

# The Parish VISITOR



*"Be Transformed...By the renewing of your minds." - Romans 12:2 - NIV*

Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood  
4011 Clinton St., Los Angeles, CA 90004-2298  
The REV. STEPHEN M. BAROLDY, Pastor

cpchollywood.org

**AUGUST  
2023**

VOL. LXXV11 NO. 8



# RANSOMED

*your pastor writes*

By REV. STEPHEN M. BAROLDY



**G**reetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to all our *Parish Visitor* readers!

This morning we continue our series on the book of Ephesians. There are so many incredible truths contained in this book. I look forward to sharing them with you.

*Ransomed, Eph. 1:7, originally given at CPC on 6/12/22*

**Introduction:** Freedom! We Americans love our freedom, don't we? Americans celebrate their freedom on the 4th of July because on July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress passed the Declaration of Independence. With this Declaration, the thirteen American colonies announced their political separation from the oppressive rule of British monarchs.

*Continued next page*



**JOIN US AT  
CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF HOLLYWOOD**

In addition to the in-person worship, we continue to stream the service on Zoom for those unable to attend in-person.

The invitation for joining the service can be found at the events page on our website at [cpchollywood.org](http://cpchollywood.org).

You can send in your prayer requests PRIOR to the service via email to [sbaroldy@gmail.com](mailto:sbaroldy@gmail.com) or text at 323-202-5078.

**Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood is an intentional, healing community; proclaiming and demonstrating the wholeness of life offered in JESUS CHRIST.**



“In him we have  
**REDEMPTION**  
through his blood, the  
*forgiveness*  
of our trespasses,  
according to the riches of  
his **GRACE**”  
(EPHESIANS 1:7, ESV)

Since then, American citizens enjoy a level of freedom that is envied by people around the world. This freedom is under attack, yet that subject is for another day.

Our individual freedoms are often taken for granted until we lose them. I lost my freedom for a day about 50 years ago.

While in college, I was arrested at the Rose Bowl parade for underage drinking and possession of marijuana. The sad thing is the marijuana wasn't even mine. A friend of mine panicked when the police approached us and he threw his marijuana into the trunk of my car.

I was arrested and spent one night in the Pasadena jail. It is an experience I hope to never repeat. It is hard to express what it felt like to hear that cell door slam shut, and to know you no longer have your freedom, that you are now captive to forces beyond your control.

My brother posted bail for me the next day and I was released. Thankfully, the charges were dropped. Yet, I vowed, never again. I never again wanted to be held captive against my will. And, now, you can tell people your pastor was once a jailbird!

The good news is Jesus Christ has released us, he has set us free, from something much worse than a night in jail. And that is what we will talk about today. The title of today's message is “Ransomed.”

**Ransomed:** Let me re-read Eph. 1:7. *“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,”* (Ephesians 1:7, ESV)

Last week, we spent a whole sermon on the first two words of this verse, “in Him.” There are two important points from that message I want to quickly review.

First, “in him,” can be understood as “in union with him,” “in union with Jesus Christ.” Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ is in us and we are in him.

And, because we are in a real, vital, organic union with Jesus Christ, we are where Jesus is. “In him,” we are in two places at once. We are here on earth, and we are seated with Jesus in the heavenly realms.

And second, through our union with Jesus Christ, what happened to him happened to us. So when Jesus died, we died, and when Jesus rose again, we rose again with him.

So, in Christ, or in union with Christ, *“we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses.”* And the first thing to point out is redemption and forgiveness are two separate things. They are not the same. Redemption results in forgiveness. So, first, let's look at redemption.

A more literal translation of *“we have redemption through his blood,”* is *“we have the ransoming through his blood.”* The word “redemption” means to set loose from captivity through the payment of a ransom.

In Paul's time, slaves and captives of war were liberated, they were set free, through the payment of a ransom, usually money. When I was in jail, I was set free through the posting of bail. Money was paid to set me free.

