

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
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cpchollywood.org

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OVERCOMING the *Devil's* tactics



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!*

This month I continue my messages on Revelation, chapter 12. If you want to hear these messages, or any of the messages on the Revelation, you can access them on our website, cpchollywood.org. Simply click on the "Messages" tab at the top of the site.

Overcoming the Devil's Tactics, Rev 12:7-17, originally given on July 26, 2020 at CPC

Introduction:

His time is short: This morning I want to finish Revelation, chapter 12. We've established the fact the war in heaven is won, yet the battle on earth continues.

John's vision in Revelation, chapter 12, shows us the church of Jesus Christ, and the followers of Jesus Christ, are caught up in this battle until Jesus Christ returns.

John's vision reveals this battle with sin and evil is intense. It is intense because the dragon, also known as the devil, and Satan, has been thrown down from heaven. Rev. 12:12 tells us, *"Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!"* (Revelation 12:12, ESV)

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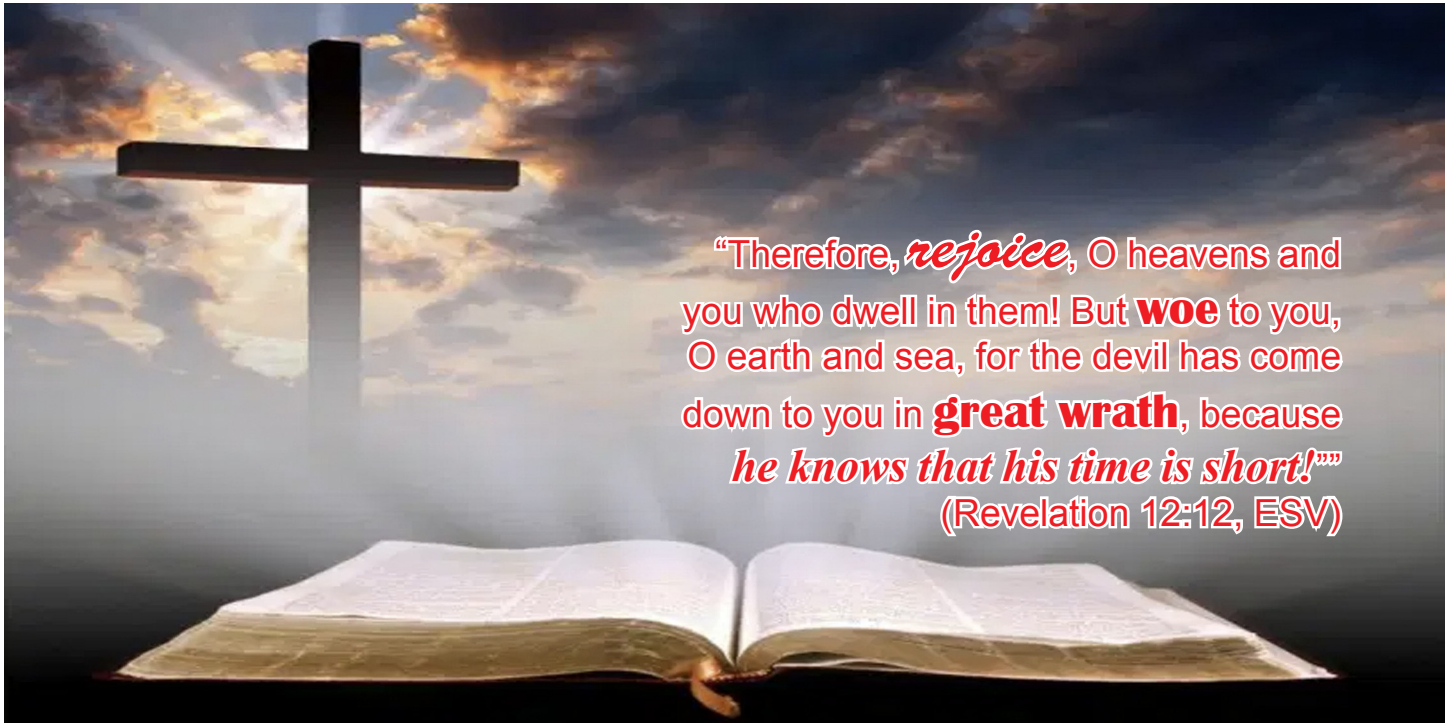
Join us in
Worship

With the continuing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, CPC remains closed to safeguard the health of its members and congregants. We continue to hold a virtual worship Service every Sunday at 11:00am, using Zoom. Service ends around 12:30pm.

