

Nov. 10, 2013



Real Life News & Notes

church of Christ of Grand Junction

A Relevant, Serving, Growing Family of Jesus followers

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Greetings From Guam

It is Tuesday morning here-8:40 a.m., November 5. It is still Monday afternoon 3:40 where you are as I write this. My trip has been busy and productive so far. The flight from Denver to Tokyo on last Tuesday was late so I missed my 6 p.m. flight to Guam. I took the 9 p.m. flight and got to Guam at 2 a.m. on Thursday. After a little sleep I went to the Naval Base at noon to get the rental car that the church here provided me with. Made a couple visits on the way back (Johnny Cruz, John Barry) to my hotel (Days Inn), which the church here also provided, and then had a Bible study that night with a lady in Dededo (local village nearby).

Had lunch Friday with one of the couples from the church then met with Brad Hewitt who is trying to help me contact the Lt. Governor, a friend of his, about the Police Chaplaincy program. Alex Coloma, the local preacher, and I had a Bible study Friday night with another lady at McDonalds. Saturday the preacher's family and another family and I had a picnic at the beach. Sunday I spoke twice in the morning, had 40-50 present for the "worship hour" and then once in the evening with a fellowship meal thereafter. Monday, after making many phone calls to local contacts, I ate lunch with one of the members and then had another Bible study in the evening. Today I have two more Bible studies and a meeting with the Philosophy Professor at the University of Guam. Tomorrow I am to meet with the Chaplain of the Naval Base about the possibility of a marriage seminar for Navy couples in March of next year. After that, two more Bible studies and then teach Wednesday evening class for the church.

As you can see, God is keeping me busy. Please pray He rewards our efforts with good fruit. Thank you for all your prayers and your support. Thanks to our elders for allowing me to do this type mission work. The church here is greatly appreciative. If any of you want to contact me, just e-mail me at

jhcooper52@msn.net

In love and gratitude, John Cooper

Memory Verse For November—I Thess. 5:18

"Give thanks in all circumstances."

Our Gathering Today

Sermon: "Battle Ready! God's Armor Part 3." *The Shield of Faith* is fundamental to our spiritual armor. It may be the most versatile aspect of our battle readiness. God's word continues to feed us as we study Ephesians 6 this week. Last week we saw the importance of our feet being properly fitted and protected by the **Gospel of peace**, without which we are tiptoeing barefooted, reluctant and vulnerable through life, unsure how the story ends. I hope you brought your Sword today!

Guests: We are thankful you have chosen to spend time with us this morning. We pray that you feel welcome and comfortable and will be encouraged on your spiritual journey because you are here. We are imperfect and have issues. So, if you are imperfect and have issues you will fit right in with us! Please let us know how we might serve you.

Wireless: As of this week we have a new unsecured network "gjchurchofchrist_guest" for your use and convenience. No password necessary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mountain States Change Cans Due

Randy Schow from Mountain States Children's Home will be here either the 21st. or 22nd of November to pick up the change cans. If you are saving change for the home, we need to get the cans in ASAP or at the latest by the 17th of November.

Baby Shower

There will be a baby shower for Parrish & Josie Williams on November 16 at 11:00 AM at the home of Sherri Heath. See Sherri for details.

Upcoming Over 60's Dinner

The annual Over 60's Dinner will be on December 14. Hors d'oeuvres will be served at 5 PM with dinner at 5:30 PM. After dinner, a play (Twas the Real Night Before Christmas) will be presented for those who wish to stay.

Help Wanted

Cindy King is chair person of the decorating committee for the Over 60's Dinner on December 14. She is asking for help to decorate the fellowship hall for this event. Please contact Cindy ASAP if you can help.

Mission To Honduras Planned

The Missions ministry is planning on taking a group back to Honduras during July of 2014. The date of the trip is July 4th. through July 12th. We will be joining with the University Church of Christ from Denver in this outreach effort. If someone would like to be a part of this trip have them please contact Mike Hughes, Dean Blanck, or Chuck Tourney.

Teacher Needed

We are in need for a teacher starting in December for the 2—5 year olds on Wednesday evenings. Many thanks to Tuttie DeLancey for teaching this class. If you can help, see Sharon Riddle.

ROWENA MCLAUGHLIN—Gall Bladder Surgery

JAMISON BERRY—In Community Hospital with unknown illness at this time.

SUE BOYLE— recovering from a car accident.

Keep the following in your prayers: Allen Craig, Rich Mendenhall, Gary Wallace, Rose Branson.

Ask that God’s will be done in all things.

Pray for God’s forgiveness and blessing to once3 again be upon our nation.

Innkeepers

In Luke 10 the wisest Rabbi subtly challenges us to break from our routines and disrupt the status quo in order to reproduce the love of God in reaching out to our world. In this familiar tale Jesus masterfully exposes failed religion and dismisses our potential excuses. We typically interpret this story placing ourselves in the role of the Samaritan who, in contrast to the priest and Levite whose dutiful legal inhibitions remarkably justified ignoring an injured man, dared to depart from revered practice and risk status in order to help someone in need. That is a sound view of the text and yet perhaps an alternative application will reveal other divine truths.

