive. Set the tone with lots of encouragement and fun.
- Regularly walk or drive your child to or from school.
- Bring home a funny joke or stunt that you can enjoy with your children.
- Ask what skill your child would like to learn in the next year, then commit yourself to help him or her in that area.
- Go for a drive with your child, just to get away and spend time together.
- Do something special for milestones in your child's life, such as his or her 10th birthday.
- Be involved in your child's education — including helping with homework, practicing for sports or other activities, and attending school meetings and events.
- Volunteer for a day or half day at your child's school.
- Start regular daddy-daughter dates or one-on-one outings with your son.

Teen

- Commit to a vigorous outdoor activity over the weekend with your kids. Push the limits, and be creative.
- Listen to music that your child enjoys — keeping an open mind.
- Keep "dating" your daughter and scheduling fun activities with your son on a regular basis.
- Figure out how to have fun with your teen by immersing yourself in his world for an afternoon. Hang out together, read a book she likes, play his games, listen to her stories.
- Connect with other adults who play an important role in your child's life — coaches, teachers, youth leaders — and compare notes on how your child is progressing.
- Shock your son or daughter by doing something together on his or her "turf" — skateboarding, playing hoops at the park, going to the mall.
- Plan special rite-of-passage events when your child reaches milestone ages like 13, 16, 18.
- Tell your child you'll pay if he goes to a movie with you. Afterward, ask questions about the film's themes.



Giving Should Be Year-Round: Ideas for Generosity

Source: <http://www.crown.org/>

Many people in our communities and in our own congregations are struggling due to our recent economic crisis. This presents an opportunity for pastors to teach generosity in their churches, to bless those in need, and to show the love of Christ.

In Luke 16, Jesus tells the story of a rich man and a man named Lazarus. The Bible does not teach that it is a sin to be wealthy, nor was the rich man condemned simply because he had much. The rich man was punished because he put his faith in his possessions, not in God. He is an example of someone living in Man's Economy, where wealth, power, and possessions are the goals. He missed a great opportunity to make a difference in someone's life, to serve God, and to live in God's Economy, where peace, joy, and eternal blessings are given. We can learn an important lesson about generosity from this story.

See the Need. The need was right outside the rich man's door. Lazarus was laid daily at the rich man's gate (Luke 16:20). Many times, we don't have to look any further than our own congregations and communities to find a need. What are the needs in your sphere of influence?

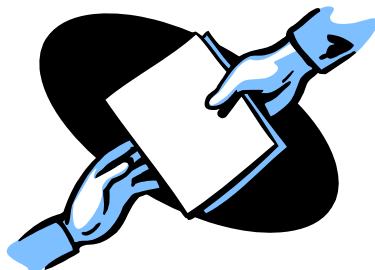
Share Your Resources. The rich man had plenty to eat, while Lazarus longed for the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table (Luke 16:21). We may not think we have much to offer, but God can use whatever He has given us to fill the needs around us. Giving of our time and talents is just as important as monetary gifts. What has God given you and your church that can be used for His glory?

Sow Seeds in the Next Generation. When the rich man understood his fate, he begged for someone to warn his five brothers who were still alive (Luke 16:27-28). He realized that because of the way he had lived before them, his five brothers would most certainly end up in the same place of eternal torment. What kind of legacy are we leaving for the

younger generations? Be sure to include the teenagers and children of your congregation in your plans to give. Teach them to bless others by being generous themselves.

Ideas for Generosity:

- Have a canned food drive to stock your church's pantry or a local food bank.
- Host a Thanksgiving meal for international students who are away from their families.
- "Adopt" a local family and provide Christmas gifts, clothing, and food. Check with your neighborhood school resource counselor for a list of needy families.
- Offer a day of free babysitting for single parents to do shopping.
- Have teens do yard and household chores for the elderly and single moms.
- Have teens and children create handmade cards for a local children's hospital, children's home, or nursing home.
- Organize a neighborhood blood drive. Host it at the church's fellowship building, offering free juice and cookies to participants.
- Host an indoor yard sale in your fellowship building. Ask church members to bring items to sale. Donate all of the proceeds to a local charity.
- Host a "New Year's Resolution" workshop at your church. Invite a registered dietician, a physical fitness expert, and a budget coach to offer tips.