Likewise, here, Paul tells us, we were set free from captivity through the payment of a ransom. The ransom paid was Jesus Christ's blood. The ransom paid was Jesus





Christ's death on the Cross on Calvary. The ransom paid was Jesus' very life.

Mark 10:45 confirms this. It says, *"For even the Son of Man [Jesus Christ] came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."* (Mark 10:45, ESV)

In Jesus Christ, through our faith in Jesus Christ, we have the ransoming, present tense. This means we have the ransoming yesterday, today and tomorrow. Our ransoming is effective each and every day.

Now, from what captivity did Jesus Christ ransom us from? Let me read a quote from Darrell Johnson's commentary on Ephesians. He has a fantastic summary of our ransoming.

Darrell writes, *"When Jesus Christ shed His blood on that Roman cross, we were redeemed from all that has held humanity captive. By his blood He has released us from the curse of the law, from the compulsion of sin, from the lordship of unseen powers in the heavenly places, from the lies that have ensnared the human mind and heart, from the finality of death, and therefore from the fear of death."*<sup>1</sup>

Think about your own life. Which of these things Darrell Johnson listed strikes a chord in you? Read it again.

Where were you held captive? What holds you captive today? What lies have ensnared you? Which lies about yourself have held you in captivity.

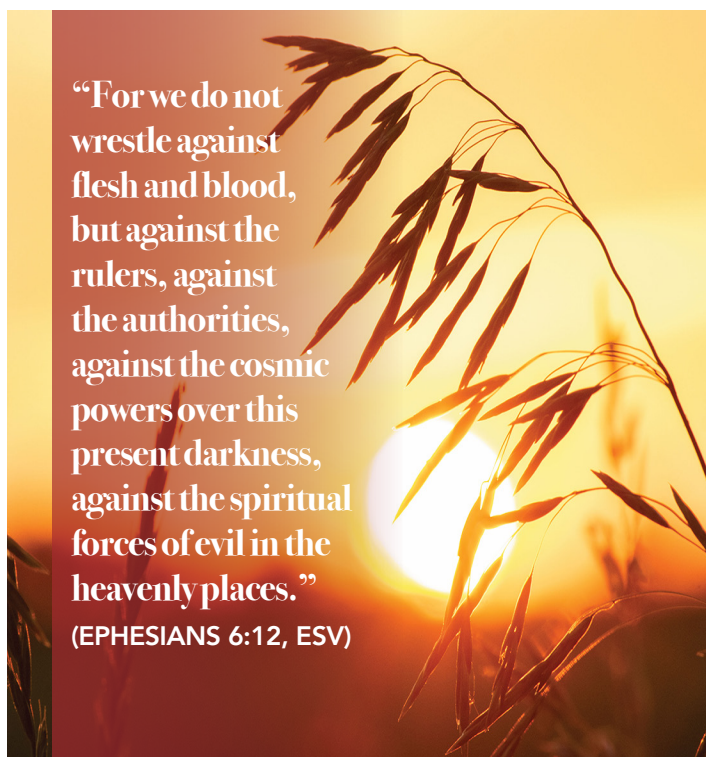
The release that strikes me, and it's one that most Americans aren't even aware of, is being released from the lordship of unseen powers in the heavenly places.

Paul addresses this specifically in Ephesians, chapter 6. In Eph. 6:12, Paul writes, *"For we do not wrestle*

*against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."* (Ephesians 6:12, ESV)

This truth, that we wrestle against unseen evil powers in the heavenly places, is hard for Americans to accept. It does not fit our worldview. We are too comfortable, too prosperous, and too sophisticated, to accept such spiritual nonsense, right?

Yet, ask any missionary who has served in a third world country if they have encountered these evil powers. They will tell you these unseen evil powers are real. People in third world countries are more aware of the spiritual world, and they, too, would say these evil powers are real.



