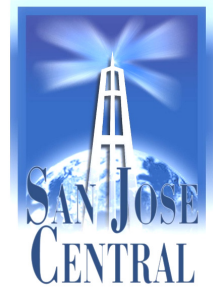


# The Central Messenger



SAN JOSE CENTRAL SDA CHURCH

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April, 2009

## The Pastor's Corner by Pastor Tony Rodriguez Jr.

As our economy keeps heading south some of us may wonder if any changes need to be made in regards to our giving. Some of us remain at our current jobs while others have lost their jobs. Whether we have jobs or not it seems as if our dollars are stretching less and less. Could it be that in these tough times God still calls us to be faithful to Him? For starters it would do all of us some good to remember God's goodness, his promises and instruction. Some of us have been in job transition as of late, but there's a temptation that is prevalent out there and it goes something like this: I'm not working at that job for such little pay. Which can then lead towards a temptation to stay at home. If one job doesn't pay enough for all ends to meet then two things need to be considered: 1. Am I living within my means? Are we living paycheck to paycheck hoping that an emergency doesn't hit? 2.

Do I need to find a second job? If we are living within our means, then a second job may be required.

Genesis 3:19 tells us that we will eat by the sweat of our brow. It is a blessing to be able to eat the fruit of our labors. Even if the labor may not be much right now, there is a blessing of eating the fruit that God has given us as we serve Him. 2 Corinthians 9:6 says "Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." If we choose to keep things to ourselves then there will only be so much that we will be able to receive. Working hard at our jobs and giving to God is never a curse. I wish my dollar was stretching more than it is, but it isn't and I even thought about my pact with God. Returning my tithe is a must, but I



wondered if maybe it was time to scale down temporarily my church budget offering percentage. I mean if I did so, then I would have some extra cash to use on other expenses. What reason do I have to keep giving what I have promised to the Lord? Psalms 37:25 "I have been young and now I am old, Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his descendants begging bread."

After reading that text, I must stay true to what I've financially promised to God. What have you promised to God financially? After paying tithe, have you promised Him 1, 2, 3, 4 percent of your income for church budget? God calls us to put Him to the test to see how faithful God really is (Malachi 3:8-10). If we aren't trusting God, then who are we really trusting?

## Christ Centered Living by Mark Finley

Have you ever felt frustrated in your Christian life? Perhaps you see yourself as a failure for repeatedly falling for the same temptations. Maybe you have longed for deliverance and victory, only to be defeated again. Today's lesson will share Christ's plan and power to live a godly Christian life. As we study His Word we will discover biblical principles for living victorious Christian lives. The plan of salvation provides pardon from the penalty of sin and release from the power of sin. As Christians we may occasionally stumble and fall, but we are no longer in bondage to sin.

1. What promise do the Scriptures give to those who surrender their lives to Christ?  
 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" (2 Cor. 5:17).

The Bible assures us that if we are "in Christ" \_\_\_\_\_ things have become \_\_\_\_\_.

To be "in Christ" means that we surrender our will to Him and invite His Spirit to fill our lives with His love, grace, and power.

2. Is it possible for us to change ourselves? Without Jesus, what are we accustomed to do?  
 "Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil" (Jer. 13:23).

Our natural inclination, what we are accustomed to do, is \_\_\_\_\_.

### Christ Centered Living (continued)

3. How did Jesus describe this miraculous change to Nicodemus?

“Jesus answered and said to Him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God’” (John 3:3).

Jesus instructed Nicodemus to be \_\_\_\_\_ again.

In a few words, describe how you understand being born again.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. The apostle Paul used another image to describe the miraculous change that takes place when we come to Jesus. What is it?

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Gal. 2:20).

Paul said: “I have been \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_.”

In your own words describe what it means to be crucified with Christ.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. When Jesus enters our lives through His Holy Spirit, what three things take place? Read the verses below and list the changes that occur on the lines provided.

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12).

“And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit” (Gal. 5:24, 25).

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

6. When does this miraculous new birth occur? Circle the words in the text that describe our role?

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me” (Rev. 3:20).

To experience the new birth, all we have to do is open our hearts to Jesus, and let Him work His will in our lives.

7. What promise does Jesus give us when we come to Him?

“The one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out” (John 6:37).

Jesus will not \_\_\_\_\_ us \_\_\_\_\_.

This is incredibly good news. We cannot change ourselves. But as we come to Jesus, He changes our lives. He will not cast us out; He loves us; He accepts us just as we are as we come to Him. We come as we are, but we do not stay as we are. There is power in the gospel of Christ to change us. That is wonderfully good news

-Source: <http://www.adventistworld.org>

### Health Nugget

In most cases, two meals a day are preferable to three. Supper, when taken at an early hour, interferes with the digestion of the previous meal. When taken later, it is not itself digested before bedtime. Thus the stomach fails of securing proper rest. The sleep is disturbed, the brain and nerves are wearied, the appetite for breakfast is impaired, the whole system is unrefreshed, and is unready for the day’s duties.



-Counsels on Diet and Foods, page 176.

### April Birthday Celebrants

- 1 Emma Enoveso
- 3 Michael Manivanh
- 9 Ashley Hermosillo
- 13 Michael Greene
- 19 Evelyn Hillsman
- 22 Angie Celaya
- 24 Charles Christian
- 25 Frederic Mora
- 27 Julian Truax
- 29 Nehemiah Lacayo

## Bible Study

Read Romans 8:29. What is meant by “whom He foreknew?” Does this mean that God knows from the beginning who is going to be saved and who will be lost? Can God know this ahead of time if it has not somehow been pre-determined? And if it has been pre-determined, how can that be logically consistent with all of us having free will? Is not whether we are saved or lost a free will choice?

