

## Upcoming Events

### Meet Up Class

Thursday, January 27 at 7:00 p.m.  
28561 Sunnyslope St.  
Desert Hot Springs CA 92241

### Welcome...and Thanks!

Speaking for us today:

**Walter York**

From Tustin congregation. Thanks again!

### January Birthdays

14 Juanita Small

### January Anniversaries

8 Bob & Debbie Pescador

### February Birthdays

8 Zoie Perales

# Indio Informer

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## You Can Only Live So Long

Mike Johnson

“You can only live so long.” According to an AP article, these were the last words of a tenor as he performed at the Metropolitan Opera House, in New York City, during a production. The man was standing at the top of a ten-foot ladder when he suffered a heart attack. He fell to the stage below and died a short time later after singing the fatalistic line.

A few years ago in Michigan, a bowler, who had been bowling for 31 years, died shortly after bowling his first 300 game at the age of 40. Fellow league members had cheered him on and had surrounded him as he rolled his final three strikes. Shortly after the game the man seemed quiet; then, the color drained from his face and within fifteen minutes he suffered a fatal heart attack!

People die under a variety of circumstances and in many different ways. Most do not die under such unique circumstances as the two men mentioned above, although many die unexpectedly and suddenly as they did. However, in spite of how death comes and the circumstances under which it comes, it comes to all.

The Bible teaches the inevitability of death and the fickleness of our life here upon this earth. Hebrews 9:27 speaks of two certainties which we face as it says “*And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.*” Job 14:1-2 says, “*Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down; he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.*” James 4:14 points out that our life is a “*vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.*”

When a person dies, various questions might be asked. Someone might ask, “Did he leave a family behind?” Another may ask,

### Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 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)

“Did he have a lot of money?” Some may want to know the cause of the person’s death. Although commonly asked, these questions, and any other similar questions, pale in comparison to what is the most important question: “Was the person a faithful Christian?” When a person dies, this is the only question which really matters.

At the longest, life upon this earth is short and death can come at anytime. What are we doing with the time we have? Are we using our short life here upon this earth to faithfully serve God? Are we “*redeeming the time*” (Ephesians 5:16) knowing that our death and the Judgment are swiftly approaching (Ecclesiastes 9:7, II Corinthians 5:10)?

People do die under unusual circumstances and at unexpected times. However, unless the Lord comes first, we all will die. Are we prepared for this inevitable event? If not, we need to make sure we are prepared by obeying the Will of God.

### **Lukewarm**

By Travis Robertson

The church in Laodicea was neither hot nor cold, but lukewarm (Revelation 3:14-22). It had become a congregation that was of no use to the Lord. Their lukewarm attitude had made the Lord so sick, that He spit them out of His mouth. What we find in this message to the church is that it was personal. The church at Laodicea was lukewarm because the individual members were lukewarm. But it wasn’t just a message to the individuals at Laodicea. The Lord knew that this would be a universal problem within the church, that’s why He preserved this letter for us today.

It is easy for us to become complacent religiously. But if we are going to overcome our lukewarm attitudes, we first must look inside ourselves. Have we become lukewarm in our service to the Lord? Are we on fire like we once were? Have we settled for a comfy spot in the pew to keep it warm? If this describes us, it is time to make a change. Don’t settle for the spiritually comfortable life, it isn’t pleasing to the Lord.

Sometimes it isn’t us that is lukewarm but someone else. If that is the case, it is time to reach out, invite them into our home, pray for them, encourage them. Remind them, that they are not alone, and

we are here for them. Maybe all they need is a little nudge to get moving, or a little spark to get the fire started again.

### **Religious Experiences**

By Joe Slater

Does having a “religious experience” save you (or prove that you are saved)? Some religious groups require one to relate a religious experience; then they decide whether that experience shows the person is saved and should be granted membership. How does this compare to the New Testament record?

In Acts 2, the Jews in Jerusalem definitely had a religious experience! “*And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they (the 120) were sitting . . . And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language*” (2:2, 6). But even though it was supernatural, that “experience” didn’t save anyone! When the apostles preached the gospel, 3000 believed and responded in repentance and immersion, thus receiving salvation.

Who can deny that Saul of Tarsus had a religious experience in Acts 9? “*Suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?’*” (Acts 9:3-4). Contrary to popular belief, this experience didn’t save Saul. God sent Ananias to tell him what to do; Saul “*arose and was baptized*” (Acts 9:18).

Cornelius certainly could lay claim to having a religious experience. An angel of God appeared, telling him to send for Peter (Acts 10:1-6). But that experience didn’t save him! Peter told him “*words by which you and all your household will be saved*” (Acts 11:14). Cornelius and his household obeyed the gospel just like all the others (Acts 10:47-48).

Even if we had a supernatural experience today (which we won’t), that wouldn’t save us! “*Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord!*” (Acts 22:16)