

Calvary Protestant Evangelical Free Church

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CALVARY CHRONICLE

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The Meaning And Power Of Light

In what sense does this word picture - **“You are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14)** - make us the key to change in the world as we live in the midst of the secular environment we live in today?

The way to influence the world isn't to change it politically. The way to change the world isn't to rewrite the laws. It isn't to march, and it isn't to try to use all of the technical paraphernalia for altering society. The way to change the world, is just to infiltrate it with godliness, righteousness, holiness, and love; and affect it from the inside out. Now those other things aren't wrong, but they are going to be powerless, unless our lives are shining. Christians cannot be content to remain the world's light in a merely theoretical sense; **“they are to be what they are”** letting their light shine for their Father's glory.

As we all know, often times we do things for our own glory, while not even being cognizant of what we are doing. While Jesus is clearly opposed to our doing good works publicly for our own honor, **“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 6:1)** - “to be seen” by people; He exhorts us to do those good works publicly for God's honor, **“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16)**. This distinction exhorts us to guard the motives of our hearts and consider the effects our public activities and pronouncements have on the spread of the gospel and the honoring of God among all people groups.

Lights are symbols of hope. A beacon guides an airplane home in foggy conditions. A lighthouse steers a ship away from the dangerous shoreline. The reflectors on the highway median will guide a driver through wet conditions. How many, as kids, slept with a night light? People in darkness are usually always overjoyed to see light.

Jesus came as a light to guide us and take away the darkness. In John 12:46 Jesus said, **“I have come into the world as light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.”** Jesus came into a spiritually dark world. Just look at what's going on in our world and anyone can see the darkness. Pandemic, wars, famine, sickness, refugee crisis, and so on. From the time Jesus was born until the time He died, (Jesus) the light, attracted people and their attention.

Wherever there is light, faith will grow among the weak in faith, just as a plant will grow even in a dark cave if a bright enough light is present. Friends should grow in the Christian life because of what you know and have learned of Jesus.

Jesus drew people out of the darkness constantly. The blind given sight. The dead are raised to life. The hungry fed. The spiritually thirsty are quenched with Living Water.

Today, where does God display his light? IN YOU!

Continued on next page

In John 17:22-23 we find Jesus' final prayer before he ascended to the Father. Jesus prayed, **"I have given them the glory (light) that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one - I in them and you in me - so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."** Those are powerful words that point to our purpose in life. The church, the people who follow Jesus, are supposed to be beacons of hope and beacons of light.

Here's the deal, you cannot produce light, you can only reflect it. Sadly, people are turned off by organized religion and repulsed by hypocritical church leaders who say they represent Jesus but are not reflecting His light. Thankfully there is something about Jesus that still captivates people's attention especially as they take their eyes off fallible people and focus on Jesus. He is an irresistible light.

When the church is doing its job, and lifting-up the name of Jesus, people will always be drawn to Him. It's been that way for hundreds of years.

Let's ask ourselves, "Are we reflecting the light of Jesus in our lives, or are we driven more by the darkness?"

Jesus said, **"You are the light of the world, a city on a hill cannot be hidden"** (Matthew 5:14). If you are a follower of Jesus, you are the light of the world. Not, you will be or hopefully you might be. No, you are the light! You are God's representatives on earth. You are the hands and feet of Jesus in a dark and hurting world.

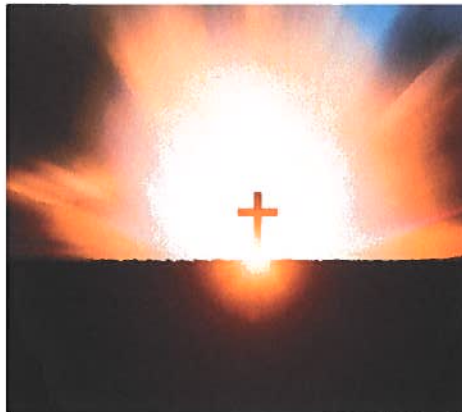
When we are reflecting the light of Jesus, when He is honored in our lives, people will be drawn to Him. We no longer walk in the darkness of fear.

As we let His light shine, we will soon see the power of one person showing God's light and love, then the power of the entire body of Christ loving Jesus and loving others.

Isaiah 9:2 says, **"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned."**

If you've ever been in complete darkness, like a cave or the desert at night, it's a scary place to be. We live in a dark world hardened by sin. That's why Jesus commanded us to let our light shine in the world for all to see.

