

CHRISTIAN CENTER

EQUIP ~ ENGAGE ~ EDIFY

for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, Ephesians 4:12



PASTOR STEVE MELLOR

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given...

As we approach Christmas, I think of the many things there are to appreciate about this time of year - the "Christmas cheer" and well wishes among friends, the Christmas carols heard throughout malls and supermarkets, the nativity scenes spread across towns and in homes - all of these are reminders of the birth of Jesus. I was reminded recently of how God used the Hebrew calendar in Old Testament times to remind Israel of precious truths. Passover reminded them of their deliverance from the bonds of Egypt. Tabernacles reminded them of God's special presence with them in the wilderness. The Day of Atonement reminded them of their sin and God's holiness. For us, this Christmas season, the carols, and the nativity scenes all serve as reminders to us of the birth of Jesus. "Unto us a Child is born."

As we ponder the wonder of Christmas and of God's only Son coming into this world, we are reminded of why He came. "Unto us a Son is given." - given to us as a sacrifice. The blessing of Christ's birth leads us to His death on the cross. He died for us, for our sins, to save us, to take the punishment for our sin and to give His life so that we could live.

But it doesn't end there. When the angel Gabriel told Mary that she would bear the Savior of the world, He told her that Christ's kingdom would never end (Luke 1:33). Jesus was born to us in a manger, He was given to us on the cross, He rose victorious from the grave, and one day He will rule a kingdom that will never end.

So, as we celebrate this special season of Christmas, we rest in the truth and meditate on the reality that Jesus was born in a lowly manger, born to suffer and die, born to save, and born to rise victorious and reign as King forever.

Pastor Steve

PATRICIA FORDEM

**December 6th, 1932-
June 24th, 2019**

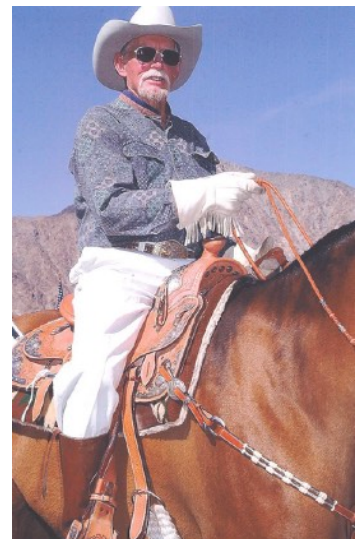
Our dear sister, Pat Fordem, went to be with the Lord on June 24th after a long fruitful life. Pat was a blessing to our church family and to all she came in contact with. We look forward to the day we will all be reunited in the presence of our Lord.



LES LEVIE

**November 24, 1925 -
September 28, 2019**

Our brother, patriot and end-times enthusiast, Les Levie went to be with the Lord September 28th, 2019. Les' presence at the Christian Center is truly missed, yet we are rejoicing with Him that He is in the presence of the Savior. You can find the recording of his memorial on our YouTube channel.



MEN'S MINISTRY

BY PAUL PALASZEWSKI

"Your kingdom come, Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven." Matthew 6:10

Our weekly 7am Saturday morning breakfast and Bible study is in full swing with many familiar faces returning from northern climes and some new faces as well.

We have just completed what was an exceptionally motivating and oft times convicting study in the Book of Nehemiah. In the middle of one of our sessions a brother interjected passionately, "This is exactly what we see going on in the world today!" reminding us just how timeless and eternally relevant are the truths revealed in the Word of God.

And truth is the focus of our recently launched study of the Letters of 1,2, and 3 John as the beloved elder battles the heretical teachers of his day by clearly contrasting truth vs. lies, light vs. dark, love vs. hate, and life vs. death. It is just such clarity we desperately need to bring to the world today.

We are excited to announce our annual men's retreat at the beautiful Calvary Chapel Christian Conference Center in Murrieta from January 30th to February 2nd. It is an excellent opportunity for us to separate from the world and consecrate ourselves to the Lord in a special way, fulfilling the call to "be Holy as He is Holy." The theme of our Bible centered weekend is "Kingdom Come" as we explore together the Sermon on the Mount and learn just what it means to be fellow citizens of this new Kingdom inaugurated by Jesus. In addition to fellowship building activities like hiking, golf, and communal mineral bath soaking, there will be time to be alone with the Lord and engage in guided private devotionals.

Come join your fellow pilgrims on this wonderful Christian journey!



Paul Palaszewski

CONTENTMENT IS GREAT GAIN

BY RYAN LYNN



"1 Timothy 6:6-8- Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content."

"Godliness with contentment is great gain," this is the secret to achieve true wealth! We can fixate on what we don't have that we fail to see that we are already surrounded in a sea of blessings. My favorite holiday of the year is Thanksgiving because contentment, thankfulness, and fellowship is traditionally how we celebrate. Yet, the world has crept the greed of commercial Christmas earlier into the year. Now, families finish their Thanksgiving meals early to head to the department store for a cheap door buster they will forget about in a few short months. We have lost the discipline of contentment. How long did we appreciate the gifts we received last Christmas?

Paul reminds us, for we brought nothing into the world, and it certain we can carry nothing out. Nothing in this life will last, Jesus is the only gift we can ever receive that will stand the test of time. He is all that you ever need but is He all you want?

