



Nature Abhors a Vacuum

As we enter the Christmas season, we can anticipate umpteen million stories in the news media about towns that are being sued by atheist groups protesting the placement of Nativity scenes in public places. The assumption is that by displaying a Nativity scene, we Christians are imposing our religious beliefs on the rest of the public. One could argue, of course, that Christmas traditions are as much a part of our cultural heritage as our religious heritage, but in this short missive, I would like to focus instead on a rather dangerous assumption behind those protests. The assumption is that we, as a society, can be value neutral; that we can remove all spiritual perspectives and create a vacuum of moral and spiritual influences. That, of course, is the assumption of the secular humanist in opposing any public propagation of religion of any kind. However, this is a disingenuous position since the secular humanist also has a religious view (albeit void of God) that he or she is also propagating, and yes, imposing. Of course, that religious view is atheism. This is the theological presupposition behind the philosophy of naturalistic evolution that is being taught in every public school in the nation. (BTW, have you seen the videos that David Deakin has been showing regarding Intelligent Design? They are amazing.) Thus, our children are being taught that there is no transcendent reason for our existence, since we simply evolved by random chance. This also means there is no real hope for the future as there is no expectation of any reality after death. And this is a very deadly philosophy indeed.

Recently, one of the late-night pundits noted that the new Pope, Pope Francis, said that "atheist are still eligible to go to heaven". I do not know exactly what Pope Francis meant by that statement, but the punch line of the joke was this: "To return the favor, atheists said that Popes are still eligible to go into a void of nothingness." I found that punch line not only amusing, but hauntingly profound. Indeed, Christians have often been criticized for believing in a God that sends much of the world to hell. Of course, we don't believe in a God that randomly sends people to hell; instead, we believe in a God who offers the world salvation through the Babe that was born in a manger and who died on a cross for all mankind. If we choose to accept that gift, we choose heaven. If we reject that gift, we choose hell. But we still have a choice.



Sunday Services
10:00 a.m.

Adult Sunday School
9:00am

Sunday School
PK-12
10:30am

Choir Practice
9am & 11:30am

Weekly Activities

Ladies Bible Study
Tuesdays 12-2

Small Group
@ the Rivera's
Tuesday 7pm

Men's Breakfast
Wednesday 7am

Women's Study
Wednesday 7pm

Prayer Service
Thursday 7pm

Second Union Church
Ave. Apolo esq. Mileto
Guaynabo, PR 00969
787-720-4423
secondunion.org

Rev. Robert Zoba

Compare that to the condemnatory judgment of naturalistic evolutionists who believes that all of mankind, no matter how good or bad, how righteous or wicked, how saintly or devilish, all are condemned to a realm of nothingness , meaninglessness and eternal destruction. That is, we will exist no more...forever. That is the eternal hope of all atheists, whether they be Adolf Hitler or Carl Sagan.

Now, let me ask you dear brother and sister, why do we allow a few elitist academics to impose such a condemnatory philosophy and soul destroying religion on our university students, high school youth, and even primary school kids? It's actually quite absurd if you think about it. This is a gospel of despair. Thus, is it any wonder we are raising a generation of kids that is equally despairing?

Therefore, this Christmas season, remember that nature abhors a vacuum, as does the moral and philosophical landscape. Thus, we will either fill that landscape with the truth of the Gospel and the joy of the season, or it will be filled by the condemnatory philosophies of Man. As for me, I choose to sing *Joyeux Noel* this season. Won't you join me?

Peace,

Pastor Bob

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Prince of Peace Christmas Bazaar

Saturday, December 7, 2013

10am - 3pm

Second Union Church

Apolo Avenue in Guaybabo

Artisans • Handmade Decorations • Raffle
Tombola • Christmas Treats • Bazaar Bistro
Santa's Corner • Activities for Kids

For information: 787-720-4423

Second Union Church

Mike LaLlave writes, Irma and I are spending Thanksgiving holiday with our daughter Michelle and granddaughter Bianca who reside in Miami Beach---we are planning to be back in PR in time for Christmas.