I encountered these unseen evil powers on a mission trip to southern Mexico while still in seminary. My eyes were opened as we prayed for people who were demonized and watched the Holy Spirit set them free.

I actually saw the evil powers manifest in people's bodies. And then, in amazement, I saw the change in people after the Holy Spirit set them free. There was a definite change in their demeanor. You could see a look of joy and relief on their faces. In some cases, their physical pain, and other afflictions, disappeared.

*Continued next page*



## *In Memory...*

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. And then Jesus closed with this question: Do you believe this?"  
-JOHN 11:25-26 - ESV



# LEELAND H. HAYASHI, 83

A witness to the resurrection/burial service for Leland H. Hayashi, 83, was conducted by Pastor Ted Esaki, on Friday, August 4, at 1 p.m., at Turner & Stevens Live Oak Memorial Park, Monrovia. Leland went to be with the Lord on Saturday, July 22. Lee was pre-deceased by his wife, Carol.

Leland, also known as Lee, joined Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood on Easter Sunday, April 18, 1965, by certificate and transfer of membership from Wesley United Methodist Church in San Jose. This was during the ministry of Rev. Masaya Hibino, then pastor.

After Lee relocated from San Jose, he settled in Southern California. Almost immediately Lee actively served on the cabinet of the

Young Adult Fellowship. The Y.A.'s were active in the SCYPCC. Lee was publicity chairman and editor of the SCYPCC newsletter. While in Northern California area, Lee was active with the Bay Area NCYPCC.

Lee is remembered for inviting and welcoming new people to church. Lee served as Sunday school teacher in the high school department; he sang in the Chapel Choir; and he was pianist and organist for the morning worship services. For the High School fellowship group in 1968, he was one of the advisers for this fellowship group.

On Sunday, December 26, 1965, Lee was ordained and installed as a deacon. On the board of deacons, Lee served in the area of promotions. Then, on October 6, 1968, Lee was

ordained and installed as an elder for a three-year term.

In 1973, Lee co-chaired the first big 50th anniversary with a banquet and slide show. Lee was editor of the Parish Visitor when it was published weekly and edited the annual report publication published before the annual congregational and corporation meeting.

There will be a Celebration of Life service for Leland on September 10, 2023, at 11:00am, at the Japanese American National Museum, 100 N Central Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

May God comfort Lee's daughter Kristen and son Brian and his wife and their son, and his brother Donald Hayashi, of Dayton, Ohio.

## *your pastor writes* ...Continued from Page 3

And once my eyes were opened to this aspect of the spiritual realm, I saw evil powers manifest in people here in Los Angeles too. And, I know some of you have experienced the presence of these evil powers.

The good news is we don't have to be afraid of these evil powers because Jesus Christ has ransomed us. His blood set us free from their power and influence. Jesus Christ's blood, his sacrifice, has set us free from all captivity, from any and all bondage we may encounter.

If you struggle with something, like anxiety or fear, or any addictive behavior, and can't seem to overcome it, pray

Eph. 1:7 over it. Personalize Eph. 1:7 and say, "In Christ, I have redemption through his blood." "In Christ I have been set free from this captivity through his blood." And keep praying, and keep pressing into Jesus, until you are set free. Amen!

<sup>1</sup>Johnson, Darrell W., *Ephesians: The Wonder and Walk of Being Alive "In Christ,"* (Vancouver B.C., Canadian Church Leaders Network, 2004) p.61-62



# Bulgaria ELDER MINISTRY

“Don’t talk to me about the Bible!”

Sometimes in our enthusiasm to share the Good News of Jesus with a neighbor or a friend, we use Christian “lingo” that makes it impossible for those on the outside to understand what we’re talking about. Recently, I was reminded how simple it is to explain God’s love and sacrifice to those who do not know Him. It’s as simple as sharing our personal testimony minus the fancy language!

I want to share a story with you about Ludmila from the village of Vulchek.

