

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

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Paradise Restored

THE CURSE IS REVERSED

your pastor writes

By REV. STEPHEN M. BAROLDY



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

We continue the messages from the last chapter of the last book of the Bible. These messages talk about our eternal destiny in Jesus Christ. I pray they will encourage you.

Paradise Restored: The Curse

is Reversed, Rev. 22:1-5, originally given at CPC on 012322

Introduction: Life and more life. This morning we continue with Revelation chapter 22. The first five verses of Revelation, chapter 22, show us paradise restored. The paradise that was lost due to Adam and Eve's disobedience is now restored

Continued next page



Welcome


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.

You can send in your prayer requests PRIOR to the service via email to 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.



“No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him.” (Revelation 22:3, ESV)

because of Jesus Christ’s obedience. That’s worth an amen!

We looked at Rev. 22:1-2 last week. Here is a quick review. The dominant image we get from Rev. 22:1-2 is life, and more life. In paradise restored, we will have a quality of “life,” we will have a degree of “life,” that is hard to imagine.

The Apostle John uses the word “zoe” to describe this life. This is the highest and best life for which God created us. It is the life Jesus Christ has. And it is the life Jesus gives to us when we repent and receive him as our Lord and Savior.

In the first two verses of Revelation, chapter 22, the Apostle John is shown powerful images of this “zoe” life. John sees the God of “zoe” life sitting on the throne in paradise restored.

John, then, sees the river of the water of “zoe” life flowing from God’s throne through the middle of the street of the New Jerusalem.

And, finally, John sees two trees of “zoe” life on either side of the river. In paradise restored, we have access to “zoe” life at every turn. In paradise restored, we are immersed in “zoe” life.

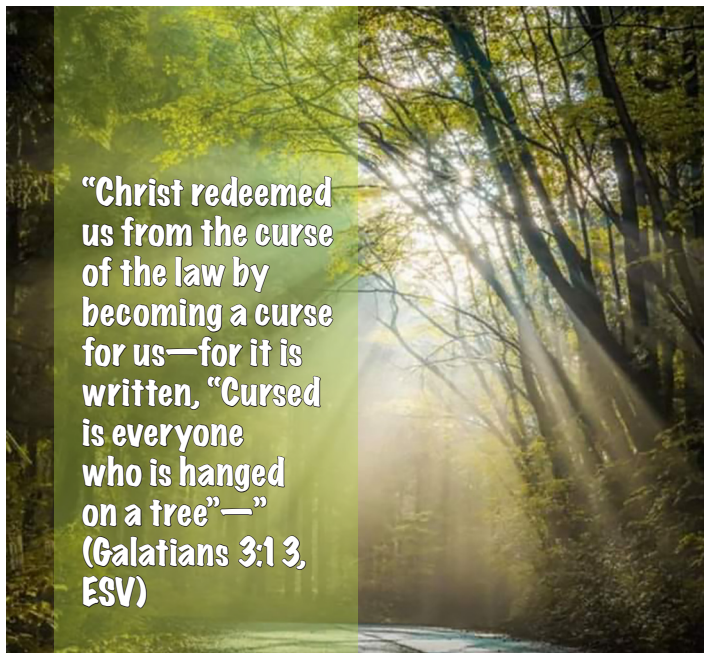
As followers of Jesus, as part of the bride of

Jesus Christ, we look forward to the highest and best life, for which we were created, for all eternity. Amen! Now, this morning, we will look at another aspect of paradise restored.

The curse of disobedience is reversed: The next aspect of paradise restored is this. The curse brought about by Adam and Eve’s disobedience, in the first garden, is completely reversed. Let me re-read Rev. 22:3, “No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him.” (Revelation 22:3, ESV)

We are going to focus on the first part of this verse. “No longer will there be anything accursed.” In paradise restored, the curse pronounced by God in Genesis, chapter 3, the curse, we, and all creation, has lived under our entire lives, will be completely reversed. This is huge!