Tere Vera writes that she has been "chilling" and keeping up with some books : -). She is also enjoying the cantata practices. It means a lot to her. (Hope you all come to hear it on Dec. 15th at 2UC! [New member Tere Vera has jumped right in by being editor of our annual Advent Devotional? (Good job Tere!)]



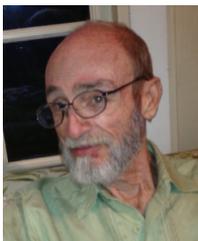
Our 2UC contingent to Israel included: **John & Evelyn Alberts, Bob & Christie Zoba, Dennis & Amarilis Gonzalez, Edwin, Conchi, Maria Cristina, & Lydia (Edwin's mom) Perez, and Omar, Lizza, and Gustavo (Omar's dad) Haedo.** It was such a wonderful, faith-transforming trip! We hope to take another group in the future.

Omar Haedo writes, We had a WONDERFUL time with our 2UC family in Israel. Can't wait to do the trip again sometime soon and delve more deeply into the Biblical sites.



Brenda Ferrer is visiting family in Georgia, Alabama and Florida for the Thanksgiving holiday. She will get to meet two cousins, Ruben and Dakota Coleman, who were born in New Zealand.

Cheryl Virginia was back for a week with us. She reports that the restaurant business is picking up in Naples, so if you happen to be in the area, stop in and get some of the best pizza around.



Joe Calcolli has made remarkable progress in his recovery from a recent stroke. Joe credits the prayers of friends and family, which gave him the strength to get up and walk.

Gil & Marlene Williams are taking a tour of the Panama canal this Thanksgiving season?

The Woodruffs have retreated to snowy Vermont for the holiday?

Debbie García got a new hair color, another hair cut and a new job. She now works at an international accounting firm and says to all her contemporaries that age is not an issue in the job market these days. Experience speaks volumes; if you get your résumé in tune with the corporate language of the times and do your research on how to get through multiple interviews, you can get that dream job you may be looking for.

The Garcia daughters (fondly referred to as The Fabulous Five) are always on the move: Melissa Garcia has applied to work teaching English this summer in South Korea and plans to study in Japan for one semester next year. María Cristina (Tina) continues to work two jobs and study at Sagrado. Diana snagged a job in Houston, Texas and will be moving the day after Thanksgiving to work at a large advertising agency. Iliia continues to be one of the best news anchorwomen in Philadelphia. All four daughters celebrated birthdays in November. Carol will be hosting the entire family for Thanksgiving and Diana's farewell lunch.

Paloma Aymat writes: Latest news for us is: I have a job as Executive Director in the Puerto Rico MS Foundation:) Super HAPPY about it. Working a lot to make awareness about my disease and helping patients every day! So blessed! God totally answered my prayers here.

The Yosts just got back from a trip to their home state of Arizona?

The McMurrays are enjoying a visit from George, the younger, and their daughter-in-law?

Sue and John Burch send their greetings to our 2UC family. Sue writes: John and I continue in preparing and caring for the missionaries of Mission to the World. We love the work that God has called us



to, and stay busy with mentoring and training these folks all over the world. I had cervical surgery on 4 vertebrae (herniated discs and bone spurs) 6 weeks ago. Recovery is going well. John is having a knee replacement on his left knee on December 6th - so I am praying and we are planning on me being strong enough to take on some of the care and household chores by then. Thanksgiving plans - staying close by home and celebrating God's goodness shown to us with our daughters, and some other family and mission friends.

Yadira de Jesus is the music director of Iglesia Bautista de Rio Piedras?

