

THANK YOU!
Jason Guifarro
Today's Speaker

Seeking God

'If you seek Him, He will let you find Him.' 2 Chronicles 15:2

"And you will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13

"Blessed are those who comply with His testimonies, and seek Him with all their heart." Psalms 119:2

April Birthdays

3 Amanda Hoffman 6 Susan Hudson
16 Alana Hudson 23 Shannon Hudson

April Anniversaries

19 Bill & Kena Brown

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Website:
indiochurchofchrist.com

Preacher: Vacant

(Address Service Requested)

Indio Informer

Vol. 34 No. 17

April 23, 2023

A Hospital

John M. Buttrey II

My recent stay in the hospital was once again a positive experience. From the doctors and staff involved with the surgery, to the nurses who were involved in the post-op procedures, the care I received was compassionate and focused on my physical healing.

As a local preacher, I learned long ago that the assembly of the saints on the first day of the week is much like people coming to a hospital to get well. Brethren arrive with a variety of different needs related to their spiritual well-being. They come to the Great Physician in need of spiritual healing (Mark 2:17).

Some of the "patients" suffer with orthopedic types of ailments. They have troubles with their spiritual walk. They need to be reminded that we walk by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). Some may need support to maintain a strong walk in the light (1 John 1:5-7). Other orthopedic conditions may involve one's grip. Holding on too tightly to the things of this world can weaken one's grip on things eternal (Matt. 6:19-24).

There are other "patients" who arrive struggling with cardiac issues. Like David, they are in need of God creating in them a new heart (Psalms 51:10). Jesus said, "*For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders*" (Matthew 15:19). The proper care of the heart (mind) is a subject addressed in the Scriptures. The wisdom of Proverbs tells us to, "*Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life*" (Proverbs 4:23).

In addition to these common ailments, are those with neurological struggles. They having trouble remembering the benefits of

serving God (Psalms 103:2). They need reminders of the eternal prize. For them, the words of the apostle Paul will provide healing: “*Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth*” (Colossians 3:2).

Many arrive bruised and battered from spiritual warfare with the enemy. Some come discouraged, others with despair or doubt. They seek encouragement for renewed strength. For all who come, great tenderness is needed. Of our Great Physician, Jesus Christ, it is said, “*A battered reed He will not break off, and a smoldering wick He will not put out*” (Matthew 12:20).

We should understand that every one of us plays a part in caring for one another when we assemble together. There are things we all can and must do to help and encourage one another. It could be a kind word, a hug, some shared tears, a timely verse of Scripture softly, or if needed, firmly spoken. Indeed, the words of the songs we sing can be healing.

“*Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*” Colossians 3:16

All things considered, we should leave the assembly better than how we arrived. Paul rebuked the church in Corinth because this was not happening. He told them:

“*But in giving this instruction, I do not praise you, because you come together not for the better but for the worse.*”
1 Corinthians 11:17

Imagine that! They were in a worse condition after meeting together! That’s like going to a hospital to get well but leaving in a worse condition than when you arrived!

My dear brethren, are you feeling down? Do you need spiritual food? Do you need to be built-up in your faith? The inspired

Hebrew writer gave us a prescription for spiritual healing. Let us strive, at all costs, to fulfill the prescription:

“*And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.*” Hebrews 10:24-25

Giving

By Rob Albright

GIVING to others brings us joy. When we share our time, talent, and other resources for the benefit of others, we find satisfaction. When we do good to help others, we are being Christ like.

GIVING to others is “doing good” (Galatians 6:10). Helping others in their time of need is Christianity in action (Romans 12:13) and is evidence of our faith (James 2:14-17).

GIVING is also what we do together as a church family. We plan our giving in support of the work we are involved with as the body (church) of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8:4). There are benevolent, edification, and evangelism efforts we are involved in together. It is a privilege to be able to share together in the work that glorifies God (2 Corinthians 9:13).

Read 2 Corinthians 8 and 9 and take note of the attitude we should have in our giving. Remember God loves a cheerful giver. Our giving should not be a “grudging obligation” so take special note of the attitude the churches in Macedonia had (2 Corinthians 9:5, 7; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5).

