



## 2nd Thoughts

JULY-AUGUST  
2014

### Take Every Thought Captive

In a recent sermon, I mentioned a study that was done of a large group of Americans who were asked to monitor and record all of the input they received in the course of the day for a period of 18 months. For example, if the person woke up and watched The Today Show, they would record what messages they received from the program. At the end of the study, all the information was compiled and it was determined that almost 90% of the input that people received from the media is of a negative nature. That's a rather shocking find. And to be honest, I am more than a little skeptical about the accuracy of the study. However, it is certainly true that much of the information that we ingest is of a decidedly negative or cynical nature. As they say in the newspaper business, "if it bleeds, it leads." And I realize that, sadly, most people are more interested in bad news rather than good news.



**Pastor Bob Zoba**

Consequently, I have made a new resolutions to more conscientiously filter the information that I am "putting into" my brain. Of course, we cannot simply cut ourselves off from all the bad news in this world and still be responsible citizens. Stuff happens. However, there are a lot of choices that we can make throughout our day regarding what we feed on. For example, commuting time can be used to listen to a sermon podcast or a homily on WBMJ. Likewise, we can make Christian music the background music of our life rather than the Pop 50 playlist. Or what about what we read? Can we mix our regular news with the Good News? (Karl Barth once said we should read the newspaper in one hand with the Bible in the other.) I know by experience that the more positive input I receive, the more positive love and action I exude.

In 2 Corinthians. 10:5, the Apostle Paul writes, "We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ." (ESV) "Taking every thought captive"

**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

is an aggressive metaphor. In other words, instead of passively allowing the messages of our world to simply waft through out memory banks, we are instead to be like a watchman at the gate, inspecting, analyzing and filtering all the messages that come into our hearts and minds. If we do so, we will have a better attitude toward life. So too, what comes from our mouths will bless people and build them up rather than stress them and bring them down. Indeed, out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. What's in abundance in your heart? The positive truths of God's love or the negative energy of our cynical, hopeless, sin-sick world.

As they old saying goes, "the proof is in the pudding". So, I challenge you to put this mental practice to a test. If you do, let me know what ends up flowing out of your heart and into your life.

Blessings!

*Pastor Bob*

## Men's Ministry Seminar: Home Security

**"A ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure"**

On Wednesday night July 2nd, 2UC was host to a seminar given by Lt. Pablo Santiago on the Guaynabo Municipal Police Force. The subject of this seminar was "Preventing home invasion"

The first part of this seminar had to do with firearms and tasers. Bill Stowell was volunteered to be tasered but his participation was not necessary. Besides the pros and cons and responsibilities of arming ourselves, it was recommended that we establish a safe area in our homes, where we can safely wait for the police to arrive. To this end various types of door guards were recommended. A safe area can be established economically and quickly. Everyone who attended learned something which can be put to good use. Attendees were from both Union Churches as well as Christian Community church.

This was to be the first in a series of seminars sponsored by the Men's Ministry.

### 2014-2015 Second Union Church Council & Staff

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## Small Group Study Opportunities

<u>Time</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Description &amp; 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

## Ministry Spotlight: Heart 2 Heart



Monday evenings at Plaza Ballajá

The Heart 2 Heart ministry team provides 60-100 meals for the homeless in Old San Juan on every third and fifth Monday - rain or shine!

We are grateful to the many faithful servants who are involved in this part of our Outreach program. Each month we prepare meals for between 60 and 100 people at the little plaza opposite the Plaza Ballajá in Old San Juan.

We have a willing team of women who meet on Monday afternoons to prepare a healthy and 'home-cooked' meal. Thanks to Irma Lallave, Rosa Trinidad, Evelyn Alberts, Yoly Cruz, Chinye

Mordi, Rose de Jesus, and Edda Sustache who are regularly there to make sure a tasty meal is ready to go.

The second wave of volunteers is our transportation and set-up team: Mike Lallave, Carlos Sepulveda, Julio Rivera, Chris Strong, Mike Strong, John Alberts, Freddy Becker, Rob Grosek and others.

Many come to help serve, and we are grateful for their willingness - some come every week, and others come whenever they can. Some serve, some talk to the homeless men and women and some even sing songs! Usually within 45 minutes we are cleaning up and on our way home.



Sasha, Naila and Dylan serving dessert

Can you think of a better way to spend a Monday evening?

Join us, won't you?