In May, my friend Mariana and I started an elder ministry in this village located in northwestern Bulgaria. When I met up with Mariana this past week to see how the work is fairing, she was brimming with stories about Ludmila. Choosing our first elder to help was not difficult because she actually came to us, asking for assistance at home.

Ludmila is a 77-year-old Russian immigrant to Bulgaria. She moved to Bulgaria as a young bride in the 1960s. These days Ludmila lives alone; her husband recently passed away and her daughter tragically died many years ago as a young lady of 23 in a psychiatric hospital. Her only surviving relative is her son who is a monastic monk. Because of his vows, she cannot visit him, nor can he leave his monastery. As Ludmila considered her situation – her age, illnesses, and the fact that she lives alone – she decided to reach out to us for help so that she could remain a few more years at home.

Mariana’s first task was to do a deep clean of Ludmila’s house. As Mariana cleaned, Ludmila asked her questions. Questions like, “Why are you doing this?”

“In the very beginning, when I’d clean, I’d share with Ludmila about what the Bible says. But she quickly put a stop to that by telling me, ‘Don’t talk to me about the Bible!’ So, now I approach sharing the Good News in a different way. I share about my life; what God has done for me. What He has done for my husband. What He has done for my friends. Ludmila listens carefully and asks thoughtful questions. She is deeply touched by hearing people’s personal testimonies. Somehow these testimonies allow her to take God in in small, bit-size pieces,” Mariana shared.

On one of Mariana’s recent visits, Ludmila’s son called to check in on his mother. “I’m here with Mariana,” Ludmila told her son, “She’s teaching me to love your God.”

From the other side, Mariana could hear his reply, “Oh! That’s great! I’ve tried to talk to you about Him for so many years!”

I am grateful that God is at work in this tiny, out-of-the-way village of Vulchek, where there are elderly men and women who are approaching eternity and in desperate need of making peace with their Maker.

Will you join us in praying for them and for this new work that God has placed on our hearts?

We are hoping to add 99-year-old Vesilka soon to our monthly care program. We will keep you posted!

## BACKGROUND:

Ludmila originally came to Bulgaria in the 1960s from Saint Petersburg (formerly known as Petrograd (1914–1924) and later Leningrad (1924–1991)), Russia. As a young woman, she met and married a Bulgarian man, Vitko, who was at the time studying in Moscow. Together, the young couple moved to Vitko’s hometown, located in NW Bulgaria.