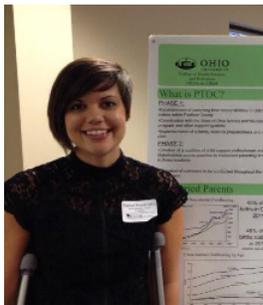
David & Val Banderman have relocated to Austin, TX and already have found a permanent home? We miss them already;-)

David, Kallie, Sam, and Ryleigh Benson sojourned in Vieques during the T-giving break?

John Doncel is off to PA to visit his dear daughter Katherin for Thanksgiving and Christmas?

Brenda Ferrer gets the prize for bringing the most guests to 2UC? It seems every week Brenda brings someone new. This is sure evidence of her big heart and love for the Lord's people.

Thad Bielecki and family write: We are moving to Florida, I have taken a job as Director of Landscaping for the city of Weston, a city of 65,000 people west of Ft. Lauderdale. Its is short notice and I will be leaving PR on Dec. 8th. If I don't get to church this weekend with all the packing I have to do, just know that I will miss my church very much and will visit from time to time. Thanks for all the prayers, encouragement and great sermons over the years, you all have strengthened my faith.



Rashel Krankovich, our beloved former youth pastor, who is now studying in Ohio, suffered a fairly serious auto accident recently. It wasn't her fault, but she paid the consequence of a broken ankle. However, she continues to get excellent grades in her Masters program, so we are very proud of her!!! She received an honorable mention for a poster she presented at the Ohio chapter of the National Association of Social Workers!

Christie and Pastor Bob spent three days in Key Largo at Christie's mom's house to spend Thanksgiving with family? And **J.J.** joined them from Dallas!



Lynn McCarley is leading the Tuesday lunchtime Bible study? And, she's doing a great job!

Elsy Perez is working seven days a week as Enterprise is opening a newer and larger facility at the Luis Muñoz International Airport? We miss you, Ricky and Cuqui!

News from the **Riley family** in Montclair, New Jersey:



Ella Riley- Won Sectional Pop Warner Cheerleading Competition.

Cole Riley - Completed first grading period with all "A's". His Pop Warner Football Team won Regional Championship.

Chanse Riley - Completed first grading period with 4.0 GPA while taking AP College courses. His high school team just won the sectional championship and will play for State Championship on Dec. 7th at 7pm in MetLife Stadium (home of NY Jets and NY Giants).



His team is 10-0 and he has started at defensive back every game. He is the #1 player in the state of NJ in fumble recoveries. Chanse will be playing in a High School Football Game Thanksgiving Day which is a tradition in Montclair, NJ where we live.

Rose De Jesus is a master sewer and makes beautiful clothes for little girls and boys. She blesses each of the clothes as she works on them.

Anita Rodriguez, Carol Fisher, Rose de Jesus and others were busy baking pies and quiches last week.

Joellen Ramos (soon to be Segal!) is trying to sell some appliances. They have a stove, dishwasher, oven, and even a dryer for about \$50 each. So if you know of anyone that might need any of it please let them know. You can call (787-585-5385).

Seond Union Church was able to bless a missionary couple, **Vanessa and Irving Perez**, by giving them donations received last week for their soon-to-be-born baby girl. They are expecting their second child at any moment!



"Happy birthday! Don't you love the way people greet you on your special day? Isn't it wonderful to experience the birthday wishes and joyful messages that make you feel loved and cherished? It's almost just as rewarding to be the one conveying the message!

Now let me give you a hint as to where this is going. Did you know there is a greeter every Sunday who welcomes people as they arrive at church? Have you ever wondered why? Please bear with me as I ask yet one more question.

Do you have a friend, family member or acquaintance who doesn't come to church or hasn't been to church in a very long time? This person may even be a spouse. There may even be a stranger whom you have invited to church. Any given Sunday may be the one particular day a person has decided to take that big step to come back to church or check it out for the first time. It may be that someone invited them and they are just going to slip in late and leave early.

This day may even be their birthday! It could possibly be the day they accept Jesus as their Savior and begin their new life as a follower of the great I Am! So, every Sunday is an opportunity to be the joyful Happy Birthday greeter. It's actually a really important job if you consider that you may be welcoming people into the Kingdom of God as you open the door and greet them.