Rosa and Evelyn preparing the meal



Chris, Tim, Bill, Freddy, Janette, Carlos, Gustavo, Chuks

... that both of **Evelyn and John Albert's** daughters, Sara and Nadine, were promoted on their jobs the same day? Sarah is now Assistant Director of the Algonquin Public Library. Nadine is Area Manager for a Baltimore based marketing company. After congratulating them, John called sons Jeff and William and told them they better step up their game.

**Dennis Gonzalez** reports that his tennis team was a finalist in the USTA Nationals where they lost to a very good Southern California team. **Amarilis'** team played very well but could not advance to the semi-finals. Dennis also raced at the Indianapolis motor speedway just 2 weeks after the Indianapolis 500. It



was a very exciting experience racing on the oval 2.5 mile banked track. He has two more races in August and September and in between he will sandwich the US Open Tennis Championships in NYC at the beginning of September. He has been an ardent fan of the World Cup and now that it is finishing, he will shift gears and follow the Tour De France! And . . . on a recent trip they

met boxing legends Tito Trinidad and Wilfredo Gomez! Maybe Dennis' next passion will be "Seniors" boxing??!!

**Madelyn Vega** writes: I recently suffered a very challenging health situation yet I can only say thanks to the Lord for He saved my life on June 20, granted me excellent medical care, and I was blessed with true support and love from my family, my friends and my Church family especially, Lisa and Antonio and Pastor Bob and Christie. Xavi, Raymond, and I are more united than ever and God has given me the opportunity to celebrate my 20th wedding anniversary on July 10! I'm saved, protected and loved!



**Bernice & Mauricio Solano** are expecting a new addition to their family!?!

**Rashel Krankovich** has a new job in Columbus, Ohio and has new digs. She writes, "My first house guests were Becky and Christopher O'Meara last week! It was great to catch up with them!"

**Eze Ebubse** writes: BEING THANKFUL TO THE LORD FOR HIS BLESSINGS.

We are feeling blessed and thankful to the Lord for our daughter's, **Nkechi**, successful completion of her undergraduate studies in Anthropology and Business at Cornell University.



We are also thankful for **Edwin's** basketball talent. He has represented Puerto Rico playing with the Junior National Basketball Team internationally in the last three years. Though he is 16 years old, last month he played in the Puerto Rico 18 & under Junior National Team at the FIBA Americas Championship in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and next month, Edwin and his Puerto Rico Junior National Team will be playing at the FIBA 17 & under World Basketball Championship in Dubai. First time ever Puerto Rico qualified in this category.

**Dave and Cheryl Virginia** are still living in Fort Myers and running the Starz Italian Restaurants there. One is carry out and one is a sit down restaurant. **Amber and Heather** are both expecting a child (both boys) in the next 30 days and if everything goes as expected, the Virginia's will celebrate Christmas with their soon to be 7 grandchildren. Wow!

**Janette Quiles** will be spending the next couple of weeks at Copamarina, Guanica and Palmas del Mar, Humacao with family. She will be visiting Pastor Joe at Palmas Community Church.

**John & Evelyn Alberts** are considering a trip to Australia?



**JB & Audrey Wilcox** were able to get all of their kids and spouses together in one place (Pittsburg)?

At a recent **Men's Breakfast**, we determined that almost have the group had parachuted out of a plane at one time...some over 100 times? (This is a very special group of guys.)

**Pastor Daryle Parker** will be preaching at 2UC in August, reporting on his amazing ministry in China?



**Tyler McCarley** recently landed a job here in Puerto Rico working in marketing?



**James Martinez** has enthusiastically agreed to head up our next Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University course starting in September?

**Lizzette Kelley** has graciously agreed to serve as one of our counters for the Sunday offering? She joins some other quiet heroes who give up an hour or so after each Sunday service to tabulate our giving. They include Connie Estates, Scott Woodward, and our Treasurer, Stan the Man Pinkerton.

**Stan Pinkerton** is back in Puerot Rico after his by-pass surgery?

**Carlos & Debbie Garcia** have relocated to Houston, TX;-)



**Tim Adams** got a new job as a pilot with Flamenco Air, so he is island hopping now!

**Evelyn and John Albert's sons, Jeff and William**, stepped up their game? **William**, an underwriter at a leading Reinsurance firm has been selected to make a major presentation at his company's international meeting, and **Jeff** is now Director of Photography for a survival-style reality show filming in Canada, Mexico, Norway, and Romania.



