

## Upcoming Events...

**Pre-Election Prayer Meeting:** Monday, 11/7 at 7:00 p.m. at church building.

**Business Meeting:** Next Sunday, November 13 at 4:30 p.m.

**Ladies Bible Class:** November 20 at 4:00 p.m.

**Evangelism Class:** Friday, 11/18 at 7:00 p.m. at McKnight home.

**Barnabas Group Meeting:** Tuesday, 11/29 at 7:00 p.m. at McKnight home.

### Read through the Bible in 2016!

Suggested chapters to read so that we might read through the entire Bible during 2016! This week's "schedule":

- **Day 305** - Matthew 20-21 Monday
- **Day 306** - Luke 18:15--43; Luke 19:1-48 Tuesday
- **Day 307** - Mark 11; John 12 Wednesday
- **Day 308** - Matthew 22; Mark 12 Thursday
- **Day 309** - Matthew 23; Luke 20-21 Friday
- **Day 310** - Mark 13 Saturday
- **Day 311** - Matthew 24 Sunday

### November Birthdays

6 Ashley Tanner	10 Daniel Brown
21 Carroll White	27 Lupita Guzman

### November Anniversaries

2 Shannon & Susan Hudson
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#### 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

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### Stepping Away From the Crowd

By Joe Chesser

Most of us know pretty well the story of Peter walking on water (Matthew 14:22-33). It was an incredible demonstration of faith. Can you imagine actually climbing out of the boat and walking toward Jesus? I mean, the odds were stacked heavily against him. The time was somewhere between 3 and 6 AM, the wind was howling and causing the waves to crash around the boat, they were exhausted from struggling all night to cross the lake, and the disciples were terrified at seeing what they thought was a "ghost" (remember it was just before dawn). Yet, at Jesus' invitation Peter had the courage and faith to do the irrational – he stepped out of the boat and walked on the water toward Him.

Usually when we think about this story we key in on two things:

- 1) if we keep our eyes on Jesus we can do amazing things,  
and
- 2) the minute we take our eyes off of Jesus we begin to sink.

Great lessons, but there's something else in this story worth noticing – the other disciples were still in the boat.

I can't help but wonder what they were thinking when Peter started to climb out of the boat. Did they encourage him or try to stop him? Did they marvel at his faith or question his sanity? Perhaps they were stunned and speechless. Were they praising God or looking for a life jacket? Were they tempted to get out of the boat, too? There's a lot we don't know.

However, there are two things we do know. We know they didn't get out of the boat, and we know that Peter did. Only Peter had the courage and faith to step away from his peers (the crowd) and head toward Jesus simply because Jesus said, "Come." Of the group, only Peter walked on water.

I think that's also what Jesus is asking us to do: "Step away from the crowd, walk on water and come to me." He's asking us to step away from the crowded road and walk the narrow path to life (Matthew 7:13-14). He's asking us to turn away from the unthankful majority and give Him praise even if no one else does (Luke 17:11-19). He's asking us to leave what's comfortable and carry His cross (Luke 14:25-27). He's asking us to stop walking by sight and live by faith (2 Corinthians. 5:7). He's asking us to give up our trust in money and material things, and seek Him first (Matthew 6:24-33). He's asking us to quit making excuses and get out of the boat!! He's asking us to step away from the crowds like Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses and David did (Hebrews 11).

If we had been in the boat with Peter, what would we have done?

## **Heaven**

By Steve Higginbotham

Occasionally, someone will ask me how I come up with ideas for all the articles I write. Well, it's not hard when you're surrounded by people who are spiritually minded. Just this week, a friend and brother, Lance Champion made an observation that has really resonated with me and I hope it will you too.

Lance said, "For those who are Christians, earth will be the closest they'll ever get to Hell; and for those who are not Christians, earth will be the closest they'll ever get to Heaven."

I find that statement to be profound; pregnant with hope as well as sadness.

I have a vivid memory of riding in the car with my dad when I was a boy. We were riding through an area where the houses were dilapidated and children were running around barefoot and barely clothed. I remember sitting at a traffic light, watching the children, and telling my dad how sad I felt for those kids and the conditions in which they lived. I'll never forget my dad's response. He said, "Unless someone teaches them about Jesus, this is the best it will ever get for them."

I hate to think that this world is the very best some will ever experience. It lights a fire under me to be more zealous in sharing the gospel. However, at the same time, I take great comfort in the

fact that because I am a child of God, this world, with all its heartaches and hardships will be the worst I'll ever experience!

Thanks for the reminder, Lance!

## **Contentment**

By Alan Smith

There was a father who was known by his family to be a chronic growler. He complained about everything. He was sitting one day with his family in the presence of a guest in the living room when the subject of food came up.

One of the children, a little girl, was telling the guest what food each member of the family liked best. Finally, it came to the father's turn to be described. "And what do I like, Nancy?" he asked. "You," said the little girl slowly, "well, what you like most is anything we haven't got."

There are some people like that, who simply are never content. If they're served one food, they want something else. If it's hot outside, they want it to be cold. If it's cold, they want it to be hot. And they'd rather be ANYWHERE else other than where they're living right now!

To the young man Timothy, Paul wrote, "*Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, we shall be content.*" (I Timothy 6:6-8). Since most of us seem to need far more than that to be content, we are challenged by Paul's words!

But, to Paul, they weren't just words to be spoken and discussed. They were words to be lived out. Despite the fact that Paul was writing from prison, he was able to say, "*I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content.*" (Philippians 4:11). In the next verse, he said that he had learned to be content with a lot (which would be easy for most of us), but he was also content with little. The reason he could be content because he had Jesus Christ, and that was all he needed to bring contentment.

Do we have food? Do we have clothing? More importantly, do we have Jesus? Have a contented day!