MESSAGE BOARD

A Message From the YPWW President:

Come and be blessed. Study to show thyself approved unto God. **Every Thursday Night at 6:30pm**

(Youth Service immediately following @ 7:30pm)

Leap Through the Fire Faith Ministries presents...

Resources for Single Parent Families And the Community



Programs:

Easter: Food Basket
Mother's Day: Food Basket
Thanksgiving: Food Basket
Christmas: Food Basket & Toy Drive

Resources:

Here are just some of the resources and referrals we provide...

Clothing Assistance (Clothes Closet)

New Mother Assistance

Shelter/Housing Assistance

Utility Payment Assistance

Educational/Training Assistance

Financial Education

Car Seat Program

Nutrition Program

Food Pantry

Job Assistance

Job Training

Vehicle Repair and Purchase Assistance

Works with Parents to keep children out of the Foster Care and CPS Systems

Troubled and At-Risk Youth Assistance

Classes Offered:

Parenting

Survival Skills for Healthy Families

Within My Reach

Love U2 (Youth & Young Adults)

Motheread/Fatheread Curriculum

RAISING A HAPPY HEALTHY FAMILY Community Reading, Exercising, and Learning Services

Kickoff Program

CLASSES WILL BEGIN January 7, 2010

*Donation Items Raffle!!!

*Pre-Registration Sign-Up

*Refreshments Served

*Giveways Books for Children

*Plus Learning Tools

*FIRST 5 – San Bernardino

For More Information

Phone: 909-475-5656

Cell: 909-648-5118

1182 E. Highland Ave.

San Bernardino, CA 92404

Inspirational Thought:



"We believe the Word of God; therefore we do the Word of God."

– Frederick K.C. Price

Reference Scripture: "...I will show you my faith by what I do."
(James 2:18b NIV)



Health Wise: H1N1 Is a New Flu

*Read the full article at: <http://kidshealth.org/>

Usually, we think about just one kind of flu during flu season. But this year, you'll hear about two: regular (or seasonal) flu and H1N1 (swine) flu. Seasonal flu comes around every year and there's a vaccine (shot) for it. The H1N1 virus is new and there's a vaccine for it, too. The vaccine will be different from the seasonal flu shot that many kids and grownups get. So to be protected against both H1N1 and the regular flu, a kid will need both. For the H1N1 virus, flu mist — a vaccine that gets sprayed up your nose — is expected to be available first, so if you don't like shots, you may be in luck.

Health experts say the H1N1 vaccine is a good idea, especially for young people. New viruses like this one are unpredictable and more people get the flu in the fall and winter. If we can keep people from getting it in the first place, that would be good for all of us. Last spring, H1N1 (swine) flu was all over the news. The virus spread from Mexico and eventually people in the United States and other countries also got sick. Most people got better after having a fever, sore throat, and body aches, similar to the symptoms of the seasonal flu. But people who have other health problems may get very sick from this flu. Health officials consider the swine flu a **pandemic**. That means the H1N1 virus has spread throughout the world, can make people very sick, and can spread easily from one person to another.

Washing Hands Is Best Defense

Most kids want to know: Should I worry or not worry about this flu? Medical experts say instead of worrying, **wash your hands!** Worry won't keep you from getting the flu (or any infectious disease), but good hand-washing often can keep you healthy.

A virus is a germ, as you probably know, and germs are too small to be seen. Keeping your hands clean — and following other good habits like not sharing drinks and keeping your fingers out of your mouth, nose and eyes — can help protect you from germs.

Another way to be helpful is for sick people to stay home from school (if you're a kid) or work (if you're a grownup).