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
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is an intentional,
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proclaiming and
demonstrating the
wholeness of life
offered in
JESUS CHRIST.**



“Therefore, *rejoice*, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But **woe** to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in **great wrath**, because *he knows that his time is short!*”
(Revelation 12:12, ESV)

The devil has come down to earth in great wrath and he knows his time is short! The devil is mad because he has been bounced from heaven. He is defeated, but not yet completely removed. And, now, he and his rebellious angels want to cause as much chaos and destruction as possible before they are thrown into the lake of fire.

So, this week, I want to talk about the devil’s tactics, and how we overcome them.

First tactic: deception. John’s vision reveals the devil’s three pronged strategy against humanity; against the church, and against Jesus’ followers.

The devil’s first tactic is deception. Rev. 12:9 says, “*And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.*” (Revelation 12:9, ESV)

Here the devil is called “*the deceiver of the whole world.*” For him to deceive the whole world, the devil must be a master of deception. In John 8:44, Jesus calls the devil “*the father of lies.*” So, the devil is a deceiver and a liar. This is his character. Lies and deceit are a cornerstone of his strategy against humanity and the people of God.

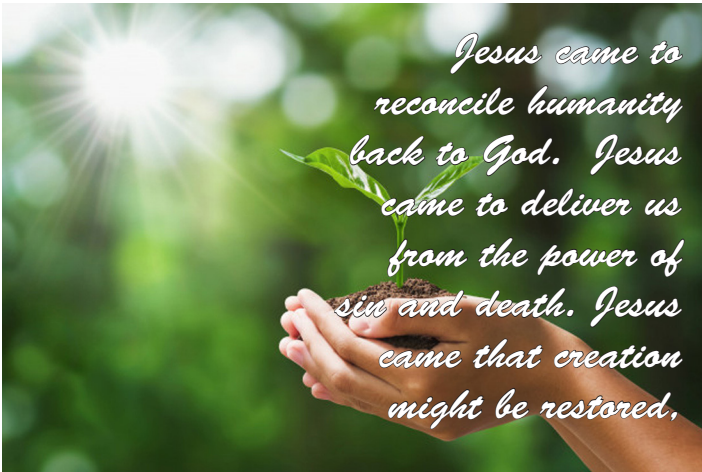
And please realize, this has always been the devil’s strategy. We remember how the devil deceived Adam and Eve in the Garden. God told Adam and Eve, if they ate from the forbidden tree, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they would die.

Yet, then, the master deceiver approached Adam and Eve and said this in Gen. 3:4-5. “*But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”*” (Genesis 3:4–5, ESV)

The devil deceives Adam and Eve. He lies to them. The devil told them if they ate of the tree they would not die. Instead, they would be like God. One of my favorite bible teachers calls this “the big lie.” It’s the “big lie” because it is the foundational lie that wrecked creation, and that still deceives today.

Remember, the devil, first, deceived himself. Because of pride, the devil thought he could be like God. This led to his rebellion and his expulsion from heaven. Now, he uses the same deception against Adam and Eve.

We know the story. Adam and Eve believed the devil’s word instead of God’s word. In disobedience, they ate from the tree. And that single act wrecked havoc on the cosmos. It distorted God’s perfect



creation. It separated humanity from their Creator. It brought sin, and disease, and death into God's perfect world.

This is why Jesus came. To undo the havoc their disobedience created. Jesus came to reconcile humanity back to God. Jesus came to deliver us from the power of sin and death. Jesus came that creation might be restored, which we see at the end of the book of the Revelation. In sum, Jesus came to deliver us from the effects of the "big lie."

Why are things so bad in the world today? Because people still believe the "big lie." They reject God because they want to be their own god. They live their life in their own way, and in their own power.

They sing their own version of the song, "I did it my way." They do what is right in their own eyes, and for their own gain. They lie. They deceive. They steal. They join the devil in his deception game. All to get their own way, and to get ahead in the world.

