

LIVE FAITHFULLY TO THE LORD

Robert Young Sr.

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

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

As I read the Old Testament I am amazed at the workings of God. From Genesis to Malachi the Old Testament is filled with great stories of triumph running right alongside stories of disobedience and defeat. Two characters that have always stood out to me in the Old Testament are Saul, the first king of Israel and David, the second king of Israel. I like to look at these men in comparison to one another. What interests me is that each man received the anointing of God based on their uprightness and although they both sinned (and we know there is not a man alive who has not sinned) God chose to reject one and call another a man after His own heart. God chose to reject Saul and remove the kingdom from his descendants for what seemed to be a mistake that any man or woman might make. When it comes to David we could probably make a movie out of his mistakes – in fact, they have! David, whose story we know very well, was caught up in lies, sex, and murder and yet God would never fully remove the kingdom of Israel from David even till today (Jesus being the descendent of David still reigns from heaven today, Amen!). But the reason why God chooses one man over another is simple and plain as was explained to Samuel the Prophet in **1 Samuel 16:7, “But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature (I could take offense but I choose to overlook the height thing), because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.’”** This passage of scripture is very familiar to us, but do we get the point? God is not concerned with our attempt to look like a follower of Christ, God is concerned with a heart that is faithful to His will. The word faithful simply means loyal, constant, and steadfast to God. David was willing to trust God with his very life proving his loyalty. Throughout David’s whole life, being chased by his enemy, falling into some very serious sin, trying to be killed by his own son he kept an unswerving loyalty to God despite his circumstances. He says in **Psalms 27:1 “The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”** and again in **Psalms 86:2** He says, **“Preserve my life, for I am godly; save your servant, who trusts in you-- you are my God.”** And again in **Psalms 54:4, “Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life.”** Wow! What great faith and steadfast devotion to the Lord. You see, unlike Saul who broke the Lord’s command because he wanted to please the people, David never wavered from his constant commitment to the Lord. The question for you and I is where do we stand in our loyalty to the Lord? Are you somebody that is swayed by what people think, like Saul, or are you someone who is willing to stand for what is right in the eyes of the Lord? In most cases we are not faced with life and death ultimatums when standing up for biblical truths but it can sure feel that way. We are faced with having to explain our stance on schooling our children, biblical marriage, homosexuality, abortion and the like. It is easy to feel like everyone is against us, because typically, they are. You may feel that if you speak the truth (**John 17:17**) that your job is on the line. These are a few examples, but our faithfulness is being observed every day by the LORD! Let us follow David’s example from **Psalms 54:4, “Surely God is my help; the Lord is the one who sustains me.”** And with this attitude, let us remain loyal, steadfast, constant and faithful to our God remembering **“the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.” (1 John 2:17)**

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

FAMILY MATTERS

THE IMPORTANCE OF TRANSPARENCY

Kevin Booker

One of the most important character traits that we must possess as Christians is transparency. Transparency is actually the best indicator of how good our relationships with one another and our Heavenly Father are. The phrase “walk in the light” (1 John 1:5-7) refers to living open and honest lives, sharing what is in our hearts and on our minds with one another, whether good or bad. The phrase “walk in darkness” refers to the practice of concealing what is in our hearts and minds, and not being honest about what is going on in our lives. (John 3:19-21) Why do we struggle with being transparent? I can say that the times I justified a lack of transparency in my life was because 1) I was afraid of being criticized or judged 2) I didn’t think I would be understood 3) I was afraid of being embarrassed or humiliated and 4) I thought it would affect my ability to serve in the body.

