

The Lord Jesus has enabled us to serve in the following capacity:

Evangelist
 Robert Carr

Associate Evangelist
 Pedro Gelabert

Spanish Minister
 Charlie Gomez

Youth Minister
 Roger Wine

Marriage Counselors
 Derek Peterson
 Steve Aponte, Sr

Worship Directors
 David Luhrs
 George Bullinger

Bulletin Editors
 Pedro Gelabert
 Danny Aponte

Minister of Finance
 Arthur Shlesinger

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Victory In Weakness

In today's society most people are always saying, "You have to be strong" or "Only the strong will survive." It is almost frowned upon if you show some weakness or vulnerability. Boys are being raised to never cry or show weakness, but to be tough. Young girls are being taught, "You are just as tough as a man, so never show weakness or let anyone take advantage of you." My question is: Is this what God wanted? How does God get the victory if society is teaching their children to be independent of God and do everything on their own?

There is a very ungodly statement that the world likes to use which goes like this, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going." Where is the dependence on God in that statement? Join me in changing the paradigm by teaching everyone, "When the going gets tough, God gets tougher." That may not be the most poetic statement, but the point is we must learn to go to God in the midst of our weaknesses and trials. We are just as dependent on God as fish is dependent on water. So why, at the time of need, would we want to cut off our life line and think we can do it on our own? This type of thinking just does not make sense!

When you read about the Apostle Paul in the New Testament you will learn that he was a very confident brother who could probably do almost anything he wanted if he put his mind to it. In today's society people would say Paul was a "go getter" and could be on top of the world. However, Paul's mindset was just the opposite. In 2 Cor 11:30 Paul talks about boasting about his weaknesses – that way all glory can be given to God.

Look at what Paul says in 2 Cor 12:9-10: *But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ¹⁰ That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

Paul realized that Christ will only be glorified when we get out of the way. How does Christ get the victory if we think we can do everything because we are so tough? Every trial we go through is simply another chance for Christ to demonstrate His power and get the victory. Don't look at trial or hardship as "Oh woe is me", but instead look at as God using you to demonstrate His power!

I know many people are facing tough times physically, financially, and other areas of their lives. Well, guess what? This is an excellent time to show the world why we, the Disciples of Christ, are different. Let us not give in to our various trials and hardships or even try and solve all the problems on our own. Instead join with me in turning to the Cross that brings salvation to all men and let us empty ourselves and boast in our weaknesses so that Christ may get the victory!!!!

Derek Peterson

“Speaking about what we have seen and heard...” Mark 5:19 Family Matters

What does the majesty of God look like?

I love that question and I love the answer more. We get a glimpse when a man comes to Jesus for help. His only son has been possessed by an evil spirit that has shattered their lives. You can just imagine how many of this man’s dreams were crushed by this invasion. Whatever the dreams were, they would be hard to realize while his son’s life was constantly at risk. In fact, when the man comes to Jesus the scripture says: “While he was coming, the demon threw [the son] to the ground and convulsed him. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit and healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astonished at the majesty of God.” (Luke 9:42-43) Jesus “gave him back to his father.” Glory in that for a minute. Lives, shattered by evil, are restored by Jesus. Isn’t that what He did in your life and mine? And the scripture says all the people were astonished *at the majesty of God*. Lives shattered by evil and then restored show us the majesty of God. That’s what it looks like! That’s Jesus, our Lord! He restores what is broken and makes us new, and someday He will make all things new—glory to God.

Always in awe of Him,
Roger

“The Lord added to their number...” Acts 2:47 Baptisms

DATE	NAME	TOWN
2/11/09.....	Peter Krauss	West Islip, NY
2/15/09.....	Ricky Mitchell	Charlotte , NC
2/15/09.....	Dana Robinson.....	Charlotte , NC
3/8/09.....	Nicole Malcom.....	Baldwin, NY

“They first gave themselves to the Lord...” 2 Corinthians 8:5

Weekly Budget: \$ 9,000		
DATE	ATTENDANCE	CONTRIBUTION
3/1/2009	285	\$8,267
3/8/2009	295	\$9,432
3/15/2009	293	\$8,011
3/22/2009	303	\$10,463
3/29/2009	284	\$8,432

It is Better to Give than to Receive

By Rebecca G. Young

“...remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ (Acts 20:35) These words rang out from Jesus’ lips... His life... His entire being. Jesus set an awesome example in giving that impacted everyone around Him. Paul was one of those people and spent his own life living out that example displayed in Jesus Christ. In **Acts 20:35** Paul said, *“In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”* Paul, and I am sure many of the disciples, remembered Christ’s words as they *worked hard* at helping others. They drew their strength from Jesus. We too can draw strength from remembering what Christ has said and done. Let us also understand that Jesus didn’t only say this because it is the better thing to do in His eyes, but also because it is a statement of truth. It truly is better, and *we are* more blessed, when we are on the giving side as opposed to on the receiving side.

