

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; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

"Unto us". As we prepare for this Christmas season let's remember that Jesus came to this earth for us. We are the ones that needed a Savior to set us free from the bondage of sin, which leads to death. "For God so loved the world . . ." It is because God loved us so much that He "sent His only begotten Son" into this world so that we can be saved. Because He lives, we will live also. We will have life eternal, but also an abundant life that starts right here on earth: a life that is filled with meaning and purpose, a life that brings glory to our great God and Savior, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

We are studying the book of Romans on Wednesday nights. Chapter 12 begins...

Romans 12:1 -I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

To present our bodies means to surrender ourselves to God's purpose and plan for our lives. It is like the burnt offerings under the old covenant; they were totally consumed upon the altar. In like manner we give every bit of ourselves to God, to love Him with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. We follow His plan and purpose for our lives and that is when we truly find the abundant life that is worth living. In this way we bring honor and glory to the One who loved us with an everlasting love and paid the ultimate sacrifice to bring us to Him. For "unto us" a Child is born.

May God bless you abundantly as you live for Him.

Pastor Steve



SALT AND LIGHT MINISTRY

BY JIM AND KAT TAPSCOTT

With the election behind us, we are excited to start a new study using the following two books:

- *The 5000 Year Leap (Principles of Freedom 101)* by W. Cleon Skousen
- *The Light and the Glory* by Peter Marshall and David Manuel

Two and a half centuries after the founding of this nation, the key to the moral and spiritual crisis now plaguing this country remains: ***Did God have a plan for America?***

We will be discussing sources for the books and a schedule at our first meeting on December 2nd. Salt and Light 8 a.m. meetings will continue to be on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month except we will stop them to attend John Bitner's 8-week study starting January 13th. Kathy and I will attend John's study and hope that many of you will do so also. The Lord has much in store for all of us in 2019 and we look forward to growing together in His constant and revealing Word. Please join us!

"However, when He the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on his own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come." John 16:13

With Love in Jesus' Name,

Jim and Kat Tapscott



MEN'S MINISTRY

BY PAUL PALASZEWSKI

"For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen."
Romans 11:36

As our headline verse makes clear, it's not about us; rather it is all about God and His glory. From February 1st - 3rd the Christian Center men have a unique opportunity to truly put God first and in a special way and to give Him the glory He deserves as we partake in our annual retreat at the Calvary Chapel Christian Conference Center in Murrieta. We will have a blessed weekend of inspiration, edification, and transformation as we join together in worship, fellowship, and time in God's word. There will also be delicious food, inviting hot springs, fun recreational activities, or if that is what your soul craves, sweet solitude on the tranquil campus. The theme for this year's retreat will be announced shortly.

Our weekly 7am Saturday morning Men's Breakfast and Bible Study is in full swing as we approach the climactic chapters of the Book of Hebrews, presenting Jesus as the perfect High Priest, the perfect mediator between sinful man and holy God. One of the many exhortations in this letter is to "consider one another in order to stir up love and good works." (Hebrews 10:24) Indeed we have experienced an outpouring of such love as we stand with our brother Gary and his wife Shauna who find themselves in the midst of a difficult life challenge. The spiritual, emotional, and material support the brothers have lent to Gary and Shauna has been returned 100-fold as we witness their great faith and the mighty hand of God at work in their lives.

We invite you to enter into the story. Sign up for our retreat or join us for breakfast and experience for yourself the wonderful work that the Lord is doing in and through our men.



**SAVE THE DATE:
MEN'S RETREAT 2019
FEBRUARY 1ST-3RD**



Paul Palaszewski



WOMEN'S MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

BY DEBIE DILLAHUNT

We have been gleaming some wonderful examples of God's faithfulness and provision from the Book of Ruth as we study Walking With My Redeemer by Sue LeBoutillier. We've just finished the segment where Boaz has shown Ruth kindness and compassion as he provides for her and Naomi. It's such a beautiful picture of Jesus as He protects, loves and provides for us.

