

2008: The Year of Prayer

Greetings, Kingdom saints! Wow! Time seems to be speeding up! By the way, Happy New Year! I pray that this year will bring you much spiritual fruit, as you mature in Christ Jesus (the Lord)! Amen! We have been spending some time learning about the Holy Spirit and His work in us. Lord willing, this year, we will look at prayer. Prayer is our communication to our Lord. It allows us to reach up to God and to reach out to others, as we win souls for Jesus, increase our faith, and become a ministry ALIVE to God! Our lives in Christ will EXPLODE with life, as we intensify our prayer life! Prayer is Power! The time of prayer is the time of power! Prayer brings one to victory! When we ask in faith, we receive! When we call, God answers! For He says: “*ASK, and it will be given to you! SEEK, and you will find! KNOCK, and it will be opened to you!*” (**Matthew 7:7 ESV**).

Our growth depends on our consistency in prayer. Without prayer, we will spiritually wither away. Prayerlessness leads to spiritual disaster. Consider the following, in **1 Kings 1**: we read about King Ahaziah dying because he consulted with an idol, as opposed to praying to God. In **Joshua 9**, we read about how Gibeonites deceived Joshua and his men into making an unauthorized treaty, because they did not consult the Lord. In **2 Chronicles 10:13-14**, we read about King Saul losing his kingdom and dying because of prayerlessness. In **2 Chronicles 16:7-12**, we read about King Asa failing in his mission and dying in pain because he did not pray to God. In **Ezekiel 22:30-31**, Jerusalem was destroyed and the people were taken into captivity because there was no one who would intercede in prayer on the people’s behalf. In **Mark 14:38**, Jesus told His disciples that prayerlessness will cause them to fall into temptation. We saw what happened, as a result of their prayerlessness. In verse 50, everyone deserted Jesus when He was ceased. All this is evidence why Samuel, in **1 Samuel 12:23**, called prayerlessness a sin against the Lord. May we be people of prayer and may the Lord God reign powerfully in us! Amen!

Lord willing, we will be hearing lessons on how to pray powerful prayers and on being prayer warriors for the Lord! Remember, prayer is spiritual! Prayer is powerful! Prayer is emotional! When we pray, God listens! The devil is NOT pleased when God’s people are praying often! Satan is fine with us studying the Bible on the topic of grace, the Kingdom, praise, and even worship. If he can keep us off of our knees, we are no threat to him. If we become people fervent in prayer, wrestling in prayer, agonizing in prayer, then Satan becomes concerned. The devil will do anything in his power to keep us from praying! Let us dedicate 2008 as the year of prayer and may 2008 and every year to follow be The Year of Prayer. May our daily lives be filled with prayer, as we grow in Christ and reach this world for Jesus! Please pray that these lessons on prayer will bring encouragement and spiritual power to those who believe and hear!

Your fellow servant, telling the untold millions,



Robert Carr

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

Evangelist
Robert Carr

Associate Evangelist
Pedro Gelabert

Spanish Minister
Charlie Gomez

Youth Minister
Roger Wine

Marriage Counselors
Derek Peterson
Fred Brown

Women's Counselors
Cindy Camberis
Adrienne Peterson
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Editor
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“Speaking about what we have seen and heard...” Mark 5:19 Family Matters

What's Your Kingdom Score?

Pedro Gelabert

It seems that, nowadays, one of the most important numbers that people use to judge you by is your credit score. The closer it is to 850, the more you are deemed “responsible” in paying back your debt. Of course, this number is based on your past history and how many debts you have successfully paid or are paying. Being that we are talking about debt, let’s talk about a more important number concerning your debt. Not your material debt, mind you, but your debt of sin. What’s your **Kingdom Score**? You see, although you may find someone who is debt-free, not one single able-minded adult is free from the debt of sin. We owe God! Why? Sin is breaking God’s Commandment. When we sin, we default on the debt of love and gratitude we owe our wonderful God and Creator. Some may say: “I’m not that bad of a person! I’ve never murdered anybody!” Well, have you ever told a “white” lie? Have you ever stolen something from your job, like a phone call, or a stapler, or some reams of paper? You don’t have to be a murderer to be guilty of sin. As a matter of fact, if you’ve ever hated anybody (who hasn’t?) you’re the same as a murderer (**1 John 3:15**)! The Bible teaches us that once we have broken one of the Commandments, we are guilty of breaking the entire Law, before God, because we have showed little concern for just one Commandment (**James 2:10**). That is how Holy God and His Law are.

Not only does God show us His Holiness by His Law, but also by what He is willing to do about our sinful condition. Knowing that we would never be able to keep the Law perfectly, God decided to bear our burden as a flesh and blood man. He lived out a life of perfect obedience to the Law, to be able to justify anyone who would pledge allegiance to His Name. He, Jesus, was “*obedient unto death - even death on a Cross* (**Philippians 2:8**),” to be able to free us from this debt of sin. Jesus’ show of love did not end on the Cross, though it just began to be shown to the world that day. You see, to this day, there’s an amnesty program in effect for anyone who wishes to die to their former debt-ridden identity (**Colossians 2:13-15**). God will give you a new, debt-free, brand-spanking new identity in Jesus Christ, if you are willing to die to your former hopeless life (and works) and be born again in Jesus Christ:

Only in Jesus do we find a new and real hope. Not a hope that perishes, spoils, or fades (like all the hopes the worldly man hopes for), but a hope that goes beyond this sinfully indebted life - where only the born again souls with new debt-free identities can go. It is a hope waiting in Heaven for you and made possible by the perfect obedience and faithfulness of our Lord Jesus. All you need to be is willing for your debt to be cancelled and to take on your new identity, leaving your former one behind for good.