**Omar Haedo** writes: We're in our family summer adventure --- floating towards Mexico --- Omar Andres caught this Goliath Grouper -- over 300lbs! We put it back after a one hour fight!

An update from **Dennis and Iris Morales**: Texas is HOT with capital letters. We are doing well. I had hand surgery three weeks ago. Today they cut my stitches, Dr. said is looking good. Dennis has been a little better from his back pain. Daughters and grandkids fine. All of them are in town until 8/20/14. We are still unpacking, I hope the house either stretches out or somethings disappear or shrinks.

Please give our love to all the congregation and choir!



**Brian Tester** recently celebrated his 50th birthday... but who's counting;-)

**Paloma, Jose and Raulito Aymat** have settled into their new home in Homestead, Florida? Paloma already has a job, and they have found a great church nearby. We miss them!



On the second Sunday of July, we sadly said goodbye to **Aneliese Curet and her children, Leilani, Alani, Leo and Gabriel** as they are heading to Moorehead City, North Carolina to be reunited with their father. We will miss them, but they will continue to be in our prayers and in our hearts!





## YOUTH IN ACTION

Our youth have had two great activities this month - the first was a movie and game night at 2UC. We have some pretty competitive teens . . . and parents!!! Thanks to Gustavo, our Youth Leader and to his wife, Sasha, for the snacks and set up!

The second activity was a night of bowling at the 'Bolera de Cupey'.

Thanks to volunteers, Daniel, Sarah and Manny!

If you are interested in participating in our upcoming Youth Group activities, please contact Gustavo Gonzalez, our Youth Leader and Karaoke superstar!!



# men's MINISTRY

Men's Ministry has gotten off to a good start since its formalization. In May, the members of the Steering Committee were selected. These include John Alberts as President, Manuel Fernandez as Secretary, Mike LaLlave as Treasurer, Mike Strong as Projects Coordinator, and Luis Alberto Rivera as Development and Activities Coordinator.

In June, we held the 3rd Second Union Golf Outing at the Rio Mar golf course in Rio Grande. About 40 men participated in the activity. Held as a joint activity with Palmas Community Church, and organized by Ramon Chinaea, the outing raised money for Youth in Action, Puerto Rico Youth Football, and the Palmas Community Church Building Fund. Several local businesses provided prizes for the winners and for a raffle for all participants.

Men's Ministry also teamed up with Juan Gonzalez and the Property Committee for a work day at the church. About ten men joined up to reseal the flat roof of the church over the Fellowship Hall and classrooms. We began by clearing all the debris from the roof, then sweeping and cleaning it in order to apply the sealant. All was going well, but just as we began with the sealant, it began to rain and the project came to a halt. Thankfully Mike Strong and Chris Strong took on the task and finished the project over the next weeks. Mike La Llave also repaired and installed new lighting for the parking lot.

On Wednesday, July 2, we sponsored a seminar on Protection from Home Invasion, presented by the Guaynabo Police. See the article elsewhere in Second Thoughts.

We have had two Saturday breakfasts for the men and friends of the church. We are fortunate to have a good team of cooks to provide delicious and plentiful meals. At the breakfasts, we have been discussing topics of interest for men to increase the effectiveness of our Christian lives. Based on the book God's Man by Don Alcock, we have covered Man and his God, and Man and his family. We will be continuing these breakfasts in the coming months, so watch the bulletin and your email for more information.

Also, be on the look-out for Men's Ministry and Youth Minister Gustavo Gonzalez to join together and get some activities going for the youth. Young men of the church in particular. Keep an eye on the bulletin, email and Sunday morning announcements during service for more information.

Finally, the Steering Committee would like to thank Pastor Bob, the Church Council, and all the members and friends of Second Union Church for the welcome, the confidence, and the support you have shown as we continue to work to enrich our lives in Christ.

## Think About It

In 1962 my public school held a weekly school program.

The principal Mr. Barberi, always started the activities by reading a verse from the Bible. I watched as all the teachers had heads held high and a look of admiration as Mr. Barberi disobeyed a federal law against school prayer.

Years later I and a group of African Americans sat at a lunch counter in Mississippi waiting to be arrested.

My civil disobedience was not learned from Thoreau.

Oh no.

Even as a child I was taken by the sincerity of the expressions on the faces of my teachers who by their actions taught me that unjust law must be challenged.

The choice is up to you. Think about it.