There's always some wonderful things going on at the entrance, like seeing the beautiful flowers as they come through the door on the way to the Sanctuary, being able to give some encouragement to someone who needs it, hugging someone you haven't seen in a while, getting to see the newborn in the stroller and the proud new parents - the possibilities are endless.

So, next time you see Debbie, you might want to ask about being a greeter and maybe even joining the Membership Committee. You may find that the rewards are far more than you expected!

Thursday Evening Prayer Meeting



We are all called to serve the Lord, and praying is one way that you can perform a mighty ministry for Jesus. Each Thursday evening at 7pm, a handful of committed 2UC members meet to praise our Lord and lift up the prayers of our congregation and beyond. We meet in the Conference Room. We encourage you to join us and pray with us for our church, our ministries and the concerns on our hearts. If you have a prayer request, please contact Anita Rodriguez, Pastor Bob or Christie.

Tuesday Lunchtime Bible Study



The Tuesday Lunchtime Bible Study is now 20-strong and growing! Over the past seven weeks, we have been studying the book of James through the able teaching of Beth Moore and the wonderful group leadership by Lynn McCarley. We have girls ranging from 22 to 72 years old - young moms and empty-nesters, singles and married women, career and stay-at-home moms. We don't all have it 'together', but we have each other and we have

the Word of God, and together we are seeking Him wholeheartedly.

Our next study, "Discerning the Voice of God" by Priscilla Shirer will begin in January. Please join us and bring a friend. Lunch is available for \$8 (please order in advance), or you can bring your own. If you'd like more information, please contact Christie Zoba (787-717-4001 or zoba129@gmail.com). We'd love to see a few new faces! Childcare is available.

Next Saturday Second Union will open its doors for one of the best Christmas traditions in the Metro area for the last 40+ years. The 2UC Christmas Bazaar!

Many of you are already volunteering to work at the Bazaar. Thanks!

The Bake Table has a rich past of offering desserts and treats not often seen in Puerto Rico, and as a result we have been able to raise a lot of money with what we bake.



If you could, please, bake some cookies, brownies, cupcakes, fudge, bar cookies, tea breads [like lemon, banana, cranberry, apple walnut, pear, etc] anything really, we would deeply appreciate your contributions.

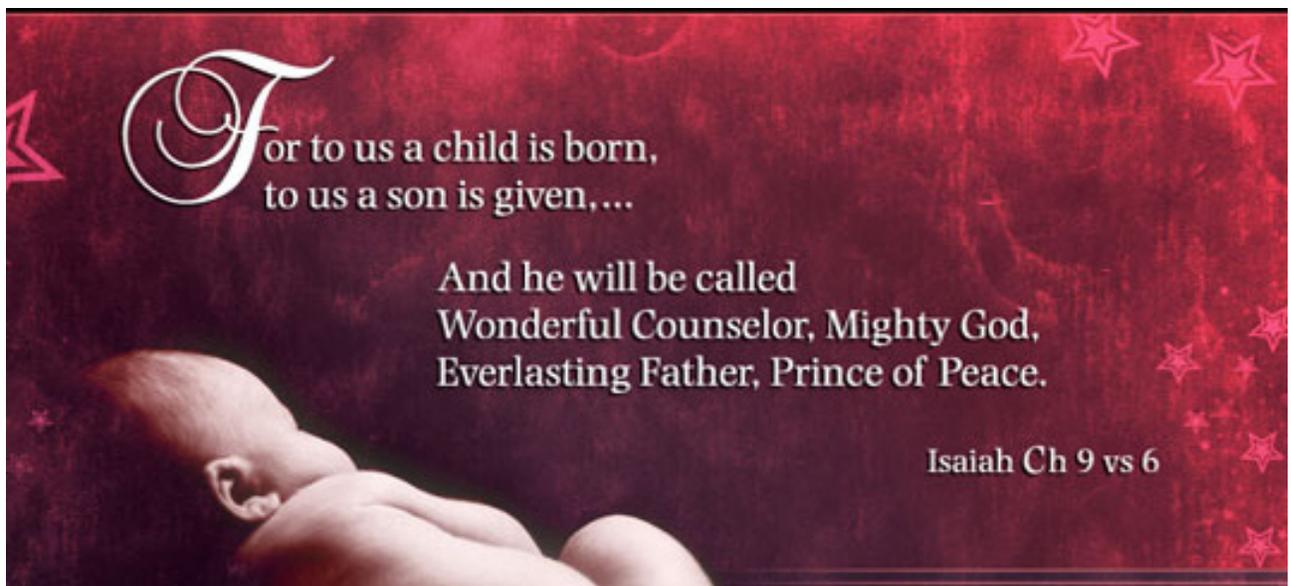
If you can join me, Anita, this week at 2UC. I will be baking in the church kitchen from Monday to Thursday. Or you could bake at home and bring it to the church on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning before 9:30am.