Just think of all the times people have lied to you, and deceived you, and stole from you. It doesn't feel good, does it? Your own experience testifies to the truth that "the big lie" still pervades unsaved humanity today.

Now, the only power the devil has over God's people is when we choose to play the devil's game. When we lie. When we sin. When we believe his lies and act on them. Or, when we meditate on his lies and let them pull us down spiritually and emotionally.

So, for instance, when times are tough, when we are struggling, the devil will lie and tell us God has forgotten us. He will say God doesn't care about us.

Remember, this book is written to a church under severe persecution. Do you think these lies hit home for many of the persecuted Christians? The devil wants us to give up our faith and turn our back on God.

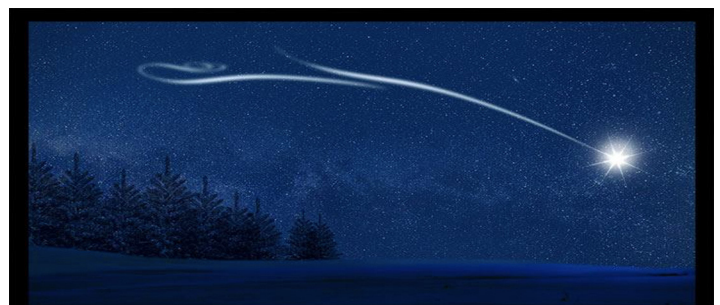
So, how do we overcome this devilish tactic of lies and deceit? First, we don't play the devil's game ourselves. We don't lie. We don't deceive other people. Instead, we speak the truth. Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." Jesus is the truth, and as his people, we must speak the truth.

Second, we use our spiritual weapons in Rev 12:11. Rev.12:11 says, "*And they [Jesus followers] have conquered him [the devil] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.*" (Revelation 12:11, ESV)

We combat the devil's lies and deceit by the word of our testimony. When the devil tells us God has forgotten us, we tell him, "no, Jesus told me in Mat. 28:20, "I am with you always, to the end of the age."" Or we tell him "no, Jesus told me in Heb. 13:15, "I will never leave you nor forsake you.""

Or when the devil tells us God doesn't care about us, we can say, "no. no way. John 3:16 says, "*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*" (John 3:16, ESV) And there are many other examples, yet I think you get the idea.

Continued next page



"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 3:16 (KJV)

We overcome the tactic of deceit by not playing the devil's game. We commit to speaking the truth. And, we reject the devil's lies by testifying to the truth of God's word. And remember, the word of our testimony is spoken out loud so the devil can hear it.

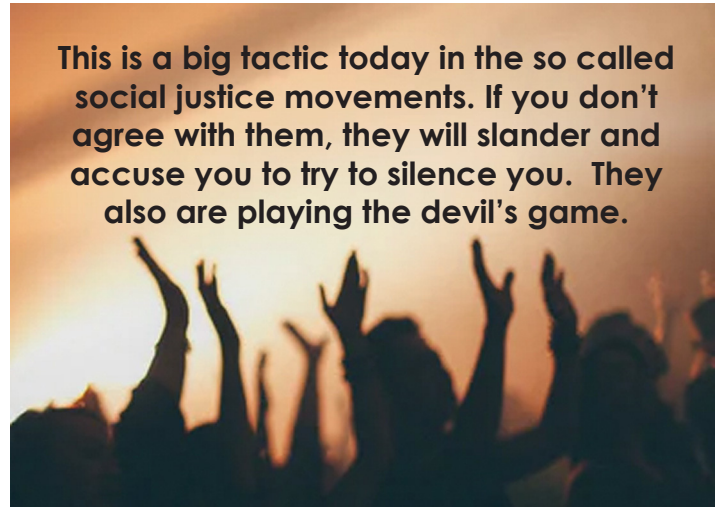
The second tactic: accusation. Now, the devil's second tactic is accusation. Rev. 12:10 says, *"And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, 'Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.'" (Revelation 12:10, ESV)*

Here the dragon is called "the accuser of our brothers [which includes our sisters]." The word "Satan" in the original language means "accuser." The word "devil" in the original language means "slanderer."