Unfortunately, we don't always shine His light. We do this by not showing people grace, by being condemning and mean spirited, being disconnected from our community. By not caring for the lonely, hurting, poor, and oppressed. When we do that, our world becomes even darker.



When God's people rise up and shine their light and God's love in their own lives and in their community, lives are transformed, communities change for good, and the world is made a better place.

Friends, you will see men and women turn to Jesus himself through your testimony. In his day, the apostle Paul taught this by means of an illustration from the Old Testament. When Moses was with God in the mountain, his face shone with transferred glory as a result of being with God. The glory was so bright that when Moses came down from the mountain, he had to cover his face so that the light on it would not dazzle the people. Using this theme Paul argues in 2 Corinthians 3 and 4 that we also should shine with the same glory as a result of spending time with Jesus Christ, and that others should be able to see Him as He is reflected by us. He concludes by saying, **"God, who first ordered light to shine in darkness, has flooded our hearts with his light. We now can enlighten men only because we can give them knowledge of the glory of God, as we see it in the face of Jesus Christ"** (2 Corinthians 4:6).

That's who we want to be as followers of Jesus. We are the light of the world!

Pastor Lucchesi's Retirement From Calvary

As most of you already know, in February Pastor Lucchesi announced that he was retiring from Calvary Church in September. His last day will be Sunday, September 4th.

We are grateful to Pastor Charlie for his dedication as full time pastor at Calvary since November 2006. For over 16 years he has been a spiritual leader, preached and taught God's Word, visited and kept in touch with those in the church family, counseled and conducted various ceremonies, and attended countless meetings.

Let us pray for Pastor Charlie, his wife Barbara, and their boys (Matthew and Joshua). May the Lord guide them during this adjustment phase. Let's make this last month memorable for Pastor Charlie and his family for their many years of devotion to the Lord.

On Saturday, August 27th, at 5:30 p.m., a special dinner will be held to honor Pastor Charlie and his family. More details will be forthcoming in the Friday communications.

In the interim, the pastoral search committee has been diligently working and seeking God's wisdom and guidance. Let us continue to pray for those serving on the committee during this transition period.

Whimsical Retirement Blessing

May you always have work
for your hands to do.
May your pockets hold
always a coin or two.
May the sun shine bright
on your windowpane
May the rainbow be certain
to follow each rain
May the hand of a friend
always be near you
And may God fill your heart
with gladness to cheer you.

Looking ahead

Neighborhood Night is scheduled for **Saturday, September 10th**, starting at 5:00 p.m. We invite you to join us in the back yard for food and fellowship. The church will be providing hamburgers and hot dogs. If you can, we ask that you bring a salad, side dish, or dessert. More details to follow.

Return to regular schedule on **Sunday, September 11th**. Sunday School will begin at 9:45 a.m., followed by the worship service at 11:00 a.m.

The next **Seniors Luncheon** is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 4th**, starting at 12:00 noon. On the menu will be loin of pork, potatoes, vegetable, and a treat for dessert. More details in next month's newsletter.

The **St. Francis Hospital Outreach Bus** is coming on **Tuesday, October 4th**, and will be parked on Church Street from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. They will be giving free health screenings including a brief cardiac history, blood pressure, and simple blood test for cholesterol and diabetes. Free flu shots will also be available. Look for flyer in next month's newsletter.

VBS Was Monumental!



This year children went on a canyon adventure with Monumental Vacation Bible School. Every year I look forward to seeing the excitement in the children's faces. But I think some of my favorite moments are when you have helpers come to volunteer (either on their own or with younger siblings) that have been coming to VBS since they were young. It really is great to see how they have grown and matured over the years. Even though they may not come to the church all year round, it really makes you stop and think about the kind of work we do during VBS and the impact we have on their lives.



"Your unfailing love will last forever."
Psalm 89:2

On Day 1 the children learned that God loves you no matter what. We learned this through Joseph and his family feuds (Genesis 37).



"For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

On Day 2 we learned that God is with you everywhere, especially when Joseph was imprisoned (Genesis 39-40).

"How great is our Lord! His power is absolute!" Psalm 147:5

On Day 3 we learned that God is in charge, even when Joseph gets new responsibilities (Genesis 41).