We hope you will consider this request, it is a great way to help raise money to benefit the women and children in need in PR.

Estamos Conversando!

2UC hosts a Spanish conversation group every Thursday at 10am in the conference room. If you are one of the many people who have come to Puerto Rico convinced that learning the language would be a breeze, yet you've found it difficult to gain the proficiency level you'd hoped for, then this is your opportunity. Christie Zoba leads the group, and tries to make the time interesting and enjoyable. We listen to music, discuss current events, work together completing tasks, learn idiomatic expressions and Puerto Rican proverbs, and there's even a little bit of grammar focus. This group is open to all - and certainly not limited to 2UC attendees. And the best part, no cuesta nada!

Te esperamos el jueves!!



Nine boys and Youth Pastor, Ricardo, attended an All-Nighter at 2UC. It was a good bonding time and we got to know each other better. We went to sleep at 6am and were up at 10am in time to get to a movie theater for more fun. Awesome!



Joshua Estremera and his football team attended an award ceremony. At this family activity, the football players and their families and friends gathered to celebrate their winning season.



On Sunday Dec.22, 2014, our Sunday school children will be Celebrating a very special Birthday! Come and listen to them sing during the Children's Message as a gift to our congregation!

Upcoming Youth Activity

Next Friday December 6 at 6pm the youth is having a dinner at our youth pastors house. Please confirm if you are attending

Fellowship Committee

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND BLESSINGS! AS PART OF OUR CHRISTMAS TRADITION AT SECOND UNION CHURCH, THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE SPONSORS AND COORDINATES SEVERAL SPECIAL RECEPTIONS FOR THE SEASON. WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO COME TOGETHER ONCE AGAIN TO MAKE THESE CELEBRATIONS A SUCCESS! PLEASE JOIN US IN JOY, LOVE, PEACE, AND HOPE, TO CELEBRATE JESUS, THE REASON FOR THE SEASON.

DECEMBER 15, 2013—CHRISTMAS CANTATA. RECEPTION TO FOLLOW. PLEASE BRING AN APPETIZER TO SHARE. WE USUALLY HAVE SEVERAL GUESTS VISITING TO HEAR THE CANTATA, SO PLEASE PLAN ACCORDINGLY.

DECEMBER 24, 2013—CANDLELIGHT SERVICE. COOKIE RECEPTION TO FOLLOW. PLEASE BRING CHRISTMAS COOKIES TO SHARE. COFFEE, TEA, AND CIDER TO BE PROVIDED BY THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO MAKE THIS A SPECIAL SEASON FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND COMMUNITY!



SECOND UNION CHURCH

BE CONNECTED
STEWARDSHIP 2014
I am the vine, you are the branches.

JOHN 15:5

So far, we have received 10 pledges for \$34840.00 Please prayerfully consider how much you can pledge this year, fill out the form in the foyer, and drop in the box. Thank you for contributing to the ministry of the gospel at 2UC. Our Goal for 2014 Budget is \$ 200,000.00.



