

“TAKE CARE CHURCH”

By Victor Quaye

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

Evangelist
Robert Carr

Associate Evangelist
Pedro Gelabert

Spanish Evangelist
Charlie Gómez

Campus Minister
Ladipo Davies

Family Minister
Robert Young

Worship Directors
David Luhrs
George Bullinger

Minister of Finance
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The phrase **“take care”** is often used in our everyday speech when parting ways as a generic way of saying good bye. However, I recall in the days of my youth when my parents also used it as a reminder to **“take heed”**. These timely reminders in their strong Ghanaian accent came when parting for school. They would say things like: “take care and study hard so that when you grow you will not become useless”, “take care not to hang out with those bad boys who have no respect”, “take care not to do drugs because your mind will go mad”, and on and on. As a child, those reminders became somewhat annoying. But in reality, they were shared to both put a little fear in me, and to safeguard me from the pressing evil that surrounded me. Of course, I wish I could say I obeyed well in each of those areas; however those warnings kept me from further straying.

Our God of even greater wisdom than our earthly parents uses the Hebrew writer to remind us in **Hebrews 3:12-13** in a similar manner to **“Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is [still] called "Today," lest anyone of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin” (NAS95)**. We still need these reminders today and shouldn't take them lightly because of the imminent threat and relentless pursuit by Satan through crafty schemes to pull us away from God and each other. Satan's schemes may come in the form of an untimely spousal argument due to lack of quality time together, the management of finances or child rearing. Satan may also use unfulfilled desires or passions in life, afflictions that threaten our health, an offense taken due to godly correction from brethren, and sometimes the handling of church matters or other issues. These along with many other things not listed can victimize us to the point of no return if we do not **“take care”**, church. Unfortunately, my heart has been victimized on several occasions but I am thankful not to have been hardened to the point of separation. When victimized, I've found myself giving my wife the silent treatment after disagreements, or running ahead of God without seeking godly counsel on some major life issue, or not wanting to be patient and obey because of a strong desire. There were times I've questioned God because of a persistent trial, and complained about situations not fully understood. These are all signs of being hardened by sins deceitfulness which need to be eradicated from our lives.

In Jesus final days here on earth, he prayed earnestly for the church in **John 17:11(NIV)** saying **“I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name-- the name you gave me-- so that they may be one as we are one.”** We fulfill Jesus prayer by walking in the light as he is in the light and having true fellowship with one another as it is written in 1John 1:7. We must not allow our hearts to be hardened but rather purified by the blood of Jesus. We do this by reconciling with our spouse or brother immediately after a disagreement by each acknowledging faults and repenting if necessary to ensure that you **“...do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil” Eph 4:26 (ESV)**. Furthermore, we need to learn to become more vulnerable to the Lord and each other by praying not only to be healed from our afflictions but what we can learn from them, and that our desires come from pure motives. **“He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them” Ps 145:19 (NIV)**. The church has been created as a safe haven to help us succeed at faithfulness to Christ in whatever life brings our way. We can only excel in faithfulness if we **“take care”** and keep our hearts tender which requires even in church matters not fully understood that you and I **“Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you” Heb 13:17 (NIV)**. Until Jesus comes again I pray that you **“take care”**.

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

FAMILY MATTERS

MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT

By Don Strittmatter

Facing trials and dealing with troublesome times are inevitable appointments in our lives. Whether it is at work, school or in the home, or our health --- trials, temptations or trouble of one kind or another will become an uninvited visitor. And when these times come our prayers are always to first petition God to please take it away! We never intend on making close companions of pain and suffering. Yet, these are the moments that define who we are, and what we stand for, and who we look to for strength and comfort. In **1 Peter 1:3-9** scripture reminds us that trials come as a test to prove the genuineness of our faith that is more valuable than gold refined by fire, and will result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. God tells us in **verse 9 that we are receiving the end result of that “tested” faith, the salvation of our soul.** Paul describes his moment of testing in **2 Corinthians 12.** He receives a thorn in the flesh from Satan to keep him from becoming conceited due to the greatness of the revelations that he was given. Three times, Paul said he pleaded with the Lord to take it away and the Lord answered, “My grace is sufficient for you because my power is made perfect in weakness”. That “grace” is the soul cleansing forgiveness, sin redeeming sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, promise of heaven --- gift that is given to His saints. Paul embraces this answer from the Lord and encourages us in **verse 10, “For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong”.** So the next time our prayer to God to remove a trial or trouble goes apparently unanswered; let us embrace God’s real answer to us”My grace is sufficient”, with Paul’s attitude. For when I am weak in myself, then I can be strong in Christ.