So, in Rev. 12:10, we are told the dragon, the accuser, the slanderer, takes the sins of God's people and throws them at God day and night. In addition, the dragon hassles us by reminding us of our past sins.

What is the dragon doing? He is trying to slime us with guilt. He wants to cover us with shame. If he can make us feel guilty, if he can shame us, he disarms us in the battle.

If we feel guilty, or shameful, we will not walk in the joy and peace that are ours through Jesus Christ. We will not pray in the power of the Holy Spirit. Guilt, and shame sidelines us and limits our effectiveness as the people of God.



Also, the dragon loves to find deceived people and use them to slander and accuse us. So, we find people talking behind our backs, spreading gossip about us. If you have experienced gossip you know how hurtful and discouraging this is.

Also, this is a big tactic today in the so called social justice movements. If you don't agree with them, they will slander and accuse you to try to silence you. They also are playing the devil's game.

So, how do we overcome this tactic of accusation and slander? First, we never accuse or slander others. Which means we do not gossip.

Second, we use our spiritual weapons. Again, we overcome the devil by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony. The blood of the Lamb has cleansed Jesus' followers.

Our sins are forgiven which means our guilt is also removed. Our shame is removed. This is why we remind ourselves every Sunday that, in Christ, our sins are forgiven. In Christ, God remembers them no more. And if there is something new we have done, we repent and ask for forgiveness, and the blood of Jesus cleanses this also.

And, again, we testify to these things out loud. This is why I love quoting Eph. 1:7. It declares the truth of our current position in Christ so well. *"In him [in Jesus Christ] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace," (Ephesians 1:7, ESV)* Through Jesus' blood, we are redeemed. We are forgiven. The devil has no place in us and no power over us. Amen!

The third tactic: a flood of evil. We find the third tactic in Rev. 12:13-16. They read, *“And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time. The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth.”* (Revelation 12:13–16, ESV)

Here, John sees the woman being pursued by the dragon. Remember, the woman represents Mary and the people of God. In this beautiful image, the woman is given eagle’s wings so she can escape the dragon and go to the place where she is nourished for a time, and times and half a time.

Previously, we have noted this place of nourishment is the church. A time, and times, and half a time is the same as 1260 days. This is the time between Jesus’ death and resurrection and his return to earth.

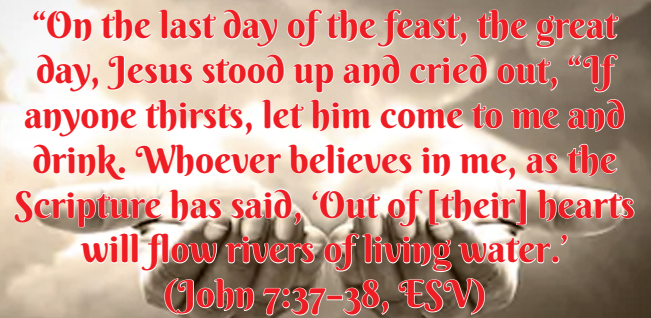
So, while the dragon pursues the people of God, they are nourished in the church. They are nourished by prayer, by worship, by fellowship, and by proclamation of God’s word.

Verse 15 gives us the devil’s third tactic, a flood. It reads, *“The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood.”*

The devil’s third tactic is to overwhelm us with a flood. A flood of evil. A flood of lies. A flood of deception. A flood of stealing and looting. A flood of violence. And a flood of murder.

The devil energizes a portion of culture that hates Christianity and wants to silence us. Does any of this sound like what is going on today?

Yet, we are not discouraged because we have allies to help us in this flood. Our first ally is creation. Rev. 12:16 says, *“But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth.”* Creation is on the side of her Cre-



“On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of [their] hearts will flow rivers of living water.’”
(John 7:37–38, ESV)

ator, Jesus Christ. It appears creation does not like deceit, lies, accusation and violence.

