

BE TRANSFORMED

Robert Carr

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

Evangelist
Robert Carr

Associate Evangelist
Pedro Gelabert

Spanish Evangelist
Charlie Gomez

Campus Minister
Ladipo Davies

Family Minister
Robert Young

Worship Directors
David Luhrs
George Bullinger

Minister of Finance
Arthur Shlesinger

Long Island School
of Evangelism

Office Telephone
(631) 348-7322

www.licoc.org

info@licoc.org

PO Box 607M
Bay Shore, NY
11706

Greetings, Kingdom saint! I was chatting online with a gentleman from upstate New York. I was intrigued by his profile, which said, "I want God to grow me into a godly man!" Yes, isn't that what you and I want God to do for us? The Lord has provided the tools for us to grow in godliness. I would like to remind you of the things I shared in my former sermons regarding spiritual growth.

HONOR: *Spiritual growth is determined by who you honor!* Solomon and Absalom had the same father, King David. Yet, one chose to honor the voice of his father and became king while the other died an embittered man. Peter and Judas had the same Teacher, Jesus Christ. Yet one chose to honor the voice of his Teacher and became a great preacher and fisher of men while the other died a condemned man. All successes and failures could be traced back to whose voice a person chose to honor. Spiritual growth comes to those who honor God's Word. The person who spiritually grows into Christlikeness is the one who hears and keeps the word of God (**Luke 8:15**). Such persons honor the voice of God.

THE MIND: *All life's battles begin with the mind!* If you win in your mind, you will win life's battles. Think of your mind as a movie theater where videos of your experience are played. Your life becomes whatever experience your mind keeps playing over and over again. **Proverbs 27:19** says, "*As in water face reflects face, so the heart of man reflects the man.*" In other words, you will act like the person you think you are. For this reason, we must uproot the "weeds" that are thriving in the garden of our minds and plant that which is true, honorable, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent and worthy of praise (**cf. Philippians 4:8**)! If you and I are going to grow in Christlikeness, we must set our minds on that which pertains to Heaven, and not the earth (**cf. Col. 3:2**). Here are some practical ways of putting Philippians 4:8 into practice: post verses around your home; listen to Christian songs; wear Christian apparel; watch wholesome shows that set your mind on that which is good, pure, lovely, and honorable; write a passage on an index card and give yourself a week to memorize that passage as you repeat the passage a few times a day; etc.

THE DIFFERENCE: *Recognize your God-given difference.* God has put something in you and me that others do not have. God calls us to glorify Him by our exercising these gifts He has given us! Remember, your difference and my difference is more important than our weakness. And the abilities He has given us are designed to build up the Church (**1Cor. 12:7; 1Peter 4:10**).

Let us fervently pray that God may grow us in godliness like that online person's profile says! Let us ask Him every day to do His wonderful work in us, as we honor His voice, set our minds on that which is good and as we exercise our God-given difference to the praise and glory of Christ and His Church!

Your fellow servant,



Robert Carr

“As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” Joshua 24:15

FAMILY MATTERS

BE DEVOTED!

Robert Young

Amazing! By the will and grace of God we have lived through another year and now it's time for 2012. What will your focus be in this New Year? For me and my household we will be focused on getting back to the basics and the scripture that we will focus on is **Acts 2:42-47**. There are several points that I want to be motivators for my family this year and for the rest of their lives.

1. **We must** (*no negotiation here*) **be devoted or dedicated to things that promote God in our lives.** We must be dedicated to reading our bibles at least as often as we brush our teeth (I am hoping that you brush at least once a day).
2. **We must be dedicated to fellowship.** I believe this goes beyond the meetings that we attend (mentorship, Bible Class, Devo, Sunday service). At the end of each month we should ask ourselves, “Who have we invited into our home to get to know on a more intimate level?” **“The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.” (Gal. 5:6b)**. There needs to be someone on the receiving end of that love, so let's take time to fellowship.
3. **We must be dedicated to the breaking of bread.** I believe that this points to the corporate worship opportunities that God has given on Wed. night, Fri. night and Sunday afternoon. **“Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another- and the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Heb. 10:25)** We must not just *attend* bible class or any other meeting, but be dedicated to the assembly so that we may encourage our brethren.
4. **We must be dedicated or devoted to prayer.** Prayer for ourselves, for our families, for our church family and for the lost. We ought to pray without ceasing. **(1Thess. 5:17)**
5. **Be excited! Be fired up for Jesus!** I plead with you that if you devote or dedicate yourself to things listed above you will be pumped up for Christ and when we are pumped for Christ amazing things happen. **(Acts 2:43)**
6. **Be willing to help!** As you get to know your brothers and sisters you may find some who are in need. Be willing to sacrifice for your brother and meet their need. As you see or hear about a need try and take care of it without anyone knowing. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. **(Matt. 6:4b)**

When as a family and a church we dedicate ourselves to these things God does amazing things. I am praying that 2012 is a year where in the chronicles of heaven it can be written about my family and our church that “the Lord added to their number daily those who [are] being saved.” Amen!

