



Bullies Back Off

In the last Second Thoughts, I penned an epistle encouraging you all to stand up to the bullies of political correctness who practice what I called “coercive tolerance”. My advice to you was if we stand up to the cultural bullies of our time, there is a good chance they will back down. I am happy to report that this is working.



Pastor Bob Zoba

As many of you know, the infamous mayor of Houston pushed through an ordinance that sought, among other things, to insure the rights of transgender people to use the public bathrooms of whichever sexual orientation they were confused about on that particular day. In other words, the ordinance guaranteed the right of a “transgendered” man, who thought he was a woman, to enter into a woman’s public bathroom facility.

Does that sound a bit insane to you? Several pastors in the City of Houston thought so too. Consequently, they supported a referendum to overturn the mayor’s wacko ordinance. The petition drive garnered over 50,000 signatures, thousands more than the 17,269 needed for inclusion on the November ballot. However, the mayor’s representatives refused to abide by the law and validate the petition, claiming that too many signatures were either illegible or were from illegal immigrants. Imagine! Therefore, when the pastor’s sought to protest this act of fascism, they were slapped with another ordinance that subpoenaed not only the pastor’s sermons, but, I quote, “any writings, drawings, graphs, charts, photographs, phonograph records, tape recordings, notes, diaries, calendars, checkbooks, books, papers, accounts, electronic or videotape recordings, and any computer-generated, computer-stored, or electronically-stored matter that constitute or contain matters relevant to the subject matter of this lawsuit.” Is that extreme or what? This sounds like something out of Joseph Stalin’s Soviet Union rather than the United States of America. But it is true. This really happened!

However, these pastor’s did not back down, nor did the Christian believers of Houston. Instead, they stood their ground. They were soon joined by

Sunday Services
10:00 a.m.

Adult Sunday School
9:00am

Sunday School
PK-12
10:30am

Choir Practice
Sundays 12pm
Thursdays 7pm

Weekly Activities

Ladies Bible Study
Tuesdays noon-2pm

Small Group
@ the Rivera’s
Tuesday 7pm

Men’s Breakfast
Wednesday 7am

Women’s Study
Wednesday 7pm

Prayer Service
Thursday 7pm

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Rev. Robert Zoba

Christians nationwide who protested this egregious breach of the First Amendment by contacting their legislative representatives and by sending the mayor hundreds and even thousands of sermons and Bibles to her office. In fact, the mayor was so overwhelmed by the reaction that she quickly rescinded the subpoenas and tried to pretend that her intention was not to limit the religious freedom of Christians. But we should not be fooled. I firmly believe that his sort of State persecution of the Church is simply a prelude of worse things to come as coercive tolerance continues to ratchet up in our public schools, public squares, and mass media. Instead of "freedom of religion" our nation seems to be embraced the militant atheists call for "freedom from religion". Therefore, it is up to us Christians to protect our freedoms by defending the guarantees enshrined in the First Amendment of the Constitution. Otherwise, we will suffer that fate so famously described by Martin Niemoller in his struggle against the Nazis. He once said:

*First they came for the Communists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Communist
Then they came for the Socialists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Socialist
Then they came for the trade unionists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a trade unionist
Then they came for the Jews
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Jew
Then they came for me
And there was no one left
To speak out for me.*

Let us continue to fight the good fight to the end. He who is within us is greater than he who is in the world.

Pastor Bob



**Women's Ministries of Second
Union Church invites you to the**

Prince of Peace Christmas Bazaar

**Saturday, December 6
10am - 3pm**

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

No charge for admission

**Proceeds support charitable organizations
helping women and children in Puerto Rico**

We need you!

With just a few weeks to go, we are asking for your support to make this Bazaar an activity that honors God and brings hope to the outreach sites that are funded through Women's Ministries at Second Union Church. First and foremost, we need to get the word out - and you are our best advertisers! Please help us by posting the Bazaar Brochure on your Facebook and other social media pages! Visit the Second Union Church facebook page! Also, we are printing up flyers to be distributed in the community, and we encourage you to take a few and place them in businesses you frequent (beauty salons, pharmacies, doctors' offices, etc).

