

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

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Pedro Gelabert

Spanish Minister
Charlie Gomez

Youth Minister
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Time for a wash-down?

Pedro Gelabert

Jesus came to this earth to wash us, to ready us for God's Spirit to dwell in us. God is holy, and therefore, we needed to be made holy ground – holy vessels to be able to accept the Holy Spirit. Jesus came to wash us with water through the word and the Holy Spirit (*Eph 5:25; Titus 3:4-7*) to restore us to Himself. Jesus was our cleanup guy! He cleaned us with His own blood!

The sad thing is no one likes the cleanup guy. Although his work is extremely necessary, no one wants to do it. No one likes to associate themselves with him. They don't even really appreciate him. And yet, they wouldn't know what to do without him, for he cleans up after their mess. Likewise, Jesus was unwelcome in this world. He was rejected by men (*Isaiah 53:3; 1 Peter 2:4*) although he was the only one that brought truth and light (*John 3:19-21*).

The reality is that to be cleaned after underscores our vulnerability. When we were babies, we couldn't clean up after ourselves. We needed someone to feed us, wipe our behinds and bathe us. There was very little we could do to refuse this constant washing. All we could do was receive it. As preteens and teens, some of us show how much we dislike washing. It is not until we are adults, for some, that we understand we need to clean up after ourselves and we somehow find ourselves having to clean up after many others who don't realize how dirty they've become.

Walking in this world gets you dirty. Even if you've received Jesus' cleansing in baptism, the fact is that you will soil yourself a bit as you go through the world necessitating a wash. Everything here gets dirty and needs to be cleaned. Back in Jesus' day, feet got dirty. Cleaning was a part of daily life. To refuse a foot washing was appalling. Everyone accepted it but only from certain people, and you didn't really want to become intimate with these clean-up people. They were beneath you – they touched other people's feet! Although they had to get close to you – they had to touch your feet -- you pretended they weren't close.

Jesus gave us the ultimate example of how we keep each other clean in John 13. Yes, foot washing is a *one another* thing. You're going to need my help keeping your soul clean. By yourself, you can't do it. I will need your help, too. I think this is the hardest love to give. It never gets easy to do. It gets tiring. It is absolutely necessary to practice this aspect of love. I believe it is the kind of love that proves to the world we are His disciples. Even the Bible says that when Jesus washed the feet of the disciples He showed them the full extent of His love. Why was that foot washing the full extent of His love? Why and how are we to imitate that? I think it requires self-control and selflessness to practice. You have to love the person more than you love what they think of you. You have to be pretty grounded in your confidence in Christ to do that, just as Jesus knew who He was and where He was going.

Unless we purposely welcome and learn to appreciate this foot washing, we won't have any part in Jesus or His Gospel. Here's where the transformed mind is tested and proven to be genuine in Christ. How are your feet today? Need a wash?

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

Start Every Day With A Clean House

Back in the days of Christ, it was common for kings and other important dignitaries to be welcomed with honor into the cities to which they were visiting. This background helps us to appreciate Matthew 21, the chapter that contains Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem. As the King of kings and Lord of lords made His way to Jerusalem, some shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord,” (Mark 21:9). But the moment He entered the city, there were no chief priests welcoming Him, no teachers of the Law escorting Him to the temple, but only a stirred crowd saying, “Who is this?” (Matthew 21:10). Accompanied only by His followers, Jesus entered the temple and found a ‘dirty house.’ So He took it upon Himself to do some ‘house-cleaning!’ You see, the people of Jerusalem failed to recognize their Lord and King because they were caught up in faithlessness. We would never drink water that has been spat upon. How could we expect God to work powerfully in our lives if the ‘temple’ is filthy? And what ‘temple’ am I referring to? 1Corinthians 3:16 says we are God’s temple. His Spirit lives in us. We may ask ourselves, “Why am I spiritually unproductive?”, “Why am I fruitless when it comes to making disciples?”, “Why do I lack the inner joy and peace that comes from the Lord?”, “Why am I giving into fear, anxiety and worry?” Well, perhaps it’s because the temple of the Lord is dirty. Perhaps it’s time to ‘clean-house.’ By the way, notice what happens after Jesus cleans house; the blind and the lame were healed! (Matthew 21:14) When God’s temple (us) is clean, not only will our lives be impacted unto God’s glory, outsiders will be impacted as well! A ‘clean temple’ brings spiritual growth, spiritual productivity and above all, inner peace, regardless of the storms we may face in life! Therefore, let the Lord find you to be a ‘house of prayer.’ Each day, recognize His presence and keep a ‘clean-house’ so that the Lord may work powerfully in you! As our brother, Paul, said in 2Timothy 2:21 (ESV), “*Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.*”