Now, today, through faith in Jesus Christ, Jesus has redeemed the curse upon us for our own disobedience to God’s law. The Apostle Paul in Gal. 3:13 writes, “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written,



“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—” (Galatians 3:13, ESV)

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Jesus Christ redeemed us from the curse by becoming a curse for us. Jesus Christ redeemed us from the curse of our own disobedience through his death and resurrection.

Yet, we still live in a world that is under the curse. So, we still suffer the effects of the curse Adam and Eve brought into creation. We are redeemed, yet the rest of creation is still not yet redeemed. In paradise restored, all creation will be completely redeemed. *“No longer will there be anything accursed.”*

Randy Alcorn, in his book on Heaven,¹ writes this. *“The removal of the Curse will be as thorough and sweeping as the redemptive work of Christ. In bringing us salvation, Christ has already undone some of the damage in our hearts, but in the end he will finally and completely restore his entire creation to what God originally intended.”*

Again, in paradise restored, the curse is completely removed from God’s entire creation.

The cause of the curse: The complete removal of the curse is a huge deal. To understand how huge, it is important to understand both the cause of the curse, and the impact of the curse. To do this, we need to go back to the book of Genesis. Let’s start with the cause of the curse.

In Genesis, chapter 2, God commanded Adam and Eve to not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Gen. 2:16-17 says, *“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.””* (Genesis 2:16–17, ESV)

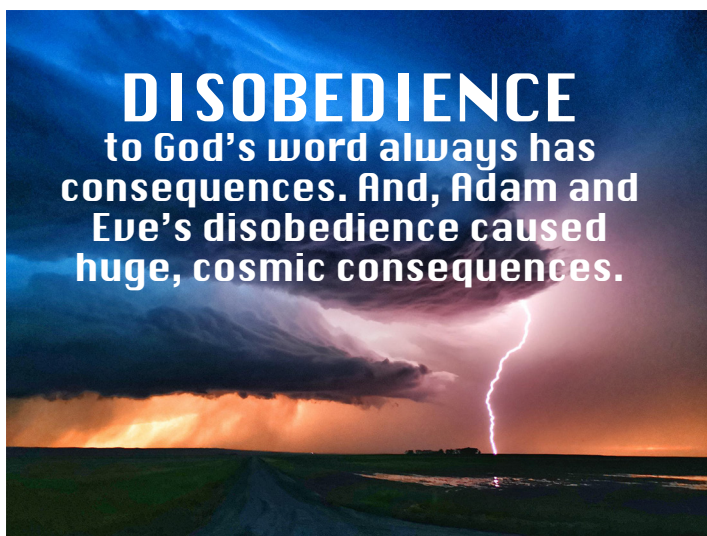
Adam and Eve had only one commandment to obey. They could not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Understand, Adam and Eve did not need knowledge of good and evil. They had the manifest presence of God with them. God would tell them everything they needed to know.

God wanted Adam and Eve to simply trust him to provide everything they needed. And to give them a choice, God put the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the garden. And God made it very clear the penalty for disobedience is death.

Now, Satan entered the serpent who was in the garden. And Satan, through the serpent, masterfully deceived Adam and Eve. They believed the word of the serpent, instead of the word of God, and ate from the forbidden tree. Through their disobedience, Adam and Eve brought the curse upon creation. And, they lost their dominion over creation.

Disobedience to God’s word always has consequences. And, Adam and Eve’s disobedience caused huge, cosmic consequences.

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DISOBEDIENCE to God’s word always has consequences. And, Adam and Eve’s disobedience caused huge, cosmic consequences.

Consequences of the curse: Now, to be “cursed” is the opposite of being “blessed.” The verb “cursed” in Genesis, chapter three, means “to hem in with obstacles,” or “to render powerless to resist.”² God details the obstacles caused by the curse in Genesis, chapter 3.

Let’s begin with the consequences to the serpent. Let me read Gen. 3:14-15. *“The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.””* (Genesis 3:14–15, ESV)

Here, God is speaking to both the serpent and to Satan. God tells the serpent and Satan they are cursed and as a result they will eat dust. Dust is the symbol of abject humiliation. God is telling Satan that in the future, Satan’s powers will be broken. And, Satan will be humiliated and defeated.

