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Messenger

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Annual Thanksgiving with the Gutierrez Brothers

By Kelly McCullough

As their annual blessing to the community, on November 20 Calvary Chapel West hosted their Annual Thanksgiving Dinner and Gutierrez Brothers concert at Grace Gardens. This is a well-known and anticipated event each year, with people

coming from all around to attend. I sat with a couple that had come from Las Cruces, and while in line for dessert spoke to folks from Fabens. Five hundred people were blessed this year with great food, fellowship, worship in song, and the Gospel Message.

Pastor Martin Arriola and the members of CCW work hard planning and acquiring sponsors to pull the free event off each year. Pastor Martin explains, "Every year we do this event to thank God for goodness. It's free because He has been good to us, has blessed us, and so we want to bless others." Once he

welcomed the crowd and prayed over the meal everyone was free to go through the buffet-style line. The wonderful meal was provided by Great American, Mesa Hills and Yarbrough, Grace Gardens, and US Foods.

The Gutierrez Brothers not only gave a concert, but as incorporated discussions of Scripture throughout. Such as ... "The enemy has nothing on you if you have accepted Jesus" ... "Jesus is our rest. Jesus says if any of you are tired and heavy burdened, to cast your cares on Him and He will give you rest" ... "Salvation is a free gift, because we can't pay for it, it's like having a ticket at a very high price" ... "Adam committed the original sin and passed it to all his descendants, that's you and I. We can't pay for it. Only the King of Kings could pay the debt. He's paid it - you don't owe anything else, you're a child of God." ... "Tonight you will have the opportunity to receive that free gift He is offering. You will choose to accept or reject it. Please don't reject it."

Pastor Martin then thanked the sponsors that made this evening possible: Keystone



Pastor Martin Arriola, Calvary Chapel West.
Photo by Kelly McCullough

Christian School, Great American - Mesa Hills (Cris & Theresa Green), Great

Continued on page 2



Gutierrez Brothers perform at Grace Gardens. Photo by Kelly McCullough

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When you became a believer, you also became God's messenger. God wants to speak to the world through you. Paul said, "We speak the truth before God, as messengers of God."

2 Corinthians 2:17b NCV



Ms. Kelly McCullough

The Messenger

Please send comments, letters, opinions or suggestions. Email to: Media4Him@yahoo.com or Snail Mail to:

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Father I lift up all those who were injured in the recent mass shooting in California, the families of those that lost their lives and families of the shooters. We just can't understand how or why someone would walk into a place of business and wreak havoc in such a way. Help us to not live in fear of such actions. Father I pray You will comfort those who lost loved ones, and help all the injured to heal. I haven't heard at this point yet if they've caught all responsible for this attack, if not - Father lead the area law enforcement to them.

Father I lift up all those in the political race for President. There are so many, and so much going on - Father cause one to stand out, that would clearly be Your choice to lead our nation. One that would seek Your guidance and choose to do Your will in the leading of our nation.

It has also recently been announced that the U.S. will now be sending men and women back into combat as boots on the ground in Iraq. Father I ask that You keep our military troops safe. Give them wisdom and courage to pull off their assignment and to come home to their loved ones safely.

I lift up The Messenger, Father and pray You send many new advertisers or past advertisers, willing to support this ministry in 2016. Bless all who currently advertise and support this work.

In Jesus' Name,
AMEN

GUTIERREZ

Continued from cover

American - Yarbrough (Wayne Ogle), US Foods, Advantage Pharmacy - Horizon Blvd., Jack Baumgardner with ERA Buyers & Sellers, ACE Moto, Grace Gardens, and Hospice El Paso.

"I feel God is going to do a tremendous work tonight," stated Pastor Martin. "I'm intrigued by men's unwillingness to ask for directions. Of course now we don't really need to stop, thanks to GPS. In our phones or in our cars, GPS stands for global positioning service. We have headed the wrong direction - and God has told us to pull over. It's not global positioning service, it is GOD's positioning service! Every person needs God's guidance. Look at the mess our country is in. We all want to do it in Frank Sinatra style - "My way." We think we can do it on our own."