Submitted by Joe Calcolli

## Ruth

"...a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified" (Gal. 2:16). The story of Ruth, the third woman mentioned in Messiah's genealogy, is found in the Old Testament book that bears her name and reveals the third truth about salvation: salvation is apart from the works of the law.

The Book of Ruth is a beautiful story of God's grace and mercy and His redemptive work in our lives through Jesus Christ, our Kinsman Redeemer. It is also a wonderful love story, perhaps the most beautiful one told in Scripture, between a woman named Ruth, a Moabitess, and Boaz, an Israelite. As a Moabitess, Ruth was a stranger and an alien from a hated and hateful nation with a curse upon it. She was alienated from the commonwealth of Israel. By marrying her, Boaz redeemed her, that is, he paid her debt in full and brought her into the family of God. Ruth is a picture of the church, the bride of Jesus Christ. Boaz, who redeemed her, is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ, our Kinsman Redeemer who paid our sin debt in full on bloody Calvary and brought us into the family of God.

Unlike the other women in Messiah's genealogy, Ruth's character was untainted yet she had been born under a curse. Ruth was a Moabitess, a Gentile living under the curse of God that was upon all Moabites: "No Ammonite or Moabite may enter the assembly of the LORD. Even to the tenth generation, none of them may enter the assembly of the LORD forever" (Deut. 23:3). The Moabites were Lot's descendants.

Through an incestuous relationship with his daughter, Lot fathered a son "...and named him Moab ; he is the ancestor of the Moabites to this day" (Gen. 19:36-38). The Moabites were a thorn in the side of Israel. They were an idolatrous nation and Israel's perennial enemy. Because they were constantly hostile to God and the people of God, they were shut out of the congregation of the Lord forever. As a Moabitess, Ruth was without hope and without God in the world. Once we, too, were without hope and without God in the world until the coming of Messiah: "Therefore, remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands-remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ" (Ephesians 2:11-13).

Although born a heathen, Ruth had learned of the One True God from her mother-in-law Naomi and her son, Ruth's deceased husband. Instead of staying in the land of Moab with her family, Ruth decided to follow Naomi back home: "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go...Your people shall be my people and your God my God" (Ruth 1:16). Stepping out in faith, Ruth embraced Naomi's God YAHWEH and her people the Jews. Her life was forever changed as was yours and mine. In His awesome mercy, the very woman whom God's law shut out became the ancestress of our Lord Jesus Christ. In establishing the family into which the world's Savior would be born over 1,000 years later, God chose a beautiful heathen girl, led her to Bethlehem, and made her the wife of a wealthy Hebrew named Boaz, the richest and most desirable bachelor in all of Bethlehem. Boaz was the son of Rahab the harlot from Jericho, the second woman mentioned in Messiah's royal lineage. Boaz married Ruth and they had a son named Obed. Obed became the father of Jesse who became the father of king David, Israel's greatest and most beloved king,

"a man after God's own heart." King David had a great-grandfather (Boaz) who was half Canaanite, and a

great-grandmother (Ruth) who was a Moabitess. By including them in Messiah's bloodline, God showed us His adoption of Gentiles (unbelievers) into the family of God. Scripture tell us that "...what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering..." (Romans 8:3). The law was powerless to redeem mankind because of man's sinful nature. It couldn't pronounce sinners righteous because all our righteous deeds are as filthy rags to God. The law made us aware of our sinful nature. Romans 3:20 says that no human being will be justified by the works of the law because "through the law comes knowledge of sin." God did by grace what the law couldn't do by works.

Messiah came over 2,000 years ago to fulfill the law, not to abolish it. The law was a precursor to Jesus Christ, it was our tutor. Because He paid our sin debt in full on a tree, we are no longer in need of a tutor or schoolmaster: "For the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ" (John 1:17).

We are like the Pharisees of Jesus' time. We are hypocritical. We sit in church on Sunday mornings feeling smug about ourselves, content with our good deeds performed in the name of Jesus, sporting our Sunday religiosity which is "having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof..." (2 Tim. 3:5). We love to follow and adhere to our man-made traditions and laws, and to perform our good deeds. We are like white washed sepulchers, beautiful on the outside yet full of all kinds of filth and uncleanness inside. We have allowed the enemy of our souls, the great deceiver, the father of lies, to blind us into believing that we can obtain our own salvation apart from God by being good and doing good works. This is the wrong plan of salvation. This is Satan's plan of salvation. Scripture clearly tells us that "if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose" (Gal. 2:21). The devil's plan of salvation is that man must do something that God will accept. God's plan of salvation is that God has already done something that man must accept: "Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him, everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses" (Acts 13:38-39). Over 2,000 years ago,

Messiah stepped down from glory and took on human flesh to suffer the horror and humiliation of death on the cross to redeem us from the curse of the law. He was made a curse for us. Christ died in our place for our sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day as evidence of our justification. Through His substitutionary death, God's wrath was satisfied. Salvation is a free gift. Salvation is apart from the works of the law.

