

Christians in **COMMERCE**

Santa Cruz Chapter Newsletter

THE CHALLENGE

Our Own Willingness To Be Willing

“And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. 37 All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.” Matthew 5:36-37 (NIV)

We each face our daily challenges. Do we move ahead to where the Lord wants us? or do we stay comfortable? That is why it is important each day to make ourselves available to the Lord. Start at the basics- “Lord, make me willing to be willing.” Our temptation is to retreat, and not press into the fray. Often the only thing that can be done is to say “Lord? What are you doing?” and then trust and step ahead.

Jesus says, “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’ Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.” Luke 14:28-40

As we are used to doing in business, it doesn’t make sense to commit to a thing before fully considering what we will be required to do. This is especially true in the Kingdom of God. When we say “Lord, use me”, we should know what it means.

-Mark Penniman

IN THE NEWS

Spring Weekend

Christians in Commerce from both the Santa Cruz and Salinas areas will be hosting the **C.I.C. Challenge Weekend** for men on the first weekend in April. The event will start on Friday evening, April the 1st, and continuing through till noon on Sunday, April the 3rd. The weekend will take place at the newly rebuilt Saint Francis Retreat in San Juan Batista, and ride sharing to and from the retreat will be available for everyone attending.

Each Spring we welcome friends and new business acquaintances that seek to deepen their faith, and find the time for companionship with other men of faith. The weekend is filled with wonderful teaching, worship, and prayer, and the rare chance to draw ourselves apart from the fast pace of our lives, and spend time gaining new strength and purpose and vision for the coming year.

We encourage everyone to reach out to those we know and invite them to join us for a rich & sacred time together.



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

PERSONAL CHALLENGE

Growing up, I was inspired by the love my father gave me. I was inspired by his goodness, and by his kindness that he had for the family, and for all people. As a young boy I always dreamed to be like him.

He was my greatest hero.

He showed me how to let Jesus enter into my heart. He showed me the way to let the Holy Spirit be part of my life, and he showed me how to love.

He said to me, "MY SON! IF YOU LOVE, YOU WILL BE LOVED".

He inspired me to build the foundation for my family, to love, respect, and to grow the way Jesus wants me to be.

In my life today, my dear CIC brothers, I feel comfort in allowing the peace and love of Jesus to calm and comfort me.

There is one presence, one power, and one love, and that love is in me. Life situations are temporary, but the love of Jesus is forever!

I believe that no matter what I may be facing today I am forever sustained by the love of Jesus.

Because I am inspired by this great love, and because I believe that Jesus is with me, I fear no evil.

May you too be inspired by this great love.

~ Angelo DeBernardo

MY STORY

I had known Ken for over 30 years in the Auto Sales industry. I was on the Retail end and he was on the Wholesale end. I always had a good feeling about Ken. He was now on the phone from Placerville and telling me to go to Santa Cruz and pray with Chuck, who had just had a stroke. I knew Chuck, but had avoided doing business with him. He was another "Wholesaler" but I didn't trust him. Too many stories about him. When I mentioned this to Ken he insisted I go. "You're my prayer warrior and you need to do this". All the way there I was not excited about going. He was sitting in a wheelchair when I got there. He said, "Give me your keys, man, and I'll have your car washed and brought around to you". Great!, I thought, he doesn't even know who I am. His wife was due in soon, so when she got there I re-introduced myself and found out his rehab schedule and when he was due to go home. I prayed over him and left. Over the next couple of months I saw him on occasion. He had to drag half his body when he walked.

Eventually, I took him to our Wed. CIC breakfast. He insisted on going regularly. I took him sometime, Larry took him sometime. On occasion others did. Carl took him golfing one or two times. Can you even imagine that? Different brothers would take him home. In the middle of all this, his wife left him. He went to Church every Sunday, sat in the front row. He went with Ken and I on 2 Weekends. He insisted on telling me about almost everything I had ever heard about him. I told him I didn't want to hear it. He said someone needed to hear it. He told everyone who came near about Jesus. His favorite song was "Our God Saves".

One morning, Larry was to bring Chuck. Larry walked in very late with a dazed look on his face. He informed us he had found Chuck in a semi comatose state. Later that morning Chuck passed on.

We had a Christian service for Chuck. His son arranged it. People heard stories about the past couple of years they didn't expect to hear. He had developed a "daily relationship with God". They were ministered to by what he had done in that time.

I took him to a "joint" meeting with Salinas once. After he passed I was talking with one of them on the phone and telling him I felt we had helped him get "IN".

~ Al Greninger

JAPAN - THIS MONTH'S PRAYER INTENTION: Father, Beloved Lord, Maker, Creator, Comforter, God of all, praise and glory are yours, life and healing fall from your hands, blessing and justice, light and power belong to You - grant us the knowledge of your ways, inform our hearts as to your intentions for others. Help those in need, in sickness, and in peril, and give your care to those who are suffering. We pray for all those in Japan and throughout the world, that they may be strengthened in times of trial and trouble, and that they may seek your face and find your loving presence.

ONE LINERS ~ HUMOR FOR THE DAY

Nothing else ruins the truth like stretching it. Do the math- count your blessings. Silence is often misinterpreted, but never misquoted. Laugh every day- it's like inner jogging. There is no key to happiness- the door is always open. We do not remember days, but moments. Those who can't laugh at themselves leave the job to others. Nothing is real to you until you experience it; otherwise it's just hearsay. The most important things in your home are the people.

CHRISTIANS IN COMMERCE
BEING CHRIST IN THE MARKETPLACE