

## Upcoming Events

**Panera Bread Open Bible Study:**  
New location: see church website

### For Real Prosperity...

*“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this’ says the Lord of hosts, ‘if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows’.”* Malachi 3:10

*“Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.”* Luke 6:48

*“The reward of humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, honor and life.”* Proverbs 22:4

### September Birthdays

3 Wendy Cortes      11 Marie Burruss      15 Marcos Perales  
16 Jim Burruss      24 Mason Perales  
30 Dortha Gentry      30 Kurt Hoffman

#### 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**  
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(Address Service Requested)

# Indio Informer

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## Our God is a Giver

By Dan Jenkins

It is remarkable that so many know the “Golden Text” of the Bible. *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...”* It is called the “Golden Text” because many who read John 3:16 see it as summing up the story of the Bible. Our God is a giver. He gave His son, but He has given us so much more.

He gives us our food. Paul, in his sermon at Lystra, reminded the pagans that while God allowed the nations to walk in their own ways, they were still accountable to Him. They could know He existed. *“He did not leave himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness”* (Acts 14:17). That same witness has been given to us for did He not tell us to pray about God giving us daily bread?

However, far above all of this is the spiritual food He supplies us. He has given us access to the fountain of the water of life freely (Revelation 21:6). He has given us all things which pertain to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3). He has given us the ability to understand the mystery that not even O.T. saints understood (Mark 4:11; 1 John 5:20). He has given us access to heavenly wisdom (James 1:5). He has also given us exceedingly great and precious promises (2 Peter 1:4). Our God truly is a giver.

He has given us the church and its attendant blessings which come with it. *“Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom”* (Luke 12:32). That eternal kingdom, planned from before the world began and prophesied by the Old Testament saints, has been given to us. This was more than part of His plan. It was the plan, and it was His pleasure to give it to us!

He has given to those in that kingdom the honor of telling others about His plan of redemption. That honor was not given to saints of old—not to Abraham, Moses, David, Elijah or any of the prophets. It was not given to Gabriel or Michael or any other angel in heaven. Paul described it this way: God has given to us the word of reconciliation and the work of reconciliation. We stand as the only ambassadors Jesus has on this earth saying to the world, “*Be reconciled to God*” (2 Corinthians 5:20).

The list of what God has given to us is seemingly endless. He has given us peace (John 14:27). He has given us grace (Romans 12:6). He has given us a new name (Isaiah 62:2). He has given us the right to become sons of God (1 John 1:12) and what love is shown in this relationship (1 John 3:1).

Our God is a giver. What is our response?

### **Is Prosperity Better?**

By Travis Robertson

When we hear about someone who won the lottery, do we think, “Wow, if only I had hundreds of millions of dollars life would be so much better”? Sure, we can see how having a lot more amenities and not needing to think about how we will pay the mortgage or rent next month would be nice, but does the money make our life better?

King David finds himself in a prosperous situation in 1 Chronicles 21. He decides that he is going to number Israel, yet this was not something God wanted him to do. David was king, and he was prospering. He thought he should see just how strong and prosperous he was. You will notice, in verse 1, that Satan saw this as a great opportunity to tempt David. David sinned, and it ended up costing 70,000 Israelite’s lives as a punishment from God.

We need to be reminded that when we are blessed, when we have reached the top of the mountain, that God is the one that helped us get there. It is easy to fall into the traps and snares that the desire for riches bring (1 Timothy 6:9-10). Let’s follow the instruction of

Paul to put our hope in God and use our blessings and riches for good works (1 Timothy 6:17-19). Is prosperity better? It depends on what we do when we prosper.

### **Prosperity and God**

By Joe Slater

We are prosperous people living in a prosperous nation. By global standards, the poorest among us is wealthy. We might credit any number of things for this happy condition: good education, hard work, and favorable government economic policies, to name a few.

I fear, however, that most citizens have totally lost sight of the real source of our prosperity. “*Every good gift and every perfect gift comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation of shifting shadow*” (James 1:17). That doesn’t refer only to material wealth, but certainly includes it.

God warned His people Israel not to forget Him when they enjoyed the prosperity He would give them in the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 6:10-12 & 8:11-18). But forget Him they did! As early as Judges 3:7 they were straying, and it continued until the captivity.

Hosea the prophet, who lived in the late 700’s B.C., warned his brethren in the Northern Kingdom (Israel) of their impending doom. What had Israel done to offend the Lord? “*For she said, ‘I will go after my lovers, who give me my bread and my water, my wool and my linen, my oil and my drink’*” (Hosea 2:5). Yes, the people thought their prosperity came from alliances and trade deals with their pagan neighbors! God continued: “*For she did not know that I gave her grain, new wine, and oil, and multiplied her silver and gold – which they prepared for Baal*” (v. 8). Think of it! The very blessings the Lord graciously gave them, they used to worship their idols!

Let us always remember the source of our prosperity and humbly, thankfully honor the Lord with it!