All we have to do is accept the Gift. Say "yes" to Jesus as your personal Savior today.

Contributed by Mayra Chipi (part 5 of the series)

But we will give ourselves continually to  
**Prayer**  
 and to the ministry of the word. Acts 6:4

THURSDAYS  
 6-7PM  
 CONFERENCE  
 ROOM



During the first week of June, the backpack students and their parents were invited for a special activity at Second Union Church. The students participated in a specially-designed VBS just for them! They sang, danced and learned about Jesus' love for them. Thanks to Mabel for her leadership in making this happen, and to Elsy and rest of the VBS crew who did a great job tailoring this program to a Spanish speaking group!

While the students were busy at VBS, the parents were treated to a cooking demonstration by our very own, Susanne Myles. Susanne prepared a variety of dishes using the products that the students receive in their backpacks. All the moms enjoyed watching the demonstration and tasting the dishes including hummus, quesadillas with black beans and corn, calabacín al sarten, and more. A special 'cookbook' was given to the moms so they could try the dishes at home! A big thanks to Marieta, who not only provided translation - but entertainment as well!



This month's trip to the Banco de Alimentos was wonderful thanks to the help we received from the Men's Ministry. With over six volun-

teers on hand, we were able to prepare the pallets and load up the van and cars in record time. We are very blessed to have the use of Ramon and his van, and a special thanks to our two youth volunteers, Joshua and Jerian - as you can see in the picture below!



In addition to the products we receive from the Banco de Alimentos, we also receive donations from individuals in our church family: Brenda Ferrer, Susanne & Derek Myles, Laurie & David Yost, and others. Donations of food or money are always welcome - anything nutritious is accepted with thanksgiving.

We thank Omar at Costco who has donated a carload full of bakery goods to us on two different occasions. The parents and students were so happy.



And finally, we are every so grateful to Yoav Cohen for his generous donation of fruit and vegetables to our program. Almost every Thursday he provides us with several cases of papaya, mango, zucchini, tomatoes, etc., and it is truly a blessing to be able to give them nutritious and wholesome food.





The third Financial Peace University will be held at Second Union Church beginning the first Thursday of September. James Martinez is our new FPU Coordinator, and we are grateful that he has agreed to lead this next series.

All are welcome, and we encourage you to invite your friends to this event. This is great Bible-based teaching about getting out of debt and starting the road to true financial independence.

You can register online at the following link:

<http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/locations/org/42659/class/258453>

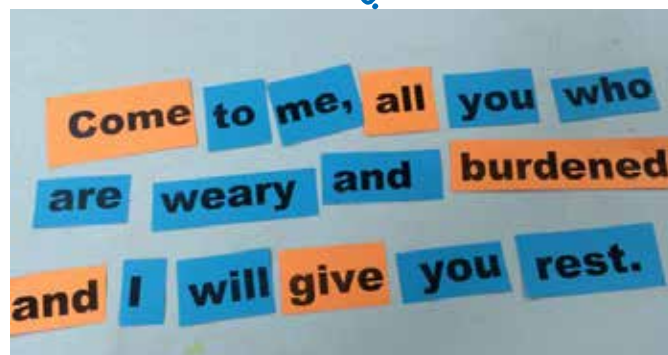
For more information visit the 2UC website at [secondunion.org](http://secondunion.org)

## Sunday School

Our new curriculum is in, and we still need teachers for the upcoming Fall semester. If you would be interested in serving the Lord through teaching Sunday School, please see Elsy Perez or Mabel Varela.



Our last couples' activity was an evening of karaoke - we made some pretty amazing discoveries! Watch out when James is at the mike! And Gustavo could have become a rock star (but we are glad he chose to be our Youth leader!) Stay tuned for our next gathering in August!



Confused? Unsure? Lacking confidence? Need some encouragement?

Turn your attention to the Word of God and He will give the peace that passes understanding! Join us on Tuesdays at noon for Bible Study!