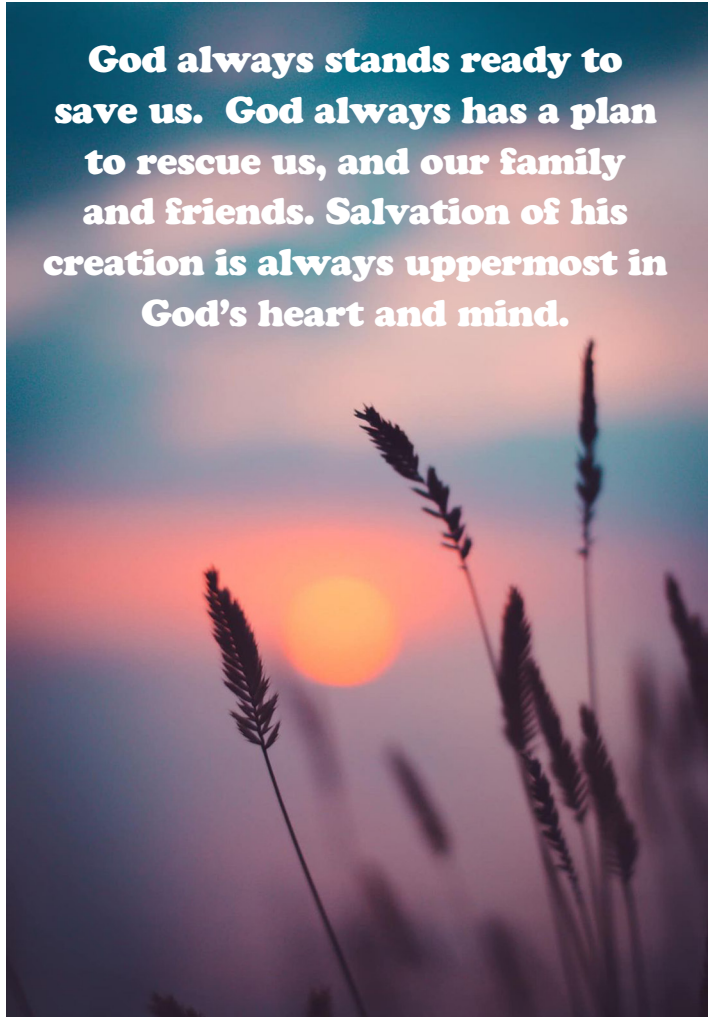
Next, God says he will put enmity, or hostility, between Satan’s offspring and the woman’s offspring. We have seen this hostility all the way through the Revelation, haven’t we?

We saw it in Revelation, chapter 12, as the dragon (a symbol for Satan), attempts to destroy the Child (Jesus Christ) birthed by the woman. And when that fails, the dragon goes off to make war against the people of God. A war that continues to today.

And, then, we have the great prostitute versus the Bride, in chapter 17. The prostitute, representing the world in rebellion against Jesus, continually attempts to corrupt the Bride, who are the followers of Jesus. Until Jesus Christ returns, this hostility will continue.

Yet, then, in Genesis 3:15, we see God’s grace and mercy. Before God pronounces the rest of the effects of the curse, God declares the curse will be reversed.

God pronounces that one of the Eve’s offspring will bruise Satan’s head. Symbolically, this means one of Eve’s offspring will shatter Satan’s authority. At the same time, Satan will bruise the heel of Eve’s



God always stands ready to save us. God always has a plan to rescue us, and our family and friends. Salvation of his creation is always uppermost in God’s heart and mind.

offspring. And, Satan will cause her offspring to suffer.

This is the first pronouncement of the gospel in the bible. And it happens right after Adam and Eve release the curse into creation. Our God is merciful, isn’t he?

Of course, the offspring is Jesus. Jesus is bruised, Jesus suffers horribly, as he is arrested and crucified. Yet, through Jesus’ death and resurrection, Satan’s head is bruised. His authority over redeemed humankind is shattered.

Here we see God always stands ready to save us. God always has a plan to rescue us, and our family and friends. Salvation of his creation is always uppermost in God’s heart and mind.