We are also still collecting Raffle and Tombola prizes. Raffle prizes can include anything such as a hotel stay, restaurant voucher, gift certificate, cell phone, tablet, game console, bicycle. Please contact Susanne Myles or Christie Zoba if your company might consider participating. The tombola corner is one of the most popular areas of the Bazaar for our younger customers! Your children or grandchildren may find a Christmas present for you there! Tombola gifts include health and beauty care products, toys, gifts, etc. This is a perfect opportunity to contribute some gifts that you would like to 're-gift'!

But most important, we need you to come, bring your friends, shop and enjoy a wonderful day at the church. We promise that it will get you in the true Christmas spirit as we celebrate our Prince of Peace!

Second Union Church



David Banderman writes: Val and I will be seeing Dave Ramsey and his daughter Rachel Cruz live for the Legacy Journey event on November 20.

Colleen Comer is working with the Sandra Bullock movie being produced here in PR?

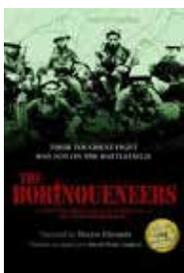
Pito Droz writes: Daughter, Sofia came to visit in Oct and is also spending Christmas and New Years with us. Sebastian's XC team (Stratford HS) finished 1st in Texas State Championship. He's improving by the day!



Dennis & Amarilis Gonzalez just got back from a trip to Sedona, and the Grand Canyon and Surprise AZ. Amarilis took her woman's team to the USTA Nationals and was just an injury or supertiebreaker away from advancing to the semifinals after wining the first two rounds 3-0, 3-0. This time Dennis was the official driver, baggage handler, cheerleader...we all had fun. They made a side trip the Grand Canyon and to Sedona which included a thrilling hot air balloon ride!



Cherish Lexvold reports that married life is great and she is enjoying her teaching!!



David Roman helped underwrite the documentary entitled, The Borinqueneers. the first major documentary to chronicle the never-before-told story of the Puerto Rican 65th Infantry Regiment, the only all-Hispanic unit in the history of the U.S. Army.

Brenda Ferrer will travel to Atlanta to spend the Thanksgiving holiday with her daughter Jameelah and son-in-law, Duane, and other family.

Eduardo & Betsy McCormack are back from their honeymoon and are happily married. They traveled to the Niagara Falls, Quebec and Toronto where they spent time with Gus and Rhonda Scaiano! PTL!



New and exciting things happening with the Defendini family. Daniel is currently starting his own engineering company while still working at AAA. He is also studying for the PE exam. Prayers are welcomed ;) Lisa has been very busy and involved doing charity work and community service. She is now the 1st Vice President of the Wives Club of Colegio de Ingenieros y Agrimensores, 1st Vice President of American Mothers Inc, chapter of San Juan and sub-secretary of Union de Mujeres de las Americas. Daniela just turned four and is thriving at preschool. Sophia is doing great as well, almost ready to walk and turning one on November 21!

David and Laurie Yost traveled to Phoenix for David's mom's 80th birthday, then on to their hometown of Pinetop, Arizona, and finally on to see their daughter, Emily in Napa Valley. Emily, who graduated in June and has been working in a restaurant management training program in Napa (at R&D Kitchen and Rutherford Grill) is now managing a restaurant for the Hillstone Group in Denver! David Yost was pressed into service to hunt down Ebola viruses in hospitals in the US? (Also, good news: the Yost's time here has been extended another month and a half-yip-pee!!!)



Marlene Williams went on a tour of the Holy Lands with her daughter? (Gil held down the fort in Philadelphia.)



Speaking of Philadelphia, Mayra Chipi is ecstatic that her Eagles are doing so well! And Pastor Bob and Jared Adams are happy that the Browns are in first place.

The Burgess's are hosting a euchre nite soon. If you would like to join us, see Claude or Jane or Pastor Bob?

Christopher & Mike Strong have been ministering to Lesby Gil...as are John & Evelyn Alberts and Gladys Ebube...thx everyone!

Gustavo Gonzalez has been doing a fantastic series on the 10 Commandments for the Children's Sermon?

