



THE LINK

LINKING GOD AND HIS PEOPLE, EACH TO THE
OTHER, TO CHRIST JESUS OUR SAVIOR AND LORD

PASTOR'S NOTES

PASTOR JAMES W. CARLSON

My precious sheep:

In this month's issue of the Link, I want to talk about revival! There have been many Christian revivals in American history. The first goes back to the 1700's led by such men as George Whitfield and Jonathan Edwards. This is called the First Great Awakening. The Second Great Awakening happened in the 1800's. There have been notable revivalists in the past 150 years, including such preachers as D. L. Moody, Billy Sunday, and in our time, the late Billy Graham (who was promoted to glory in 2018), who throughout his ministry preached 417 crusades.

Revivals are marked by such features as prayer, confession of sin and deep repentance, the power of the Holy Spirit, and a renewed passion for the Word of God. There are stories of revival in the Bible too. I want us to look at one from the Old Testament book of Nehemiah. We read of it in Nehemiah 8. It was a revival based on the Law of Moses led by Ezra the Priest.

The setting is after the 70-year exile in Babylon. The Jewish people have returned to the Promised Land, that is, to the region of Judah and the city Jerusalem. They have rebuilt the Temple and now (in the story) they have rebuilt the Walls around the city. It looks good on the outside. But now the people of God must look good on the inside. We at CCC have a new building which looks nice physically. Let us concentrate on spiritual rebuilding.

I encourage you to read Nehemiah 8:1-18 on your own. I want to highlight some principles from it which speak powerfully to us to bring revival in our day. The first thing we read is that all the people came together "AS ONE" (Neh 8:1). There was unity among God's people. Oh, how terribly is the church divided today, both within (each congregation) and without (by the many denominations and schisms)! May we be humbled to be unified around God's Word.

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THE MISSION OF CCC:

"WORSHIPING GOD, GROWING,
SPIRITUALLY, SERVING OTHERS,
INVITING FRIENDS"

****The Church is open for Worship Service
on Sunday Morning at 11 AM .
Also please check out our Facebook page to
watch the worship service live
11 AM on Sunday.**

GUEST WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS

Login: CCCGuest

Password: ChurchonFire

CONT'D...

They were unified around such. The people actually TOLD Ezra TO BRING OUT God's Word to them (8:1)! I honestly cannot imagine this. It seems that many people today want everything but God's Word brought to them – they want stories, anecdotes, jokes, and a little Bible mixed in. People want pop psychology. They want prosperity gospel. Some want politics. As your pastor, please TELL me to bring you God's Word; for, I am under solemn charge to preach it (2 Tim 4:1-2).

These Israelites were also willing to experience discomfort to hear God's Word. We read in Neh 8:3 that they listened to Ezra simply read it "from daybreak till noon," and they stood for the reading of it (8:5). They willingly listened for several hours. And today people complain about sermons being too long. People will set aside many hours to do leisure activities which they enjoy; but they won't devote the same amount of time to the hearing and understanding of God's Word. Yet, the Apostle Peter commands us to CRAVE the milk of God's Word (1 Pet 2:2).

These Israelites sought to understand the Word. This is emphasized throughout (8:1, 2, 8, 12). Do you, O Christian, seek to understand God's Word? I'm concerned that some people come to worship on Sunday morning out of emotion. They want the sermon to make them feel good on the inside, without putting their mind to use, serious use. The first and greatest commandment in the Bible, Jesus says, is to LOVE God – and we are told to love Him with all of our being – even to love God with our MIND (Mark 12:30).

*"The LORD is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?" Psalm 27:1*

But there is a danger here. Some Christians learn the Bible so well that it only stays in their mind; it never reaches their heart, much less their hands and their feet! Some conservative Bible churches focus on doctrine too much that they become modern day Pharisees. Some doctrine is essential, and heresy is real – AND the Bible teaches that "faith without works is dead" (James 2:14-26). These Israelites under Ezra's revival learned the Word of God for one purpose: to OBEY it (Nehemiah 8:16-18).

Let all of us at CCC welcome a revival of the Word of God! Currently, we are providing several Bible studies and small groups for those in our church to learn and understand God's Word and to live it as obedient disciples of Jesus our Lord. If you're not part of one yet, please join a study (see the bulletin and website for details). In addition to God's Word, let us PRAY for revival! That's what the Israelites did next, according to Nehemiah 9. We pray every Sunday at 9am.

Grace and Peace, Pastor James



A New Beginning

Taking hold of life is assuming control
Appraising interests and goals are essential
Setting direction of endeavor is forthright
In becoming aware life has much to offer
Nature has gone great length to enable life
The happiness we seek is found in the beauty of creation
Nature is asking for our valued recognition
In having you become a part of the grand plan
Within the fold of humanity, we are embraced
Together a spirit of mutual support emerges
We work with what we have at hand
Often under the most challenging of circumstances
Seeking the understanding of all the powers that be
Knowing we are held in high esteem

By Edward S. Murphy

Rejoice

The winter shakes off it's white blanket
and budding lilies awaken to the joy of Spring.
Before the dawn of Easter,
the red- breasted robin begins to sing...

Let us rejoice
in the gift of the cross.
Let us proclaim the risen Lord
For with God's grace, no life is lost.

Once again we are redeemed
on that old rugged cross,
where Christ paid the price for us.
God had sent His Son, to reach the lost.

