



The Newsletter

January 2012

Praise and Worship

Special points of interest:

- Praise and Worship Emphasis Month
- Wednesday Night Bible Study: The Purpose Driven Life

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Service Times on Back Cover

The Power of Praise

by Dr. Dale A. Robins

Acts 16:23-26 "And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely:

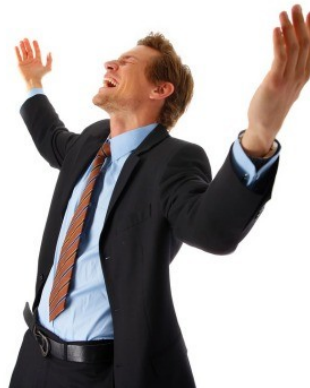
(24) Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.

(25) And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

(26) And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed."

This Bible story begins with the unjust arrest of Paul and Silas.

Because they had cast a spirit of divination out of a girl, the local Philippian authorities beat them and then threw them into a jail



cell. Besides the trauma of the severe beating, they were fastened in stocks which clamped their arms and legs in an immobile position, causing cramps and loss of circulation. The atmosphere there was depressing. According to the standards of that day, a prison was more like the resemblance of a dungeon. A dark, damp, stench-ridden place, with no facility for waste or comforts of any kind.

Yet, in spite of the throbbing pain in their bodies and the disheartening atmosphere, at midnight Paul and Silas were heard praying and singing praises to God! What a strange sound this must have been to

the other prisoners, who were used to only hearing the groans or cursings of those who had been beaten.

Then suddenly, there was an earthquake that shook the prison! The doors flung open, and amazingly, the bonds of Paul, Silas, and every other prisoner were released! What caused this mighty discharge of power?

Praise Elevates us into God's Presence and Power

Paul and Silas knew the secret of how to lift their hearts above their troubles and enter into God's presence and power. Through praise and worship their hearts were raised into the joyous presence and peace of God, and provided God a channel for his power to operate in their circumstances.

The Bible says that God inhabits in the praises of His people (Psalms 22:3). In other words, God "dwells" in the

Praise and Worship (continued)

atmosphere of His praise. This means that praise is not merely a reaction from coming into His presence - Praise is a vehicle of faith which brings us into the presence and power of God! Praise and worship is the "gate-pass" which allows us to enter the sacredness of His glory. The psalmist writes, "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name" (Psalms 100:4).

This corresponds with Jesus' teaching, that His presence will inhabit the gathering of believers who congregate in His name: "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst

of them" (Matthew 18:20). A "gathering in His name" means that Jesus must be the focus, the center of the assemblage. He must be the one preached about, sung about — the one praised and worshiped. "I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee" (Hebrews 2:12). Consequently, Christ's presence, along with His virtue and anointing, is manifested in this type of gathering.

Have you ever noticed when "gifts of the Spirit" operate in a church service? The power and anointing of the Holy Spirit usually becomes evident, subsequent to a time of worship and praise. Some think that

worship is a response after the Holy Spirit moves upon them. However, it's the other way around. God's presence responds when we move upon Him with worship! Lifting up Jesus Christ through praise and worship invokes the Lord's presence and power to flow in our midst.

Praise to God is a Lifestyle

All too often, praise to God is something that many people leave at church, an event that happens only when they come together with other Christians. However, praise should be a part of a believers lifestyle, inter-mingled as a part of their daily prayer-life. At work, in the car, at home in

bed, or anywhere; praise to the Lord brings the refreshing of the Lord's presence, along with His power and anointing. "...I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth" (Psalms 34:1).

Praise is an expression of faith, and a declaration of victory! It declares that we believe God is with us and is in control of the outcome of all our circumstances (Romans 8:28). Praise is a "sacrifice," something that we offer to God sacrificially, not just because we feel like it, but because we believe in Him and wish to please Him. "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God

Continued—page 3

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday!



January

2 - George Kemp
2 - Joseph Kemp
7 - Justin Harmon
11 - Kevin Tilley
12 - Richard Davis

16 - Steve Hopple
18 - Joseph Herbert
18 - Pastor Shepard
18 - Rose Marie Tena
18 - Eric Yiengst
19 - Samuel Clark
20 - Wesley Briscoe
24 - Legin McCloud
26 - Carlos Munoz
29 - Randel Walker
31 - Lydia Warden



January 22 -

Eli and Rebecca Sanchez

Praise and Worship—Ministry Appreciation

continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name” (Hebrews 13:15).

LCCOG is blessed to have excellent Praise and Worship teams that are dedicated and faithful. These teams not only minister on Sundays and at other special events but they also spend time practicing together on a weekly basis.

Please be sure to stop them and say “thank you” as you see them this week:

8:30 AM Praise Team:

Bob Kelly—guitar/vocals
Larissa Grensted—vocals

Michelle Cox—keyboard/
vocals/flute
Pat Fusco—guitar/vocals
Bob Cooney—drums

11:00 AM Praise Team:

Eli Torres—keyboard/vocals
Melanie Horner – keyboard/
vocals
Phil Redman – guitar
Wes Briscoe – drums/
percussion
Charlie Hugg – bass
guitar
Geneva Melvin – vocals
Leah Garcia – vocals
Aracelis Torres - vocals
Jack Smock – drums
(joining the team in
2012)

Sound Team

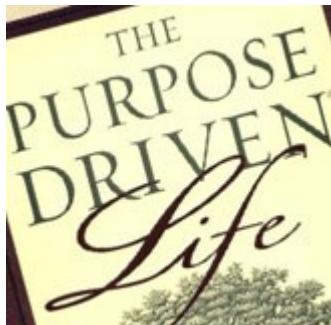
Bob Cooney
Deschaun McWhorter
Robert Wong
Andy Cox
CJ Grensted
Michael Gonzalez
Grant Kelly
Cati Cooney



Wednesday Night Bible Study

Don't miss the Wednesday night Bible Study at LCCOG!