Three Points to this Message:

(1) First, you must acknowledge you're on the wrong road. John 14:6. "People get disturbed when I say there is only one way into Heaven. But I didn't say it - God did." Only when you surrender is when you understand who He really is. Don't be stubborn. He wants to change you radically. Without Christ our road leads to destruction. But it doesn't have to - it can lead to Victory! Matthew 7:13-14. Not everyone will get on the narrow road. The road that's broad is easy to get on, but leads to destruction because it leads to sin. The only way sin can be dealt with is with God's love and forgiveness through what was done on the cross. If you say, "I don't sin," the Bible says you are a liar. The Bible states that we all sin and come short of the Glory of God. Sin is a mighty foe. It makes us think we know where we're going when we are lost.

(2) Second, you must recalculate your direction and

get on the right road in order to find God's grace and forgiveness. You must humble yourself in the site of God. Psalm 25:9. The person who thinks his GPS is working great, that's who will be accountable to God. You must submit to the will of God. You must come to the Lord and submit yourself in ownership. No longer my will, or your will - but God's will. A lot of people are hollow and empty. They know there is emptiness and void. The only way to fill this void is with the Lord. Must acknowledge they are a lost sinner.

(3) Third, you must receive the way. If you receive the right way - the correct road, you will be blessed for eternity. When you find the right direction it's beautiful. That's the pay out with the Lord. Many are on that wrong road, God is calling you back - tonight you can do that! All of us will have to die one day. We'll have to give God an account on day. Psalm 23:4 - about I will fear no evil, for you will comfort me. Are you going to get through the valley of the shadow of death on your own? God loves you, he doesn't want you going that route. Psalm 23:6 talks about David, and stating "surely goodness and mercy shall follow me," that comes only from God.

"I don't know what you're going through - but God knows. He want you to be assured of where you are going. Romans 10:89 teaches how to get to your destination. If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord" and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, then you shall be saved. There is 18" distance between your mouth and heart; you profess with your mouth and believe with your heart! Do not leave this place without knowing where you are going." Pastor Martin Arriole.

An altar call was held and many accepted Christ as their Savior. The church had Bibles available in English and in Spanish to give to new believers who didn't have one.

From His Messenger...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to my son Shawne (on the 5th). I realize this is a bit after, sorry. How oh how can I have a child turning 34??? Well my boy, I love you and look forward to spending some part of your birthday with you.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY also to my Daddy, Max Leroy McCullough, Sr., (on the 12th). Daddy went to Heaven at age 32. Had he gotten to stay with us he would be turning 82. I love you Daddy and miss you every day. One day, we will rejoice together in Heaven.

I hope you all had a wonderful, blessed Thanksgiving. I certainly did! I was surprised just days before with a phone call informing me that the Foix's (my daughter and family) were actually going to be able to come home and stay with me for the holiday! This left me with lots to do in little time - but the late nights and work were worth it to have them here, and have my little family all together. I went from not going to have

anything at my home, to having a full-fledged meal with my son and daughter's families all able to attend. God blessed us so much. We got to all get together multiple times while they were here this time, it was so great.

I'll give a fore-warning and apology - there is no question in this issue for Ask Christian Leaders. I know for many that is the favorite section. With the holiday time I guess everyone was busy, I did not receive a question and I was so busy I did not have time to seek out a question from others that could be used. The section is planned to be back in the next issue. If you have a question for the Pastors that participate be sure to email to media4him@yahoo.com or if need be, mail to snail mail: The Messenger, PO Box 3367, El Paso, TX 79923.

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If you died today, do you know for certain you would go to heaven? Would you like to know for sure? The Bible says that God so loved the world (that includes you) that He gave His only begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). The Bible also says that it is appointed for men to die once and after this the judgment (Hebrews 9:27). Every one of us has broken God's Law. (Romans 3:23). For that reason we all deserve God's judgment. The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23).

If you will receive this undeserved gift of eternal life today, pray the following prayer: Dear God, I have broken all Your laws and do not deserve to live. I repent of my sins and am throwing myself upon Your mercy. I believe that Jesus is my only hope. I believe that He paid for every one of my sins and I accept Him as my Savior and Lord. I will obey and follow Him the rest of my life. Thank You for saving my soul. Amen.

If you prayed this prayer or would like more information, please call Pastor Robert Warmath (915) 355-3454

How to Grow as a New Christian

- 1) Read the Bible every day. Begin in the Gospel of John.
- 2) Pray every day. Prayer is talking with God. You can pray any time, anywhere.
- 3) Attend a Bible-believing church where Christ is honored.
- 4) Tell others of your commitment to Jesus Christ.