“And the Lord added to their number” Acts 2:47

BAPTISMS

Allison Araya	December, 2011	Robinson Unelus	November, 2011
Timra Tomengo	December, 2011	Temi Shobitan	November, 2011
Cynthia Okot-Kotber	November, 2011	George Michel	October, 2011
Maurice Thomas	November, 2011	Nicole Brown	October, 2011
Rachel Constant	November, 2011	Richard Erwin	October, 2011

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

CONTRIBUTIONS

Time Period	Weekly Attendance (Average)	Weekly Contribution (Average)
October, 2011	286	\$8,713
November, 2011	288	\$8,915
December, 2011	295	\$8,264
Weekly Averages for 2011	289	\$8,869

Weekly Budget: \$9,000

MEDITATING ON MARTHA

by Bernadette Gómez

Luke 10: 38-41 As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, “Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!” “Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

Jesus describes Martha as distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. According to Merriam-Webster, here is the definition of distract: *1. To draw the attention or mind to a different object: divert; 2. To stir up or confuse with conflicting emotions or motives.* I thought this was very revealing. Once we take our eyes off of Jesus, we become confused with conflicting emotions or motives that are stirred up within us. Applying this to ourselves, if we are feeling conflicted within ourselves about a situation or perhaps we are experiencing conflict with another person, then according to this definition conflict is first preceded by distraction – a loss of focus on Jesus!

Jesus then loves Martha and tells her that she is “worried and upset about many things”. I wondered why Jesus chose to use “worried” and “upset” since they both have similar definitions – Worry: *to make anxious or upset*; and Upset: *to disturb emotionally*. Then I studied more closely each of their definitions and realized that they also have unique qualities not shared by the other. Let's look at the definitions of each – Worried: *1. To make anxious or upset; 2. To feel or express great care or anxiety: fret.* Fret means *to gradually make sore and wear away by rubbing, also to fray as in separating the threads at the edge of a cloth or garment, or to strain, or to irritate.* When we are distracted and worrisome we are gradually being worn away, chafed, and frayed like a garment eventually coming undone at the seams!

Let's look at the definition of upset: Upset (noun): *a derangement of plans or ideas*; Upset (adj): *emotionally disturbed or agitated*; Upset (verb): *1. To disturb emotionally; 2. To defeat unexpectedly!* Martha opened her home to Jesus so of course she has a list of things to be done, or an agenda. Now because Mary, her helper, is sitting at Jesus' feet Martha's plans have been disarranged. How do you feel when your plans have been thrown off? Maybe you are not an organized person, but perhaps you have “an idea” in your head how you would like things to go. And all of the sudden things are turning out quite differently than the picture you had conjured up in your mind. What do you do? How do you react? Remember, if you are upset you are very close to being defeated! How do we turn this around?

I always wonder what Martha did and how the story played out. Did Martha go back to the kitchen, furious and attempt to do it all on her own strength? Did she perhaps go back to the kitchen for a short time to work through her emotions and see that they were based on her plans, her agenda, and her pride, before she returned to Jesus? Maybe Jesus' gracious reply of speaking the truth in love quickly brought her to her senses and without hesitation she sat at Jesus' feet and asked Him what His agenda was for the evening.

Jesus purposely didn't tell us how the story played out because He wants us to ponder the cause and effect of each choice Mary and Martha made and then apply what we learn to our specific situation. What are you going to do? Are you going to ask Jesus, “Don't you care?” and then order Him to do what you expect? Do you have the courage to humbly put yourself at His feet and not allow your circumstances to distract you? Do you trust Jesus to ask Him what His plan is for you and your life and humbly inquire regarding the manner in which He would like you to serve? Remember **Jeremiah 29:11** “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

“Good works, which God prepared beforehand” Eph. 2:10

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- † Off Bible Class Dates: Jan 11th, Feb 8th, Mar 14th
- † Devotional Service Dates: Jan 6th, Jan 20th; Feb 3rd, Feb 17th; Mar 9th, 23rd
- † Ladies Life Talks: Jan 21st, 11am-1pm at the Jules’ residence
- † Homeschool Recitation: Feb 25, 11am-1pm in the NYIT Chapel
- † Keep up with all church events by joining LIChurch Space! Go to www.licoc.org and click the LIChurch Space link!
- † If you would like to order a CD of a past sermon or seminar, please see Rob Dixon.
- † All announcements should be submitted to David Luhrs.
- † Address/telephone changes can be sent to directory@licoc.org or posted in the Directory Group on LIChurch Space.
- † **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!

“Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel” Mark 16:15

MISSION WORK

- † Apologetics Press.....International
- † We Care Ministries.....West Monroe, Louisiana
- † Ron Clayton.....India
- † Doug & Lucy McDougale.....Ukraine, Russia
- † Long Island Harvest Campaign.....Central Islip, NY

“Watch your life and doctrine closely” 1 Timothy 4:16

BIBLE CLASSES

Long Island Ministry

Wednesdays 7:30pm-8:30pm

Robert Carr (631) 348-7322
New York Institute of Technology Chapel
Carleton Avenue
Central Islip, N.Y.

City Ministry

Wednesdays 7:30pm-8:30pm

Pedro Gelabert (347) 732-2101
St Luke’s Baptist Church Laurelton Sr Center
133-21 232nd Street
Jamaica, NY 11413

College Ministry

Thursdays 7:20pm-8:20pm

Ladi Davies (631) 413-5863
SAC Room 309 at Stony Brook University
100 Nicolls Road
Stony Brook, NY 11790

Spanish Ministry

Tuesdays 7:30pm-8:30pm

Charlie Gómez (631) 772-2889
New York Institute of Technology Chapel
Carleton Avenue
Central Islip, N.Y.

Sunday Bible Classes

Grades 2-12 and Adults

Sundays 12:30pm-1:15pm

Pedro Gelabert, Robert Young
New York Institute of Technology Chapel
Carleton Avenue
Central Islip, N.Y.