

Christians in **COMMERCE** Santa Cruz Chapter Newsletter

THE CHALLENGE *Making God Relevant*

“Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.” Psalm 25:4-5 (NIV)

Imagine you have been swimming quite a ways underwater. You burst through the surface and take a deep breath of delicious air. At that moment, is air relevant? How long has it been since God has been relevant in your day to day life? As I was putting this together I realized that sometimes days go by between when I consciously make God relevant.

This is how my workday morning goes, maybe it is something like yours. I start my day putting on the whole armor of God like is says in Ephesians chapter 6 verses 13 through 17 while I dress. I remind myself this armor has a reason- for protection from the attacks of the enemy and to be ready when God calls. While getting ready for work I sing a song I know taken from Psalm 19 verse 14 – “May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.”

I remind myself that God always sees. (Growing up, misunderstanding led to guilt. Now, it is a source of comfort.) I get in my truck and listen to the bible on CD or Christian radio. When I get to work, I ask that the Lord fill the building with His Holy Spirit and with His angels. I remind myself that I am God’s hands, feet, voice, heart and mind in that place. Once I settle in to my desk I take a few moments to read the bible, usually the Psalm of the day (today is the 29th, read Psalm 29, 59 or 89). At meetings I look around reminding myself that God is so easily made irrelevant in this high tech world.

By 11am my awareness of the presence of God has usually faded. OK. That is an ideal day. Grab a few of those things and that is a typical day for me.

If days go by and I don’t feel that I am being used by God, is that true? It is not necessarily so. Often we don’t see how God is using us. I think that if I knew what he was doing I might just mess it up. Scripture says in Ephesians chapter 2 verse 10: “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”
~ Mark Penniman

IN THE NEWS *C.I.C. Challenge Weekend April 1st~3rd, 2011 San Juan Bautista* Congratulations to all the men who were on the Weekend.



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL BARBEQUE & FUNDRAISER

This summer's **Annual Barbeque & Fundraiser** is expected to be the biggest Day in the Park the Santa Cruz Chapter has ever had to date. The event will be held again in Shaffer Park, and the silent auction, raffle and participating auction will accompany the hor's devourves and full three course steak and chicken dinner.

Tickets are available for \$25 per person with children under 6 free, and group rates available. There will be games for young and old, such as horse shoe toss, bocce, disc golf, and a large play area for younger children. Come and enjoy the good food and great fellowship, and help raise funds for the annual scholarship fund to help others.



~ MORE EVENTS TO LOOK FOR ~

<i>Garlic Festival Volunteers</i>	<i>July 29, 30, 31</i>
<i>C.I.C. Day of Renewal</i>	<i>September 24</i>
<i>CIC International Conference Tempe, AZ</i>	<i>October 28, 29</i>
<i>C.I.C. Challenge Weekend</i>	<i>November 18-20</i>

ONE LINERS ~ HUMOR FOR THE DAY

"God is a comedian playing to an audience too afraid to laugh." - Voltaire

I used to have a handle on life, but it broke.
What if there were no hypothetical questions?

No sense being pessimistic. It wouldn't work anyway.
If you try to fail, and succeed, which have you done?

MY STORY

My Journey with the Lord

I took my first breath 62 years ago, and this morning when I woke up I thought WOW... still breathing, thank you Lord for another beautiful day.

I was raised in the Jewish faith (you know He was Jewish). My family celebrated the high holy days of Yom Kippur, Rosh Hashanah, and Passover. We also had our Friday night service of the blessing of the bread and wine (He blessed bread and wine). At the age of 13, I chose not to have a Bar Mitzvah. I don't think I was searching for anything in particular, but I was not spiritually satisfied. Something was missing, Jesus. I went to many churches with my friends, but I still didn't get it. Of course, we went to church because that meant my good friend, Mike, could drive his father's GTO. One day the girl I was dating said that if I wanted to know Jesus all I had to do was ask him into my heart. He was knocking, and I opened the door. That was a day I will never forget. A feeling of euphoria and peace poured into my soul. I felt then what I now believe to be the Holy Spirit around and within me. My eyes were opened by His grace, and as I studied His teachings I knew I was home. This man was all good, all right and all powerful. He chose me and gave me direction, and for this I am eternally grateful.

If I keep my focus on Him I know I'm on the right track. God first, everything else follows. I love being in His creation, enjoying all of nature and being of service to others. It is a great payback. Do what the Lord wants you to do. Treat others the way you want to be treated and the result is you feel good. That is a win win. I walk with the Lord by His grace and my choice; His rules, my acceptance; His love, my open heart. Thank You Jesus.

Peace be with you, Bud Seligman

THIS MONTH'S PRAYER INTENTION: Father, humbly, lovingly, we ask that you remove anything that stands in the way of our coming to live closer to you. We declare that our lives belong to you. We ask for your deep examination of our hearts that they might be cleansed and filled with Your love and hope and power. You alone transform and change what we are by becoming a new and living reality within us. May all those around us touch the reality of your living within us. May we become the very word we speak, so that what we are and say and do are always one and the same.

CHRISTIANS IN COMMERCE
BEING CHRIST IN THE MARKETPLACE