May the Light of our risen Christ
touch your heart and soul.
And may the spirit of God, arise in you.
Praise God, the Lord is risen.
...He is risen, indeed !

written by, Dianne Ingle



HIS GATHERING PLACE CAFÉ

BIRTHDAYS

- Apr. 3rd Preeda Faulkner
- Apr. 5th Jessie Dubois
- Apr. 7th Bailey Gerhardt
- Apr. 7th Stuart Simmons
- Apr. 8th Marte Hazelwood
- Apr. 8th Logan Day
- Apr. 10th Bill Hazelwood
- Apr. 10th Erin Carnley
- Apr. 13th Evin Barlow
- Apr. 19th April Ehrig
- Apr. 20th Dana Herdt
- Apr. 21st Debbie Maryott
- Apr. 22nd Joe Stanley
- Apr. 23rd Lindsay Stitt
- Apr. 29th Derek Ingle

CLASSES & STUDIES

Classes/Groups for Spring:

SMALL GROUPS - in person & online

1) A Women's group led by Leslie Kielkowski - will start a new Study on 2 Corinthians "**All Things New**" on Tuesday April 20th at 7pm.

All are welcome!

2) A Women's Bible study led by Pat Baker on **Ephesians 4** - will start on April 7th and will be in the Fellowship Hall Wed. mornings at 10 am.

3) A men's group led by Chris Morin, "A Study on **Ezra-Nehemiah** - Books of the Bible" on Thursdays at 7pm.

4) A study through the book of **Esther** on Wednesday's at 7pm.
A group for everyone led by Pastor James
(jamescarlsonsr@gmail.com).

****This class is facilitated via the church's Facebook Page.***

Directions:

When you sign up to be part of a group, you will email the group leader. Then, they will send you an email inviting you to join their small group. This email will include a link that you press on and, voila- you can join. It will ask you to run the program on your computer, and after a couple clicks, you'll be in the chat room. If you have questions about how to use this, contact your group leader or Pastor James (626-476-5543) or the church office (801-825-1115).

HIS GATHERING PLACE CAFÉ

MINISTRY NEWS

- Rocky Mountain Care Center Ministry

Please Come join us every Friday at 10:30 AM for a half hour of song and a message from the speaker that day with patients. **Canceled until further notice.*
Any questions you may contact Eileen or Dennis Richards 801/825-3471.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT: CLEARFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH (CCC) IS SEEKING TO HIRE A WORSHIP LEADER. INTERESTED CANDIDATES ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT CCC BY PHONE (801-825-1115). A COPY OF THE POSITION DESCRIPTION CAN BE PROVIDED BY EMAIL ADDRESS UPON REQUEST.

PLEASE PRAY FOR GOD TO SEND US THE RIGHT WORKER TO SERVE AS OUR NEXT WORSHIP LEADER. "ASK THE LORD OF THE HARVEST, THEREFORE, TO SEND OUT WORKERS INTO HIS HARVEST FIELD." (MATT 10:38)

**MEMBERSHIP CLASS OFFERED
STARTS APRIL 25TH MEETING IN ROOM 8
CONTACT PASTOR JAMES IF INTERESTED.**

THE OUTREACH TEAM IS CONTINUING THEIR PROJECT. WE ARE COLLECTING ITEMS TO HELP PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY. WE ARE PROVIDING A LIST OF ITEMS WE NEED. WE WILL ALSO ACCEPT MONETARY DONATIONS. THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR HELP. FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL WE ARE COLLECTING TOOTHPASTE, TOOTHBRUSHES, BABY WIPES AND DIAPERS IN SIZES 3, 4, 5 AND 6.

HIS GATHERING PLACE CAFÉ

PRAYER CONCERNS

March 2021

Ronald Branham, Kevin Branham, Sue Carlson,
Kaylin Terry, Kathy Knighton, Eric Palmer, Lynn McCarthy,
Pat Call, Linda Manning, Jamie Richards, Stuart Simmons,
Jean Varner, Bob Roberts, Mike Mann, Matt Tobey, Travis
Jeffery, Mark MacDonald, Edith Aleman, Barrett Wellington,
Ervin Herdt, Bill & Marte Hazelwood, Evie Guzman,
Dennis & Naomi DeGroot, Marilyn Simon, Jessica Woeppel,
Susan Woeppel, Angelika Bertrand, Traudy Sanborn,
Jean Moneymaker, Jane Kelting, Tonya Brandler,
Audrey Otrumbar, Marci Woeppel, Bob Schellhase, Pat Zabel,
Joe Umbriaco, Jackie Ross, Wilma Bowen

"Rejoice
always, pray
without
ceasing, give
thanks in all
circumstances;
for this is the
will of God in
Christ Jesus for
you."

1 Thess 5:16-18

WE STARTED A PRAYER MEETING ON SUNDAY MORNING AT THE CHURCH (9AM - ROOM #10). WE FOCUSED ON THE FOLLOWING THREE PRAYER REQUESTS. WE ARE ASKING THAT YOU FOCUS ON THESE PRAYER REQUESTS EACH WEEK THROUGHOUT THIS MONTH OF APRIL DURING YOUR OWN PRAYER TIME.

- 1) PRAY THAT GOD WOULD SPREAD THE GOSPEL THROUGH US (2 THESS 3:1; 2 COR 4:7)**
- 2) PRAY FOR MAKING DISCIPLES (MATT 28:18-20)**
- 3) PRAY FOR FAITHFUL, UNCOMPROMISED PREACHING AND TEACHING OF GOD'S WORD (2 TIM 4:1-2; ACTS 4:31; EPH 6:19-20)**

LET US PRAY. PASTOR JAMES

