

Upcoming Events

Jack Wright will preach for us again on January 26
Barrett Hoffman will speak the evening of January 26

Business Meeting today

Budget preparations for 2020

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

Welcome and thank you, Austin Watts!

Integrity

“People with integrity do what they say they are going to do. Others have excuses.” - Dr. Laura Schlessinger -

“Live so that when your children think of fairness, caring, and integrity, they think of you.” - H. Jackson Brown, Jr. -

January Birthdays

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

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Indio Informer

Vol. 31 No. 3

January 19, 2020

Always Give a Good Example and an Honest Answer

By Gerald Cowan

A long time ago a friend gave me some good advice on how to be an effective minister. “Give everybody something to be thankful for,” he said. The best thing you can give to anyone is a good example and an honest answer to any questions asked of you (Romans 12:17, 1 Peter 3:15-16). A good example will cause no one to stumble (1 Corinthians 10:31). An honest answer means speaking the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). Give others something they will not have to apologize to others for, something they won’t have to hide or pretend didn’t happen. Give them the truth. When rumors fly, and they always will, they cannot fly through the truth. Truth stops the rumor dead.

If one asks an honest question, he expects to get an honest answer, a simple straightforward statement of the truth, so far as it can be known. Some people are devious and untrustworthy. They may tell you things that are not strictly true, though not really false. They may do it to protect the guilty and mislead the innocent. Here’s an example that illustrates the point (something I clipped from the Coro Lake Bulletin, Memphis, TN several years ago):

A young woman’s husband had been justly convicted of and crimes and sentenced to be executed. In those days capital punishment was often by hanging, and was witnessed by the public. The woman’s husband was hanged, and she was left a widow with five children. For several years after the event it was quite natural for people to inquire about her husband, and here is how she explained his death. “My husband died at a public function when a platform on which he was standing gave way.” She had loved her husband, in spite of his crimes. To spare his

name from further disgrace, she explained his death as simply as she could, without giving more details than were required to answer the question, but not saying anything that was not true.

Love covers a multitude of sins (1 Peter 4:8, James 5:20). It does not do so by refusing to acknowledge them, overlooking them, or pretending they do not exist. Some would rather not know the truth about others – infidelity of a spouse, for example, or inappropriate activities or business (gangster business in the case just mentioned). But sin cannot be hidden, removed, or forgiven unless it is faced, corrected, and forgiveness for it is sought from God.

Give God, heaven, the church, people who know us, and our own self too, something to be thankful for. Repent, obey the Lord, and let the Lord save our soul. Keep ourselves in the faith – stay faithful to the calling of the Lord. Then no one will ever have to apologize for us or be embarrassed to have the truth about us known by all.

The Exodus of the Young

By Brad Harrub

It's like a slow train wreck you can't stop watching. For 18 years a young person attends your local congregation and is present every Sunday. But then they leave home, take the high dive into the world, and slowly start to live a life that does not reflect Christ. And sadly, they appear to love this new life of worldliness. Their clothes get more immodest. Their social media posts get more immoral. Their language becomes less about Him and more about themselves. And little by little you watch as this once faithful person begins to embrace sin.

Why? Why are we not better grounding our young people to run away from worldliness and run toward holiness? Why do we sit idly by and assume this is "just a phase" everyone must go through? Why do we no longer blush? Why is it okay for a 20-year-old to dishonor the bride of Christ publicly through social media and no one does anything? Why do we act like souls are not at stake?

I fear that it is because, in too many cases, their hearts were never turned toward God in the first place. Sure, they wanted to get baptized and sure they wanted to avoid the fires of hell. But they never put on the new man. They never agreed to be a servant/slave to Christ.

Yes, they wanted salvation and forgiveness, but they did not want Him as a Lord over their life. They simply wanted a comfortable Christianity that still allowed them to live as they wanted to live. It's time parents, church leaders, and Christians take a serious look at the hearts of their young people and ask: "Who is on the throne of your heart?" Is it a video game? Is it themselves? Is it a boyfriend/girlfriend? Is it theater, football, or band? Is it high grades and honor roll? Is it being popular or having the right phone? Or is it Jesus Christ? How many more will we watch fall away before we realize that something needs to be done?

A Spoken Word

By Ron Thomas

Proverbs 10:19 says, "*In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise.*" Many years ago, I learned that the value of a word fitly spoken penetrates powerfully. Though I learned this I did not always do what I learned. While I was in the USAF, stationed in Guam, I heard a brother in the Lord answer someone's question about why he spoke so little. He responded, "I'm tired of eating my foot." Those few words said more to me than all the philosophy classes I took in college. What is your impression of a person who seems to always be talking? My impression, sometimes, is that the person doing all or nearly all the talking doesn't have much to say, but it is going to be said anyway. The context, of course, of the circumstances (and words) will determine how this is to be interpreted. The proverb writer does not speak anything profoundly spiritual. He simply utters a truth that any mature adult can understand. I wish, though, that many adults would transfer this understanding of theirs into actions. Someone has said that if you give a man enough rope and he will hang himself. I think I'll carry a short rope!