

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

2 Thessalonians 3:13 "But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good."

I recognize that it can become easy to get frustrated and irritated with the state that our country and world is in today. But it doesn't have to be the state of our lives. Let us recognize the good God is bringing from this. As with any great disaster, people begin to look toward God. With the uncertainty of the future of their health and wealth, fear can overwhelm people. This is a great opportunity to share the 'Solid Rock' that our lives are built upon.

Remember the story Jesus told of the man who built his house on the sand versus the one who built his house on the rock. When the storms came the man who built on the sand had his house destroyed. The man who built his house on the rock withstood the storm.

It is the one who has put his trust in Jesus, who has His word and obeys it, who is the wise man who will be able to stand strong through the storms of life.

This pandemic has given us all the realization that life is unstable. There is only one Rock on which we will be able to stand. We have the opportunity, not just to survive, but to thrive. Let us thrive with the enablement of the Holy Spirit. Stay close to God. Seek Him early in your morning devotions. Apply His truths throughout the day. Reach out to those whom the Lord puts on your heart. Finish well, finish strong.

Galatians 6:9 "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."

Pastor Steve

JOHN & SARAH BROWN

NORWICH, ENGLAND
www.servantchurch.org.uk



SUPPORT ADDRESS:
The Christian Center
P.O. Box 2429
Borrego Springs, CA 92004

I want to ask you to remember our missionaries during this global pandemic and subsequent financial burden. Our families in Kenya, both of which work in the medical field, are facing difficult times. Derek's team is short on supplies and protective clothing. Boaz' paid position at the Litein hospital is on hold.

DEREK & LAUREN WEBBER

CHOGORIA, KENYA, AFRICA
webbersinafrica.blogspot.com



SUPPORT ADDRESS:
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John has taken a pay cut in Norwich, England to help the church get through this time.

Most missionaries already survive on minimal contributions, so this time only increases the hardship they are facing. We send each of our 3 missionary families \$650 per month. If you would like to send an additional donation, one-time or monthly, you can send it to the church, and we will send it on to them. Just let us know in the memo line.

BOAZ & AFRICA NIYINYUMVA

LITEIN, KENYA



CONTACT:
boazsis@gmail.com
+254 724 352 380

SUPPORT ADDRESS:
The Christian Center
P.O. Box 2429
Borrego Springs, CA 92004

Please keep them all in prayer - that they would be safe and not distracted with raising support, so they can do the work of the ministry. Thank you so much.

MEN'S MINISTRY

BY PAUL PALASZEWSKI

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock." Matthew 7:24-25



COVID-19 has certainly shaken up our world. Around the globe many people are realizing that those material things that they typically put their trust in no longer offer the security they once did. Our headline verse, which we just studied at our last men's meeting, reminds us that the only lasting foundation that will in the end withstand the storms of life is the rock of Jesus Christ. Perhaps in His great love and mercy our Lord has allowed this pandemic as an early warning signal for all of us to test our foundations, to take a good look at what we place our trust and security in, before even greater trials come. Our prayer is that many that do not know the Lord will come to place their trust in Him as their rock.

Our Men's group, as all of our church ministries, has capitalized on Zoom video conferencing technology to stay connected as we practice social distancing. We have been having 24 men attend our 7 am weekly Saturday morning conferences. After spending fellowship time in small break out groups we reconvene as one to open God's word together. There is a wonderful current of cooperation as the men deferentially and thoughtfully respond and contribute to our study in the

Gospel of Matthew. This Gospel's focus is to present Jesus as the promised eternal King. What can be more encouraging in these times than to be reminded that Jesus is King? He is still on the throne. He is still sovereign. He is still in control.

Our Men's retreat in February was a great success with about 2 dozen men in attendance. We strengthened ourselves spiritually through worship, 4 Bible studies in the Sermon on the Mount, two guided devotionals, and rich fellowship. Especially powerful was our communion service where we literally nailed our sins and worries to a cross and turned them over to Jesus in prayer. Looking back, we are all thankful for this time of spiritual revitalization as little did we realize the challenges that would soon be placed on us as leaders of our families, our church, and our community.

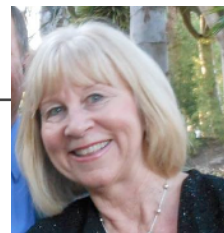
Please contact the church if you'd like to join our Zoom video meetings.



