

Upcoming Events

Next Sunday, June 13, 3:30 p.m.
Business Meeting

Welcome: Jack and Noemi Critchfield

Address: 81875 Ave. 48, Apt. #27, Indio, CA 92201
Phone: (805) 450-2783

Thankfulness

“In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:18

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and pleading with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” Philippians 4:6

“I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart; I will tell of all Your wonders. I will rejoice and be jubilant in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.” Psalms 9:1-2

June Birthdays

9 Debbie Pescador

June Anniversaries

5 Kurt & Debbie Hoffman 9 Sue Tanner

Regular Meeting Times

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

Temporary Meeting Times

Sunday.....10:00 a.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:

Jack Critchfield

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

(Address Service Requested)

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A Memorable Day in the History of Indio church of Christ: Welcome Jack and Noemi Critchfield

This is the 32nd year of publishing the Indio Informer, begun by Bill Brown...yes, 32 years ago. There have been lots of memorable events through the years for the Indio church. Today we hear the first Sunday morning sermon by our new minister, Jack Critchfield. Let's give a warm Indio welcome to brother Jack and his wife, Noemi.

It's been a long time coming! And all exacerbated by a historic, world-wide pandemic, already lasting more than a full year, the first such event in over a hundred years. The added stresses on all our lives throughout the past year likely affected all in various ways. The "event" caused us to make many changes in how we live our lives and even our worship services. We all long for a return of some normalcy in our old routines and "traditions".

However, we've got so much to be thankful for. So many "stepped up to the plate". A special thanks is due to **Alexis Brown** for his excellent work in making the announcements and arranging for men to assist in each Sunday's worship services. And a continued thanks for the men who have rotated as teachers on Wednesday evenings.

A reminder of all those who preached or spoke for us (some more than once) throughout the past year plus; we owe a great debt of gratitude to **Joe Griffin** (Huntington Beach); **Kalvin Johns** (Claremont-Mesa); **Paul Cantrell** (Huntington Beach); **Baldwin Borland** (Studebaker Road); **Mike Odorizzi** (Winnetka Ave); **Ron Robinson** (Yuma); **Austin Watts** (Winnetka Ave); **Jack Wright** (El Centro); **John Buttrey** (West Anaheim). And our own members speaking numerous times: **Barrett Hoffman**, **Alexis Brown**, and **Shannon Hudson**. The variety seemed to be enjoyed by all, so we plan to continue rotating in our members as well as outside speakers a couple times each month.

A brief review of brother Jack Critchfield's background and experience: actually, Jack was a little familiar with Indio, having been one our Saturday meeting speakers several years ago; he knew Bill Brown and Chuck Limburg.

Jack has been preaching the gospel since 1989; preached in Arkansas, Oklahoma, California, Arizona, Missouri, and most recently in Sunnyside Washington.

Note of possible interest: brother Jack has written numerous articles on a variety of subjects and are posted on his blog: biblethoughts.blog. Our church website will now show a link to his site...so enjoy. Here's one from the past...

Remaining Strong in the Lord

Jack Critchfield

It is hard to remain strong when one is discouraged. And discouragement is one of the nastiest tools the devil has at his disposal. If he can discourage a Christian, he can keep him from doing the will of God. Discouragement creates a type of spiritual paralysis within the heart that keeps a Christian inactive before the Lord. It then becomes a question of how do we keep ourselves strong in the Lord when the devil is working so hard against us? Let's look at some suggestions.

Listen to the word of God The word of God tells us He will always be there for us (Hebrews 13:5-6). So, the best way to overcome any adversity in life is to go to God's word. Contained within are all the instructions we will ever need to fight the good fight of faith and rise victoriously. In the eighteenth chapter of the book of Luke we read, *"Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart"* (Luke 18:1).

Jesus then tells the parable about the "Persistent Widow". The judge in the parable did not fear God nor regard man. But, because of the widow's persistence, he finally gave in and gave her the justice that she craved. What we must understand is that the judge is by no means a comparison to our heavenly Father, but rather he serves as a direct contrast to Him.

When we read in the word of God about our heavenly Father, we find that He is very much in tune with our needs. Matthew 6:8 tells us that God knows our needs even before we ask. Matthew 7:7-11 reminds us that human fathers know how to give good gifts to their children. The question is then raised, *"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him"* (Matthew 7:11).

Cast our anxiety (cares, worries) on God. Peter wrote, *"casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you"* (1 Peter 5:7). When we are faced with adversity, it is easy to forget the strength and comfort we find in the Lord. Too often we wait until the world is in shambles before we remember the great love God has for us. Too often, we forget to approach Him in prayer.

Some may contend that worry is simply part of life. They may even call the burdens that weigh heavily upon their minds "legitimate concerns". But whatever a person may call them, they are not healthy for productive Christian living. Therefore, we must always remember to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness. If we do so, all these other concerns will be taken care of (Matthew 6:25-34).

Remain Thankful. It may sound strange, but thankfulness before God goes a long way in keeping us strong in the faith. All can remember struggles of the past that we thought we would never make it through. Yet, it happened. The struggles were overcome because one's faith was grounded in the Lord. The key was looking to Him in prayer and remaining steadfast.

Therefore, we look to the current obstacles in our path and face them with newfound confidence knowing that our God is still with us. This was exactly what David did before facing Goliath. He remembered God's deliverance from the lion and the bear. Then he looked at the Philistine and boldly stated that he would be defeated like one of them. The next time we are faced with adversity and discouragement, remember the great power of prayer. When we bow our heads in prayer, the line of communication between our hearts and our heavenly Father is open. He hears us and will answer speedily (Luke 18:8).