

HOLINESS IS THE TRACK WE'RE ON

Pedro Gelabert

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

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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When we have received the All Powerful Spirit of the Living God we have begun an incredible process of rebirth and renewal on the inside: we are now under construction (**Titus 3:5**)! Although on the outside we are degenerating on the inside we are being rebuilt, refurbished, regenerated and renewed by the very Spirit who built the entire universe from nothing. Our lives are being permanently changed and everyone will see it without a doubt because we have been impacted by the God of the Universe.

The world does not celebrate this newness of life because it does not understand it, being blinded by the devil – the God of this age (**2 Co 4:4**). We, however, understand we have a new citizenship – we no longer hold any love for the sinful world and are on a mission to bring with us as many as possible! When we are united with Christ through baptism we receive the forgiveness of sins, and we are freed from the slavery of sin being regenerated by his Spirit. It is the new birth by water and the Spirit - a new life! (**cf. Romans 6:3-7; John 3:3-7**) Because we are new, we are in transition, as a baby who is getting ready for birth. We are passing from one world into another even as we are here today. Welcome the change you are experiencing and zealously let go of the hold the world has tried to pin on you. Let go and grab onto the newness the Lord brings to you through His word and the Spirit within you.

Hebrews 12:14 NIV Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

The Spirit is working in us a heavenly, not worldly, point of view. The mundane is no longer our goal. Seeking to understand the world or wanting to be a friend of the world is no longer what should drive you, young people (**James 4:4**). Let the life that is you by the Spirit, be what defines you, not the physical vigor you may feel, for when that vigor wanes, you will only have God's strength to move you forward. Persevere in holiness! Your desire should be to see the Lord – to be with Him and gaze into His face, as David describes in his Psalm:

Psalms 27:4 NIV One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.

1 Peter 1:14-16 NIV As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. (15) But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; (16) for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

Holiness entails using our mind and body to serve the Lord, not to fulfill carnal desires. We are ambassadors for Christ and the word we have is not ours, but that of Christ. When we preach the Gospel we do this to give opportunity to the Spirit to work through his word the will of God in people's lives.

Sometimes my concern has been in the past that I may not have a good ice breaker with someone when I want to share God's word, or that the timing may not be right, or fears that I may face rejection or ridicule. Even though I have already faced all this and many more throughout the years, the fears and concerns are still there. I am still learning to trust God and not lean on my own understanding (**Proverbs 3:5**). I am learning that God's word holds its own and that I don't have to figure out the scenario or have all the answers, because God is working with me – it is the Spirit's job to convict the world of sin, not mine (**John 16:8**). I am just holding out the word of life and God works miracles! I just need to trust and obey – I need to be holy. Without holiness I won't see God.

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

FAMILY MATTERS

“BE TRANSFORMED”

Victor Quaye

Happy New Year Family! With each New Year come new beginnings that consist of ambitious goals, and things we would like to change about ourselves or accomplish spiritually. As we look ahead to the year 2014, Paul's admonishment in **Romans 12:2**, should never grow old. He writes: **“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will.”** Paul lists two commands in this passage. The first is not to conform to the pattern of this world and the second is to “be transformed”. As we know putting God's word into practice isn't always easy. However, God wants us to develop a strong faith in His word that manifests itself in what we do (**James 1:22**). Clearly God wants us to be different from the world! To obey these two commands we have to be proactive in meditating on both His promises and commands allowing them to transform our thinking. Therefore, the world is no longer our gauge of what is right or wrong, nor good or evil. We should be different in how we love, what we think is important, the attention we give our families, how we raise our children, how we spend our money, how we choose our spouse, what we do with our time, the respect we give to governing authorities, and our church leaders. The more different we are the more clearly we're able to see God's will for our lives. As a New Year dawns let's put in the effort needed to be truly transformed in our minds that the fruit may be evident in our lives.