Pastor Ronnie Garcia

Julio Rivera, Outreach Chair, updates the congregation about various Outreach projects such as the delivery of turkeys to needy families for Thanksgiving. Thanks to all who generously have donated to our various ministries.



While Pastor Bob Zoba was in Israel, we were blessed to have Pastor Ronnie Garcia, from Iglesia La Travesia fill the pulpit. Pastor Ronnie delivered a two-part sermon about the story of the Prodigal Father and the two prodigal sons. The sermon is available on the Second Union Church website at www.secondunion.org!

Please accept the enclosed invitation to participate in a service opportunity at Second Union Church.

1 Samuel 12:24: "Only fear the Lord and serve Him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things He has done for you."

Pick an area of interest, and join us in enhancing our worship!. For more Information see Maylie Colon or call Mabel Varela at the Administration office.

John 12:26 Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

INVITING YOU TO MINISTER THROUGH LAY PARTICIPATION

Please complete and place in the offering plate.

Name(s): _____

Contact Number(s): _____

E-Mail: _____

Open to members and friends who know and love the Lord.

Please mark the areas in which you are interested in serving:

Service at 10:00 am:

- Greeter Usher Liturgist Children's Message
- Acolyte Other _____

Special Events: Easter, Christmas, Special Activities

I would like to serve with: _____

Relationship: _____

THOUGHTS ON THANKSGIVING DAY

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. James 1:2-3

'Consider' means think carefully. Question: Is your mind stayed on God or is it starved? Mine was: I did not grow up in a Christian home (actually, it was quite dysfunctional). Therefore, my journey towards the Lord has been a long one; footprints of trials, depression and loneliness. In retrospect, the fact is the Lord has always been patiently "looking over my shoulder". Always.... waiting for me to "knock".

Today, this much I know: Your mind is the greatest gift God has given you, and it ought to be devoted entirely to Him. This will be one of the greatest assets of your faith when time of trials comes because then your faith and the Spirit of God will work together. When you have thoughts and ideas that are worthy of credit to God (Phil. 4:8) and His creation, you will experience the "Bright and Morning Star" filling your heart with joy. Your mind will no longer be at the mercy of your impulsive thinking.

Whenever I allow my mind to stray, the Sword is drawn: "...the Spirit who lives in me [you] is greater than the spirit who lives in the world." (1 John 4:4). And, what about this one: "...we are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed." 1 Cor. 4:8-9. Now, isn't this a powerful way to conquer the enemy? It works for me. Paul says that spiritual affairs cannot be perceived by the natural man... Well, it is easier to share these experiences with you than with my relatives.

I have lived by myself (and pets) after my divorce for a very, very long time. I recall some of those cold, early morning hours (and nights) in New York City when I remained curled up in my warm bed ruminating on some "insurmountable" problem. On and on, obsessing on it, living a drama that might never happen. And never did. Yes, unresolved issues are still wandering around, we all have them; especially with non-Christian family members.

Thanksgiving? The Holidays? Family Gatherings?!!!. They call it SAD (seasonal affective disorder); yes, nowadays we have a diagnosis for each and every "situation". Looking back, that's exactly what I suffered all those years. Today I do not feel I am "missing out", nor do I feel different watching the usual Holiday movies and TV commercials. I am exactly where the Lord wants me to be: truly content and with a newly-found peace within and around me, with a new family in Christ, and for that I am deeply grateful.

Teresita Vera

ACTS OF LOVING KINDNESS AT CHRISTMAS

by Lois Tverberg (www.egrc.net)

Many of us struggle with Christmas. It doesn't really feel right to hunt for yet another expensive toy to give to already spoiled kids (or adults) on our list. Some have decided not to celebrate the holiday at all, because of non-biblical traditions that are a part of it. But God redeemed us gentiles from our pagan roots, and his gracious policy over the ages has been to transform rather than to cast aside. So perhaps instead of throwing out Christmas, we should ask how we can make our celebrations of the coming of our Messiah truly reflective of his love.