Your fellow servant,
Bob Carr

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

DATE	NAME	TOWN
3/8/09.....	Nicole Malcom.....	Baldwin, NY
4/12/09.....	Tyrone Gilberth	Queens Village, NY
4/23/09.....	Joanne Rodriguez.....	Briarwood, NY

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

Weekly Budget: \$ 9,000		
DATE	ATTENDANCE	CONTRIBUTION
4/5/2009	280	\$8,294
4/12/2009	297	\$8,586
4/19/2009	302	\$9,466
4/26/2009	293	\$8,982

Peace

by Bernadette Gomez

The world defines peace as the absence of trouble. Webster defines peace as freedom from disturbing thoughts and emotions. According to these definitions, who then could describe themselves as a person of peace? Do you know of anyone who never experiences trouble? Who do you know of that is free from disturbing thoughts or emotions? Ever since the birth of my son, Christian, my heart has experienced a vulnerability I never knew before, and this has truly motivated me to study out this topic. If we are feeling overwhelmed, anxious, irritable or depressed, it is because we have adopted this wrong thinking that, “I’ll feel peaceful when this problem is resolved or goes away.” Clearly, the world has nothing sound to offer regarding peace, sisters. Let’s look to the Lord, our Rock.

Peace is not the absence of trouble, but rather, the nearness of God. In John 16:33, God tells us, “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” God warns us that we will have trouble in this world, and then He tells us to take heart. Take heart means to guard your heart, be of courage and remember that God is in control. He has overcome the world! What trial are you experiencing? Are you tempted to wonder if God is in control? Remember that God is victorious over this world. He is in complete control, and He is very near.

John 14:27 tells us, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” Not only is Jesus our source of peace, but He gives us *His Personal Peace*. Jesus reminds us that He does not give to us the way the world gives. When God blesses us, it is never a partial blessing. God’s blessings are thorough and complete. We have been blessed with the peace that Jesus feels. However, it comes with a warning. We need to guard this peace. God gives us a warning not to allow our hearts to be troubled and afraid. This is amazing that we are in control of this. Doesn’t it *feel* like we are powerless victims of our hearts’ emotions or of circumstance? Of course we are not, but that lie is what Satan wants us to believe.

It’s interesting that we pray for peace, and then God answers our prayer by giving us more trials! In Hebrews chapter 12, God tells us to endure hardship as discipline. It won’t feel pleasant. It’s going to feel downright painful, but He encourages us to allow ourselves to be trained by our hardships and that we will enjoy a harvest of righteousness and peace. How crazy does that sound to the flesh! We want peace and tranquility, and God allows painful trials! This reminds us that His ways are very different from ours!

In Galatians 5:22, peace is described as a “fruit of the Spirit”. Let’s think for a moment about physical fruit. How do we bear fruit? First, we need to prepare the soil. Then, we need to plant the seeds. Once planted, these seeds need fresh water, sunshine, loving care, and time. Bearing fruit is not instantaneous, but takes time and patience. The Lord teaches us that the same is true regarding bearing peace or any other fruit of the Spirit. It is a process that happens over time through commitment, planning, discipline, and a lot of hard work.

Bearing peace in our lives will take purposeful planning and discipline. First, we need to take an honest, hard look at ourselves. How is our soil? Are we rocky (stubborn and hard-headed)? Are we sandy (shallow convictions)? Are we full of thorns and thistles (sin and pride)? Identify any destructive habits or parts of your personality that are stifling your ability to be peaceful and confess this to God. He will help you to remove the rocks, thorns and thistles and make your path straight. Next you will need to fertilize the soil and make it ready for planting the seeds of peace. This is accomplished through studying all the wonderful scriptures God has given us on peace. As you read them, ask God to show you how to apply what you are reading in your daily life. Tell Him the desires of your heart. God is eager for you to bear fruit! The Lord is faithful and will answer your prayer!

“For the building up of the Body...”

Ephesians 4:12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 📖 **Bible Class:** We will not meet for Wednesday night Bible class on May 13th (Long Island and City).
- 📖 **Devotional Services:** May 8th and 22nd at 8:00 PM. Please come early to fellowship and encourage one another.
- 📖 **LICOC BBQ:** Mark your calendars! The LICOC Church BBQ will be Saturday, July 18th (Rain Date: July 25th) at Belmont Lake State Park from 11:00AM - 5:00PM. Lunch will be served from 11:30AM - 1:00PM.
- 📖 **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