

**Attention!**  
Business meeting, today  
December 10 at 2:30 p.m.

**Encouraging One Another**

*“Let’s consider how to encourage one another in love and good deeds.”* Hebrews 10:24

*“Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.”* Isaiah 40:31

*“Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, just as you also are doing.”* 1 Thessalonians 5:11

**December Birthdays**

17 Bill Brown    18 Alexis Brown    31 Bob Pescador

**December Anniversaries**

18 Jim & Marie Burruss

# **Indio Informer**

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**It is Never too Late to Start Over**

By Steve Boyd

Captain John Callender of the Massachusetts militia was found guilty of cowardice at the Battle of Bunker Hill. George Washington had to order his court martial. Callender re-enlisted in the army as a private, and at the Battle of Long Island exhibited such conspicuous courage that Washington publicly revoked the sentence and restored his captaincy.

It is the same way in the Lord's army. We can start over. We may feel that our actions and deeds are such that seeking to live for Jesus is useless. We try and then stumble. We make an effort and then do something that seems to blot out that effort, and we want to simply quit. But it is not too late to start over. One benefit of forgiveness is the starting over principle. John said in 1 John 1:9, *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

Peter was one who went to sleep when the Lord needed him, denied the Lord, and followed him from a distance. Yet in the beginning of the church, who preached the first sermon? Who was a strong leader among the Lord's disciples in the early history of the church? It was Peter! For many of us, to have failed Jesus as often as Peter did, we would have said we can't start again. But Peter demonstrates that we can try again and succeed.

Each new day is an opportunity to start over. The sight of the rising sun is a beautiful reminder that we have a new and marvelous beginning ahead of us. It is an opportunity to overcome the mistakes and wrongdoing of yesterday and be a better person today. Don't get discouraged when you do not live up to the goals you set. It is not too late to start over.

**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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## When We are in Over Our Head

By Johnny Hester

*“Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two. And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, ‘Father, ‘into Your hands I commit My spirit.’”*

*“Having said this, He breathed His last.”* (Luke 23:44-46). *“He breathed His last.”* Those words cause one’s heart to sink. When Jesus exhaled for a final time on the cross, all the minions of Hell may well have thought that the battle was over, and that victory belonged to satan their evil commander. But how wrong they were! And how horrified they must have been just a short time later! Yes, Jesus suffered and died. He was buried. But then *“He rose again the third day, according to the Scriptures”* (1 Corinthians 15:4)! Furthermore, *“He [The Father] has put all things under His feet”* (v. 27)! Think for a moment about the wonderful implications of that truth that should compel us to praise, worship and live for God.

*“He has put all things under His feet”* (v. 27). Do we ever feel that we are in way over our head with problems? That may be the case, but Jesus is over all things. He is in Heaven, interceding on our behalf! A glorious fact is powerfully declared in Romans 8:34, *“Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”* Where are your problems? *“Under His feet”!* Jesus is alive! He is in control! Jesus is coming again!

Is there someone in our lives who is hurting, suffering, struggling? Consider sending that person a note of encouragement and be sure to use Romans 8:34 as a closing verse of hope. Letting one know that Christ is alive, above, active and working on the behalf of His people can bring a comfort and strength that nothing else can produce.

## Affirmation

By Lance Cordle

Humans need it. We want others to give it freely, not grudgingly. We want it to come without prompting and we would love for it to happen on a regular basis. However, most of us are of such disposition we do not need it every day or, for that matter, every week...but we do need it. What is “it?” The answer is affirmation—the acknowledgement by someone outside ourselves, that we are needed, wanted and valued for our unique contribution to their life.

The apostle Paul was a master of affirmation. Just a quick glance at the New Testament books which are his letters to churches and individuals will confirm this. As you look over the following verses, note the phrases of affirmation (in **bold**, for my emphasis):

- *“Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in the Lord, **who risked their necks for me . . .**”* (Romans 16:3, 4)
- *“I rejoice at the coming of Stephanus and Fortunatus and Achaicus . . . **For they refreshed my spirit as well as yours...**”* (1 Corinthians 16:17, 18)
- *“... Tychicus the **beloved brother and faithful minister** in the Lord will tell you everything.”* (Ephesians 6:21).
- *“**I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy . . .**”* (Philippians 1:3, 4)
- *“For I bear him (Epaphras) witness that **he has worked hard for you** and for those in Laodicea and in Hieropolis.”* (Colossians 4:13)
- *“To Timothy, **my beloved child**”* (2 Timothy 1:2)
- *“To Titus, **my true child** in a common faith”* (Titus 1:4)

He greeted, complimented, and encouraged those to whom he wrote. He mentioned names of people whom he admired and appreciates and was not showy or dramatic in his affirmation.

You and I can follow Paul’s example. We can do so in writing, just as he did with a few well-chosen words. It can also be done personally, with a touch, handshake, or hug. All it takes is the courage to push those words past our lips. One such sentence could be, “I am glad you are my . . .” You fill in the blank with friend, wife, husband, son, daughter, teacher, etc.”