SOUTH WINDS
CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF MIAMI

e-Newsletter March 17, 2011

MAKING ROOM FOR COMPASSION

By: Martin Drummond

If you'd like to donate to a Japanese congregation that will be using 100 percent of the money for victim relief please go to: http://www.teamexpansiontokyo.blogspot.com/

I'm not sure why this thought hasn't crossed my mind before, but I'm glad it did today.

I'm talking about the Luke 2 reference to Joseph and Mary using a hay manger as a crib for the newborn Messiah rather than having a room at the Bethlehem Inn.

What intrigued me today after I read Luke 2 was the fact that none of the people staying at the inn volunteered to give up their room so that a young lady about to go into labor would have a decent place to prepare for and experience the delivery.

Did anybody at the inn, other than the innkeeper, know that Joseph and Mary desperately needed a room?

Did the innkeeper not want to anger tenants who might not have wanted to hear the sometimes-pained cries of a woman in childbirth? Particularly in those days before anesthesia?

If some staying at the inn did know of Joseph's and Mary's situation, would it have made any difference?

What if you had rented the last room at the inn after an exhausting, three-day trip? Would you have given up the room to make way for this young, pregnant couple?

Would you have slept with the cows and donkeys in a drafty stable rather than in a bed with a nearby firepot to keep you warm?

I want to think that you and I would have willingly done so, but we can't know for certain we'd have done so.

If we were to see a traveling salesman refuse to give up the motel room he'd just rented so that a young, pregnant couple didn't have to sleep in their car, we'd probably form an unfavorable opinion about the salesman.

But lest we become judgmental, are there young, struggling parents we know who desperately need our sacrificial help?

We probably won't encounter the need to give up a motel room to accommodate the couple, but our willingness to give up eating out for lunch for a month could mean $100 for gas expense to get to church for the next four months. You know how Satan's whispers are SO persuasive when money is extremely tight…

"Oh, you can't afford to go to church. Gas is just too expensive and you don't have the money. Just stay home and have church with yourself," is what the Enemy might say.

You see, he knows that young parent couples who attend church each week are far more likely to raise up children who grow into faithful believers.

Please don't allow Satan to have more influence than you. If you don't know such a couple but still want to help refute Satan's lies, talk to your pastor. He'll know some young couple who could benefit from your active, tangible compassion.

However the Holy Spirit stirs your heart, please make sure to follow His leading.

For if God is stirring you to help the young couple — or even tsunami victims in Japan — you'll make a HUGE mistake if you don't respond appropriately.

"*If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them*" (James 4:17).

CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

By Eddy Garrido

If it doesn't matter what you believe, then it doesn't matter if you believe anything at all.
-Larry Carpenter

Preachers and Bible teachers walk a very fine line in this day and age. The amount of information put out by a myriad of sources makes it very difficult for them to maintain a spiritually healthful dose of the sane doctrine, this doing at the same time that they don't become "too sectarians" in the eyes of the congregation. Since the days of Billy Sunday to our own time, the tendency to water down the gospel of Christ has altered the church teachings in many ways.

It seems that nowadays the preacher has to have a personal appeal to the people, a charisma that makes people believe in what he says or, better yet, not mind what he says. What is important is his appeal, his charisma. Not what he teaches. Very few Christians have any serious concern for the teachings of the church that they attend, as long as the preacher is charismatic.

The Christian world has many very crafty preachers, teachers and writers today; men and women who have mastered the art and science of communication. For the average guy and gal who are avidly looking for morally acceptable alternatives in print, the airwaves and the Internet, these communicators offer an ideal escape. Not everyone knows to filter the information they get. It's like the email that I received from a sister in Christ (the kind of email that is supposed to leave you feeling warm and cozy inside). This one uses in the background the music and lyrics of John Lennon's song "Imagine." She hadn't noticed that the message of the song equates country and religion with dying and killing. Now, this is not unique to her, who is a very smart woman, it's a common occurrence among Christians. Many church-going people don't pay attention to those details. "What's important is that it is nice and has good intentions." There are a lot of well intentioned and charismatic individuals, but world history is filled with stories of tyrants who started out as well intentioned and charismatic individuals.

When the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy that, "*All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work*" (2Timothy 4:16-17); he didn't mean that some men and women needed to be trained, because some men and women are called to do "every good work." This is, rather, a call to all Christians to look at themselves in the light of the Scriptures, because they are inspired by God with the purpose that we know about Him in order to understand and execute His plan for us. If it didn't matter what we believed about God and His plan for us, then He wouldn't have given us the Scriptures.

What are the Scriptures profitable for? For teaching, therefore we are to understand that we need to be taught. That's the reason why God also appointed teachers in the church (I Cor. 12:28).