In my Bible, a portion of the introduction to the Book of Ruth reads: *"In his generous, redemptive actions, Boaz becomes a forerunner of the ultimate Kinsman-Redeemer, Jesus Christ, who redeems His bride, the church, so that His people might have a life and a future."* The story of Ruth *"exemplifies genuine selfless love at its best..."* Ruth made a decision - she 'purposed in her heart' to follow a new path. Like Ruth, we are made new by our decision to follow God and 'Walk with our Redeemer'.

It's such a joy to study the Bible together! We have a wonderful time as we study God's Word, praise Him in song, and enjoy sweet fellowship. It's never too late to join us - there will always be a seat for you!

"May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge." Ruth 2:12 NIV

Love and Blessings,

Debie Dillahunt

WOMEN'S HOME FELLOWSHIP

BY DENISE SCHMADERER

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends! Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays. Jesus is so good to remind me of all the things I have been blessed with to be thankful for!



One of the many blessings is the Monday night bible study. As we go through 2 Corinthians the richness of God's word is just so amazing. I know I have said this before but His word is alive. No matter how many times I may have read a verse, God is so faithful to show me yet another truth within it to apply to my life!! And wow, how the Lord uses Paul to bring His word to us. What a humble, God-fearing, loving man of God Paul was!

I am loving this study and loving spending time with all the ladies who come. Our worship has been awesome, our time of reading God's word and sharing what He has shown us brings us closer together and being able to pray with and for one another is such a true blessing. It's just amazing that the Creator of the universe desires to have a relationship with each and every one of us!

I would encourage you to please come Monday nights at 6 pm, it's not too late to join us! We will be meeting every Monday night through Dec 17th and then break Dec 24th & 31st and meet back together again on January 7th.

Praying you all have a wonderful Christmas season, remembering, Jesus is the true reason for the season!!

Blessings,

Denise Schmaderer



FINANCIAL CLASS

BY JOHN BITNER

Finances: Blessed, but looking for direction? Struggling, and needing answers? Join us for "Discovering God's Way of Handling Money." This eight-week video series class from Crown Financial will be starting Sunday, January 13th at 8am.

Learn God's way, using the Bible as a blueprint for managing your finances. Did you know there are more than 2,350 verses that address everything you need to know about handling money? Not only is "Discovering God's Way of Handling Money" practical, you will learn the profound impact managing money has on your relationship with God.

Everyone will need the workbook which has a cost of \$10. Sign up sheet is in the foyer. Look forward to taking the class with you.

John Bitner

YOUTH MINISTRY

BY RYAN LYNN



Every year I think, "This year will be different, this year I am going to make a priority of the important. I will not be busy with things that don't matter." Over the course of the year, I often lose this

perspective but I am so thankful for the Lord's faithfulness. He recently reminded me, "value the valuable." What is more valuable than Jesus Christ? Don't settle for any substitute, whether that be ministry, family, wealth, or whatever false god you may erect for yourself.

In his book Replenish, Lance Witt pointedly put it this way: "Jesus is an incredible gift to us. And as people in ministry we get the privilege of carrying that gift to the world. Our ministry can be likened to the box and wrapping paper and bow. Our size and style of wrapping paper and boxes vary from ministry to ministry, but we're all trying to deliver the



same gift. Never lose sight of the fact that the box (the ministry) is not as valuable as the gift (Jesus). And the only reason the box exists is to deliver the gift. You have dedicated your life to the gift, not the box."

It so easy to celebrate CHRISTmas without Christ being a factor in our celebration. Jesus is truly the reason for...everything. Remember to value the valuable in your life and homes this year.



5TH QUARTER

The Youth Ministry had a wonderful Autumn full of memories and growth. We just finished the book of Genesis and are now journeying with the Children of Israel through the book of Exodus. Our Winter Camps are just around the corner. Let me know if you would like to scholarship students to camp. Thank you for your support and prayers! God is doing mighty things in the next generation.