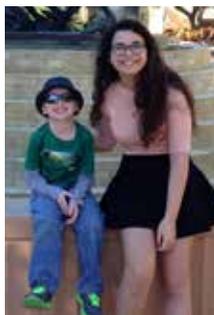
George & Joan McMurray recently returned from a swing through northern Florida and Georgia.

Janette Quiles had a great time in southern California with family and friends.

Carlos Rivera is leading out Cantata Choir again this year. It's not too late to join as we will be joined by two other choirs, swelling our numbers to 40 or so.



Cadiz Rodriguez is studying hard, making friends, and adjusting well to college life at South-eastern University in Lakeland, Florida. She recently had a surprise visit from the Gonzalez family!



After visiting Cadiz, Jan, Dalia and Janokivic had an adventure-filled day at Legoland!

Joe Deliz, Nicole's dad, is the author of the famous book, "How to Speak Puerto Rican?". This is a rare, out-of-print book that goes for \$300-400 on eBay.



Mauricio & Bernice Solano are expecting a baby and Mauricio just received a promotion and they will be moving to Jacksonville :-(- Congrats!!!

Jesse Sargent is adjusting well in Tampa and is involved in the Mariner's ministry there.

The Woodruffs will be celebrating Thanksgiving in Vermont.



Susan and Hector Pages are grandparents! Their son, Hecti and daughter-in-law Nicole welcomed baby Hector Cruz Pagés to the world on October 31st! Congrats to Hecti, Nicole and their very proud grandparents!

Bill Heffley writes: I really enjoyed being with family staying at a resort in Eagle River in North Wisconsin not far from the Michigan U.P. We were there a week and at another resort in Norway, IL (1st Illinois Norwegian settlement) for a week. Enjoyed the indoor pools, hiking in canyons and woods along rivers and sight seeing. The fall colors were fantastic. I also enjoyed two weeks at my sister's right in downtown St. Paul along the skyway (buildings connected by means of sky walks). We drove Northwest to Grand Forks, North Dakota to attend their granddaughter's "gender identification" party. The Mom-to-be did not even know the sex of her baby. News was hidden in the color of the cake under the thick coated-icing. Cake was pink. It is a baby girl! My home base is Northwest Indiana in Chesterton. Yes, it can get a bit cold here. Thankful for indoor heat, hot drinks, family, friends, and warm clothes. I get around quite a bit on a bicycle using a backpack. The trails though the wetlands are enjoyable. email at: BillHeffley1@google.com

Livia Román is in New York for the Holidays and will be arriving in Puerto Rico on January 12, 2015 (God willing). She writes: I have missed all of you in Second Union Church. You are my second home and look forward to seeing all of you in the new year. Have a great holiday. Warmest regards!

Omar writes, the Haedos send their love to our 2UC family. We're busy with kids, new business ventures and being actively at work for the Kingdom.

Omar Andres - who many of you saw as a child - is a young adult and leads small group at home. He recently led several of his friends to an encounter with Jesus and then proceeded to baptize them in our pool! He will make mistakes - as we all do - but he's got the fire of the Spirit going and Liza and I are proud he's put Jesus at the center of it all. Ignacio is a WONDERFUL 14 year old - kind and loving! This is Omar Andres and Ignacio in Chichen Itza this summer!



Paloma and Jose Aymat write: We have been in good health and having lot's of fun. Our weekends are spent discovering our new home town of Homestead, the near by places we love like Key Largo and ofcourse serving the Lord in any way we can. We, along with my mother, Aida and brother-in-law, Carlos are attending a great church out here led by Pastor Travis Johnson , his wife Kelly, their kids and even his parents. Jose and I have just joined the hospitality committee and are meeting the people at LPC (Life Pointe Church) Raulito has grown up way to fast, he is now an avid swimmer, since he is taking lessons, and loves to go to the park with Jose every day. He is one amazing little guy and is a great worshipper! He goes to service with us, sings all the songs and once in a while shouts a big AMEN. I have to say it fills our hearts to hear him and see him growing up with so much live for Jesus. Jose is at home with Raulito in charge of homeschool and getting ready for next year. I am working in a company here called CE North America. I have been here for 4 months and on October 31st got offered a promotion so I am one happy camper.