We also have an ally in the Holy Spirit. Jesus tells us in John 7:37, *“On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of [their] hearts will flow rivers of living water.’”* (John 7:37–38, ESV)

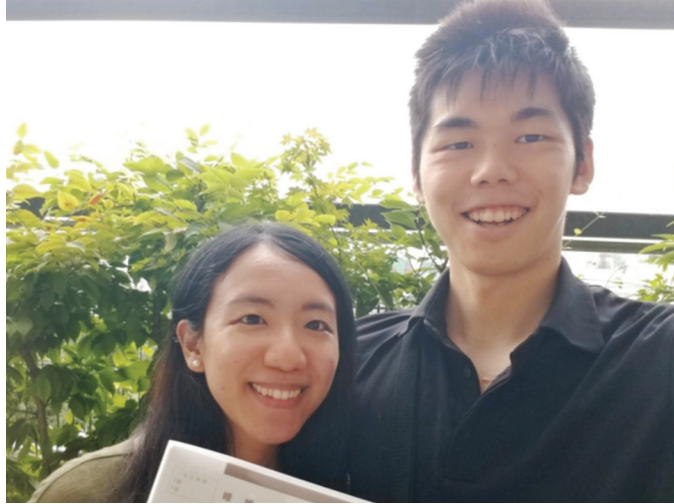
Through our faith in Jesus, through believing what the scripture says about him, we have a flood of living water flowing out of our heart, or out of our inner being. We stand against the devil’s flood with a flood of our own. A flood of the Holy Spirit which flows out of our hearts. And our flood of the Holy Spirit is stronger than the devil’s flood.

How do we overcome the devil’s tactics of deceit, accusation, and a flood of evil? We release our own flood of the Holy Spirit. A flood of truth, a flood of love, a flood of joy, a flood of peace, a flood of prayer, and a flood of testimony of God’s word.

We let ourselves be nourished by a flood of fellowship, and a flood of encouragement with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We engage in a flood of worship as we continue to gather in the place where we are nourished, the church, whether online or in person.

And, we always remember, Jesus has won! Amen!
See you next month,

Pastor Steve



Takita–Aramaki

United in Marriage

TOKYO, Japan--- Yosuke Aramaki and Momoko Takita were united in marriage on August 8, 2020 in Tokyo. The Aramaki's are now residing and working there.

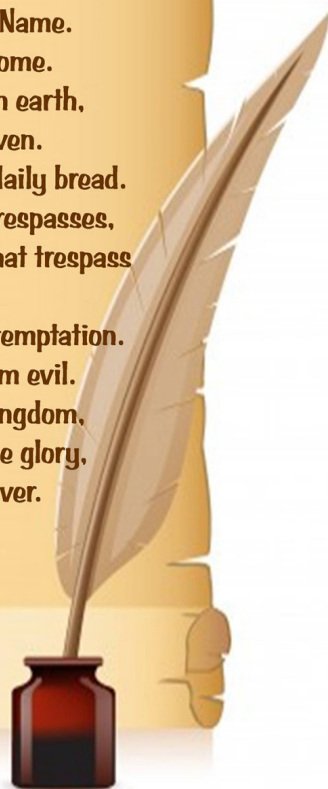
Yosuke and Momoko were active as organizers for the activities of CVS, headquartered in Pasadena, California, for newly-arrived Japanese students. The CVS group often hosted special events for the students at CPC and other churches in the Los Angeles area. Yosuke and Momoko were also frequent visitors to CPC's worship service when they were working for CVS.

Congratulations, Momoko and Yosuke, upon your marriage.

God's blessings be with both of you.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven,
 Hallowed be thy Name.
 Thy Kingdom come.
 Thy will be done in earth,
 As it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our trespasses,
 As we forgive them that trespass
 against us.
 And lead us not into temptation.
 But deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 The power, and the glory,
 For ever and ever.
 Amen.



Gift & Offering

Our campus may be temporarily shut, but CPC is doing all we can to serve our church, to connect people to one another, and to connect all of us to God through our online worship.

Now more than ever we need your help for us to continue to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and give hope to others.

Please consider sending a gift or donation to:

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2020



	<u>SEPT. 2020</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Receipts	\$ 6,417	\$ 73,038
Disbursements	\$ 10,868	\$ 98,686
Increase (Deficit)	(\$ 4,451)	(\$ 25,647)

In Memory of Joe Barnett

His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'

---Matthew 25:13 (ESV)

Jesus, Founder and Perfecter of Our Faith

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

---Hebrews 12:1-2 (ESV)



BOISE, Idaho---A Live Stream Funeral/Memorial service for William Joseph Barnett, 88, also known as Joe, who went home to be with the Lord on August 20, was conducted by Pastor Tim Fortin on Saturday, September 19, at 11 a.m. at River Valley Church.