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

DATE	NAME	TOWN
11/25/07	Wendy Reyes.....	Bushwick, Brooklyn
12/04/07	Kelly Lo.....	Stony Brook
12/09/07	Kawa Lau.....	Stony Brook
12/11/07	Steve Donahue.....	San Diego, California

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

Weekly Budget: \$ 8,500

DATE	ATTENDANCE	CONTRIBUTION
12/02/07	270	\$ 9,097
12/09/07	309	\$ 6,781
12/16/07	303	\$ 7,192
12/23/07	310	\$ 8,202
12/30/07	304	\$ 8,798

Dear Brethren,

As we continue to grow, it is the goal of the Lord’s Church to continue to help support full time workers, support various missionary works, and provide benevolence to various needs, and in keeping with the main purpose of spreading the Gospel and bringing lost souls to Christ. It is with this in mind that the weekly budget amount is now increased to \$8,500. May the Lord continue to bless you richly as you serve Him and His Kingdom.

Arthur Shlesinger, Minister of Finance.

2 Corinthians 8:1-3 – “...Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity...they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability...”

Rich, Lavish Grace

“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.” Ephesians 1:7-8

“Grace is more than free; it is richly and lavishly bestowed. Grace is this way because God is a lavish and generous God. He gives, and He gives again; then He gives more. God has unlimited wealth with which to be generous, and He has a heart of love and kindness that calls Him to give His wealth away.

David says, *“My cup overflows”* (**Psalm 23:5**). Jesus echoes the same sentiments: *“I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly”* (**John 10:10**). God is not chintzy. He is openhanded and openhearted in His giving. When Jesus fed the 5,000, twelve baskets were left over. When He fed the 4,000, seven baskets were left over.

In describing the generosity of God, Jesus says, *“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”* **Luke 6:38**

When the prodigal son came home after deserting his father and wasting all he had given him, the father did not wait for him to trudge all the way up to him. He ran out, embraced his son, interrupted his apology, and poured out upon his son not only his forgiveness, but the privileges of an honored prince. Peter says that one day we will have *“a rich welcome”* into our eternal home (**2 Peter 1:11**). We will not just barely make it, but we will be warmly, joyfully received! Such is the abundant generosity of our heavenly Father.

Generosity and lavishness are deep in God’s nature. They are essential to who He is. They find their origins in the unplumbed depths of care, compassion, and mercy that well up from inside His heart of love.

Everyday God gives generously, even to those who do not believe in Him, even to those who curse His name. He throws away magnificent sunsets on unseeing, uncaring eyes. He gives the capacity to love to those who choose to love other things and other people in His place, or who fill their hearts with bitterness, hatred, and apathy. He sends the song of birds and the cool breezes of springtime to those who do not know Him, and who either don’t see the beauty of His gifts or feel as if they somehow deserve them.

God is generous, lavish, and abundant in His ways, in His heart and in His giving. He is generous in His grace. He wants us to know Him. He wants us to know His great love. He wants to share with us the life He has designed for us, and He wants us to live with Him now and forever.

Lavish, generous, abundant. More than you need, more than enough to take care of you and every problem and challenge you will ever face. God’s grace: it is offered to you, it is waiting for you, as is He.”

The excerpt above is from one of my favorite books, **“The Guilty Soul’s Guide to Grace”**, by Sam Laing. Reminders like these motivate me to get to know the God of grace better, to extend this grace to others more often, and to share the News of this grace with the world around me. I hope it does the same for you.

In His Grace and Love,

Cindy Camberis

“For the building up of the Body...”

Ephesians 4:12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 📖 We will not meet for Wednesday night Bible class on January 16th (Long Island and City).
- 📖 **Devotional Services:** January 11th and January 25th @ 8:00 P.M., here in the chapel. Please come early to fellowship and to encourage one another.
- 📖 It's time to update the L.I.C.O.C. Directory for 2008. Directory drafts will be passed around your Wednesday night class for the first two weeks in January. Please be sure to check your information and update it as necessary.
- 📖 If you would like to order a cassette tape of a past sermon or seminar, please see Rob Dixon.
- 📖 If you would like to send a Church bulletin or a Bible study to an interested relative/friend on a regular basis, please contact our brother Jack Peisel.
- 📖 We are now reserving the back two rows, to the left of the Lobby (closest to the men's room) in the big section, for the children's classes on Sunday. We are asking that if you are not teaching, please sit elsewhere. Thank you!
- 📖 All announcements should be submitted to Derek Peterson. 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 PressInternational
- ✝ We Care Ministries.....West Monroe, Louisiana
- ✝ Ron Clayton.....India
- ✝ Oswaldo Sanchez.....El Salvador, Central America

“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) 392-4339
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

2007/2008	Location
Feb 20 - March 2	Port Charlotte, FL
April 16 - April 27	Abilene, TX
May 21 - June 1	Williamsburg, VA