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

BAPTISMS

Jessy Lin	November, 2013
Sunil Deochand	October, 2013
Brianna Guerra	October, 2013
Ruhan Feng	October, 2013
Andrew James Genova	September, 2013

Naudia Arkward	September, 2013
Nilisa Arkward	August, 2013
Mary Begin	July, 2013
Andrew Genova	July, 2013
Jennifer Chiaramonte	July, 2013

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

CONTRIBUTIONS

Time Period	Weekly Attendance (Average)	Weekly Contribution (Average)
October 2013	276	\$8,084
November 2013	264	\$8,188
December 2013	261	\$8,472
Weekly Averages for Q1	266	\$8,265
Weekly Averages for 2013	276	\$8,913

Weekly Budget: \$9,000

MAKING GOD OUR REFUGE

Bernadette Gómez

Psalm 34:8 “Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!”

We may have awesome quiet times studying the Bible. We may have a prayer life where we pour out our hearts to the Lord. We may attend Sunday Services and remember the Lord's death, burial and resurrection. We may attend every Bible Class on Wednesday and take copious notes. We may attend Friday Devotionals and earnestly praise the Lord in song. We may bare our hearts to our mentor and co-mentees sharing our inmost thoughts and feelings. We may do all these wonderful spiritual disciplines and still not have learned to make God our refuge. I was doing all the above things, yet God was showing me that I was not making Him my refuge.

A refuge is a shelter or protection from danger or distress. When you are going through a trial, how do you handle it? When you are subject to great strain or difficulty and you are suffering in your body or mind, to whom do you turn? What is your first reaction? Do you pick up the phone and make a call? Do you immediately go on the computer and start researching? Do you turn to your spouse, before God? Or perhaps you scramble to speak with your mentor. These are not bad things in and of themselves, but on whom is your dependence first and foremost? Are you depending on God or on your intelligence, your strength, your opinions (how you feel), or your resources? **Psalm 118:9** reminds us, **“It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes.”**

Making God our refuge means we have to come face to face with our fears and be vulnerable. We have to admit we are small and weak and need His help. We have to say “no” to our deceitful heart which will try to convince us that God is “too busy” to hear our prayer, or “too far away” to notice. We have to determine not to listen to our evil heart when it makes us feel like we are a victim of circumstance (or the economy, or our genetics, etc.). We are not and God is very much in control! The trial didn't happen because God was “sleeping on the job”. God reigns on His throne. He is sovereign! He could have prevented the trial or misfortune, but in His perfect wisdom, He chose not to. **Psalm 18:30** fortifies our hearts: **“As for God, his way is perfect: The Lord's word is flawless; he shields all who take refuge in him.”**

The test is before us. What will we choose? I must admit, at first it was such a scary feeling to sit at His feet during distressing trials. All of my vulnerabilities were exposed. I had to let go of my lack of trust (my pride). I chose to embrace the scriptures, the truth of His Word: **Nahum 1:7 “The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him.”** and **Matthew 7:8-11 “For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!”**

When we fear the Lord and take refuge in Him, then our homes become a shelter for our families. We are able to build up our loved ones and “build our home” as it says in **Proverbs 14:1 “The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.”** When we put God first and make Him our shelter, our children are blessed by our focus as it says in **Proverbs 14:26, “Whoever fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and for their children it will be a refuge.”** May God bless you. ☺

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- † Off Bible Class Dates: Jan 15th, Feb 12th, Mar 12th
- † Devotional Service Dates: Jan 10th, Jan 24th, Feb 7th, Feb 21st, Mar 7th, Mar 21st
- † Suffolk Ministry Ladies Life Talks: January 18th 11am – 1pm at the Jules’ Residence
- † Men’s Order of Service Meetings: Jan 19th, Feb 16th, Mar 16th at 3:45 PM
- † Homeschool Recitation: Jan 25th at 11:00am
- † Children’s Ministry Meeting: March 2nd at 3:45 PM
- † Children’s Ministry Supervisors’ Meeting: February 29th 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
Arthur Shlesinger (631) 293-0632
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.