In the end this scripture taught me two things: 1) that my lack of transparency was due to pride and 2) that there was no excuse for walking in darkness. If we want to have confidence in being transparent then we have to first understand that the Lord God Almighty sees and knows everything about us already! Hebrews 4:13 – “And no creature is hidden from His sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.” And although he sees the impurity and wickedness that can be found in our hearts he still loves us, accepts us, lavishes his mercy and grace upon us, and wants to use us for His good purposes! (Ephesians 3:17-19, Romans 5:2, Ephesians 2:10)

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

BAPTISMS

Chris Pimentel March, 2014
Javier Hernandez January, 2014
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

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

CONTRIBUTIONS

Time Period	Weekly Attendance (Average)	Weekly Contribution (Average)
January 2014	259	\$8,866
February 2014	249	\$13,717
March 2014	266	\$11,001
Weekly Averages for Q1	259	\$11,180

Weekly Budget: \$9,000

CHOOSING THE GOOD PORTION

Carolyn Shlesinger

Luke 10:38-42, “Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, ‘Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.’ But the Lord answered her, Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.”

I love this small window the Lord gives us into the life of these two sisters when Jesus came to their house that day. The passage is only 5 verses long, but an excellent lesson on devotion. I can see myself in both sisters--at times I am like Martha--when I’m distracted and not focused--that makes me whiny! I’m like Mary when I’m putting God first, focused, and devoted. Jesus said ONE thing is necessary, or needed, only ONE thing is eternal—the good portion, a relationship with God, devotion to God. He commended Mary for her devotion, and called Martha out on her excessive worry, and reminded her that the one thing she neglected was needed.

The busyness of life can easily distract us from what is really needed. Jesus wasn’t saying not to keep our homes and serve in them! But at that moment in time Mary chose the best thing to do. He is saying that choosing Him above all else is most important, and not to neglect that—in fact to train ourselves in it (**1 Timothy 4:7**). When we put God first, He always gives us everything else that we need. (**Matthew 6:33**)

We are learning in our Bible class about the different offerings taught in Leviticus. One of the most beautiful is the Burnt Offering. It was an offering expressing devotion to God. It was voluntary, and represented everything that you are, a voluntary act of worship and surrender to God. In chapter 6, v9, 12 and 13 it talks about the fires that must never go out. Fires represent devotion here. God wants our devotion and fellowship with Him to be constant, and growing, not sporadic or seasonal. Every Sunday service you attend, every Bible class, every devotional—you are pursuing devotion to God. Every time you open your Bible to read, you are sitting at the Lord’s feet. As you do these things your desire for God grows--you want more! **Matthew 5:6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”** The words hunger and thirst are like our words “addicted to”. Once you begin to know God, you want to know Him more and more. It really is addicting! I’m also learning that working at my ministry as wife and mother is my worship. I am the burnt offering, a sweet smelling aroma to God as I continually devote myself to Him in obedience to His word.

This Scripture is so encouraging to me because despite the many ways I fall short, my aim in life, and my goal each day, is to choose “the good part”, and sit at the Lord’s feet, like Mary. Let us all continue to choose the good part each day, seeking a deeper devotion to our God. As the song we sing says, “love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.”

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- † Off Bible Class Dates: Apr 9th, May 14th, Jun 18th
- † Devotional Service Dates: Apr 18th, May 9th, May 23th, Jun 13th, Jun 27th
- † LICOC Talent Show: April 26th 6pm -8:30pm at the Chapel
- † Suffolk Ministry Ladies Life Talks: May 3rd 11am – 1pm at the Jules’ Residence
- † Moses Bus Trip To Sight & Sound Theatre: May 24th Lancaster, PA
- † Women’s Retreat: Friday June 20th – Saturday June 21th at the Pinebrook Bible Conference & Retreat Center
- † Men’s Order of Service Meetings: Apr 20th, May 18th, Jun 15th
- † Harvest Campaign: Long Island - June 28th 12pm – 2pm; City – July 2 – 4th
- † Children’s Ministry Meeting: May 4th at 3:45PM
- † Children’s Ministry Supervisors’ Meeting: April 27th at 3:45PM
- † Keep up with all church events by joining LICChurch Space! Go to www.licoc.org and click the LICChurch 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 LICChurch 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.