"And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love." Romans 8:38

On Day 4 the lesson is always centered around Jesus dying and coming back to life, which is why God is stronger than anything.

"Come and see what our God has done, what awesome miracles he performs for people!" Psalm 66:5

On Day 5 children learned that God is surprising by reuniting Joseph with his family (Genesis 42-45).

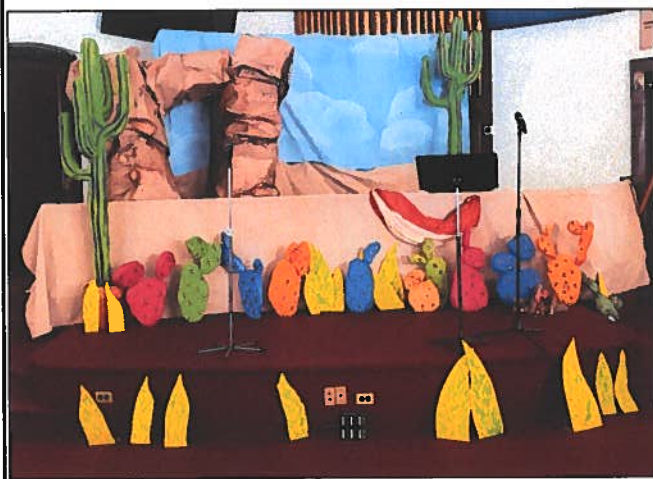


This year had its challenges, and the week could not have run smoothly without the wonderful help from the volunteers. A special thank you to Magalie Alcindor, Charlie Hetzel, Victoria Manual, and Kirsten Watts for all your help planning for the week. I would also like to thank Leah Nicolich for her artistic abilities with the decorations. There are so many others to thank, but I don't think I have enough room. Just know that the week could not have happened without the help of our leaders: group guides, lesson instructors, crafts, snacks, games, KidVid, and the technology helpers.



"I look forward to working again with you all next year!"

Kimberly K.



NEWS FROM THE CONGREGATION

New Church Member

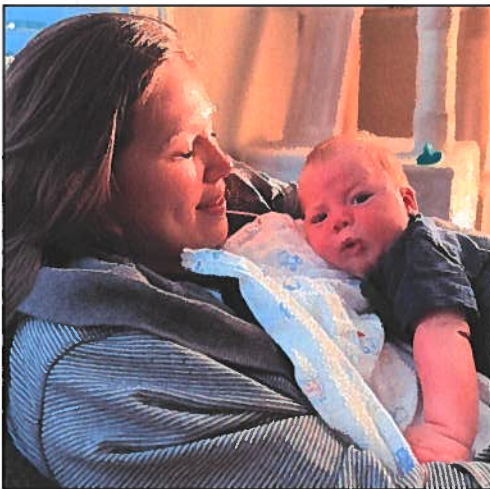
On Sunday, July 10th, Calvary Church officially accepted Steve Walker into the church membership. For many years Steve has been faithfully attending the church and sitting with his nephew Ronnie Roddy.

When brought before the congregation, Steve made note of the two most important things he was looking for in a church:

1. The church family - the love the people in the church have for one another is a reflection of God's love.

2. That the Word of God is preached and taught. His soul hungers for God's Word and he wants to be fed by the Spirit of God.

The church family warmly welcomes you. Your love and exuberance for God is evident, and your gentle spirit and kind heart is an asset to our family. Congratulations!



Sandberg Family Is Growing

Congratulations to John and Sui-Ping Sandberg on the birth of their third grandchild (all boys). Simon Louis Johnson was born on June 15th, weighing 7 lbs. 5 oz. Simon and mom, Gretchen Johnson (John's daughter) are doing well.

May God watch over and protect little Simon, and bless the Johnson family!

New Church Administrator

Calvary Church welcomes Patricia (Paty) Reed as the new Church Administrator.

Paty was introduced to the church family on Sunday, July 24th. She noted, *"I feel very at home at Calvary as it reminds me of my home church, Evergreen Gospel Chapel, in Brooklyn. I look forward to future visits at CPC and getting to know the church family more and working alongside everyone."*

Paty has an 11 year old son named Sam who was previously home-schooled. As part of the home-school community they are friends with the Lucchesi, Waldvogel, and Rose families.

Welcome Paty!

We want to thank Sotar Lloyd for faithfully serving as interim Church Administrator and for her faithfulness to the Lord and to the church.