Imagine Jesus as the Good Samaritan. Jesus is the one who saw past conventional restrictions as he honored the **spirit** of the law and elevated the most important elements of true Faith. The Good Samaritan role fits who Jesus was and how he was viewed by his pious peers. Jesus was the rogue, the agitator, the one who regularly dismissed and defied ceremony and traditional propriety in order to pursue his Father’s true agenda of compassion and mercy. Jesus challenges us to be unshackled from the restrictive biases that inhibited otherwise good people of faith, on that dusty and dangerous road, from fulfilling the desire of God.

So, in our unconventional view, if Jesus is the Good Samaritan, who might you and I be? I would suggest we are the **Innkeepers**. We become the stewards, the extensions of the Samaritan’s mercy. We are the ones serving under the Samaritan’s influence and authority while he is away, entrusted with validating the neglected, caring for the wounded, providing a place of shelter and sanctuary, and willing to risk a short-term loss trusting the **Samaritan** will soon return and balance all accounts.

Jesus asked, *“Which of these three proved to be a neighbor to the one who was hurt?”* The lawyer representing those uncomfortable with deviating from established religious decorum responded, *“The one who had mercy on him.”* I would propose the faithful steward, the **Innkeeper**, had mercy on him as well. Then, Jesus applies the lesson, *“Go and do likewise.”*

The Word of God faithfully germinates in fertile hearts and appropriately convicts. If you claim to be religious but refuse to budge from custom and comfort zones to liberally dispense God’s grace and mercy then the traditional explanation is for you. However, if you need to be encouraged regarding stewardship and being a reliable vessel of God’s kindness as the **Innkeeper**, then this *alternative view* may apply to you.

Know that when The Good Samaritan returns he will not inquire if we kept religious protocol or honored sacred ritual, but he will note how we treated those whom he left in our care at the Inn. And, He will lavishly repay us for being vessels of compassion and a merciful refuge for the vulnerable and wounded.



Church of Christ of Grand Junction

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For the Record

Nov. 3, 2013

Attendance	237
Average Attendance, 3rd. qtr.	265
Contributions	\$6,749.00
Budget	\$6,208.96

Communion Preparation—November

Jan Nelson, Amey Collazo

Communion Table 11/10/13

Honored to Serve the Lord's Table in November

Larry Ball
Doug Barnett
Bill Barslund
Mark Brassette
Mike Bricker
Lynn Briggs
Dave Bussert
Bo Camp

Announcements: Curtis Fleming

Sunday Morning Adult Classes—9:00 AM—9:45 AM

Bill Wade—Auditorium
Young Adult (Under 30)—Room 207
Sign Language Class—Room 103

Wednesday Evening Adult Classes—7– 8 PM

Bob Heath—Jesus Miracles & Parables—Auditorium
Shirlene Caraway—(Starts Sept. 18)—103

Sunday Morning Children's Classes

Cradle Roll—Birth to 2—Nursery
2 & 3 yr. old—104
Pre KK, Kindergarten—205
1st & 2nd Grade—209
3rd thru 5th Grade—208
Middle School—213
High School—203

Wednesday Evening Children's Bible Study

2 & 4 yr. old—104
Kindergarten 1st & 2nd—205
3rd thru 5th Grade—208
All teens meet in—203

Sunday morning worship begins at 10:15 AM

Mesa View Retirement Service Schedule

Meets Sundays at 10 AM

Nov 10	Bill Tidwell, Wes Yeager	Mark 6:30-44
Nov 17	Bob Heath, Darren Mahoney	Mark 6:45-56
Nov 24	Paul Delancy, Scott Delancy	Mark 7:6-23
Dec 1	Hunt Zumwalt, Steve Bagga	Mark 7:24-30
Dec 8	Bill Barslund, Sandy Harris	Mark 7:31-37
Dec 15	Scott Ferguson, Dave Scheurman	Mark 8:1-13
Dec 22	Bobby Heath, Matt King	Mark 8:22-26
Dec 29	Jerry Austin, Craig Austin	Mark 8:31-9:1
Jan 5	Chuck Tourney, Bud Treu	Mark 9:2-13
Jan 12	Bill Tidwell, Wes Yeager	Mark 9:14-32
Jan 19	Bob Heath, Darren Mahoney	Mark 9:33-36
Jan 26	Paul Delancy, Scott Delancy	Mark 9:42-50
Feb 2	Hunt Zumwalt, Steve Bagga	Mark 10:1-12
Feb 9	Bill Barslund, Sandy Harris	Mark 10:13-16
Feb 16	Scott Ferguson, Dave Scheurman	Mark 10:17-31
Feb 23	Bobby Heath, Matt King	Mark 10:32-45