So we are doing just great and missing everyone in 2UC a lot. Specially and most of all our great fellowship amd awesome potlucks! We send

Birthdays!!

Conchi Gonzalez celebrated her 60th birthday! Her daughters really did an outstanding job honoring their mom with "La Boheme Conchi". Happy, happy birthday, Conchi!

Elisa Perez (AKA Cuqui) turned 6 on 11/13/14. Congratulations Cuqui!



Madelyn Vega helped celebrate her son, Xavi's, birthday with a cake during coffee fellowship time after church! Happy Birthday!

Holiday Outreach

What better time of the year to show your generosity and Christ's love to others. The Outreach Committee has two ways you can help others.

Operation: Christmas Child

Pick up a shoebox at church and fill it with small toys and other items that will bring joy to a needy child this Christmas season. Don't forget to include \$7 to cover the cost of shipping.



Buckets of Love

This Thanksgiving, help to provide a Turkey dinner to area families. Visit the table in the narthex or contact Don Julio!



You may have heard of Pinero Ave, but did you know that locally it is known as "La Central" or "The Central" in English. This is because, before it was named after Jesus Pinero who was the first native born Governor of P.R., it was called La Central because it runs from Carolina to Guaynabo and was a central avenue of transportation. In local nomenclature it remains so today.

Have you ever heard of "El Ultimo Trolley"? The beach and recreational area between Union Church and Ocean Park is not called Ocean Park or Punta Las Marias beach. The locals call it "El ultimo trolley" (or "The last trolley" in English), because many years ago a trolley car ran from the Old San Juan to "the last trolley stop, now known as El ultimo trolley.

If you ever go to Carolina be sure to ask for "La Esquina Caliente" or "The hot corner" in English. Officially named Pontezuela and Galicia Streets. The corner where they meet is locally known as "La Esquina Caliente". Why? Because back in the 1960's Country Club and Vistamar were the first Urbanizations built in Carolina. At first the area lacked a supermarket for a number of years. However a local entrepreneur opened a grocery store on the corner of Pontizuela and Galicia Streets. Soon neighborhood men were drinking beer and standing in front of the grocery store day and night. Mother's would warn their children " Watch out for the hot corner" Today the grocery store is gone, but the name remains.

-Brother Joe



Christ has no Hands ... but Yours

There is a story that during the Second World War, Allied troops entered the church in a village that had been severely bombed. There they found a statue of Christ, intact except that the hands were missing. Someone hung a sign on the statue that said, "Christ has no hands but yours."

Christ's Hands Ministry of Second Union Church was formed just over a year ago to do what we can to fulfill the role of being Christ's hands to a needing world. Our primary activity has been providing home-cooked meals to church members and others who are not able to prepare meals on their own. We have been successful in this effort due to the giving hearts and hands of many people who have prepared and distributed these meals.

Christ's Hands Ministry has done more. We have visited a children's home and shelter to provide entertainment and to give clothing, supplies, and food. We have also visited a home for Seniors, some of whom have no family, to play bingo, but mostly to share a few moments of companionship.

We can do so much to be Christ's hands in our community. You probably have some ideas how to do that. Won't you consider joining this effort? Please see Evelyn Alberts and talk with her about how your hands can help. Thank you.

Wednesday Evening Ladies' Bible Study

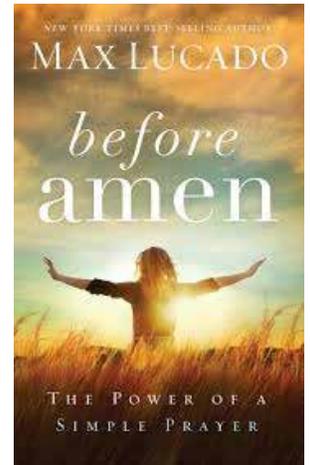
"We all pray...some. We pray to stay sober, centered, or solvent. When the lump is deemed

malignant. When the money runs out. When the marriage is falling apart. But wouldn't we like to pray...more? Better? Stronger? With more fire, faith and fervency?"

Max Lucado's new book, *Before Amen* is the Women's Ministry Wednesday evenings next bible study. Join us as we

Experience a heart connection with God at 7pm beginning November 19.