Now notice that the text does not say, “whom He foreknew would be saved!” Also note that the Greek can be just as well translated “whom He knew before (that is, at a previous time).” What does it mean for God to know someone? *John 10:14* (compare *Matthew 7:21-23*)

Read *Romans 8:30*. The group Paul is referring to in verse 29 had been among other things, glorified. When does glorification take place? *1 Corinthians 15:42, 43*. In verse 29 what does “firstborn among many brethren” refer to? *Colossians 1:18, Revelation 1:5*. When Paul wrote *Romans 8:29, 30* who, besides Enoch, Elijah and Moses, had already been glorified? *Matthew 27:52,53*.

- By Timber Zwonkin

## LIFT (Ladies in Faith Together) Prayer Partners and Telephone Conference



To those who already have a prayer partner, please remember to keep your partner in your prayers and let her know that you are praying for her. If possible pray with each other during the week.

Those of you who do not have partners but would love to join us, we will pair you up with another lady from our church. This sister in Christ will become your prayer partner for the next 3 months. You may share prayer requests and pray for/with each other during the week.

We have a prayer partner mail box in the church, you may drop encouraging notes/prayers for your partner to pick up on Sabbaths.

Do not forget our prayer telephone conference every Friday at 6am. This is the number to call: 712-775-7000 access code: 412707#

It only takes 15-20 minutes so call and pray this Friday with the rest of us.

For further questions, please contact the Women’s Ministries Department.

## What’s going on at San Jose Central?

We are inviting all the couples in our church to our **Fireproof for Couples Bible Study**. It started April 4 (6:30pm) and will continue through all the Sabbath afternoon’s until May 9. There will be a total of six sessions.

For single women, there is a new Bible study called **1st Class Single Women**. The class started April 4 (5:30pm) and we invite all women who are single, divorced, or widowed. The study group starts at 5:30pm, Sabbath afternoons.

Our church will be having a **Week of Prayer** from April 12-18. The theme is *His Healing Touch*. Please come to the nightly meetings and be inspired.



## April What?!

“April showers bring May flowers.”

April is a very busy month because this is the time when we usually do our spring cleaning. If you have not done so, you have until the 15th of April to file your State and Federal Taxes.

Here is a long list of other events celebrated for the whole month of April:

- Autism Awareness Month
- International Guitar Month
- Keep America Beautiful Month
- National Child Abuse Prevention Month
- National Frog Month
- National Garden Month
- National Humor Month
- National Mathematics Education Month
- National Poetry Month
- Stress Awareness Month

## Volunteers Needed for Camp Wawona and Soquel

Volunteers urgently needed for two projects: Camp Wawona Volunteer Project, May 3-6, 2009 and Soquel Campground, May 17-20, 2009. Come one or more days. Please bring your own bedding and toiletries. Meals beginning Sunday at lunch are provided. Contact Caron Oswald at [coswald@cccsda.org](mailto:coswald@cccsda.org) or (559) 347-3181.

# April 2009

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

5	6	7 7pm—Merly Ortiz’s Small Group	8 7pm—Prayer Meeting	9	10 Sunset: 7:37pm	11 Sunset: 7:38pm 9am—Sabbath Morning Prayer SP: Pastor Tony Rodriguez Jr. 5:30-Single Women 6:30-Fireproof for Couples
12 Week of Prayer	13 Week of Prayer	14 Week of Prayer	15 Week of Prayer	16 Week of Prayer	17 Sunset: 7:43pm Week of Prayer	18 Sunset: 7:44pm 9am—Sabbath Morning Prayer SP: Pastor Tony Rodriguez Jr. <b>Potluck Sabbath</b> 5:30-Single Women 6:30-Fireproof for
19	20	21 7pm—Merly Ortiz’s Small Group	22 7pm—Prayer Meeting	23	24 Sunset: 7:50pm	25 Sunset: 7:38pm 9am—Sabbath Morning Prayer SP: Pam Simpson 5:30-Single Women 6:30-Fireproof for Couples
26	27	28 7pm—Merly Ortiz’s Small Group	29 7pm—Prayer Meeting	30	May 1 Sunset: 7:56pm	2 Sunset: 7:57pm 9am—Sabbath Morning Prayer SP: Pastor Tony Rodriguez Jr. <b>Potluck Sabbath</b> 5:30-Single Women 6:30-Fireproof for
3	4	5 7pm—Merly Ortiz’s Small Group	6 7pm—Prayer Meeting	7	8 Sunset: 8:02pm	9 Sunset: 7:38pm 9am—Sabbath Morning Prayer SP: Pastor Tony Rodriguez Jr. 5:30-Single Women 6:30-Fireproof for Couples

Sunset times taken from <http://www.sunrisesunset.com> for location: San Jose, CA



*San Jose Central*  
Seventh-day Adventist Church



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E-mail: [sanjosecentralsda@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sanjosecentralsda@sbcglobal.net)  
Office Hours: Tuesday—Thursday 10am—3pm  
Wednesday 5pm—9pm  
Sabbath Services: Sabbath School: 9:20 am  
Divine Worship: 10:50am

**Mission:** Our mission is to spread the gospel message of Jesus Christ to our community through the power of the Holy Spirit and to provide an affectionate and welcoming place of worship in the unified and spiritual body of Christ through prayerful Bible study and involvement in soul winning and hospitable activities with the goal of preparing ourselves and the city of San Jose for the second advent of Jesus Christ.

**Vision:** We, the San Jose Central Church through the power of the Holy Spirit, strive for an environment filled with unified disciples who work diligently for the cause of advancing the Kingdom of God.