Paul Palaszewski

WOMEN'S MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

BY DEBIE DILLAHUNT



We're nearly finished with our Bible study, *It's Not Supposed to Be This Way*, by Lysa Terkeurst. What a blessing it has been to continue to meet via Zoom during this time of "sheltering in place"!

This study so perfectly addresses some common feelings that many are experiencing during this period of isolation, such as fear and anxiety. One of our sessions is titled, "When the Enemy Comes Against Us" and is so relevant! God reminds us many times in His Word to not worry, fear, or be anxious. We talked about how Jesus used God's Word when He was tempted by Satan. Jesus is our example!

God's Word contains 'recipes' to encourage our hearts. We are not alone! "God is our refuge and our strength, A very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1 As we navigate these uncharted waters together, may we encourage each other with God's Word and prayer.

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

This reminds me of when Peter got out of the boat and began walking on the water to meet Jesus. As long as he focused on Jesus, he was fine. The moment he looked away and became fearful of the great storm, he began to sink. What a wonderful reminder to KEEP OUR EYES ON JESUS! If you find yourself sinking, remember Who is there to pull you up! You are SO LOVED,

Debie Dillahunt



WOMEN'S HOME FELLOWSHIP

BY HELIA MCFALLS

"For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith. " 1 John 5:4

What a glorious fellowship to share in a home Bible Study on Monday evenings with my sisters in Christ!

We recently completed our study "What is Love, the letters of 1,2,3 John" by Kelly Minter. Every chapter had something for us to feast on as John addressed the truth about Jesus, sin, obedience, brotherly love and salvation.

Having completed our study and being required to maintain social distancing, we have been blessed to continue virtually, and what a blessing it has been! I posed the question to the group, "Now that we are in this season of solitude what does it all mean to you?" Some of the ladies had various scriptures and verses to share that were quite meaningful and brought them through both difficult and joyous times. We can all agree, regardless of where we are today and how we react to tomorrow, it all comes down to our faith and trust in Jesus Christ!

The enemy would have us say, "I was doing good until _____ happened!" Whatever our "I was doing good until _____" statement is, God knows and He won't allow those negative experiences to alter His purpose and plan for our lives. We are still His daughters, still chosen by Him, still His prize and His joy!

1 John 4:4 says: "But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people (Antichrist), because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world." NLT

In James 1:2-4, James instructed us to consider it joy when testing comes our way because it gives our faith a chance to grow and deepens our trust.

I encourage you to keep holding on to His promises, keep trusting and believing in His Word. I also invite you to join us on Monday evenings via Zoom at 6:00pm.

Blessings to All,

Helia McFalls





WOMEN'S HOME FELLOWSHIP

BY DENISE SCHMADERER

Hi All,

I hope this finds you all doing well. I wanted to give you a bit of an update. As most of you know my husband Phil was diagnosed with Mantel Cell Lymphoma on January 27th. As you can imagine this was quite a shock to us, and our life as we knew it has changed!

Heila graciously agreed to take over hosting our Monday night women's Bible study, as we are making 2 and 3 trips a week to Moores Cancer Center for labs and chemo. Phil will have his 5th of 6 rounds of chemo on April 21st.

It has been such a rollercoaster ride, so many ups and downs, and we do not know what the end results will be! Boy is that a hard one.

The one thing that has not change is Jesus! He has been right here with us the whole time. I have felt His presence in such a profound way. He knows the beginning to the end, and I can rest in that. The Word of God has been a lifeline to me, more so now then ever before! Two scriptures that have been an anchor for me in this season are:

Deuteronomy 31:6 "Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."

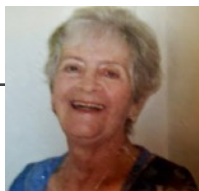
Hebrews 13:5-6 "Keep your life free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave; never will I forsake you.' So we (I) say with confidence, 'The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can mere mortals (cancer) do to me?'"

Thank you all for your prayers and outpouring of love. It has been so humbling.

I pray that you all find peace in Him during this crazy time in our world. HE is still on the throne!!!