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

BAPTISMS

| | | | |
|----------------|------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Kyle Watkins | July, 2012 | Marie Michel | April, 2012 |
| Dwight Thomas | June, 2012 | Ken Begin | February, 2012 |
| Lahsann Rogers | May, 2012 | Rhonda Washington | January, 2012 |
| Taonga Mubebo | May, 2012 | Timra Tomengo | December, 2011 |
| Yolanda Caban | April 2012 | Allison Araya | December, 2011 |

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

CONTRIBUTIONS

| Time Period | Weekly Attendance (Average) | Weekly Contribution (Average) |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| July 2012 | 287 | \$8,451 |
| August 2012 | 288 | \$7,871 |
| September 2012 | 295 | \$8,922 |
| Weekly Averages for Q3 | 291 | 8,449 |

Weekly Budget: \$9,000

HOSPITALITY

By Claribel Gelabert

I am zealous for my family. I want to give them the best and spend as much time as I can with them without interruption. God challenges me to open my heart when it comes to hospitality: **Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. – 1 Peter 4:9.** In the past, when my Pedro invited people to my home, I was not initially encouraged by the idea. I realized I needed to accommodate myself to Jesus' idea of a hospitable wife.

What should my attitude be about hospitality?

If you are prone to complaining, people won't want to come to your home. No one wants to hang around misery and negativity. For example, I hadn't seen my cousin from CT for 20 years. She called me and then gave me a surprise visit the Thursday before she was supposed to come. I tried not to complain because my home was not ready for visitors; I had lots of laundry to do. I remembered I don't need to complain, I don't have to trust my heart, so I was excited to see my cousin and her family. Another example was when my husband told me about our Christian family from the Ukraine who would be staying in my home for 5 days. I tried not to complain because my heart was again trying to deceive me. So they stayed at my home and when they were leaving our sister told me I was a great hostess, praise God!

The Bible helps me understand the importance of a good attitude and right living and how these impact others: **The Lord's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the home of the righteous. – Proverbs 3:33**
So the Right Attitude is: be full of kindness, positive thoughts of serving Jesus, humble, without complaint, etc.

How we can practice hospitality?

Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. – Rom 12:13. This verse teaches us to look for people who need help and welcome them into your homes. It is an active conviction we must desire to possess and not just a passive challenge that is given to keep in the back of our minds. What makes a difference to others is not the food you serve or how nice your home is, but your kind and loving hearts and your gentle disposition. Attract them with the same love and gentleness the Lord won you over. Strangers as well as Christians ought to be accepted into your home for that is the crucible the Lord will use to impact their hearts with love.

Have your whole family participate in this hospitality, no matter if they are kids and especially if they are teenagers. Hospitality is everyone's responsibility as a family. My boys want to help me serve all my visitors and brothers. They also want to help me cook. Wives, make it your goal to buy food, cook it and serve it to assist your husband's desire to invite people and study the bible at your home. Singles ought to participate in this example of hospitality as well. For example, at work invite your fellow co-workers to study the bible at your home and also invite brothers and sisters to help and encourage. You and your church family can impact these friends with your hospitality.

Going to the store presents another opportunity for you to tell someone about Jesus. You can share the message of Jesus or give them the Gospel DVD. Hospitality is about turning your home into one that is known for sowing the seed of the word of God, kindness, generosity and peace.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- † Off Bible Class Dates: October 10th, November 21st, December 26th
- † Devotional Service Dates: October 5th, 19th, November 2nd, 16th, December 7, 21st
- † Fundraiser/Tag Sale: October 6th from 10am – 3pm @ Islandia Village Hall. Contact Deanna Patterson for details.
- † Suffolk Ministry Ladies Life Talks Fall 2012: October 20th from 11am – 1pm at Natasha Jules Home.
- † Men’s Order of Service Meetings: October 21st, November 18th, December 16th at 3:45 PM
- † Children’s Ministry Meeting: November 4th at 3:45 PM
- † 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
- † Queens & Long Island Harvest Campaigns.....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 308 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.