

Upcoming Events

Brent Forsyth (Brea) will preach on January 5

Budget preparations for 2020

Panera Bread Open Bible Study: Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Welcome and thank you, Bruce Evans!

New Phone: Shelby Wolgamot, (213) 364-4843

Gratitude

"Often people ask how I manage to be happy despite having no arms and no legs. The quick answer is that I have a choice. I can be angry about not having limbs, or I can be thankful that I have a purpose. I chose gratitude." — Nick Vujicic

"Reflect upon your present blessings, of which every man has plenty; not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some." — Charles Dickens

December Birthdays

17 Bill Brown 18 Alexis Brown 27 Sue Tanner
29 Noah McKnight 30 Richard Karns 31 Bob Pescador

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Spiritual Resolutions

By Travis L. Quertermous

At the beginning of a new year, it is very common to make resolutions. We look back over the previous year, assess our successes and our failures, and set goals to improve over the course of the new year. For many people, these resolutions are all of a material nature. For example, they resolve to lose weight, to quit smoking, or to get out of debt.

All of these are indeed worthy goals but let me challenge all of us to make some spiritual resolutions this year as well. For example, resolve to be a daily student of the Bible and to read through God's word in 2020. Resolve to attend the church of Christ this year with your family and to be more involved in its activities. Resolve to help the poor and the needy more this year. Resolve to pray to God every day. Resolve to be a more loving and patient spouse, parent, or child. Resolve to share the gospel of Christ with at least one lost soul in 2020.

Of course, we have all heard the old saying that resolutions are made in January and forgotten in March. This brings to mind another old, but true, saying: "If we fail to plan, then we plan to fail." The reason so many resolutions go unrealized is because we make no plans on how to succeed or else have unrealized expectations to begin with. Take being a daily Bible student, for example. If one will read three chapters a day from the Old Testament, one can read through it in a year. Nine chapters a day in the New Testament will enable one to read through it once a month. That, it seems to me, is a very reachable schedule and goal.

Above all, let us resolve to live out the wise words of King Solomon, "*Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man*" (Eccl 12:13).

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)

In Everything Give Thanks

By Patrick Hogan

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing. in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-19)

The above reference is just one of many in Scripture that encourage Christians to have a positive outlook. As a matter of fact, the second admonition, *"pray without ceasing,"* is one good reason to rejoice and to be thankful. Regardless of what happens we have the avenue of prayer by which we may communicate with the Father!

The third instruction, *"in everything give thanks,"* may sometimes be more difficult to follow. There are some situations in which we find it difficult to be thankful. Perhaps an observation by commentator Matthew Henry can encourage us to be more thoughtful, and therefore more thankful, in those types of situations. When Henry discovered that he had been robbed, he entered the following in his daily journal:

I thank Thee first because I was never robbed before; second, because although they took my purse they did not take my life; third, although they took my all, it was not much; and fourth, because it was I who was robbed and not I who robbed.

While we hear much about thanksgiving during the last weeks of each year, may we cultivate a constant attitude of thankfulness. As Christians we have much for which to give thanks.

What a Friend!

By Lance Cordle

In the mid-1800's, a young Irishman named Joseph Scriven was engaged to be married to a young lady. On the day before the wedding, he rode out to meet his fiancé at a river. Upon arriving, he was devastated to learn that her horse had been startled and thrown her into the water, where she drowned. He said later, "The

bottom of my world seemed to disappear." He turned to God and leaned upon Him for strength.

He moved to Port Hope, Ontario, Canada. In his sorrow, he chose to remain alone and tutor children. He devoted his life to doing good deeds for other people. In fact, he became known as the Good Samaritan of Port Hope. A few years later, however, he again found love and was engaged to be married. Within weeks of the wedding, his new love, Eliza, contracted pneumonia and died.

A few months later, in sending a message to his mother, who was ill at the time, Joseph wrote a poem in which he poured out his heart about the need to lean upon God in times of trouble. He gave it the title, Pray Without Ceasing. The poem was at first published anonymously and only later did he admit that it was he who had written it. He died several years later, apparently having deliriously wandered into a body of water during the night and drowned.

His words, however, have lived on and have been sung and loved for years. They are found in most songbooks of today. Many who have sung them need little prompting to melodiously declare, "What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!" (Sources: YouTube, The story behind the hymn, What a Friend We Have in Jesus;" Wikipedia, "Joseph Scriven."

Immediately following the words, *"Greater Love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends,"* Jesus also said, *"You are my friends if you do what I command you"* (John 15:13, 14 ESV). Each Christian has the privilege of being the friend of Jesus.

Though we may not have walked with Him while He was on earth, we can walk with Him today. We can take confidence in knowing that He has also said, *"And, behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age"* (Matthew 28:20). Let us trust the Lord throughout our lives and let us lean upon his promise— *"I will never leave you nor forsake you"* (Hebrews 13:5).