

Upcoming Events...

1 Corinthians Class: Every Tuesday at 12:00 p.m.
Business Meeting: today at 4:00 p.m.
Ladies' Day: Saturday, January 28. Starts at 12:00
at Palm Desert Country Club
Barnabas Group meeting: January 31

PRAYER FOR TROUBLED TIMES

*Endow me, Lord, with strength to face
The bitter trials of life,
Instill within my troubled soul
Your peace amidst the strife.*

*Lord, plant a song within my heart
That I might praise Thee still --
While storms rage on, grant me the faith
To rest within Your will!*

January Birthdays

5 John Aguiar 14 Juanita Small

January Anniversaries

8 Bob & Debbie Pescador

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. 28 No. 3

January 15, 2017

WHAT MOVES YOUR HEART?

By Scott Hoover

One of the problems living in the abundant lifestyle that we have is the same problem that the Israelites had centuries ago in the times of the judges. When the Israelites would be in trouble from a nation, then God would send them a judge. With God's help the judge would deliver the people from their troubles. After the deliverance, as long as the judge lived, the people would be true to God and experience prosperity. These good times, however, would cause the people to become lax in their service to God.

Unfortunately, today we're still people, and we haven't learned the lessons much better. When the church is persecuted, it becomes stronger, but with prosperity, it begins to weaken from within. We begin to bicker between ourselves and forget our purpose. Satan wins as he sees the church argue and quibble instead of evangelizing.

Part of the problem is we forget the message of the gospel story. When was the last time that thinking about Jesus dying on the cross really moved my heart to action? Of course, we're glad He did this for us, but that was a long time ago, and it's old news, isn't it?

One of the most moving films that I have ever seen was entitled, "The Bridge". Let me share with you the story.

The film opens with a loving husband and father leaving for work. His wife is expecting and the time is near. He says good-bye to his wife and son and leaves for his job at the bridge. He tells the son to come get him if his mother needs him. The job the man has is to secure the bridge across the river. In order for boats to travel up and down the river, the bridge swings on some heavy machinery, parallel with the river. When a train is scheduled to come, the man starts the machinery to move the bridge back across the river. It's not a difficult job, but a necessary one to make sure that everything

goes as planned. On this particular day, he begins to swing the bridge into position for a passenger train scheduled to come down the track. As he watches the bridge connect, he notices that it doesn't snap into place as it should. This means derailment for the train, plunging its passengers into the river below. Knowing what must be done, the man goes out to the track and with a crowbar snaps the track into place. Unfortunately, it won't hold except with the man holding the crowbar. He can do so without harm, so he resolves himself to hold it. The roar of the train gets louder as it approaches, when he looks up to see his son crossing the bridge to bring him the message about his wife. Suddenly the task before him is an impossible one. If he lets go of the bar the train will crash, killing many. If he holds to the bar, the train will be spared, but his son will die. He yells at his son, but the noise is too loud.

In the film we see the crowd on the train having a party, drinking, laughing without a care in the world. The man makes the most difficult decision in the world. He holds the bar.

That's the decision that God made for me and you. He sent His Son knowing that we wouldn't always care, but hoping that knowing the story, we would serve Him. Think about what God did for us. After all, what does it take to move our heart?

Remembering Things We Take For Granted

By Patrick Hogan

Sometimes seemingly insignificant events can teach important lessons. Tuesday morning the electricity went off twice at my house. The first time it was off for about a minute. The second time it was off for perhaps five minutes. During the second outage, while I was shaving, I realized how dependent we are upon electricity, but how much we take it for granted. Without power there would be no morning coffee, no hot breakfast, no heat, and no lights. Even knowing that the power was off, I wanted to switch on the light so I could locate some things more easily. I again realized that we pretty much take electric power for granted and don't appreciate it until it goes off. It is truly amazing that we have so many conveniences that are made available through electricity, a source of power we cannot see and to which we give little thought until it's not there.

You can probably see the applications before I even mention them. Though we cannot see God, we have so many blessings from Him that make our lives so good. Unfortunately, we often take Him and the blessings that He gives for granted. We don't really think too much about them until they aren't there. Often we do not really think about God until adversity strikes and then we wonder why He isn't doing what we expect Him to do.

A couple of passages of Scripture come to mind. The first is James 1:16-17, "*Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.*" The second is from Acts 17:25-28 "*Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. ... for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'*" May we become more mindful of all that God, our Father, does for us and become more grateful to Him for His love and care for us.

THE NAIL

Author unknown

Some Christians built a new church building and invited everyone to come see it. All admired its beauty. Up on the roof, a little nail heard the people praising every- thing about the new building. They praised everything but him. No one even knew he was there, and he became angry and jealous. "If I am that insignificant, nobody will miss me if I quit," he said to himself. So the nail released its hold, slid down off the roof, and fell in the mud. That night it rained and rained. Soon, the shingle that had no nail blew away, and the roof began to leak. The water streaked the walls and the beautiful murals. The plaster began to fall, the carpet was stained, and precious Bibles were ruined by water. All this because a little nail decided to quit! While holding the shingle, the nail was obscure, but it was also useful. Buried in the mud, it was just as obscure, but now it was useless and would soon be eaten up by rust. You may, like the nail, feel obscure at times. But just like the nail, your absence is felt. When you are not present for worship, the body of Christ is hurt. We are ALL part of the Lord's ministry.