Symptoms of H1N1 (swine) flu include a **fever** plus one or more of these:
cough, sore throat, runny nose
body aches, headaches, tiredness



A person who has the H1N1 virus also might throw up or have diarrhea. Be sure to tell a parent if you're not feeling well. Most people who catch the H1N1 virus will get better on their own, but if someone has a medical condition, like asthma or diabetes, or is very sick and needs to be hospitalized, antiviral medicine might help the person get better faster.

What You Can Do

Here are some everyday steps you can take to stay well:

- Avoid people who are sick (coughing, fever, etc.).
- Try to avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. That's how germs get in your body.
- Don't drink out of the same cup or share utensils (forks, spoons) with other people.

Just the Facts

News reports about the H1N1 virus may make you confused or worried. Because this is a new illness, the news covers both what **has happened** and what **might happen** in the worst-case scenario. Because you'll be hearing more about H1N1, we recommend a "just the facts" approach.

Did you ever hear a TV detective say, "Just the facts, ma'am?" That means we stick with what we know and make decisions based on that. And if you get sick, just tell your mom or dad. With some help from your doctor, a parent can decide if you need to stay home from school. Expect to hear about the H1N1 virus for a while. It may be months before we know the whole story and how many people it will affect. In the meantime, keep those hands clean and be sure to tell your mom or dad if you have any concerns.



*****Newsletter Staff*****

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WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

"Great minds discuss ideas;
Average minds discuss events;
Small minds discuss people."

-Eleanor Roosevelt

*US diplomat & reformer
(1884 - 1962)*

Calendar Events

December Events:

- 14th – WFC 7p
 - 17th – Pastor & Wife Annual Fellowship Dinner w/ Bishop
 - 18th – Youth Dept Christmas Party 7p
 - 18th – Singles' Christmas Party 6p
 - 19th – Couples' Christmas Party 6p
 - 20th – Church Christmas Party 3p
 - 25th – **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**
 - 31st – Watch Night Service 9p
- January 1, 2010**
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Friday Night Fire Highlights

We would like to thank all those who came out and supported our last Friday Night Fire of 2009. We truly had a time in the Lord. Chairlady Hawley tore the house down. If you weren't there you truly missed a treat. We would also like to thank all those who took part in serving after service you all are greatly

Words from Our Youth Minister – Elder L.D. Hawley

I want to thank everyone who supports the youth department. We have a lot of activities planned for the youth this year and the Lord is truly going to bless. So, youth don't stay home, come out and get involved. The bible say's "I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day. The night cometh, when no man can work" John 9:4.



THINGS TO REMEMBER

The Christmas Party is Thursday December 18, 2009. Everyone is asked to bring a \$1 gift.

READ! READ! READ!

Youth please don't forget we are still reading the New Testament. We are asking that you all finish up by January. If you're having trouble don't give up you can do it. If you need help every Thursday night at 5:30 we will be having an audio reading of the New Testament.

Also, please remember that this month the youth will be learning **Psalms 1**. Parents please encourage your youth to learn this passage. For those who learn it there will be an incentive.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY!

The Institute for Responsible Citizenship is currently accepting applications for its summer leadership program in Washington, DC. The Institute provides America's best and brightest African American male college students with unparalleled networking opportunities, leadership development, and life-long mentorship.

PROGRAM DETAILS

- The program runs from June 5 to July 31, 2010
- Students must commit to two- Summers
- Housing is paid for by the Institute
- Students work at paid internships based on their career interest



You should be a **college sophomore** to apply. The Institute does not have a GPA requirement. However, the median GPA for recent classes is 3.65.

An applicant's GPA is not the only criterion that is evaluated during the admissions process. Campus involvement, awards earned, athletics, and volunteer work are also important factors.

The application can be found on the web at www.i4rc.org/application.htm. Applications must be **received, not postmarked**, by the deadline. Inquiries should be directed to info@i4rc.org or (202) 659-2831.