Blessings,

Denise Schmaderer



PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY

BY PAT OAKES

In 2003, I joined the Prayer Quilt Ministry. Since then many women from our church have joined in making quilts to give to those suffering from illness, accidents and grief. Members of our fellowship tie knots with the lengths of thread sewn into the quilts and pray for the recipients as they tie. It is a tremendous blessing to all.

I am very grateful for Stacy Ehrlich & Marilyn Ferrara for their help at this time. The Lord has blessed this ministry immensely.

Contact information: 760-443-2619





CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

BY MARIAN MELLOR

"But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." Luke 10:42

"Shelter-in-place" - what a great opportunity for us to use this extra time at home to seek to "abide under the shadow of the Almighty" (Psalm 91:1); to sit at Jesus' feet, seeking, like Mary of Bethany, to choose that good part, which will not be taken away from us (Luke 10:42).



I have been trying to think of "beginning with the end in mind" as we have been in the midst of this Covid-19 pandemic. Of course, we don't know when the "end" is, but I have pondered what I hope to accomplish through this season, and one of the most important things, I believe, is to use this time wisely and to finish well. That really is how I want to think of any "season," but it is sometimes easy for me to lose focus!



At the end of March we gathered some crafts from previous VBSes and took them to the Children's Ministry families so that they could have some fun things to do during this time away from church and school. We also put an email out with links to some great websites for children and a PDF of curriculum that families can use if they choose. It has been fun to receive pictures of a few of their projects - in process and completed.

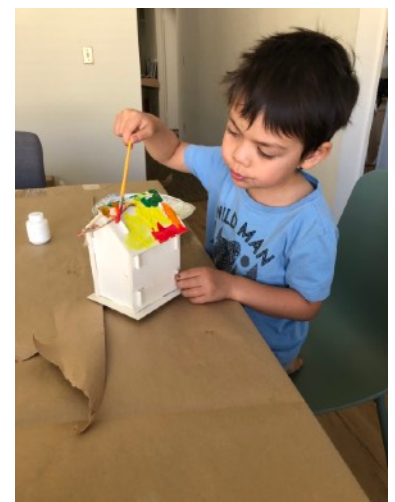
We will soon have a Children's Ministry video on the church's website for children to enjoy - they will get to sing songs, see a Bible story, and hear from their teachers and aides who love them so very much!



God bless you all. I deeply miss our fellowship times - zoom simply doesn't compare! - but I am grateful for each opportunity to connect with each other. Please stay connected to JESUS. He's the only one who is ALWAYS there!

Blessings,

Marian Mellor





YOUTH MINISTRY

BY RYAN LYNN

God has done so much in the Youth Ministry since our last newsletter. In January we went to Lake Arrowhead for our High School Winter Camp. Our theme was "Why I Live," based on **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."** Isn't it refreshing to hear the will of God explicitly declared? For three days we looked at the very reason for our being: to obey His will! His word clearly lays out His purpose for our life. It was a fabulous time of fellowship and refreshment.

At the beginning of March, Joanna and I took the middle schoolers to Calvary Chapel Christian Camp at Green Valley Lake. Brian Blanton has recently become the Youth Pastor at Calvary Chapel Julian so we did camp together with both groups! The two Youth Groups have enjoyed the additional fellowship this year. God moved dynamically in the camp of 350 kids; youth from all around Southern California worshipping Jesus and committing their lives to Him! Two students from our church gave their lives to Jesus at the camp! Joanna is an incredible leader who not only leads practically but leads by example. We are so blessed in Undespised Youth to have the best leaders!

Undespised Youth has moved to doing all our meetings on Zoom. We play games like scavenger hunt, charades, Pictionary and more. We worship the Lord and spend time in His Word. We are so thankful for the ability to connect when we are physically separated. We have also started Friday Night Worship Discipleship to train and disciple the next generation of Worship Leaders. Since the middle of March we have also been reading through the New Testament in 40 days as a Youth Group. Our last day of the 40 Day New Testament Challenge will end May 1st. If you would like to join us, the reading plan is available on UndespisedYouth.com, Instagram and Facebook. We are thankful for your prayer and support!

Ryan Lynn



Contact Us

THE CHRISTIAN CENTER

PHONE: 760-767-7447 | FACEBOOK: [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CCBORREGO](https://www.facebook.com/CCBORREGO) | WEBSITE: WWW.CCBORREGO.COM

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



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