How can we bring more glory to Messiah Jesus at this time of year? Jesus' Jewish culture asked a related question from the following verse:

"The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him." Exodus 15:2

Good Works?

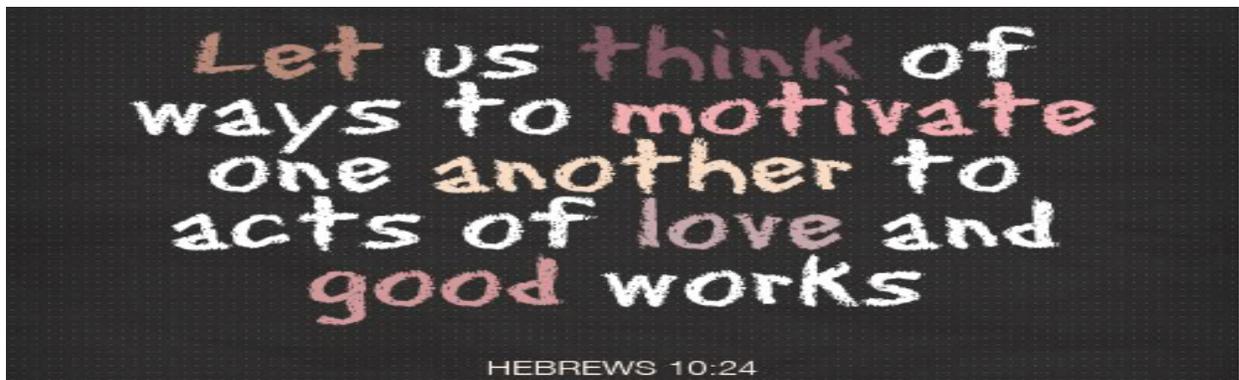
Christians from some traditions may worry about doing "works" - good things for others, thinking that it is a way of denying that we are saved by grace. It is very important to remember that we are redeemed by faith alone, not by our actions. But interestingly, we can learn the correct attitude from Paul's very statement about works:

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Eph. 2:8-10)

Paul says that salvation does not come from earning it through works, but is a free gift from God through faith in the one he has sent. But then the very next thing he says is that doing good works is the very purpose for which we were created! It is not that obeying God is the way we earn his love; rather it is that God, out of love, created us to serve him this way in the first place.

What this means is that for three great reasons God created humanity and allows the world even to keep existing: for humans to discover God's great love through his Word; to worship him and want to serve him because of it, and then to show God's love to those around us. Paul also says that we were created for this purpose - to bring God glory by doing loving acts that he even planned ahead of time. All of this comes back to the first question - how can humans increase God's (and therefore Christ's) glory? By glorifying God by reflecting his love.

In just a week, we will celebrate God's loving act of coming to dwell among his people on earth. He went far beyond the minimum to display his love by healing the sick, feeding the hungry, and showing mercy to the leper and outcast, and finally by dying to save his people from their sins. What better way to celebrate his coming than to spare no expense to obey his commands in the best possible way, in order to show his tremendous love to the world.



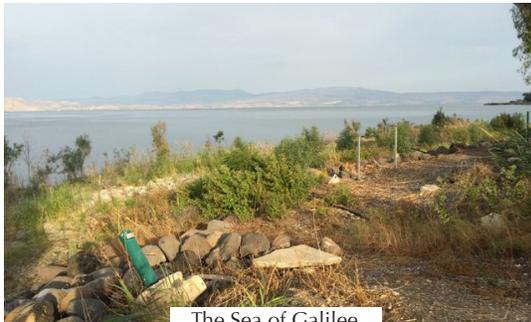
Our visit to Israel was truly amazing. It made the Bible come alive in a way we could never have imagined. This is just a small portion of the places we visited, hopefully enough to give you a desire to visit Israel.



