

Member Information

Please welcome **Guadalupe (Lupita) Guzman**. Her address is 82372 Grant Drive, Indio, CA 92201; her phone number is (760) 501-9245

Clint Oster new address: 3004 South Market St. Apt. 1021, Gilbert, AZ 85295

Quotations about Keeping Things in Perspective

"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; the courage to change the things I can; and the wisdom to know the difference." - Reinhold Niebuhr (Serenity Prayer) -

"Every man's life ends the same way. It is only the details of how he lived and how he died that distinguish one man from another." - Ernest Hemingway -

September Birthdays

3 Wendy Cortes	15 Marcos Perales	24 Mason Perales
11 Marie Burruss	16 Jim Burruss	30 Kurt Hoffman
	30 Dortha Gentry	

September Anniversaries

13 Luis & Wendy Cortes

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)

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"Keeping the right perspective..."

A Strong Church

By R.J. Evans

Over the years, much has been written on how to build a strong church. And, no doubt, much of what has been written is good, scriptural, and should be applied. The Apostle Paul has given an inspired formula for a strong church in Romans 15:14: *"Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with knowledge, able also to admonish one another."* We would do well to constantly keep before us this passage.

A strong church is one that is "full of goodness." To be full of goodness is to be characterized by the excellence of the inner person which manifests itself in a quality of life that is attractive to others. A striving for moral excellence should characterize every member of a congregation in order for the church to be strong. Churches composed of members who are of questionable moral character are weak churches. Preachers who shy away from strong teaching on moral issues for fear such would diminish their numbers in attendance are making their contribution to the weakness of the church. The strength of a congregation is not to be equated necessarily to the number in attendance at its services. A congregation with thirty-five members who are full of goodness is more honorable in God's sight than one of several hundred members who are not.

A strong church is one that is *"filled with all knowledge."* This means that strong churches are not made up of people who are ignorant of the Bible. This is true because *"faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"* (Rom. 10:17). One simply cannot

have a strong faith based upon a weak understanding of the word of God. Our age is an age of shortcuts and convenience, but there is no shortcut to acquiring a genuine knowledge of the Bible. Nothing will take the place of honest, diligent study and meditation of the scriptures. We must study to be approved of God and to save our souls (2 Tim. 2:15). Paul knew that he could not expect to help build a strong church at Rome out of people who were too lazy to study and meditate on the word. Let us not make the mistake of thinking that we can allow emotional excitement, entertainment, or anything else, to substitute for the truth of the gospel.

A strong church is one made up of members who are *"able also to admonish one another."* That this might be true, two things are necessary: (1) sufficient knowledge of God's word in order to communicate it to another, and (2) the disposition or desire to do so. One cannot teach what he does not know, and one cannot know the Bible if he has not studied it with great interest. But all the knowledge in the world will not make a strong church unless those possessing that knowledge are of the disposition to communicate it to others. How sad it is that many members of the church do not have enough zeal to admonish their brethren or to encourage sinners to obey the gospel of Christ. Zeal without knowledge is just as bad as knowledge without zeal (Rom. 10:1-3; Lk. 12:47-48). Let us all do our share (Eph. 4:16) so that the congregation will be a strong church.

Just Suppose that...

By John Gipson

Just suppose that when you were growing up you were hated by your brothers, sold into slavery, lied about, and cast into prison. Suppose you had to languish in that cell for months on end. Would you still have faith in God? Joseph did!

Just suppose that you were called by God to preach a very unpopular message, God's wrath. Suppose the people got up in arms and vented their anger at you. What if they lied about you and tried to take away your life? Would you still have faith in God? Jeremiah did!

Just suppose you were called upon to stand before a king and rebuke him for his sin. And suppose that in obedience to the will of God you performed your task only to learn that your head would be chopped off. Would you still have faith in God? John did!

Just suppose that you lived a perfect life, loved all men, always did God's will, sought to serve instead of being served, and then you were nailed to a cross to die. Would you still have faith in God? Jesus did!

THOUGHT: Just suppose the church isn't friendly, the people don't appreciate me, that nobody visits me, that I lose my health, and I go bankrupt. Would I still have faith in God?

"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" - 1 John 5:4

A Grandparent's Prayer

Dear Lord,

Thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will someday be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all...but Thou knowest, that I want a few friends at the end. Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details...give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing, and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter. I dare not ask for improved memory, but a growing humility when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken. Keep me reasonably sweet. I do not want to be a holier-than-thou saint ...but a sour old person is one of the crowning works for the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people. Give me the grace to tell them so.

In Jesus' Name, Amen