

Christians in **COMMERCE**

Santa Cruz Chapter Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

God is Faithful & Trustworthy

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."

Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV)

Over the past 2 years, particularly, I have seen the Lord honor the prayers of the Christian men I know. For health, healing, relationships, provision, etc. I'm sure, like myself, you can think of prayers that seem unanswered. The truth is, we just haven't seen His answer YET. It reminds me of the saying "I want patience. And I want it NOW!" Be patient and keep your eyes open for the hand of the Lord Jesus in seemingly impossible circumstances.

In the Gospel of Mark 9:23 (NIV) Jesus says. *"Everything is possible for one who believes."* Like the man Jesus was speaking to who said *"I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"*, we can praise God that the affliction of unbelief is subject to God's transforming power! By way of encouragement, look at the Gospel of Matthew 18:18-19 (NIV) *"Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven."*

Have confidence in what the Lord can do and encourage your brothers (especially me) to have confidence too! We, as brothers in the Lord, are all on a journey from darkness to light, from doing our own thing to being the Lord's servants. Paul, in the letter to the Philippians chapter 3 verse 14 encourages us to press on. So let's press on!

~Mark Penniman

IN THE NEWS

Challenge Weekend

On November 12th through November 14th the Challenge Weekend retreat was held at Villa Holy Names in Los Gatos. We had a total of nineteen men attending, and four of them were for the first time.



Harold Paiva lead the weekend. Andre Meschi lead the worship & music, and we enjoyed a new version of the Lord's Day Supper on Saturday. There were special moments shared by each one of us who attended. "Behold, how good and sweet it is for bretheren to dwell in unity!"

The Santa Cruz Chapter meets every Wednesday morning at 7am in the Church Hall of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Capitola. Please contact us for more information. Mark Penniman is the presiding president, and can be reached at (831) 419-8186

October/November 2010

PEOPLE CHALLENGE

Having just celebrated the first anniversary of my introduction to Christians in Commerce, I found a need to examine how the experience has affected me. Has it made me a better husband, father, grandfather? Can I even be an objective judge of that? Probably not, but I can say that I have become more spiritually aware. And I look forward to every Wednesday and Friday morning when my brothers and I worship and share the love, strength and peace of the Lord. I walk away from those meetings with an indescribable feeling of peace and confidence.

I have shared with you that I consider myself one of the luckiest guys in the world. I was born to hard working God loving parents who brought me to the Christian Faith, a gift I took for granted. In spite of my first twelve years of Christian based education, I wandered away like the Prodigal. And while I went through the motions, church on Sunday, I was really immersed in whatever niceties the world could offer.

And the luck kept coming : I won my Navy Wings of Gold two weeks prior to marrying Joyce ; survived 250 carrier landings; fathered four healthy children; hired by a major airline one week after my discharge ; survived two forms of cancer; count four healthy grandchildren and a marriage of fifty years.

So here I am at 74 years and I finally realize that I have lived, not a life of luck, but one filled with His gifts. Sure, I worked hard for what I wanted, but each instance of that luck was a totally undeserved gift from God ! And now, in this past year, my relationship with CIC has given me perhaps the best gift of all. That is to learn from you, my brothers, how to know Him more intimately. I thank you for that.

~ Paul Browne

MY STORY

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6

At the recent CIC National Conference in San Jose I heard Ken Grey share in a talk about his grandmother making a spiritual impact on him in his youth. I had a similar experience in my upbringing with my dear grandma as well. She had a special place in her home for her “daily appointment with God” to pray. I just knew how much she loved and honored the Lord and how holy her place of devotion was.

Fast forward to a future Christmas season and there I was 18 years old late at night and staring at our brightly lit tree with such an empty feeling I could hardly stand it. I had lost my childlike faith but more painfully I had lost hope. It just wasn't there and I couldn't stop thinking about it. Not knowing what to do next I went outside my home and turned my eyes upward staring at the stars. Then all of a sudden there it was. It seemed to come from a distant slightly twinkling star, a spark of hope touched me. I may have forgotten Him but he had not forgotten me. I am not proud to say this was the theme that repeated itself time and time again in my adult life. He was leading and guiding all along whether I saw it or not. A persons' story is not just about events but more importantly people. People whom the Lord uses to cross your path to enrich your lives and encourage your faith. Mike and Lilia Croghan were those kind of people for my wife Sandy and I. We first meet them through Marriage Encounter. It was a turning point in our lives. Then it was a never surrender faith-filled Mike, who as Jesus, keep knocking at my door inviting me to a CIC Challenge weekend. The rest is as they say history, and I give Glory to God, it is His story in my life.

~Harold Paiva

CHRISTMAS - THIS MONTH'S PRAYER INTENTION: O God, the song declares you to be “Jesus, Lord at thy birth”. As we approach the great mystery of you becoming man, even an infant child, may we forever recognize for all generations the magnitude and vulnerability of your love. You come to us in such tender ways, and yet you are both gentle lamb - willing to sacrifice and forgive all, and lion - majestic in power and grace, undeniable in your greatness as ruler of heaven and child of this earth.

HUMOR FOR THE DAY

A little girl asked her mother, “How did the human race appear?” The mother answered, “God made Adam and Eve and they had children and so was all mankind made.” Two days later the girl asked her father the same question. The father answered, “Many years ago there were monkeys from which the human race evolved.” The confused girl returned to her mother and said, “Mom, how is it possible that you told me the human race was created by God, and Dad said they developed from monkeys?” The mother answered, “Well, dear, it is very simple: I told you about my side of the family and your father told you about his.”

CHRISTIANS IN COMMERCE
BEING CHRIST IN THE MARKETPLACE