At The Father's Feet

Holy Thoughts On Things That Are Lovely [1]

Good Day Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Christians injure the cause of Christ and religion when they maintain a sour, crabby, or irritable temper. The outward evidence of such comes from a temper of mind which is disgusting and full of unholy thoughts. The Lord expects us to maintain holy thoughts, one of which is on things that are lovely. The word "lovely" used here means that which is pleasing, amiable, winsome or agreeable to others. Our thoughts, and the actions that result from the thoughts, should be on things that develop our love and graciousness toward others. This should not be an aim to get even with those who have hurt us, but an aim to think of how we can forgive and be helpful to them.

Don't forget: all the good you may attempt to do can easily be undone by a sour and crappy temper!

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely...if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." (Portion of Philippians 4:8)

[1] Philippians 4:8

Holy Thoughts On things That Are of Good Report

Greek words, just like English words often have more than one meaning, a reason we see different words used in different translations. While the King James Version, which we generally utilize, says, "whatsoever things are of good report," other translations translate the Greek for "of good report" as "admirable" or "commendable." Each of these words give the message of things thought reputable in the world at large, such as kindness, courtesy, and respect for others. This would be telling us to avoid thoughts that are despicable or gossiping which certainly are not holy thoughts.

If gossiping is part of your agenda, forget it and begin thinking as a Christian should!

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report...if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." (Portion of Philippians 4:8)

[1] Philippians 4:8

May God Richly Bless You Today!

If you would like to know more about having a relationship with Christ, please contact me at bwoolleycpa@msn.com or bwoolleyjr@gmail.com

Scripture quotations are from the King James Version, unless otherwise noted. (Capitalization of pronouns for God added.)

Archives of At the Father's Feet can be found at atthefathersfeet.wordpress.com,

Spanish translation of archives can be found at alospiesdelpadre.wordpress.com.

Holidays or Holy Days?

By Dr. Charles F. Betters

Memories and traditions mean something to me. On July 6, 1993 we lost our youngest child in a tragic car accident. Mark was only 16 years old. The videos and pictures immediately started rolling as my grieving family replayed the funny, the not so funny, the serious and the not so serious memories of Mark. We laughed and then we cried. Memories and traditions become indispensably precious when they are all that is left of our loved ones. Memories and traditions shape who we are and what we hope to become.

As a child I attended our local Catholic elementary school where I learned to pay careful attention to the various seasons of the church year. For example, I loved Christmas and singing at midnight mass as a choir boy at Saint Mary's Church in Beaver Falls, Pa. I even had a solo one time, Agnus Dei. After mass we would go home and it was always party time for the adults and bedtime for me as I awaited the arrival of Santa Claus (I was devastated when I found out he lived in the neighborhood of make-believe).

We grew up poor and my mother tried very hard to control my dad's excessive spending for gifts at Christmas time. After she did her shopping, pinching every penny she could, my dad would somehow secretly slip out and come home with a neatly

wrapped package. He set that package on the mantle and for at least three weeks we viewed, but were not allowed to touch, that package. It had two words written on it - "Guess who?" No one knew to whom that gift belonged and my dad would tease us mercilessly in the days leading up to Christmas. Only after all of the other gifts were unpacked and the floor was covered with shredded paper did we find out the recipient of the "guess who" package. I continued that tradition with my kids and it does not surprise me that all three of our adult kids do the same, only teasing more relentlessly.

Then at Easter, in particular on Good Friday, my brother and I would erect three adult size crosses on our tiny back yard lawn and fight with each other and our neighborhood friend as to who would play the roles of Jesus, the good thief and the bad thief. Of course, no one wanted to be the bad thief. So rock, paper, scissors determined the fate of one of us. We then attended mass from noon until 3p.m. (that's right...three hours) when the priest read the entire passion account. Kids had to stand (it seemed like forever) so that the adults could sit. I recall that every Good Friday it seemed to rain. The truly Catholic kids, myself included, made the Stations of the Cross tracing the supposed Via Dolorosa or

way of the cross. Some of it was scripturally valid while some was not. But through it all the season of Jesus' suffering made a terrific impact on my spiritual journey.

What I find so incredibly precious is how the traditions of our grown children picked up right where we left off. It truly stunned me when, on one of those Good Fridays many years ago, I came down the stairs early in the morning. As I looked up I saw three wood planks flying by the dining room window. Yes, our two youngest boys, Mark and Dan, who were around 7 and 8 years old erected three wooden crosses on a dirt pile on our side yard. And yes, the neighborhood friend was recruited to be the "bad thief."