For more information, contact Anita Rodriguez.



October's Come With Me Workshop

"Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest," was Jesus' invitation to the road-weary disciples just back from touring the country side preaching, teaching, and performing miracles. As the crowd surged around them with their constant barrage of need, Jesus prescribed the best remedy for the soul-worn and foot-sore that still beckons us today.

The "Come With Me mini retreat" is designed to give your soul the rest it craves, providing structure and accountability, permission even, to take time alone with God in the midst of the demands of day to day living. In October Women's Ministry hosted two sessions for the women of 2UC to come away with Jesus to a quiet place and find the rest they so needed in His word.

Watch the church calendar for the next one in 2015.



Spanish Conversation Group

So you moved to Puerto Rico and you assumed you'd pick up Spanish in a few weeks, right? And then you realized it isn't as easy as you thought! Maybe you've taken a few lessons, done a few practice pages in a workbook, and you feel like you are really getting it . . . but when someone speaks to you as you wait in line at the grocery store, and you don't understand a single word they are saying!

Well the age old adage "practice makes perfect" couldn't be more true. But really, who can you practice with?

We have the answer for you - join our Spanish conversation group - we meet on Tuesday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10am to 11:30am. We have some guided tasks which combine vocabulary and grammar, we listen to music, watch video clips and sometimes we even cook! All in Spanish!

Don't be Afraid of the Fear of God

Last Saturday I took the youth group to the movies to see "The Remaining". It was rated as PG-13, and produced by Affirm Films. This is the company that produced movies like "Courageous", "Fireproof" and "Mom's Night Out": movies known for being the Christian-friendly, heartwarming, tearjerkers type. So, even though the movie was classified as a horror movie, how frightening can it be? Right?

Well, it was more intense than we expected. Even the bravest of the bunch ended up jumping on his seat more than once. And I'm sure we weren't the only ones caught off guard by this movie's fear factor. A lady that was seated behind me told her companion, and I quote: "I think it would have been better to go see the Dracula movie, I wouldn't have been so afraid". Poor thing! All in all it is a good movie: good acting, good story, very good quality and special effects. Of course it moves away from the Biblical narrative quite a bit, but it delivers the point.

And that is precisely what I want to bring up. The movie is about what happens after the rapture, and it follows a group of friends trying to survive the calamities brought by God with the sound of the seven trumpets. Quite honestly it is refreshing that a movie like this was made. You know, that looks at the other side of the coin. That deals with the holy judgment of God for those who rejects Christ; instead of overemphasizing the mercy and love of God. Don't get me wrong those elements are there as well (it is a shame that it wasn't more successful). Plus, it has been the best conversation starter that I've had in a long time. Right when the movie ended one of the teens, said "I'm glad that's over, luckily is not real", followed by the answer of one of the young adults "well it is real, actually it's going to be worse than that". Could you imagine the look on that dude's face! I was outside when this happened so I missed it, bummer. The thing is that this teen was invited by one of 2UC youth and he is not a Christian, and this movie opened up the opportunity to share the Gospel with him, like, immediately. Then we sat down at Taco Bell for a while and the impressions about the movie kept rolling. But the teens were not done yet, next day on the Sunday school every point of teaching was taken back to something about the movie! As you can imagine they were concerned about being part of the "remaining".

In these situations, teachers and parents have to be really careful of not giving a false assurance to our kids, but instead guide them in a healthy fear of God. After all, one of the things God tells us in his word is that the fear of him keeps us away from sin (Exodus 20:20). What better accomplishment for a human being than to sin less? I'm not one to shy away from this kind of teaching but I'm aware that many in the Body are. Let me invite you to consider in your heart why. Is it because you have study the matter in scriptures or is it because the culture's opinion? Is it because of your experience with Jesus or is it because your experience fearing another human? Others would say that what is meant by "fear" is a reverence or respect to God, but I'm not sure that's the case. For example if we take the next verse:

And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Matthew 10:28

If you exchange fear in this passage with respect or reverence it doesn't make sense.