On January 4th, Pastor began a three part series on The Life of a True Disciple. The first lesson taught us how to establish discipleship in



our lives. Next we will learn how to be a disciple in the local church. The final lesson will be about the dangers of a routine life and how to be extraordinary.

On January 25th we will begin our study of **Purpose Driven Life**. In addition we will be having a fellowship dinner every Wednesday evening from the 25th of January until Easter. The dinners will be at 6:30 pm with

the Bible Study beginning at 7:00 PM. More details will be available as we approach that date.

Use Wednesday nights as an evangelism outreach. Your friends and neighbors will love the Purpose Driven Life and the dinners.

Let's break the routine of being Sunday only members of LCCOG and make this an extraordinary year together! Unity comes when we gather together!

January 2012 Events! Mark Your Calendars!

January 4th—The Life of a True Disciple @ 7 PM (Bible Trek for Kids!)

January 9th— Leader's Meeting @ 7 PM

January 11th—How to Be a Disciple in the Local Church @ 7 PM (Bible Trek for Kids!)

January 16th—Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 18th—How to Be Extraordinary and Avoid the Dangers of a Routine Life @ 7 PM (Bible Trek for Kids!)

January 25th—Fellowship Dinner @ 6:30 PM followed by Lesson 1 of The Purpose Driven Life @ 7 PM (Bible Trek for Kids!)

January 29th—Annual Business Meeting @ 7 PM

February 3rd—5th WINTERFEST in Ocean City, MD

*See the back cover of this Newsletter for regular weekly events.

Mark your calendars now for the Annual Business Meeting, Sunday, January 29th at 7 PM. At this meeting we will discuss and vote on the 2012 budget, discuss and vote on the latest drawings of the New Building project and review our Mission and Vision. In addition we will discuss and vote on moving our financial year from Jan 1 through Dec 31 to Oct 1 through Sept 30.

Some Biblical Expressions of Praise

Declaring of thanks (Heb. 13:15)
 Clapping hands and shouting (Psalms 47:1)
 Musical instruments and dancing (Psm. 150:4)
 Singing praise songs (Psalms 9:11)
 Psalms, hymns, & spiritual songs (Eph. 5:19-20)
 Making a joyful noise (Psalms 98:4)
 By lifting our hands (Psalms 134:2)
 By being still (Psalms 4:3-5, 46:10)
 By being loud (Psalms 33:3, 95:1-6)

**Attention Youth and Youth Families—
 Have you made your Winterfest deposits?
 Premier— Winterfest
 Twenty-Twelve is quickly approaching!
 For details see Jeff Weimert or any of the Youth Board members!**



Pastor's Corner

Happy New Year!

I am just a little more excited about this New Year than normal. I have had the pleasure of speaking to several of our LCCOG ministry leaders about their plans for 2012 and I'm excited!

While plans are exciting and important, they rarely come to pass without people to carry them out. Here are three things you can do to prepare for 2012 at Life Community Church of God:

1. Refocus:

Refocus your attention from what God hasn't done to the great things He has done.

Refocus your attention from the problems to the solutions.

Refocus your attention from your past failures to the success that effort and God will bring you.

Refocus your attention from what you don't have to what you possess.

2. Reinvest:

Divest from time wasting activities and invest in productivity.

Divest from independence and invest in interdependence.

Divest from worldly activities and invest in Kingdom work.

3. Re-identify:

You're a son or daughter of our Father in Heaven.

You're an ambassador for Christ.

You're a Temple of the Holy Spirit

You're a living epistle (letter) of the Gospel (good news).

You're a brother or sister in the Family of God.

You're a valuable member of the Body of Christ.

You're a critical part of God's plan for Life Community Church of God.

You're loved, appreciated, and wanted.

Pastor Brian Shepard

Corrections/Opt In/Opt Out

Did we miss your birthday or anniversary? Do we have your information wrong? Do you want to received a copy of this newsletter in your email inbox? Please let us know!!

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed in the newsletter and you would like it to be, please fill out a Database Information Sheet. The information sheets are located in the Church foyer or you can send your information to: newsletter@lccog.com

Opt In - If you would like to receive this newsletter by e-mail, please send a request to newsletter@lccog.com. Or send a note to the church office at: P. O. Box 670 California, MD 20619 to receive a copy by mail.

Opt Out - If you have received this newsletter by mistake and would like to be removed, please send an e-mail or card to the addresses listed above.

**ARE WE
MISSING YOUR**



**PLEASE LET US
KNOW!!**

Weekly Happenings

Sunday Schedule:

Worship: 8:30 A.M.
Sunday School: 10:00 A.M.
Worship & Children's
Church: 11:00 A.M.

A.W.A.N.A.: 4:30 P.M.
(Kids Bible Club)

Tuesday:

Praise & Worship
Practice (11:00 Team):
6:00—7:30 P.M.
Praise & Worship
Practice (8:30 Team):
7:30—9:00 P.M.

Thursday:

EPIC (Youth): 6:00 P.M.
Praise & Worship
Practice: 7:00 P.M.

Friday:

College and Career
Group: 7:00 P.M.
Men's Ministry
Fellowship: 7:00 P.M.
(Every 2nd & 4th Friday
At the Mission)

Monday:

Individual Prayer: 6:30 P.M.
Corporate Prayer: 7:00 P.M.

Wednesday:

Ladies Bible
Study: 9:30 A.M.
Adult Bible
Study: 7:00 P.M.
Bible Trek Kids
Bible Study: 7:00 P.M.

Life Community Church of God—Serving God by Serving Others



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