

## Please welcome...

Preaching for us today is **Ron Robinson**. Be sure to welcome him and thank him.

## Build One Another Up

*“Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.”* - 1 Thessalonians 5:11 -

*“Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.”*  
- Ephesians 4:29 -

*“In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”*  
- Matthew 7:12 -

## November Birthdays

6 Ashley Tanner      10 Daniel Brown

(Note: if anyone is “missed” here, let Jim know)

### Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.  
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.  
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

**Preacher:**  
(Vacant)

**Church of Christ**  
81-377 Ave 46  
Indio, CA 92201  
(760) 342-1859

(Address Service Requested)

# Indio Informer

Vol. 25 No. 44

November 2, 2014

## The Snake Pit

By Wade Webster,  
Southaven, MS

When General H. Norman Schwarzkopf returned from Vietnam, his back was severely damaged from numerous parachute jumps. Spinal surgery was all that could save him from paralysis. The surgery was successful, but the recovery was slow and painful. Schwarzkopf became depressed and contemplated retiring. Tom Bratton, an amputee in his ward, shook him out of his depression. He asked, “Sir, if I can walk on one leg, how come you can’t walk on two?”

In his book, *It Doesn’t Take a Hero*, Schwarzkopf relates how Bratton’s question affected him:

I was embarrassed because I was eventually going to have a normal life, while Bratton never would. He and his pals went in and out of my ward every day, joking, playing cards, and generally terrorizing the orderlies. I began to understand how [our ward], the Snake Pit, worked. Newcomers just back from Vietnam were often bitter and consumed with self-pity. If a man didn’t snap out of it, the doctors would assign him a bed down in the Snake Pit. Like Bratton, most of the guys had been there for months or years and were fighting to overcome terrible injuries. So they were merciless when the newcomer would start moaning. They’d yell, “You wimp! Shut up! What are you moaning about? There’s a lot of guys here who are hurt worse than you. We don’t want to hear it.” They’d often reduce a man to tears. But after that, he’d grind his teeth and fight back, which was precisely what they wanted. The guys in the Snake Pit were relentless, but they brought people back to life.

## A Good Word

(From Housetoohouse.com)

In reading this story, I thought of how that we as Christians must sometimes push one another. In Hebrews, we read, *“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching”* (Hebrews 10:24-25). As you know, it is easy for children of God to become discouraged and to drop out of service to the Lord. As Christians, we must provoke and exhort them to stay in the race.

### What Comes Out?

By Jim Wilson, via *KneeMail*,  
Mike Benson, editor

Amy Carmichael has a note in her little book: “A cup brimful of sweet water cannot spill even one drop of bitter water, however suddenly jolted.”

If it is full of sweet water and is jolted, what will come out of the cup? Sweet water. If you gave it a harder jolt, what’s going to happen? More sweet water. If someone is filled with sweet water and someone else gives him a “jolt,” what will come out? Sweet water! Jolts do not turn sweet water into bitter water. That is done by something else.

Jolts only bring out of the container what’s already in the container. If we’re filled with sweetness and light, and we get jolted, we’re going to spill sweetness and light. If we’re filled with honey, the honey will come out. If vinegar comes out, what does that prove? It shows what was already in the container. In other words, bitterness is not based upon what the other person did at all. It is the result of what we do and are.

***“Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice”.*** Ephesians 4:31

Mark Twain once said, 'I can live for two months on one good compliment.' We all know what he meant by that. It lifts your spirits to have someone say something genuinely nice to you or about you.

Solomon noted this human truth: *“Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad”* (Proverbs 12:25). Haven't you experienced days when the morning began just right? Someone in your family mentioned something special about you he/she appreciated. Your boss gave you a compliment as you walked through the door. And then, there was a note in the mail or a phone call from someone you love, and words of cheer entered your heart and carried you through the day.

Since we know how good it feels to receive such expressions from people, shouldn't we spread the same joy to others? We ought to take advantage of the many opportunities that are available to us (Ephesians 5:15; Colossians 4:5; Galatians 6:10).

A good word. You don't have to be rich to give compliments away. You don't have to be well known to effect others. Even complete strangers reap the benefit of receiving a good word from you.

We hear so many bad words in our world. Let's start a campaign to balance what people hear. It all begins with a good word!

***“So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.”***

Galatians 6:10

***“Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity.”*** Colossians 4:5