So here is a thought, don't be afraid of the fear of God and instead of trying to lighten the weight of this teaching, pray to God to show you his Glory, Majesty, Justice, and Holiness, so you can grasp the true meaning of what is to fear our everlasting God. If you're still hesitating, read about the apostle John, the beloved disciple, friend of our Lord, part of his inner circle and a faithful servant until the end of his days (see Revelations 1:17). On second thought, instead of letting a movie show this to our kids, find a way to teach it to your children in a way that you're comfortable, but without compromising the truth. After all, only good things come out of this (Proverbs 8:13; 9:10; 14:26; 14:27; 16:6; Ecclesiastes 12:13; Luke 1:50; 1 Peter 2:17; and a long etc.).

Gustavo
2UC Youth leader

THE FORGOTTEN CHAPTER

Jesus' genealogy in Matthew 1 has been called "the forgotten chapter of the Christmas story." Have you ever attended a Christmas Eve candlelight service or Christmas service in which the pastor preached on Jesus' genealogy? I didn't think so. I can bet pastor Zoba won't have many attendees at the candlelight service should he choose to preach on Messiah's bloodline.

Most of what we know about the nativity is recorded in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. We love the Christmas story, as told in Luke 2:1-18, and its main characters: Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus lying in a manger with farm animals in attendance, heralding angels, lowly shepherds, and later, in Matthew, the Magi bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, and even wicked king Herod and the holy family's flight to Egypt. These verses in Scripture are packed with action, danger, mystique, and intrigue, and are widely read at Christmas, yet we don't know what to do or how to make sense of the first seventeen verses of Matthew 1. Reading through this list of names in Messiah's genealogy is about as exciting as reading through the phone book. Let's be honest. Unless we're in a program to read through the entire Bible in one year, we'll skip over the long list of unpronounceable names in order to go straight to the heart of the Christmas story we love so much and are so familiar with.

To the Jews of Jesus' day, Matthew's audience, it made perfect sense to begin the Christmas story with Messiah's genealogy. In fact, to start in any other way would have been unheard of. Jews loved genealogies and used genealogical records for various reasons. In ancient Israel, these records were consulted whenever land was bought or sold to ensure ancient tribal boundaries were being preserved. They were also crucial in determining the priesthood since all priests were to descend from the tribe of Levi according to the Mosaic Law. Genealogies also helped to determine the line of heirship to the throne. Are you getting the idea of how important genealogies were?

I'm sure you're wondering what all this has to do with the Christmas story. Plenty, I assure you. Emperor Caesar Augustus, first emperor of Rome, issued a decree that a census of the entire Roman world had to be taken, for tax purposes of course, and that everyone had to go to his hometown to register. How did Joseph and Mary, living in Nazareth at the time of the decree, know where they had to go to register? Simple. Bethlehem was Joseph's ancestral hometown, and he knew this from having studied his genealogy. So in the last month of Mary's pregnancy, Joseph and Mary began the long and dangerous journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem to comply with the decree issued by Caesar Augustus, thus the setting of the Christmas story. Unbeknown to him, Caesar Augustus fulfilled the Biblical prophecy made by the prophet Micah 700 years before Messiah's birth: "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times" (Micah 5:2). Wow. Amazing, isn't it?

After 400 years of silence, Matthew opens the New Testament with the following verse: "This is a record of the ancestors of Jesus the Messiah, a descendant of king David and of Abraham." In one brief sentence, Matthew provides his readers with a wealth of information concerning Jesus: the long awaited Messiah had come into the world, the fulfillment of 2000 years of God's promises; He was a direct descendant of king David; and in His birth was fulfilled God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:2-3. Jesus is both the promised King and the One who will bless the whole world. In Christ, all of God's promises of the Old Testament are fulfilled. And you thought genealogies were boring.

As we move into the next 16 verses, we begin reading the list of names of Jesus' ancestors. Some names on the list we are familiar with; Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, David, and Solomon, then there are others we have no clue as to who they are; Hezron, Abiud, Azar, and Zadok. Ever heard of any of these guys? Me neither. As you study the names of Jesus' ancestors, you will find that His genealogy reads like a list of people with serious moral failures and heavy character flaws. It seems as if these are the necessary requirements to make the cut.

