

## Calendar

Men's Business Meeting Today: May 17 at 3:30 p.m.

## Choices

*"It's not hard to make decisions when you know what your values are."* - Roy Disney -

*"When one bases his life on principle, 99 percent of his decisions are already made."* - Author Unknown -

*"Decisions become easier when your will to please God outweighs your will to please the world."* - Anso Coetzer -

*"You always do what you want to do. This is true with every act. You may say that you had to do something, or that you were forced to, but actually, whatever you do, you do by choice. Only you have the power to choose for yourself."* - W. Clement Stone -

## May Birthdays

2 Peggy Woodruff      15 Kena Brown      22 Ana Munayco

### 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. 21

May 17, 2015

## "Making the Right Choices..."

### Choosing a Church

By John Tracy

Why do people place membership with a particular congregation? The responses we are given are varied: "It's a friendly church. The preacher is dynamic. The building is beautiful. They have great programs. They have a good youth group. There is so much activity and excitement there. They understand and accept me."

With a few exceptions, the same reasons could be given for joining a fraternity, a health club, or any professional organization. Is there a more valid criterion for selecting a congregation? Yes! Pleasing God must be our first priority in life (cf. Ecclesiastes 12:13; Micah 6:8; Acts 10:35). Our greatest concern should be to select a local church where all members (especially leaders) are trying to be true to God's Word. If a congregation is not serious about staying true to the Book, then all the programs, hype, and enthusiasm amount to little more than momentary distraction.

How did Jesus evaluate the churches of Asia near the end of the first-century? His assessment of the church at Ephesus centered on its tolerance of wicked people and false teachers, hard work, perseverance in hardship, and action which had characterized their initial love (Revelation 2:1-7). Smyrna needed to stand up under the persecution of opponents and false religious figures (Revelation 2:8-11). Pergamos was tolerating some members who were holding to false teachings (Revelation 2:12-13). Thyatira was tolerating doctrinal impurity (Revelation 2:18-29). In virtually every case, what was important to Jesus was whether these churches knew and defended the truth and whether they put the truth into practice in their own lives.

In our selection of a congregation, we need to find a church where the words of eternal life are revered and where Christ is in their midst (Revelation 2:10). Little else really matters.

### **It All Happened So Fast!**

By Wade Webster, Southaven, MS

(story adapted from McManis, Charles. As qtd. in  
“Laughter, the Best Medicine.” Reader’s Digest, 1997, p. 210)

A snail crossing the road was run over by a turtle. Regaining consciousness in the emergency room, he was asked what caused the accident. “I really can’t remember,” the snail answered. “You see, it all happened so fast.”

We laugh because turtles and snails aren’t known for their speed. However, speed is rather relative. To a snail, a turtle is probably like a gazelle.

How fast is your life moving? Doesn’t it seem like it is moving at breakneck speed? Just yesterday, it seems, we were graduating, getting married, or expecting a baby. Today, we are at the half-way point of our careers, we have been married for 20+ years, and our children are preteens or teens. If we are not careful, we will look back one day and wonder what happened.

We need to slow down and take stock of what is really important. I believe that this is especially true when it comes to our children. I have known countless parents who looked back and wondered what happened to their children. For sure, there are no guarantees in raising children. Once children reach adulthood, they make their own choices, and they may not make the right choices, no matter how they have been taught. However, it is easy in our fast-paced world to let the years roll by without giving our children what they really need.

We need to redeem the time, because the days are evil (Ephesians 5:16). We need to walk wisely, not run foolishly (Colossians 4:5). There is more to raising children than putting a roof over their heads, clothes on their backs, and food in their bellies. There is more to parenting than getting them fed and in bed. They need time and teaching (Deuteronomy 6:6-9), discipline and direction (Proverbs 19:18; Ephesians 6:1-4), affection and affirmation (Titus 2:4).

One day, how much time we spent at the office will not matter nearly as much as how much time we spent with our children. Nor, for that matter, will it compensate us as well. I have never heard a single person say, “I wish I had spent more time at the office.” However, I have heard many say, “I wish I had spent more time at home.”

### **Impulse Buyers**

By Steve Higginbotham

Hello, my name is Steve Higginbotham, and I am an impulse buyer.

There, I feel better now. But it's true; I'm the kind of guy for which they make commercials and design eye-catching packaging. When I go shopping, if I see something on the shelf I like, I put it in the buggy. Consequently, my children never miss an opportunity to go shopping with me, and my wife rarely sends me.

But this impulse buying has sometimes led to some very poor purchases. You see, I don't check the price like I should, and it's not until I'm at the checkout that I realize how expensive some items are. Well, at this point, I'm too embarrassed to say anything. I don't want to hold people up in the line behind me by putting it back. So I proceed with a purchase that has now lost its luster.

Now if I can change subjects, is that not precisely why we choose to sin? Impulse. If we fully comprehended the cost before the transaction was made, we wouldn't make it. But we go on our impulse. Immediate gratification. And we don't worry about the price until we get to the checkout.

Well friends, let me remind you that there will be a checkout some day, and we will have to pay for our purchases. Therefore, I would encourage you, as well as myself, to learn self-discipline and make life choices based not upon today, but upon eternity.

***“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ”*** 1 John 2:1