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

Pastor Ryan



BACKYARD MOVIE NIGHTS



WORK PARTY

Thank you to all who helped lay the DG for the outside table project area!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

BY MARIAN MELLOR

Romans 12:1-2 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

I am really excited that the children of the Christian Center will be able to sing for you on December 23rd at the morning service! They will be singing "The Little Drummer Boy", which is one of my favorite Christmas songs because it speaks of "giving" to Jesus from what we have. The little drummer boy didn't have gold, frankincense or myrrh to give the little King as the wise men did, but he did have a drum that he could play, and so play he did.



I have often felt like I didn't have much to offer to Jesus in the realm of gifts such as art, music, etc., so I have related with the little drummer boy and the verse above and simply seek to give Jesus myself and anything He has given to me. It has been a joy to encourage the children in the Children's Ministry to offer their lives, their very best, to Jesus because He has given them all they are and all they have.

Verses 1-2 of Romans 12 speak very nicely to the discipleship "curriculum" we will be starting to work through in Jr. Church in January 2019 called Our 24 Family Ways, by Clay Clarkson. This is a family devotional guide that we will be providing for each family who has children attending Junior Church. Each



week the teachers and helpers will introduce the Biblical value for the week (such as "We love and obey our Lord, Jesus Christ, with wholehearted devotion.") and work through the lesson. At home for the rest of the week, parents are then encouraged to go through the daily devotions with their family, asking questions relating to the Biblical value, reading specific passages of Scripture, talking about the passages and praying about them as well. This is definitely a new venture for us. Please pray that we will all grow as disciples of Jesus, becoming more and more like Him!



We will have a 30 minute Children's Ministry meeting on December 16th in the fellowship hall right after church, and we invite ALL families with children in the children's ministry, as well as teachers and helpers, to join us as we look over this curriculum together.

Blessings to All and May the JOY of Jesus Fill Your Hearts and Homes!

Marian Mellor



CHRISTMAS PACKAGE TO THE PHILIPPINES

BY Linsi Clain

I'm excited to share with you about another opportunity to bless some very special kids in the Philippines!

The last two Christmases, our church has been able to send out handpicked Christmas gifts for the kids at Calvary Kids Children's Home in Bacolod, Philippines. Thanks to support from church members, these gifts have fulfilled much-needed requests and have been a HUGE blessing to these sweet kiddos. The last time I visited the orphanage, I got to see many of the kids enjoying the toys, movies, and educational resources that were sent out the Christmas before. Needless to say, I received an outpouring of love, hugs and "thank yous"! These small packages have blessed so many hearts; I cannot thank you all enough for partnering with me in a ministry that is so very dear to my heart.

That said, this Christmas, I would like to send out an extra special package! After much prayer and speaking with Calvary Kids leadership, I feel as though the Lord has put it on my heart to send out resources for the developmentally disabled children there. My goal would include sending electric wheel chairs, speech devices, and specially designed curriculum. Due to my work in the Special Education field, I am able to design programs and provide materials that I believe will assist the children in speech, mobility, and overall independence.



For example, Moses, the child pictured here, could use a speech device to communicate his needs and desires in a way never before possible. Resources like this would dramatically change daily life for these children, and allow their unique personalities to be expressed and shine - all glorifying God in the process! If you would like to be a part of this ministry, donations and prayers are immensely appreciated! Thank you in advance for your continued prayers and support.

Linsi Clain

*Note: Linsi is able to get the speech devices and curriculum for \$300, which includes 3 devices. She would have to buy the wheelchairs from a company in the Philippines and it looks like they start at \$500.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 23RD

5:00 P.M.

Christmas Caroling

DECEMBER 24TH

6:00 P.M.

**Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service**

JANUARY 13TH

8:00 A.M.

Financial Class

FEBRUARY 1ST-3RD
AT CALVARY CHAPEL
CONFERENCE CENTER

Men's Retreat

Contact Us

THE CHRISTIAN CENTER

PHONE: 760-767-7447

FACEBOOK:

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/
CCBORREGO](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CCBORREGO)

WEBSITE:

WWW.CCBORREGO.COM

ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 2429
BORREGO SPRINGS, CA 92004