Abraham was an occasional liar who lied about his wife Sarah passing her off as his sister in order to save his own skin, yet he became the father of many nations. Jacob, whose very name means "he deceives," was a cheater, schemer, swindler, liar, and manipulator who stole his brother Esau's birth right through trickery and a bowl of lentil stew, yet he became the father of the twelve tribes of Israel. Judah, Jacob's fourth son, was a fornicator. Remember his sexual encounter with his daughter-in-law Tamar? Now Judah was chosen by God to establish the tribe from which Jesus, the Lion of Judah, would descend. King David, a man after God's own heart, was an adulterer and a murderer, yet God made an unconditional covenant with him known as the Davidic Covenant in which He promised David and Israel that the Messiah would come from the lineage of David and the tribe of Judah, and He would establish a kingdom that would endure forever. Messiah would be heir to the throne of His father David. Solomon, David's son, was a polygamist, and that's putting it mildly. He had 700 wives and 300 concubines (1 Kings 11:1-3). He was a very busy man to say the least. I know the men reading this must think Solomon was a lucky guy to have all those women. Right? Wrong. Toward the end of his life, Solomon became an idolater. In his old age, he turned away from worshipping the one true God to worship the gods of his foreign wives, yet God blessed Solomon with immeasurable wealth and wisdom to govern unlike any other king in the annals of history.

We've looked into the lives of the women in Jesus' genealogy in detail, but briefly now. Tamar was immoral, committed adultery, and feigned prostitution in order to conceive an heir, Perez, who is found in Messiah's lineage. Rahab practiced harlotry, deception, lying, and was a Canaanite. She became the mother of Boaz, king David's great grandfather. Ruth was a Gentile from Moab, a nation born out of incest, incredibly wicked, and Israel's perennial enemy, yet she married Boaz, the son of Rahab the prostitute, and became king David's great grandmother. Bathsheba was an adulteress, an accessory to murder, and the mother of king Solomon and Nathan, both found in Messiah's lineage. Even the kings in Messiah's royal lineage were scoundrels, with a few exceptions here and there, who were terribly wicked with Manasseh receiving the award for being Israel's most evil king.

So why did God include these scoundrels, these men and women of ill repute in Messiah's lineage? So that His mercy and grace could shine through even the vilest and darkest of human sins. By including sinful men and women, God showed the world the reason He sent His only begotten Son into the world 2000 years ago. Jesus is mankind's only hope. He is God's only plan of salvation for a fallen world "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). As we prepare our hearts during this advent season to welcome the Christ Child into our hearts, go back to "the forgotten chapter of the Christmas story" in Matthew 1 and read from beginning to end. Stand in reverent awe of Him who chooses the worst of sinners to accomplish His purposes. Are there any murderers, literal or spiritual, adulterers, cheaters, thieves, liars, idolaters, manipulators, prostitutes, or hypocrites reading Jesus' genealogy? Do you find yourself identifying with any of Jesus' ancestors? I do. The good news is that no matter what you've done in the past or where you are right now, Jesus can save you and transform your life for His honor and glory. He doesn't choose "servants who are solid rocks with no cracks or crevices." Remember the smooth stones are the ones whose ragged edges have been smoothed out by the hands of a loving God. No, God is looking for sinners like you and me with all our weaknesses and failures, moral flaws and imperfections, too, "...who need to be forgiven repeatedly." We fit the bill exactly. We fulfill the requirements to make the cut. There is one requirement though. We must accept the Gift given over 2000 years ago on a quiet, seemingly insignificant starry night in Bethlehem, a babe wrapped in swaddling cloth and lying in a manger. The Gift has been given to the world. The Gift has been given to you and me. Come, let us prepare Him room in our hearts.

Come Lord Jesus into our hearts today.

Amen

Submitted by Mayra Chipi

On Saturday, November 15, Second Union Church was the venue for a wonderful concert featuring the most beloved Puerto Rican composer, Rafael Hernandez. The choirs did an excellent job interpreting Hernandez' songs. A special surprise visitor, Chali Hernandez along with his wife Lucy, arrived to hear the beautiful music. Chali is Rafael Hernandez' son and the director of the Rafael Hernandez Foundation and curator of the music legend's museum at the Interamerican University campus near the church.