Next, we have the consequences to Eve, Adam and the earth. As we read through these obstacles,

watch for how your life had been impacted by these obstacles.

Gen. 3:16-19 says, "To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you." And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."" (Genesis 3:16-19, ESV)

From this point on, Eve, and the women born after her, continue to have the blessing of bearing and raising children, one of whom will be the promised offspring who will bruise Satan's head. Yet, childbirth will be more painful because of the curse.

Also, marital relationships are corrupted by the curse. Marital harmony and intimacy will be affected. God's design is that men and woman co-rule his creation. God's design is that they complement each other in this rule, while being equal in image and value to God. The curse corrupts this design.

The wording here suggests the woman will desire to dominate the marital relationship, yet, culturally, men will rule and enforce the woman's submission to men. And we have seen that play out in history, haven't we?

Next, the ground is cursed. Thorns and thistles will frustrate humanity's attempt to rule over the ground. Humans will now need to provide painful labor to get the ground to provide sustenance, whereas before, food was freely available. And of course, frustration with the work necessary to provide for our families continues today, doesn't it?

Have any of you had problems with your job? Are any of you frustrated with your work? Or were you frustrated with your work before you retired? I believe 100% of us would say "yes."

And of course, the ginormous consequence is death entered creation. Humans would die, and their physical bodies would return to the dust from which they were created.

And finally, Gen. 3:22-24 reveals the final consequences of Adam and Eve's disobedience. These verses read, "Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—" therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life." (Genesis 3:22-24, ESV)

Again, God in his mercy did not want humans to live forever under the burden of the curse. So, he drove Adam and Eve out of the garden, and blocked their way to the tree of life, ensuring they would indeed die physically.

As we read through the effects of the curse, have you seen ways the curse has affected your life, or the life of your family?

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By Thomas Chinen

Ron was born in Los Angeles to Jack and Florence Jung on Dec. 4, 1937. Ron and his sister Marilyn attended Commodore Stockton School in San Francisco. They attended Cumberland Presbyterian Church. They also attended John Burroughs High in Burbank where they graduated. In Burbank they attended a Lutheran Church. They then moved to Long Beach. They attended a church with a Nisei pastor. Ron graduated from Long Beach City College with an Associate of Arts degree majoring in Business in Accounting. He worked at a Hospital in Long Beach. He moved to the Normandy House for single men in Los Angeles, where he attended Adams Presbyterian Church. He became active in the Young Adult group. He worked part-time at UCLA, then applied for a job with the L.A. County and worked in the payroll department then was promoted to Supervisor but later transferred to the Coroners Department. He retired from the Coroners Department.

Ron was very active in the Southern California Young People's Christian Conference, where he served on the board from 1972-1975. Then he attended True Light Presbyterian Church in Alhambra where he was very active. He was invited to Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood and for a while split time at both churches and in 2006 he transferred his membership to CPC.

At CPC Ron became a Deacon of the Church. When we had parties Ron would dress up in Hawaiian Aloha attire and would dance the hula. One time he asked me to play a song on the ukulele as he danced. He loved anything

Hawaiian, especially Hawaiian food. At our church luncheons Ron generously donated Chinese foods, cakes, cookies, candies and anything you can think of. Ron was also an organizer, planning trips on the bus or trips guiding a small group and teaching them how to use public transportation. As someone said, Ron has a heart for people. He volunteered at the Braille Institute of Los Angeles. He volunteered at a Braille Camp for 7 to 8 years.

In 2012 Ron fell off his furniture and got stuck on the floor and could not get up by himself. For 3 days he lay there on the floor. An alert neighbor noticing Ron was missing told the manager to check up on him and saved his life. He said it was his second chance to serve the Lord. Ron shared rides many times.

Pastor Steve shared how Ron gave him and Simone travel points with airlines so he could go and see his children and grand-child. Many times at church during our lunch period Ron would hand me a package of food or dessert. He was generous this way to many people. One of Ron's interests was photography.

