

Directory Addition

Mike & Morgie McKnight: children: Noah, Daniel and Joseph; home address: Indian Palms Golf Club; 82298 Lancaster, Indio, CA 92201; phone: (559) 904-1022.

Giving and Gifts...

“The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.” - Nelson Henderson -

“There is no present like the time” (a thought-provoking “twist” on the idiom, “There’s no time like the present”) (from the movie, *“The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel”* by John Madden)

April Birthdays

1 Daniel McKnight	11 Dolly Cashion	23 Shannon Hudson
3 Amanda Hoffman	16 Alana Hudson	26 Stori Rose Hoffman
6 Susan Hudson	17 Belva Meanor	

April Anniversaries

10 Mike and Kim Bruni 19 Bill & Kena Brown

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
Mike McKnight

Church of Christ
81-377 Ave 46
Indio, CA 92201
(760) 342-1859

(Address Service Requested)

Indio Informer

Vol. 26 No. 17

April 19, 2015

“Giving...”

A Good Word

Mark Twain once said, 'I can live for two months on one good compliment.' We all know what he meant by that. It lifts your spirits to have someone say something genuinely nice to you or about you.

Solomon noted this human truth: *“Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad”* (Proverbs 12:25). Haven't you experienced days when the morning began just right? Someone in your family mentioned something special about you he/she appreciated. Your boss gave you a compliment as you walked through the door. And then, there was a note in the mail or a phone call from someone you love, and words of cheer entered your heart and carried you through the day.

Since we know how good it feels to receive such expressions from people, shouldn't we spread the same joy to others? We ought to take advantage of the many opportunities that are available to us (Ephesians 5:15; Colossians 4:5; Galatians 6:10).

A good word. You don't have to be rich to give compliments away. You don't have to be well known to effect others. Even complete strangers reap the benefit of receiving a good word from you.

We hear so many bad words in our world. Let's start a campaign to balance what people hear. It all begins with a good word!

Be Sincere...and Kind

In ancient Rome, sculpting was a popular profession. The culture flourished with statues, as nearly every public and private building had numerous “gods” represented. The market was flooded with sculptors, so quality was sometimes lacking. Less qualified craftsmen would cover their errors with wax, and frequently the customer could not see the flaw. To compensate for this practice, authentic sculptors would mark their statues with the words *sine cera*—“without wax.” Today we frequently use the same term to close letters: “sincerely.” As Christians we are called to live authentic lives. Many churches have become showcases for saints rather than hospitals for sinners. It is time we started giving God and others a life that is *sine cera*. - *Seeds of Greatness*, Denis Waitley

*I have wept in the night for the shortness of sight,
That to somebody’s need made me blind:
But I never have yet felt a twinge of regret,
For being a little too kind.*
(quoted in John Lawrence, *Down to Earth*)

*“...the wisdom that is from above is...full of mercy
and good fruits...without hypocrisy.”*
- James 3:17 -

Long Walk Part of Gift

By Mark T. Tonkery

An African boy listened carefully as his teacher explained why Christians were such giving people. The teacher said, Jesus taught us that giving gifts is an expression of our love and friendship for Him and each other. Jesus said, “*It is more blessed to give than to receive*” (Acts 20:35).

A couple of days later the boy brought the teacher a seashell of lustrous beauty. "Where did you ever find such a beautiful shell?"

the teacher asked. The youth told her that there was only one spot where such extraordinary shells could be found. When he named the place, a certain bay several miles away, the teacher was speechless. She knew that it would have taken the young man hours to walk to the bay. Also, he would have faced many dangers from the jungle and rocky cliffs of the seacoast along the way. "Why, it's gorgeous and wonderful, but you shouldn't have gone all that way to get the gift for me," the teacher joyfully exclaimed.

His eyes brightening, the boy answered, "Long walk part of gift" (Story adopted from Preaching Vol. 23, No. 3, p. 88, 2007).

This story brings to mind the long walk that was part of God's gift to mankind. 1 Peter 1:20-21 states that Jesus was “*foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, who by Him do believe in God, that raised Him up from the dead, and gave Him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God*”.

Christ's long walk began in the mind of God before the foundation of the world and was proclaimed by the prophets of the Old Testament. He then voyaged from heaven to earth to born of a virgin, and He grew up to show people the way of heaven. He walked upon the earth and then went to a shameful cross to pay humanity's debt of sin, journeyed from the cross to the tomb, was resurrected on the third day, and finally completed the journey by returning to heaven.

Hebrews 4:15-16 reminds that “*we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*”

And we may ask, Why all this trouble, God? And God would say to us, “The long walk was part of the gift”.