Be Assured - God has your back!

Do not be discouraged - be encouraged!

It's easy to get discouraged sometimes when things appear to be going badly. But, we shouldn't lose heart, because God is at work in our lives, even in the midst of pain and suffering. For all the negative things we have to say to ourselves, God has a positive answer for it.

You say, "It's impossible."	God says: "All things are possible." (Luke 18:27)
You say, "I'm too tired."	God says: "I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28-30)
You say, "Nobody really loves me."	God says: "I love you." (John 3:16, John 13:34)
You say, "I can't go on."	God says: "My grace is sufficient." (2 Corinthians 12:9)
You say, "I can't figure things out."	God says: "I will direct your steps." (Proverbs 3:5-6)
You say, "I can't do it."	God says: "You can do all things in Me." (Philippians 4:13)
You say, "It's not worth it."	God says: "It will be worth it." (Romans 8:28)
You say, "I can't manage myself."	God says: "I will supply all your need." (Philippians 4:19)
You say, "I'm afraid."	God says: "I have not given you a spirit of fear." (2 Timothy 1:7)
You say, "I'm always worried and frustrated."	God says: "Cast all your cares on Me." (1 Peter 5:7)
You say, "I don't have enough faith."	God says: "I've given everyone a measure of faith." (Romans 12:3)
You say, "I'm not smart enough."	God says: "I give you wisdom." (1 Corinthians 1:30)
You say, "I feel all alone."	God says: "I will never leave you or forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5)

BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST

1st Denis Sandoval (Sr.)
7th Michael Nicolich (Sr.)
8th Jana Carman
8th Janet Wider
9th Alex Richards
15th Emma Jo Wong
17th Tony DiCostanzo
20th Ralph Rose III
25th Kaelyn Waldvogel
27th Adam Hilburger
28th Charles Barnes
28th Michele Roman
31st Charles Lucchesi

SEPTEMBER

4th David Jones
5th Denis Sandoval Vallejos
6th Zoraida Rose
7th Miki Hilburger
7th Amanda Pink Hoffman
9th William Hilburger
10th Kathryn Chalavoutis
13th Laura Hetzel
14th Becky Carman
14th Myrtle Glover
19th Karen Dowling
21st Fitz Alcindor (Jr.)
24th Derek Watts
26th Gabrielle Alcindor
29th Pete Ekstrom
29th Thalia Waldvogel

ANNIVERSARY

August

15th Roy & Sharon Knoernschild
23rd Michael & Laura Nicolich

September

7th Bob & Nancy Bennett
8th Harold & Lois Verity
18th Tom & Peg Corcoran
19th Leigh & Barbara Grant
24th Jeovanni & Daniele Nembhard
26th Fitz & Magalie Alcindor
27th Jimmy & Ellen Heneghan
28th Mike & Rebecca Senita
29th Jason & Dianne Miller



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CHURCH UPDATES

The Sunday worship service is at **10:00 a.m.** The message will be recorded and posted on the church's website - www.epcbaldwin.com (click on YouTube), and also on "YouTube" at www.youtube.com (search for Calvary Church, Baldwin).

Adult Sunday School Class meets Sunday @ 9:00 a.m. The group is watching "The Chosen" - followed by discussion.

Children's Church is held on Sundays during the service. The children are dismissed before the sermon and meet in the fellowship room. On the first Sunday of each month (when Holy Communion is scheduled), Children's Church will not be in session.

Bible Study/Prayer Meeting is held Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m. at the church. There is prayer time followed by Bible Study. The men and women are studying the Book of Ephesians.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Pastor Lucchesi's Retirement Dinner - Saturday, August 27th, at 5:30 p.m.

Neighborhood Night - Saturday, September 10th, at 5:00 p.m.

Return to regular schedule - Sunday, September 11th

Seniors Luncheon is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 4th**, at 12:00 noon.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Calvary Church Summer Schedule – The Sunday worship service begins @ **10:00 a.m.**, with **Sunday School** prior to the service at **9:00 a.m.** The summer schedule will continue at this time through Labor Day weekend.

PUBLICATIONS

The September/October/November issue of *Our Daily Bread*, August issues of *Daily Walk* and *Today's Christian Living* are available at the church.

Additional literature and devotional books are located in the hymnal rack at the back of the sanctuary.