In 2018 Ron struggled with a serious illness and left his apartment for various assisted living quarters. Finally moving to Brookdale, Anaheim where he became quite active organizing a game of Rummikub with the activity director. Ron ran the country store (in house). He enjoyed attending the Saddleback Church Services at Brookdale. Ron organized chess games and started a chess club. He was well liked because he gave so much of himself. He had a good sense of humor.

As his health began to fail he went from skilled nursing to Board and Care. Then he was placed in Hospice care.

Ron passed away on April 6, 2022. At Ron's Memorial Service at CPC on May 12, 2022 Pastor Steve Baroldy led the Worship Service. Ron's request was everyone wear Hawaiian attire. Brian and Denise Albriton played *Aloha Oe* at Ron's request. Jimi Yamagishi played "10,000 Reasons." Tiffany Yee played the *Prelude, Postlude* and other hymns on the piano. I volunteered a song, not Hawaiian but one led by what his loving sister Marilyn did for him in his time of need and during the last months weeks and days of his life.

I watched Marilyn and Tom Yee treat Ron with so much love, care and compassion that I changed my idea of a Hawaiian song and sang, "He ain't heavy he's my brother" for Marilyn. Denise also shared that it was Ron Jung who invited her and Brian to attend CPC. I could not stay the whole service for Ron or join the reception due to my neck surgery. Sorry I also missed his burial at Rose Hills on April 28, 2022.

For more details you might want to check Ron's Obituary. Acknowledgements for this article go to: Ron Jung's Obituary, Midori Aoki (SCYPCC), Pastor Steve Baroldy, Bruce Uyemura, and Marilyn Yee

your pastor writes ...Continued from Page 5

The curse is completely reversed: Now we, again, get to the "good news." In paradise restored, the curse is completely reversed. "No longer will there be anything accursed."

In paradise restored, disease will be no more, and death will be no more. Our bodies will never again return to the dust. Satan's power has been crushed

and he and his followers have been humiliated. They have been defeated. They have been cast into the lake of fire.

In paradise restored, we no longer live outside the garden, outside of paradise. Instead, paradise is our eternal home. In paradise restored, we will no longer engage in painful toil. Instead, we will enjoy satisfying care taking and invigorating creative endeavors.

In paradise restored, we again have access to the trees of life. And as we discussed last week, the leaves of the trees of life are for the healing of relationships. All relationships will be restored.

Let me close with verse 3 of the hymn, "Joy to the World." "No more let sins and sorrows grow, no thorns infest the ground. He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found."

In paradise restored, the curse is completely removed. And nothing accursed will ever enter. Let us rejoice and be glad. Amen!



1. Alcorn, Randy, Heaven, (Wheaton, Illinois, Tyndale House Publishers, 2004) p.105.

2. Zodhiates, Spiros, Exec. Ed., Key Word Study Bible (Chattanooga, AMG Publishers, 1990), lexicon entry for "curse."

“Offer to GOD a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High, and call upon Me [God] in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.” (Psalm 50:14-15)

PRAYING IN COMMUNITY

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING:

- Christ Presbyterian Church as a people of God have entered their 100th year of community. A people called out to worship our Lord Jesus Christ and to witness to HIS Love for the world.
- We are thankful! that the GOD and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.



FOR THOSE WHO ARE GRIEVING: Grieving is a long process. Let's keep remembering:

- Marilyn Yee, Ron Jung's sister and her husband Tom Lee and all of Ron's close friends.
- Hazel McElfresh who lost her daughter, Dee, and is parenting her teenage grandson.
- Bruce Uyemura's brother passed away the end of April.
- Esther Ingram's husband Charles passed April 25th. Esther and Charles were married 62 years.
- We fall to our knees in prayer for the Robb Elementary School, Uvalde, TX community impacted by the shooting. We remember, too, that the violence was perpetrated by a teenager who desperately needed the love of Jesus. Please pray for revival across this nation.
- Families who lost a loved one who was in military service.
- To family and friends of Mariko Oekawa who passed away earlier this year.