If we get caught up in the trend of this world we might be tricked to think otherwise. The narcissistic society we live in today is all about self. The way of this world says, “It is better to receive than to give.” “I am first.” “Only what I think, what I want, or how I feel matters.” “Let me do me.” When I am out and about it is rare that I encounter someone else looking out for my interests, or seeking to help me. On the contrary, I typically am being overlooked or mistreated. Let us not be like the people in this world. Let us give the way Jesus gave: freely, anytime, anywhere, anyhow. Give the way His first disciples gave, with hard work and determination to make a lasting impact on everyone. Jesus said that we will be known as His disciples by the way that we love others (**John 13:35**).

Do you find it an inconvenience to go out of your way for someone? Is it an inconvenience to have someone arrive at your home unannounced or call for help that is needed promptly? **1Peter 4:9** says, *“Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.”* When a sister has the blessing of giving birth to a child, do you think of ways you can assist her? When you know of a sister struggling spiritually or physically, do you take the time to visit, to call or send her a note of encouragement? Do you take time out of your busy schedule to give? Prayers are needed. Support is needed. There will always be needs. The question is... are there workers? Jesus said, “the workers are few.” (**Luke 10:2**) Kingdom work is hard work. But it is rewarding work. God designed Kingdom work to be a blessing to us. Work: a blessing, not a burden? Amazing! Our labor is never in vain (**1Cor. 15:58**), in fact it is fuel for our souls. As I focus on giving – to my husband, my children, the church, my family, neighbors – I am charged, fueled, and encouraged. However, as soon as I focus on what I have received or not received, and turn the focus inward, I feel sapped of my strength. I become weary. I may start to feel overwhelmed and I begin the “poor me” attitude. Not good at all.

Let us offer ourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of our body to him as instruments of righteousness (**Rom. 6:13**). Let us serve wholeheartedly, as if we were serving the Lord Himself (**Eph. 6:7**). Let us offer our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is our spiritual act of worship (**Rom. 12:1**). In doing these things we will find peace, joy, happiness and contentment. If you are struggling with sadness, loneliness, depression, or anxiety, then maybe you are focusing too much inwardly on yourself, not spending enough time looking outwardly on helping others. Don’t fall into the devil’s traps. He will try to use the garbage that is so readily available to you these days to get you to focus on yourself too much. Before you know it he will have you throwing your own little pity party and start feeling sorry for yourself. Enough of that! We don’t have time for it! There is so much to be done, and it will never be done if we are weighed down with meaningless things. Take hold of your life and dedicate it unto the Lord. Give to Him as He gives to you, freely, generously and you will be blessed! Love you!

“For the building up of the Body...”

Ephesians 4:12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 📖 **Bible Class:** We will not meet for Wednesday night Bible class on April 15th (Long Island and City).
- 📖 **Devotional Services:** April 10th and 24th at 8:00 PM. Please come early to fellowship and encourage one another.
- 📖 **Men’s Prayer:** Men’s Prayer will be on April 11th and 25th at 9:00 PM at our brother George Bullinger’s house. See Ernest Johnson for more info.
- 📖 **2009 Directories:** The 2009 LICOC Directory is being distributed in the Wed Night Bible Classes.
- 📖 **Video Library:** If you have any items taken out from the video library, please make sure they are signed out or return them if you’re done with them. Please see Rob Dixon in the back foyer Sunday after services for more information.
- 📖 If you would like to order a cassette tape of a past sermon or seminar, please see Rob Dixon.
- 📖 We are now reserving the front two rows for people who wish to be prayed with, during the song of invitation. Please try to find seating elsewhere. Thank you!
- 📖 All announcements should be submitted to David Luhrs.
- 📖 Address/telephone changes can be e-mailed to directory@licoc.org.
- 📖 **Parking reminder** - Public Safety has issued a statement requesting that all church members and visitors **refrain** from parking on any **grass areas** beyond the parking lots surrounding the chapel. Thank you for your cooperation!

MISSIONARY SUPPORT

- ✠ Apologetics Press.....International
- ✠ We Care Ministries.....West Monroe, Louisiana
- ✠ Ron Clayton.....India
- ✠ Oswaldo Sanchez.....El Salvador, Central America
- ✠ Doug & Lucy McDougle.....Ukraine, Russia

“Your faith toward God has gone forth...”

1 Thessalonians 1:8

COMMUNITY BIBLE CLASS MINISTRIES

Long Island Ministry.....(Wednesday 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.).....Robert Carr.....(631) 348-7322
New York Institute of Technology Chapel, Carleton Avenue, Central Islip, N.Y.

City Ministry.....(Wednesday 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.).....Pedro Gelabert(347) 732-2101
Individual House Churches

Spanish Ministry.....(Tuesday 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.).....Charlie Gómez.....(631) 772-2889
New York Institute of Technology Chapel, Carleton Avenue, Central Islip, N.Y.

UPCOMING KINGDOM EVENTS

For anyone wanting to use his/her vacation in a fruitful way, take a vacation to help bring souls to Jesus. :) Join a “We Care Ministry” soul winning team and help bring people to the Lord. Learn the techniques of the “We Care Ministry” team leaders: Larry West, Willie Tolison, and Bill Oden. Room and board will be provided. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Bob Carr.

We Care Campaign Itinerary

2009	Location
Aug 23 - Sept 6	Chattanooga, TN
Sept 16 - Sept 27	Chattanooga, TN
Nov 8 - Nov 22	Whitney, TX