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2010

We Inspire the best and brightest African American men to be men of great character who will makesignificant contributions to their communities, their country, and the world.





Kids Korner

Directions: Unscramble the words within the parenthesis. All verses are shown in Bible verse order.

- 1. Psalms 34: 19,** Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the ___ ___ ___ ___ (droL) delivereth him out of them ___ ___ ___ (lal).
- 2. Psalms 33: 12,** ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ (essedlb) - happy, fortunate [to be envied] - is the nation whose God is the ___ ___ ___ ___ (ordL), the people He has chosen as His heritage.
- 3. Psalms 34: 17,** When the righteous cry for help, the Lord ___ ___ ___ ___ (earhs), and delivers them out of all ___ ___ ___ ___ (reih) distress and troubles.
- 4. Romans 6,** For the ___ ___ ___ ___ (wgaes) of sin is death; but the ___ ___ ___ ___ (ftig) of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Source: <http://applesaucekids.com/Puzzles/EaScrLet.html>)

The Story of the Candy Cane

Long ago there were two villages in a far-off land. One was in a valley, and one was on a mountain top. The people in the mountain village wanted to give each person in the valley a Christmas gift. So the mountain townspeople formed a committee to think of something special. Money was limited, and each gift had to be of equal value to each person. After much time and discussion a decision was finally reached. The town's candy maker, an elderly gentleman who had loved Jesus for many years, came up with an idea - the candy cane. Now, you may be thinking, what is so special about a candy cane - and how can it ever be tied in with the real meaning of Christmas? Well, here is how - and why...

- 1. The candy cane is in the shape of a shepherd's staff.** Jesus is our Shepherd, and we are His flock. A sheep follows his own shepherd, knows his voice, trusts him and knows that he is totally safe with him. The sheep will follow no other shepherd than their own. In the same way, if we belong to Jesus, we are to follow only Him. (John 10:11; Psalm 23:1; Isaiah 40:11)
- 2. Turned over, the candy cane is a "J,"** the first letter of Jesus' name. (Luke 1:31) It is made of hard candy to remind us that Christ is the "rock" of our salvation.
- 3. The wide red stripes on the candy cane represent the blood Jesus shed on the cross** for each one of us so that we can have eternal life through Him. He restores us and cleans us with His shed blood - the only thing that can wash away our sin. (Luke 22:20)
- 4. The white stripes on the candy cane represent Jesus' virgin birth and His pure, sinless life.** He is the only human being ever who never committed a single sin, even though He was tempted just as we are. (1 Peter 2:22)
- 5. The narrow red stripes on candy canes symbolize Jesus' stripes,** or scars, which He got when He was arrested and whipped. The Bible says we are healed (of sin) because He took those wounds. (Isaiah 53:5; 1 Peter 2:24)
- 6. The flavoring in the candy cane is peppermint, which is similar to hyssop.** Hyssop is of the mint family and was used in Old Testament times for purification and sacrifice. (John 19:29; Psalm 51:7)
- 7. When we break our candy cane, it reminds us that Jesus' body was broken for us.** When we have communion, it is a reminder of what He did for us. (1 Corinthians 11:24)
- 8. AND, if we share our candy cane and give some to someone else because we love that person, we are sharing the love of Jesus.** (1 John 4:7,8) God gave Himself to us when He sent Jesus to earth to save us. He loves us so much that He wants us to spend eternity with Him. We are assured of that when we accept Jesus into our hearts as our Savior. (John 1:12; John 3:3,16)

Some people believe this story of the candy cane is only a legend. Others believe it really happened this way. We do not know for sure exactly how the candy cane was invented, but one thing is certain... it is an excellent picture of Christ and His love for you.

You can accept Jesus into your heart through a prayer like this:

Dear God, Thank You for loving me enough to send Jesus for Christmas. I believe Jesus died for my sins, and I accept Him now as my Savior. I promise to follow Him and share His love with others the best that I can. Amen.