FOR THOSE WHO NEED PHYSICAL HEALING:

- Dora, Sueko's sister, general healing and tumor in her mouth.
- Pat, Sueko's brother, general healing and respiratory.
- Sueko, that her blood pressure would return to normal and her body stress free. Pray also for safe travels to Hawaii to visit her sister. And for a fully wonderful visit with the family.
- Yuri lives with extreme chronic pain. Praying for healing for Yuri and pray for her daughters Aya and Umi who care for her.
- Sherry Esaki, to be able to walk well and pain free.

- Philip Nozaki, Janet's son, has cysts on his remaining kidney. Praying they will dissolve and the kidney remain strong and healthy.
- Hazel, healing and strength in her back.
- Brian will be scheduling biopsies of spot on his lungs and one on his bladder. Praying that these would be benign and would melt away through the body's healing process.

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

Joan Janecek, Barbara Kashiwagi, Kimi Fujitani, Karen Koranye, Frank Morimoto, Janet Nozaki, Jean Sakai, Irene Mayeda caring for her mother Harumi.

GENERAL:

- For our Russian and Ukrainian brothers and sisters in Christ: to have strength and courage to persevere in their witness of the hope we have in Christ Jesus.
- Maria Cardenas: wisdom, boldness, gladness for teaching at a Living Waters 20- week program.
- Suzan: Bless their marriage. There are regular spans of separation due to Jack's work in another state.

OUR MISSIONARIES:

The Kenya REAL Ministries, and Janet who does the administrative work for Kenya REAL Ministries, The Kostov family who pastor in Vidin, Bulgaria. The Zebley family who pastor in Tokyo, Japan. The Rices who pastor in South Sudan. Please pray for financial supply, favor with the community, spiritual and physical protection, and renewed strength for the ministry. Pray also for a great harvest and the workers for the harvest.

FOR THE SHEPHERDS:

The Reverend Christian Zebley and family in Japan, Pastors Ernesto and Juana Salguero, and Pastor Damon and Guia Woods, our neighbor church, Church on Melrose, Pastor Ted Esaki current pastor of El Estero Presbyterian Church.

Centennial Greeting

Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood has entered its 100th year. I asked Janet, the ministry administrator of Kenya REAL, to send us a short greeting and describing a joy and a challenge the ministry is facing these days. This is what she shares with us.

Dear Christ Presbyterian Church Family and Friends,

I am honored to be asked to write something in celebration of what God has done and is doing! Christ Presbyterian Church, from the moment you asked me to share about Kenya REAL, has been committed and so loving to our "neighbors" in Kenya. You have been instrumental in helping young adults become leaders as you support their education, which brings jobs and dignity.

In Kenya, the darkness seems to be overwhelming at times. We have the challenge of young girls being abused and lied to. The risk of shame and feeling unworthy is high. Pray with us that Jesus breaks through that dark mindset and the love of Jesus fills their hearts and minds.

Thank you for standing with us, praying for our Kenyan friends and showing up to shine His light. God knows and He multiplies your giving to impact even more children to flourish and grow. Vocational training and our Van, that takes our children back and forth and carries the wood to use for cooking...Christ Presbyterian Church has been lovingly impacting.

Thank you for your generosity. Thank you for caring about the future of our children that need to know they are children of God and loved always.

I could go on and on thanking you. Thank you for asking me to write!

Janet
Kenya REAL Ministries

We will continue to be in prayer both individually and corporately for Kenya REAL Ministries. In gratitude we send our love in the name of Jesus Christ.



Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/384758031?pwd=ZnEySIBjL1VkuMhiTWRCREdmZVhJZz09>

Meeting ID: 384 758 031

Password: 351955

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,384758031# US (San Jose)

+13462487799,,384758031# US (Houston)

FINANCIAL REPORT

**MAY
2022**



	<u>MAY 2022</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Receipts	\$ 14,098	\$ 59,249
Disbursements	\$ 12,706	\$ 66,779
Increase (Deficit)	\$ 1,392	(\$ 7,530)

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**

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
+16699006833,,384758031# US (San Jose)
+13462487799,,384758031# US (Houston)

*"Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood is an intentional
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wholeness of life offered by Jesus Christ."*

DATED MATERIAL

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