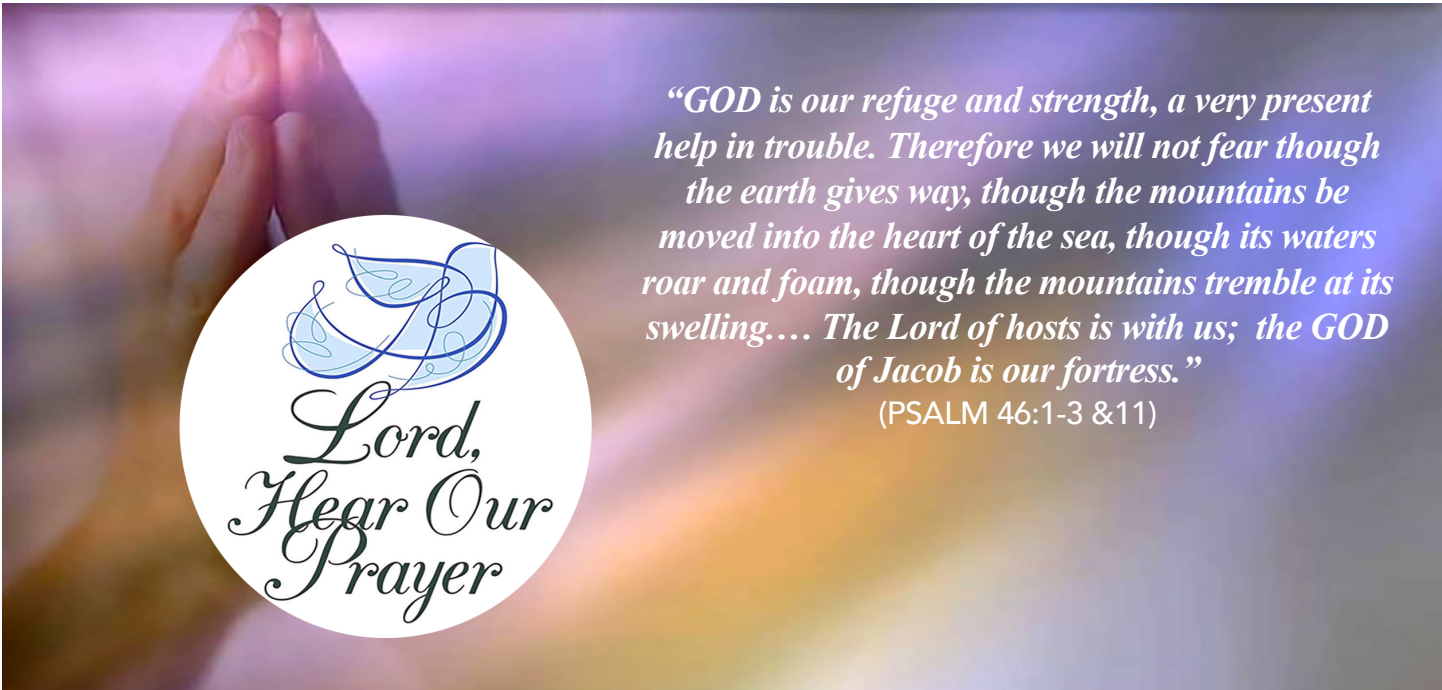
Ludmila grew up in an Orthodox family in Russia. Her husband, on the other hand, came from a hard-core Communist family. Vitko’s father was actually the partisan leader in the area when, in the early days of Bulgarian communism, the authorities began sending him political prisoners to be put to death by firing squad. His father helped kill over 700 innocent people, their only crime being that they were intellectuals and did not agree politically with the communists.

Ludmila and Vitko eventually had two children. Their daughter suffered for many years from a psychiatric condition that proved to be impossible to diagnose and even harder to heal.

The family spent money on doctors and so-called “healers,” hoping one or the other group would bring their child relief. None did. At 16 years of age, they committed their daughter to a hospital where she sadly died seven years later. This loss and years of believing in communist ideology has left Ludmila embittered toward God in spite of her family’s Orthodox background.

Their son is an Orthodox monk who took an oath of poverty and solitude. He lives by himself in a monastery far away and is not allowed to leave. Ludmila’s husband recently passed away, leaving her quite alone to care for herself in this world.





*“GOD is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling... The Lord of hosts is with us; the GOD of Jacob is our fortress.”*  
(PSALM 46:1-3 &11)

**PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING:**

- We are grateful for GOD’s grace shown in that Sueko and family completed their move and that Sueko is settling in well. We are also grateful that Sueko continues to worship with us via zoom.
  - By the grace of GOD Patti’s eyes are healed.
  - By the grace of GOD, Alice is again in remission.
  - By the grace of GOD, Paul’s tests showed NO cancer.
  - By the grace of GOD, Harumi is eating again.
  - By the grace of GOD, Simone has a wonderful PT therapist.
  - By the grace of GOD, Alicia is feeling better.
  - By the grace of GOD, Harumi’s favorite caregiver is back full time.
  - The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made. (Ps.144:9)

**FOR THOSE FAMILIES**

**WHO HAVE LOST A LOVED ONE:**

- Please remember the family of Lee Hayashi.  
*“<sup>13</sup> But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.”* (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14)

**FOR SPECIFIC REQUESTS FOR HEALING:**

- Carol Eng – had a stroke mid of May. Please pray for continued healing and renewed strength.