Hebrews 13:5-Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Jesus is asking you, "am I enough?" If Jesus is all that you have then you have all that you will ever need. Where are we investing our affections? Are we looking to what He holds in His hand or are we looking to hold His hand? Let Jesus satisfy all of your deepest longings and you will discover gain beyond your understanding.

We are looking forward to 2020 in the Youth Ministry! We have camps and Truth Quest just on the horizon. God has been doing foundational work in the hearts of the students this year. There is an authentic desire to know Jesus and to live in Christian community. We appreciate all of your prayers and support!

Ryan Lynn

WOMEN'S MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

BY DEBIE DILLAHUNT



What a joy it is to study God's Word together!

We have finished 1 Peter and will be wrapping up 2 Peter soon. In 1 Peter we were reminded that as believers we have an incorruptible inheritance that is kept in heaven for us - we have a guaranteed reservation!

Peter encourages us to love one another deeply and to crave the Word of God so we can grow spiritually. Having a close relationship with the Lord gives us strength and encouragement as we face the inevitable trials of life. Jesus is our LIVING HOPE!

In 2 Peter we are reminded that God has given us **"everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness."** 2 Peter 1:3 Peter reminds us to be aware of false teachers who introduce destructive heresies - all the more reason to be grounded in God's Word so we can recognize what is true and what is false.

We have such a sweet time together each week as we praise the Lord in song, read His Word, pray, and encourage one another in our walk with Jesus. May God bless you richly this Christmas and always. You are SO LOVED!

"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" 2 Corinthians 9:15

Love and Blessings,

Debie Dillahunt



SO BLESSED TO HAVE FUENTE DE VIDA FROM CALVARY CHAPEL CHINO VALLEY SHARING AT THIS YEAR'S HARVEST FESTIVAL

WOMEN'S HOME FELLOWSHIP



BY DENISE SCHMADERER

Hi Ladies,

What an awesome time of year as we celebrate Jesus' birth! As I ponder all that that means, it fills me with such wonderment. I am so humbled that the King of Kings chose to be born in the flesh, walk the earth He created and die only to rise again, all because He loved us so much that He wanted to provide the way for us to spend eternity with Him!

At the same time I realize this can be a very hard time of year for those of us who have lost some of the most beloved people to us. We can feel so lonely this time of year. But we are never alone! Jesus abides in us! This is one of about a million things I love about 1,2,3 John.

1 John 2:24 ESV "Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father." What have we heard from the beginning? (I'm paraphrasing) That if we believe that Jesus' death for sin and his defeat of death gives us eternal life, then He abides in us! We are never alone!

My ESV translation uses the word abide. Kelly (the author of the study we're doing) shares that different English words are used at different times depending on your translation but they all derive from the same Greek word meno, which can mean: "not to depart; to continue, to be present: to be held, kept, continually; to continue to be, not to perish, to last, endure." Or from Strong's concordance: "to stay (in a given place, state, relation or expectancy). ahhh deep sigh...

She then asks "In a world where so much is changing and in constant flux, what part of the definition of meno means the most to you?"

My answer:

All of them are comforting. I can abide in Him. I am held, kept. I can endure. He will not depart from me. I can continue, be present. I will not perish. He abides in me and I in Him, I am never alone!!

I pray you all have a blessed Christmas and a happy healthy new year as you abide in Him! We will meet again at my house Monday January 6th, 6pm. Please come!

Blessings,

Denise Schmaderer



TRIP TO KENYA

BY JOANNA MELLOR

At the end of July, I left Borrego Springs and my church family at the Christian Center to journey halfway across the world to Chogoria, Kenya. Now, five months later, I am at home again, looking back on an amazing experience and reflecting on memories that will last a lifetime. I think back on the verse that I felt the Lord lay on my heart when I decided to go to Kenya, **Deuteronomy 28:6: "Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out."** As I consider my time in Chogoria, I feel that, by the grace of God, I was blessed when I went in and blessed when I went out.

There were so many wonderful blessings while I was there, it would be impossible to write them all in one article, but I would like to share a few of the most special blessings from my time in Chogoria. Some of my most treasured moments were spent teaching piano to the Webbers' two oldest children, Lucy and Olive. When I first arrived, they knew nothing of piano, but by the time I left, they were playing a duet of "Joy to the World" together.

I also had the blessing of getting to know a Burundian lady named Africa and her family. We got to play the piano together, sing on the worship team together, and spend time together. I was beyond blessed to get to know this amazing family and I am so excited to see where God takes them in the near future and the far future.

As I am getting back into the rhythm of life here at home, I was thinking about Deuteronomy 28:6 and about the verses prior to it. One part that stood out to me is in verse two, which says, "And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God." It's not just that we will be blessed no matter what we do, no matter where we go, no matter who we serve. Instead, we will be blessed when we obey the voice of our Lord and Savior - when we do what He has commanded, when we go where He calls us, when we serve Him alone.

Thank you so much for all your support and prayers during the last five months! May God bless you all abundantly as you seek to serve Him.

Joanna Mellor



Contact Us

THE CHRISTIAN CENTER

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UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 22ND

5:00 P.M.

CAROLING

DECEMBER 24TH

6:00 P.M.

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

JANUARY 24TH-26TH

HIGH SCHOOL CAMP

JANUARY 31ST-

FEBRUARY 2ND

MEN'S RETREAT

FEBRUARY 21ST - 23RD

WOMEN'S RETREAT

FEBRUARY 28TH-

MARCH 1ST

JR. HIGH CAMP