

Christians in **COMMERCE**

Santa Cruz Chapter Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Sanctification

I go to the gym and exercise. I know I need to. That knowledge overshadows the urge I have to find a justification for not going. When the urge to slack off settles in, I have to remind myself of my need to exercise. Otherwise it becomes easier and easier to lose focus. As each day passes it is our challenge as members of the Body of Christ and as his hands, feet and voices in the world to see God's fingerprints in our lives. By reading scripture or reciting our favorite passages to ourselves, we remind ourselves we are God's servants. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians, chap. 15, v. 19 – 20, says to "Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ". Sanctification, to me, is simply being available to be used by God. Staying in His presence and listening to Him puts us in a state of mind and heart to simply carry out what He asks. Paul in his letter to the Hebrews, chap. 2, v. 1 – 2, says it all "Seeing that we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders, and the sin that so easily entangles and besets us, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith..."

~Mark Penniman

MONTHLY CALENDAR

OCTOBER 22-23

CIC INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The annual conference is in San Jose, CA this year, just as it was last year. It is open for anyone to come, even if you have not pre-registered before the conference. If you wake up in the morning, and feel that you would like to attend, don't hesitate to drive over the hill. Here's all the info you need:

Come Join Us at the CIC Annual Conference!

Hear inspiring talks,
Attend practical workshops,
Engage in spirit-filled worship,
Participate in warm fellowship
With other CIC brothers and sisters
From around the country.

October 22-23, 2010,
DoubleTree Hotel San Jose, CA

You can still register online at:
www.christiansincommerce.org/annual-conferenceregistration-2010.html

NOVEMBER 12-14

CIC CHALLENGE WEEKEND

This fall offers us the chance to experience a weekend retreat at Villa Holy Names in Lost Gatos. Those who have never been before will find the weekend a life changing experience. Those who have will be blessed to have the opportunity to return. Look around for the fliers at Weds. morning meetings, and invite those in your marketplace to come! Contact Harold Piava at 476-1330 for info.

IN THE NEWS



C.I.C. BBQ

We did it! Thanks go to all our members, and the men and women and families who made our annual fundraiser a success. We could not have done it without the help of everyone who pitched in with all the preparations and auction items, as well as all the invitations that went out to the community. We had a wonderful day at *SHAFFER PARK* due to the gracious hosting of our event by Wayne Shaffer. We believe we had a record number of 150 people or more, with John Scurich's berry medley dessert flying off the serving table faster than Larry Favor could pass it out. We also had a record number of auction items this year thanks to the oversight and efforts of Louie Albanese and his wife, Debbie. Great news for our Scholarship Program!

Thanks again to everyone.



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

PEOPLE CHALLENGE

Living your purpose

I know that God through the years has led me to have favorite Bible characters that have had special meaning to me thereby giving me an anchor in the Word and special understanding and insights into God's purpose for my life. One of these characters was Nehemiah, the king's wine steward. He was a guy I could relate to because of my own background as a wine and food writer for over fifteen years. But Nehemiah was more. I asked God why Nehemiah had such a burden for Jerusalem's fallen walls (Neh 1:4) that would cause him to risk his cushy job to become a project manager hero of the Old Testament.

About six years ago in thinking about God placing this burden on Neheimah's heart, I asked God what burden did You place on my heart? After praying that question, I sensed that God made everyone an individual with a unique purpose that only they could accomplish in their unique way and no one is helping them find it. What I have concluded thus far is that God uses who we already are, our unique experiences, our unique desires, and our unique gifts to fulfill His purpose for our life in a unique way. I just finished reading a book by Robert Morris called From Dream to Destiny. Robert used another Bible character Joseph to illustrate the ten tests you must go through to fulfill God's Purpose for your life.

He concludes "You will not know specifics. All you really know is that you have a gift and a direction from God, so you must be faithful to that gift...after you stepped into your destiny, you will look back and understand." See Genesis 45:5-8 and think about this and your calling or what burden God has put on your life. We know "just do it" moves people in the secular world, maybe "just prayerfully do it" is a Christian version.

~ Ed Borowiec

MY STORY

I was born and raised in a Christian family. At an early age, my brother led me into sin and I felt guilt and desire at the same time. At age 11, I was baptized with the words, "Only one baptism for forgiveness of sins". Now I thought, if I sin I will go to hell. At age 13, I was filled with anxiety and withdrew into myself. No one noticed my withdrawal and referred to me as just a sensitive kid. At age 20, I left the church and God. With heaven no longer an option, I felt open to doing anything, and entered the world of addiction and lived a life of wine, women, and song. Following my third divorce at age 47, I was forced to look at my life, and strongly desired to stop hurting others. I went into counseling, with 2 hour sessions twice a week for one year. This very loving and talented female therapist brought me back to believing there is a God. I cleaned up my act, but the anxiety continued. Two years later, I went to a language school in Mexico and lived with a Mexican family. I didn't learn much Spanish, but I was taken by the amazing love and openness within this Catholic family. I returned home and entered the RCIA program at St. Joseph Catholic Church, and received my first communion the following Easter. As I stood before the altar, I experienced a vision of a partially opened doorway and realized this was just the beginning of my conversion. Several years later, I started coming to CIC. One day after I entered the room and as usual went for the coffee. I turned around and was struck by a man I didn't recognize. Somehow I knew then that I must get to know this brother. Soon afterward, we met for coffee and I began to share with him the details of my past and felt a trust I had never experienced with anyone in the secular world. Last year we went to visit a priest in the central valley. With both of these men and myself, I felt led to pray for my forgiveness of my parents and my brother. Instantly, my pervasive anxiety was lifted from my being. I felt no longer captive to my past, but instead felt like what the scriptures call (See 2 Corinthians 5.16) a new person in Christ.

~ Karl Coffield

NOVEMBER ELECTIONS - THIS MONTH'S PRAYER INTENTION: "Lord, we pray for your divine influence in our national and state elections. Let your hand be upon all of us, so as to guide and inspire us according to your Word and Holy Spirit. May your ways be honored. Guide us to rely upon You, and bring us understanding where there are differing points of view among us. We place our nation always into your hands so that you protect us. In all things may we acknowledge your interests and your wisdom above what is found in the world."

C.I.C. 2010 Calendar

October 22, 23 CIC International Conference - San Jose
Nov. 12 -14 Challenge Weekend - Villa Holy Names, L.G.
Nov. 22 Weekend Reunion - St. Joseph's Hall

HUMOR FOR THE DAY

The following statements about the bible were written by children -

- The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.
- Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire by night.
- The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.
- The epistles were the wives of the apostles.
- Jesus enunciated the Golden Rule, which says to do one to others before they do one to you.
- He also explained, "a man doth not live by sweat alone."
- You should never ask your three-year-old brother to hold a tomato.
(OK, this one is not in the bible.)

CHRISTIANS IN COMMERCE
BEING CHRIST IN THE MARKETPLACE