

## Blessings



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### January Anniversaries

8 Bob & Debbie Pescador

### February Birthdays

5 Lyle Graddon

#### 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**

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

(Address Service Requested)

# Indio Informer

*"Trust in the Lord with all  
your heart and do not lean on  
your own understanding."*

Proverb 3:5

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- *"Fight the good fight"*
- *"Keep the faith"*
- *"Finish the course"*

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## Providence..."A Divinity that Shapes Our Ends"

By John Gipson

The word providence is often on our lips, but we may not have a clear conception of its meaning. The idea is forethought. It comes from a combination of words: before and to think. Hence, forethought. The word is inserted into the New Testament by a certain orator named Tertullus who took the lead in bringing charges against the apostle Paul. In an effort to praise Governor Felix, Tertullus said, *"Since through you we enjoy much peace and since by your provision (forethought, providence), most excellent Felix, reforms are introduced on behalf of this nation, in every way and everywhere we accept this with all gratitude"* (Acts 24:2-3). In the eyes of Tertullus, Felix was quite a man. The nation had been blessed by his providence. Felix had looked ahead, planned, and brought to pass needed reforms.

Whatever the providence of Felix might have been, it is nothing compared to the forethought of God who planned our redemption from the foundation of the world.

We see God's providence throughout the realm of nature, in the guidance of the nations, and in the deliverance of Israel from bondage into the promised land.

Benjamin Franklin said, “The longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of the this truth, that God governs in the affairs of man; and if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid?”

We see God’s providence in individual lives: In David guarded from so many perils; in Joseph who could review the past and tell his brothers that they weren’t responsible for bringing him to Egypt—it was the forethought and planning of God. He who is truly thoughtful finds providence not only in the history of the world, but in his own personal and family history.

He therefore has confidence in the future. If God sustained the Israelites in the wilderness so that they lacked nothing, can’t He provide for us? We need the same conviction with which Abraham spoke to his son, Isaac when he said, “***God will provide***”.

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## **Our Greatest Privilege**

By Al Behel

***“Lord, teach us to pray”*** (Luke 11:1)

The disciples of Jesus had listened to his sermons, but never asked, “Teach us to preach.” They had observed his powerful miracles, but never said, “Lord, teach us to do miracles.” The one thing they asked for Him to teach them was how to pray. Knowing how to pray effectively is far more desirable than knowing how to preach a powerful sermon. Moving heaven is much greater than moving men on earth.

Of course, there are many desirable gifts or privileges, but none surpasses the privilege of prayer. We can train men to preach moving sermons, but powerful praying can only come out of hearts that have been touched by the Master. More is accomplished through prayer than through sermons for without prayer sermons are empty and ineffective.

Obviously, the disciples had witnessed Jesus on His knees. They had seen the hand of God moved through His prayers. No one had prayed like Him. No one had talked with the Father the way Jesus did. They stood in awe as they listened to Him pray and they wanted to pray like Jesus prayed. Only Jesus could teach them to pray like that.

I’ve heard many moving prayers. Some were very short but powerful. A little boy in New York prayed, “God, I thank you for making me a human being and not a dog!” Some of the old saints knew how to pray. The key? They knew they were really talking to God and that God was listening.

Prayer is every believer’s privilege. Not everyone is called to become preachers, or elders, or teachers, but everyone is called to pray. Later, Jesus would say, “*Men ought always to pray and not to lose heart*” (Luke 18:1). Praying opens the doors of heaven and moves the hand of God.

Unfortunately, many Christians do not avail themselves of this privilege. Instead, there is an expectation that life moves on its own, most days are reasonably comfortable, and we maintain good health. We forget that prayer is not solely about us. It is primary about communing with our heavenly Father. It is about advancing His kingdom in a world of darkness.

We are instructed to pray for others, to pray for laborers to go into the fields to reap the harvest, and for the spread of the gospel. If prayer is really power, how foolish is it for us to rely on ourselves when we have little control over anything. We have access to our God, the “Almighty” One, who is never tired or weary. Who is “*able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask of think, according to the power at work in us*”. (Ephesians 3:20).

**Speaker for Today**  
Thank you, Joe Griffin