Church seasons don't seem to matter anymore. Our Holy Days have been secularized. And, before you jump to the conclusion that this has happened due to the PC police, stop for a moment and ask yourself whether or not you have been boiled in that kettle like a frog slowly dying a death that you did not see coming. Do our kids any longer look forward to Easter because of its true meaning? Do they look forward to Christmas Eve services and the reading of the birth narratives in the Gospels? Or are they more focused on the presents they will receive the next morning?

Now do not get me wrong.

There is a place for family traditions on these Holy Days, a break from school and work, good food, favorite special dishes, and yes, even gift giving. But have we lost our sense of spiritual identity and connection to our roots? Have we so bought into the secular trap of holidays at the expense of the Holy Days? Why not make this next Holy Day season a truly sacred one?

Dr. Charles F. Betters has served as Senior Minister of Glasgow Reformed Presbyterian Church in Bear, Delaware, since 1986 and is frequently called upon to address church pastors and leadership all across the country. He is a graduate of the University of Delaware and Eastern Baptist Seminary. He earned his Doctoral degree from Covenant Seminary. He has four children and fourteen grandchildren. His wife, Sharon Betters, is the author of Treasures of Encouragement, Treasures in Darkness, Teaching Them Young, and Harlots & Heroines. Dr. Betters and Sharon co-authored Treasures of Faith.

You can sign up for the In His Grip Devotional on Crosswalk.com, or listen to Dr. Chuck Betters' radio program, In His Grip, on OnePlace.com.

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Upcoming Events ...

Send info about your upcoming events to media4him@yahoo.com. Be sure to send them several weeks in advance of the event as The Messenger prints every other week. Check for other listings online at <https://hismessenger.wordpress.com>.

Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays

Guitar Lessons for Beginners - The Branch Church, 313 Paseo Real, Chapparral, NM, Tuesdays & Thursdays 4:00 pm; Saturdays 10:00 am. Classes are free, and for beginners only. For more info call Pastor Rick Roberson (575) 824-7792.

First and Third Thursday of each Month

FCCI Meeting - Great American Steakburger, 701 S. Mesa Hills, El Paso, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm. For

Christian business owners who desire to run their business to glorify the Lord. If you wish to attend it would help if you RSVP. For more info and to RSVP call Cris Green (915) 252-3655.

Second Thursday of each Month

El Paso's Northeast Quilters Guild - Grace Presbyterian Church, 8001 Magnetic, El Paso, 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm Social and Set up time; 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Meeting and Program. Program to be announced. Guests welcome. For more info call (915) 494-7977 or epnequilters@gmail.com.

December 8th - 13th

Discover the Tabernacle Tour - Cielo Vista Church, 3585 N. Lee Trevino, El Paso, 8th-11th, 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm; 12th & 13th, Noon - 8:00 pm. Tickets are \$2.00 at the Ticket Office,

Sundays 9:00 am - 7:00 pm or CVC Office, Mon. - Fri. 9:00 am - 4:00 pm.

December 10th - 13th

The Spirit of Christmas - Cielo Vista Church, 3585 N. Lee Trevino, El Paso, evening performances 7:30 pm; matinee performances 4:00 pm. Tickets are \$5.00 at the Ticket Office, Sundays 9:00 am - 7:00 pm or CVC Office, Mon. - Fri. 9:00 am - 4:00 pm.

Saturday, December 12th

Toy Giveaway & Festival - Books Are Gems, 7744 N. Loop Dr., El Paso, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm. One thousand free toys for elementary children at this free festival. Also free: pony rides, books, face painting, games, other activities for children and adults. Super heroes and cartoon characters will also make an

appearance. For more info call (915) 540-1317.

Tuesday, December 22nd

Blues Christmas Service - St. Luke UMC, 9915 Montwood, El Paso, 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm. If you find Christmas a time of loneliness, sorrow, alienation, sadness or are otherwise blue at Christmas, this service is for you. Claim those feelings while feeling surrounded by the compassionate love of God. For more info call (915) 591-8126.

Thursday, December 24th

Candlelight Service - Open Gate Church, 9821 McCombs, El Paso, 6:30 pm. All are welcome to join the congregation in this service.

HAPPY 34th BIRTHDAY

Shawne



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Mom



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