Pastor Tim said, "Joe Barnett passed into eternity and is in heaven celebrating with Jesus."

The funeral service had an open casket for viewing and paying final respects prior to leaving for Terrace Lawn Cemetery for the burial service.

During the viewing and the final respects, the background music included "Just A Closer Walk With Thee," "Softly and Tenderly," and closing with "I Can Only Imagine." Joe's granddaughters and nieces sang "Peace Like A River" and "It Is Well With My Soul."

An obituary was read during the service. Joe's ministries while in Southern California included a prison ministry, where he shared the Gospel with inmates, and his ministry in 1973 with a Japanese Presbyterian Church. The obituary mentioned that, because of Joe, the Japanese members of the church grew spiritually and developed a

deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

Starting in July, 1973, about 18 persons from CPC of Hollywood gathered for a mid-week Bible study class taught by Joe. Joe began teaching a "Survey of the Bible" and "Biblical Prophecy" after the showing of the movie, "A Thief in The Night" in the church Sanctuary. Neighbors around the church were invited and came to a Sunday evening event on July 15, 1973 at CPC of Hollywood.

During the Memorial service, Joe's niece and nephew shared testimonies of their Uncle Joe's faith in Christ. Others testified, as well, including Joe's son Gary. All told of Joe's passion for Christ.

Pastor Tim said Joe's passion for Christ and love for every human being as precious souls to be saved through Christ is Joe's legacy.

Pastor Tim then read a letter from the Joe's former pastors, who are now serving as missionaries. The husband and wife pastoral team were the Barnett's pastors at Granada Hills Assembly of God Church. Their mission field service began after the Barnett's moved to Boise, Idaho, in 1993.

Joe was born and grew up in Tacoma, Washington and graduated

from the University of Washington with a degree in electrical engineering.

Joe's wife, Delma, worked as a bank secretary at the time and helped put Joe through college to finish up his degree in electrical engineering.

Joe worked as an electronics technician at McChord Air Base, near Fort Lewis in Washington, in a civil service job. Since childhood Joe enjoyed taking apart electrical things and putting them back together again.

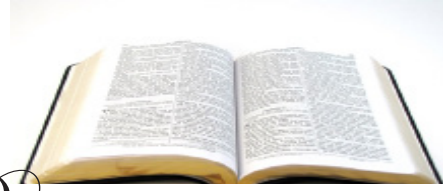
Joe enjoyed the outdoors, camping, fishing, hunting, and trapping.

While in the Greater Los Angeles area, the Barnett's first lived in Los Angeles, and then moved to Granada Hills. About 1956, their first child, Gary, was born and three years later in 1959, their second child, Judy, was born.

Each day Joe commuted from his home to McDonnell Douglas in Huntington Beach, where he worked as an electrical engineer. After work, Joe would drive from Granada Hills to CPC of Hollywood to teach a Bible study on Wednesday nights.

May God comfort Joe's wife Delma, son Gary, daughter Judy, and their families, including grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Let us remember to keep in our prayers the church family and friends who are in need of God's healing touch: overall healing for Kimi Fujitani, Charles Ingram, Janet Nozaki, Frank Morimoto, Stella Kenner, Karen Koranye, Lashman Johal, Pastor Steve, Martin; healing of knee and wrist of Maria Cardenas and prayers for Marley, Hunter, Cousin Dari, and Aunt Laley; overall healing for Ron Jung; healing and God's blessings for Harumi Mayeda; strength to care for her Mom for Irene Mayeda; overall healing for Joan Janecek; healing of legs of Sherri Esaki; healing of back and leg pain for Yuri Sangen; healing of left foot and diabetes for Denise Albriton; overall healing and healing of cancer in nostril of Brian Albriton; prayers for Pastor Steve, his wife Simone and their daughters Nicole and Noelle and David and Alice; revival for CPC and neighborhood, our elders, Faro de Luz Church, outreach to community, unsaved relatives and friends, and protection against major disaster.

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

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