- Brian – cancer has spread to his spine and is causing much pain and other problems. Please pray for healing and for the doctors to be wise and communicative.
  - Denise – As she advocates for her husband at the hospital and with the multiple doctors. Please pray for comfort, strength, and wisdom, and endurance.
  - Irene Mayeda – Please continue to pray for Irene’s swollen ankle.
  - Alice Pourrat - who has ulcerative colitis. And her father David who has recently been diagnosed with Crohn’s disease.
  - Phillip Nozaki who is undergoing medical treatment.
  - Alison Puzio, Hollywood area director or Young Life, who has extreme fatigue. She has recently been diagnosed with metal poisoning. The levels of magnesium, silver and coper in her blood are off the charts high.
  - Harumi – Please pray that she would have strength to stand and take a few steps.
  - Tom – recover from a groin strain.
  - Janet – recover from a fall.

**FOR THOSE WHO ARE HOME BOUND OR IN A CARE FACILITY:**

- Michiko Yamazaki, Teresa Peterek (in extended care), Joan Janecek, Barbara Kashiwagi, Kimi Fujitani, Karen Koranye, Frank Morimoto, Janet Nozaki, Jean Sakai, Irene Mayeda caring for her mother Harumi. May each one daily know the comfort and care of our Lord Jesus Christ. And may they each be filled with hope

and strength needed for each day.

### GENERAL:

- For the 50 kids (none are believers) attending a Young Life Summer Camp in June or July. (Camps are 5 days long). Pray that they receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Please keep on praying for them as many return to hostile homes and world environments.

- We have seen the terrible tragedy suffered by many due to the fires in Maui and the big island of Hawaii and tsunami in Japan. Let us not cease to pray and may we obey the opportunities GOD gives any of us to comfort, encourage, and give hope.

- As we pray for our loved one who are in the dark, let us "always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks us\* to give a reason for the hope that we\* have. (1Peter 3:15 NIV)

*\*Changed "you" to "us" and "we"*

- Our kids who are off to college this fall: Donna Hernandez (Tere's daughter) and Noah Kostov.

- Travel mercies for Noah, Teresa and Viktor Kostov as they travel to and from the US and Bulgaria.

Mission partnership:

- Rices in South Sudan
- Zebleys in Japan
- Kostovs in Bulgaria
- Masons in Japan
- Salgueros, Faro de Luz

20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3:20 & 21)

(Simone August 2023)

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## JULY 2023



	<u>JULY 2023</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Receipts	\$ 15,231	\$ 83,695
Disbursements	\$ 11,687	\$ 95,176
Increase (Deficit)	\$ 3,544	(\$ 11,481)

## Gifts & Offering



*We are grateful for your continued generosity in supporting our ministry.*

*Please consider sending a gift or donation to:*

**Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood  
4011 Clinton Street, Los Angeles, CA 90004**

*"Per a suggestion from a reader, we are looking into adding a payment link to our newsletter to make it easier to contribute."*

HOW  
CAN WE  
pray  
FOR  
YOU?

If you have prayer requests, you can send them via email or text PRIOR to our service each Sunday.

My email is sbaroldy@gmail.com.  
You can text me at 323-202-5078.

## The Cheerful Giver

<sup>6</sup> The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully[a] will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup> Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency[b] in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

- 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-8

# CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOLLYWOOD



**SUNDAYS at 11:00 A.M.  
IN-PERSON OR ON ZOOM**

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/384758031?pwd=ZnEySjBjL1VkUmhiTWRCREdmZVhJZz09>

Meeting ID: 384 758 031  
Password: 351955  
One tap mobile  
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+13462487799,,384758031# US (Houston)

*"Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood is an intentional healing community; proclaiming and demonstrating the wholeness of life offered by Jesus Christ."*

DATED MATERIAL

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