

**NEW CHRISTIAN! WELCOME!**

Elena Guzman  
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New Christians...and Others Interested  
**“Foundation Lessons” Class**  
Wednesdays 3:30 p.m. at the church building  
(Repeats on Saturdays at 3:30)  
All are welcome!

**\*\*\*April Birthday inadvertently omitted\*\*\*  
IT’S TODAY!!**

30 Aaron McCollum

**May Birthdays**

2 Peggy Woodruff                      15 Kena Brown

**May Anniversaries**

5 Aaron & Esmeralda McCollum

# Indio Informer

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**What Was Before “Time?”**

By Bruce Evans

*“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”* (Genesis 1:1) Human beings have a difficult time grasping the concept of what was before the beginning. We are linear in our thought process. There is a starting point then a progression forward. Or dare one think, what preceded the starting point? As already noted in Genesis 1:1, God was prior to *“the beginning”*. In Psalms 90:2, the following is found, *“Before the mountains were born, or Thou didst give birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting. Thou art God.”* God is eternal, backward and forward. Having no beginning and having no end (see also Psalms 41:13). *“Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the Lord, the creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable”* (Isaiah 40:28).

Inasmuch as God set time in motion, it is clear God “predates” time. Which in the mind of some spawns another question, that being what was God doing with His “time” prior to creation? Jesus, as He prayed to the Father as found in John 17:24, sheds some light. *“Father, I desire that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am, in order that they may behold My glory, which Thou hast given Me; for Thou didst love Me before the foundation of the world.”* Evident in the prayer is the usage of “We” and “Us” which ties back to Genesis 1:26, *“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...’”* (see also Hebrews 1:8-12)

**Regular Meeting Times**

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

Website:  
[indiochurchofchrist.com](http://indiochurchofchrist.com)

**Preacher: Vacant**

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Deity, prior to creation was joined together in a relationship based upon love. John, in his first epistle simply stated, “...for God is love.” (4:8) When Jesus was baptized by John, the baptizer, the Father’s voice boomed from heaven, “*This is My beloved Son...*” at the same time the Spirit descended as a dove. Foundational love upon which the whole scheme of redemption would be based. Out of love, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit worked in concert together to bring about the salvation of mankind.

Consider what is seen in the first chapter of Ephesians, beginning in verse three and continuing to verse ten. In those verses there is so much to unpack, not the least of which is, “*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world...*” (vs 3-4a) The motivation behind the plan of redemption is found in the last two words of verse four, “*In love.*”

The outpouring of God’s love for mankind is clearly evident in the fifth chapter of Romans. “*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us*” (v. 8) God’s love is truly eternal, even as God is eternal. “*Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift*”

The psalmist who penned the 136th Psalm succinctly captures the eternal nature of God. In nearly every one of the twenty- eight verses that make up the psalm, “*lovingkindness*” serves as the central thought. Before time was, God’s love was.



## The Sting of Death is Sin

By Kevin Cauley

So many people are under the impression that the sting of death is death itself. The Bible says otherwise (1 Corinthians 15:56). That is, it isn’t death that is the sting, but sin. Why is that? Because if one dies in one’s sins, then that sin stays with him after death and results in condemnation (John 5:29). However, if one is forgiven of sins, then there is no sting in death, instead, there is only blessing. “*Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord*” (Revelation 14:13).

However, a person must take advantage of the opportunity to be free from sin by becoming a child of God so that death will have no sting. God gives victory through Christ, not the sting that is sin (1 Corinthians 15:57). In Christ, there is no condemnation (Romans 8:1). How can I be forgiven of sin and be in Christ? We are forgiven of sin by the blood of Christ (Matthew 26:28) when we are baptized into Christ (Acts 2:38, Acts 22:16). When we are baptized, we put on Christ (Galatians 3:27) and belong to Christ. If we then belong to Christ, we are free from sin, and death has no more sting. Instead, “*death is swallowed up in victory*” (1 Corinthians 15:54-55).

Christians should not be afraid of death. Christ Jesus came into the world to take away our fear of death. “*Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage*” (Hebrews 2:14-15). The devil wants us to be afraid of death so he can control us. Let’s not give him what he wants!

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