The concert featured the Orfeón Choir, the Orfeón Children's Choir as well as two soloists and a quartet. It certainly was a night to remember!



Emmaus Community Corner

faith **hope**

⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Acts 2:42 (NKJV)



Sonlights In P.R., would like to introduce our Emmaus Community Prayer Circle Project.

We would like to have an intense prayer with our Community.

We are called to serve and for that reason we would like to schedule a visit for those who have a need of prayer. This prayer service includes worship songs, and share the gospel.

We are providing this prayer service as part of our Sonlights in PR-Emmaus Community Outreach.

If you are interested, just reply this message or send a message to ouremausgathering@gmail.com with your name, phone number, Walk Number, and best time to contact you.

We will gladly coordinate with you the arrangements to meet and pray.

LOVE **believe**

We are called to serve and spread the Good News.

JOIN US
Saturday
DECEMBER
13TH, 2014





Sonlights in PR-Walk to Emmaus cordially invites you to our Christmas Gathering

Date: Saturday, December 13th, 2014*
Time: 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Location: Balneario Punta Salinas, PR-165, Levittown, Toa Baja
*** Please bring a dish to share**



May Your Heart Overflow with Jesus Love
Merry Christmas!

"WHERE TWO OR MORE ARE GATHERED IN MY NAME, I AM THERE AMONG THEM" MATTHEW 18:20

Small Group Study Opportunities

<u>Time</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Description & Subject</u>	<u>Place</u>
9:00 am	Sundays	Adult Bible Study	Bazaar Room at 2UC
noon-2pm	Tuesdays	Women's Bible Study: Gideon	Fellowship Hall at 2UC
7pm	Tuesdays	Adult Bible Study: Genesis	Rivera's home in San Francisco
7am	Wednesdays	Men's Breakfast	Fellowship Hall at 2UC
7pm	Wednesdays	Women's Bible Study	Anita Rodriguez' home Rio Piedras Hts.
7pm	Thursdays	Adult Prayer Meeting	2UC Conference Room

Christmas Cantata Practices

It's not too late to join the Second Union Church Christmas Cantata - one of the highlights of our holiday season. We need sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses! If you aren't sure which one you are - just come to our rehearsals and our wonderful and patient choir director, Carlos Rivera, will let you know!

The "Canticle of Christmas" is the title of this year's Cantata, and it is a beautiful and moving collection of Christmas music.

Rehearsals are held each Sunday after the worship service. You can also practice on your own by following along with mp3 recordings for each choral part! For more information see Maylie Colón or a member of the choir!



2014-2015 Second Union Church Council & Staff

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Rev. Robert Zoba

President
David Román

Vice President
Julio Rodriguez

Treasurer
Stan Pinkerton

Secretary
Ari Tester

Worship
Maylie Colón

Outreach
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Luis Manuel Tirado

Youth Leader
Gustavo Gonzalez

Newsletter & Website Editor
Christie Zoba

The Backpack Program continues going strong as we now have 32 participating students from the Juanillo Fuentes Elementary School in the Canta Gallo sector of Guaynabo.

During the month of October, we began a new program of after-school tutoring for these students. We are grateful to Loraine Colón for her amazing vision and organization. Thanks to all who have helped with the tutoring: Laurie Yost, Andrew Wilcox, Brenda Ferrer, John Doncel, Lynn McCarley, Rose de Jesus and Yoly and Carlos (Caco)! It is our hope that through this program and through the provision of backpacks filled with food every single week, these students will come to know and love Jesus.



We always need donations of food for the backpack program as well as help with the pick-up of food from the Banco de Alimentos. We still need prayer pals for Sherlyn, Ramses, Giavylis, Lydianise, and Jorge. If you choose to be a prayer pal, we ask you to pray throughout the year for these students and send them a gift and a card on their birthday!



If you would like to help out in any way, please see Christie Zoba or call her at 787-717-4001.



www.fromtheheartart.com



In October, Second Union Church welcomed a new group of members including (from right to left): Nicole Deliz, Coralie, James and Noah Martinez, Marlene and Gil Williams, and Kris and Tim Adams! Welcome to the family!



Merry Christmas!

*Thanks be to
God for His
indefinable gift.*

2 Corinthians 9:15