Dennis Gonzalez at the Church of the Nativity

This is where it all began, the birthplace of our Lord and Savior, **Bethlehem**. The church of the Nativity is purported to be the very location where Jesus was born. Pilgrims from every corner of the world flock to this site to touch the sacred stone. Bethlehem is now an Arab town located on the West Bank.

Matthew 2:2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

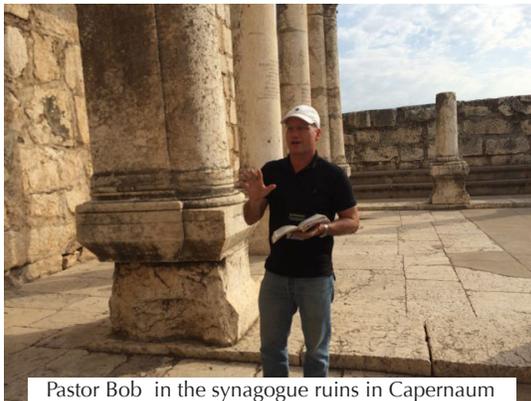


The Sea of Galilee

The majority of Jesus' ministry took place along the shores of the **Sea of Galilee**. It is where He called his disciples, fed the 5,000, preached the sermon on the mount, walked on water, calmed the storm, rebuked the demons, ate with sinners and healed the sick.

Mark 1:16 As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.

Matthew 15:29-31 Jesus left there and went along the Sea of Galilee. Then he went up on a mountainside and sat down. Great crowds came to him, bringing the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute and many others, and laid them at his feet; and he healed them. The people were amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled made well, the lame walking and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel.



Pastor Bob in the synagogue ruins in Capernaum

Capernaum was Jesus' base of operations for much of his ministry:

Mark 1:21 Jesus and his companions now arrived at the town of Capernaum and on Saturday morning went into the Jewish place of worship—the synagogue—where he preached.

Matthew 4:13 Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali— 14 to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah



Evelyn Alberts and Pastor Bob on the banks of the Jordan River

The Jordan River has great significance both in the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Israelites crossed over the Jordan with Joshua, Namaan was cured of leprosy in the Jordan and Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River by John the Baptist.

Joshua 3:17 The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.

Matthew 3:13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John.



The Pool of Siloam

This is the recently excavated **Pool of Siloam** which is fed from the Gihon spring. Located in the City of David in Jerusalem, the pool was used by the Jewish community to purify themselves before entering the Temple. This is where Jesus commanded the blind man wash.

John 9:11 He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see."



Garden of Gethsemane

It was to the **Garden of Gethsemane** on the **Mount of Olives** that Jesus withdrew with his disciples for prayer following the last supper in the Upper Room. It is here Jesus prayed to the Lord prior to his crucifixion and death.

Matt: 26:30 When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Matt 26:36 Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray."



Tabernacle Replica

A **replica of the Tabernacle** which God commanded the Israelites to make after crossing escaping from Egypt.

Exodus 25:8-9 "Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. 9 Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you.

City of Dan, Golan Heights

Dan, the ancient walled city (circa 820 BC) in the northernmost part of Israel, just a mile from the border with Syria. It was here and at Bethel that King Jeroboam of Israel set up altars to worship God.



The Dead Sea

The Dead Sea - also know as the Salt Sea. Moses informed the Israelites of the land that was to be theirs - using the Dead Sea as a boundary.

Deuteronomy 3:17 Its western border was the Jordan in the Arabah, from Kinnereth (Sea of Galilee) to the Sea of the Arabah (that is, the Dead Sea), below the slopes of Pisgah.



Hezekiah's tunnel is an elaborate system of tunnels designed to provide water to the city of Jerusalem during an impending siege by the Assyrians.

2Kings 20:20 As for the other events of Hezekiah's reign, all his achievements and how he made the pool and the tunnel by which he brought water into the city, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah?



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