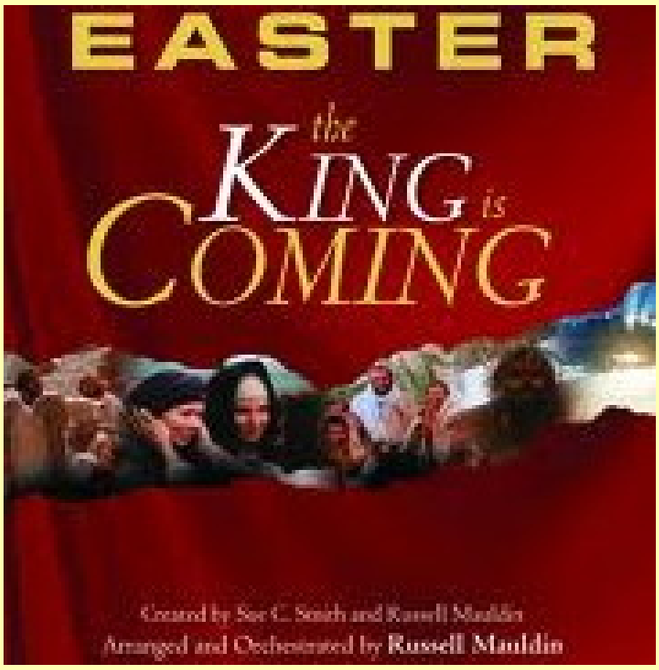
The Scriptures are also profitable for reproof. And what is reproof? Well, there are times when we think that something is one way, but in reality we are wrong and need for someone or something to contradict us in order to set us straight. Proverbs 14;12 says that, "*There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death*."

Correction is another profitable use of the Scriptures. The world, generally speaking, is going down a path of perdition. The Scriptures are the only authorized cure for these malignancies; because the Word of God is truth and we know that truth shall set us free (Jn. 8:32; 17:17).

And, finally, it is profitable for training in righteousness. You know how one gets trained. It is a process of exercises to cause the desired development. The Scriptures are profitable for training the man and woman of God to be morally upright.

Now that we know what the Scriptures are good for, does it make any sense to add or subtract from it in order to fit a personal agenda? That's how extra Biblical doctrines have developed. And that is why elders and pastors have to be vigilant in safeguarding the teaching of the church. Because it does matter what you believe.

Please join us this Sunday at 9:10 a.m. in the **Sonrise Café**, located in the auditorium foyer. This is a good opportunity to fellowship with other believers, introduce visitors, or in general,
get to know each other.
Come a little early and mingle while enjoying coffee or juice and something to eat.



AND OTHER EASTER SELECTIONS

Presented by

SOUTH DADE COMMUNITY CHOIR, INC

(Established in 1991)

Homestead Mennonite Church

30695 SW 162 Ave
Homestead, FL 33033

Friday, April 1, 2011
7:00 pm

Naranja Park Baptist Church

13295 SW 268 Street
Homestead, FL 33032

Saturday, April 2, 2011
7:00 pm

WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

5:30PM TO 8:30PM

Our Youth Group is growing quickly!!
First we play games, then we eat, and then we sit down
and listen to a great lesson & discuss the word.
If you know any teenagers tell them where we're at!!
Any adults that want to come and join in on the fun are more then welcome!!!
For more info please call Karen Rodriguez 305.213.8923

angelfood MINISTRIES

March Order Deadline: March 20th
March Distribution Day: March 26th

****Note: There are certain boxes that are available for online ordering only. Please check website for those items.*

MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Financial Peace University 6pm	7	8	9 GOLDEN OLDIES 11am	10	11	12
13 Board Meeting 5pm Financial Peace University 6pm ---------- Spring Forward!	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Financial Peace University 6pm Angel Food order Deadline	21	22	23	24	25 Reunión de DAMAS	26 Angel Food Distribution
27 Financial Peace University 6pm	28					

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

3rd	Carmen Bustamante
4th	Vidalia Torres
4th	Alex & Sandra Gutierrez
5th	Nelson Garrido
7th	Debbie Paschal
8th	Irelis Suarez
11th	Allison Hernandez
12th	Meghan Hargraves
19th	David Medder
22nd	Jose & Gladys Casas
22nd	Steve & Eva Chin
24th	Zary Garrido
28th	Bob Radin
29th	Cidia Santiesteban

Serving Schedule

MARCH 20	MARCH 27
COMMUNION MEDITATION	
Steve Chin	David Medder
COMMUNION SERVERS	
Marc Hargraves*	Eppy Suarez*
Jose Rodriguez	Pete Moolah
Mark Schoenfeldt	Chris Kinnaird
Jake Mills	David Hiers
DONATION COUNTERS	
David Medder	Gene Kinnaird
Bobby Veloz	Steve Chin

**Will lead offering prayer*

Pauta de Servicio

20 DE MARZO	27 DE MARZO
ORACION OFRENDA	
Manuel Velásquez	Jaime Rivera
ORACION SANTA CENA	
Reinaldo Alvarez	Jose Casas
LECTURA DE LA PALABRA	
Flory White	Pedro Madera
SIRVIENDO A LA MESA	
Jaime Rivera	Reinaldo Alvarez
Sixto Rosa	Nelson Garrido
Pedro Madera	Jaime Rivera
Marino Polanco	Marino Polanco

Got Questions?

Email us at sdcchurch@bellsouth.net and we'll do our best to get you answers!

If you do not wish to receive this *e-News*letter, please contact the church office via email (sdcchurch@bellsouth.net) and advise us.