

# Careline newsletter

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF  
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH



## STARTING UP...AGAIN!

*Pastor Dennis looks at the new beginning we were supposed to look forward to with the end of 2020 and the beginning of a brand new year. What do we hope for in this next 12 months?*

January. What wash! But I will add, that's what we think, but God is still working even when we don't see it. I think February will be the actual beginning of a new year, at least here at Calvary. Last month, the entire staff contracted COVID-19 which sort of put a grinding halt to things in our day to day function and also our activities calendar. The best laid plans, right? We heard it all too, believe you me. Some people gave us the earful about being too cavalier. But for seven months we operated with no cases period until someone brought it in and probably didn't even know they had it because they were asymptomatic, so we don't "blame" anyone. Why bother? COVID certainly wasn't invented in San Marcos, and everyone that gets it is no more or less a victim than someone who catches influenza or a cold. So, there's no blame, at least not from me or the staff. In my personal opinion, we should all do what is reasonable in keeping our bodies, minds, and spirits healthy — like practicing hygiene, drinking water, exercising, eating right, etc.— without allowing these things, or our health and well-being to become an idol. If we think we will live in this world and never get a cold or the flu, or yes, even COVID-19, at some point in our lives, then we might be kidding ourselves. We must remember that we live in a fallen world, filled with disease, pestilence, and accidents. Bad things do happen to good people—all the time. So remember, as Pastor

Charles Stanley always says, trust God and leave the consequences to Him. As the cold and flu season subsides, hopefully the worst is behind us and we can move forward from here. Why is it important? Why can't we just stay home and not meet? Because God has still ordained the Church to be the Church. He never said, only when you're healthy, or only when it's safe, or only when the coast is clear. The Church all over the globe had historically marched against the darkness even in times of distress, disease (yes, even the plague), famine, war, persecution, nakedness, peril and sword. There are still people to be reached, spiritual growth to be encouraged and fellowship to be had. My words are these to Calvary. If you feel sick, of course you should stay home, watch and be part of the fellowship online. If you have underlying condition and are afraid of vulnerability, you can still stay engaged online and through ZOOM. You can still encourage others with a call, a text, or a card. We always talk about the Church and how the gates of hell will not prevail against her, how no matter what, until God calls us out of this world, we must move forward, but then let something like this hit us in America, where we're usually safe and relatively healthy and suddenly, we trust the government more than we trust God's Word.

**Matthew 16:18**

***"And I tell you...  
I will build my church,  
and the gates of hell  
shall not prevail  
against it."***

FOR GOD  
SO LOVED THE  
WORLD THAT HE GAVE  
HIS ONLY  
BEGOTTEN  
SON, SO  
THAT WHOEVER  
BELIEVES IN HIM  
SHALL NOT PERISH  
BUT HAVE ETERNAL  
LIFE.

**JOHN 3:16**





The early Christians didn't have the luxury of trusting in their government because their governments were trying to crucify, burn, beat, and imprison them. They trusted God and His Son and His Word.

Let me also pause here and say, if you are at home and watching online, we are happy you're with us. I understand, firsthand, how easy it is to watch not actively staying engaged, but watching while doing other things. This is distracted engagement and it doesn't really help you or us to stay focused together. Allow the Spirit to speak to you through the Word, through worship, the same way you would in your quiet time. I encourage you to focus your attention, put the pets away if they're barking, teach your children to sit still and listen, have your coffee cup in hand if that helps you to stay focused, but stay focused. We must remain disciplined as His people to lay aside time for Him in worship, in gathering (even virtually) and in prayer.

I'll shift gears here because personally, I am COVIDed out! I want to encourage you to pray for our nation and for our present leadership. As is true with each administration, there are many decisions that are being made today that are going to have big impacts on our nation for years to come. That being said, some of the decisions that go against God's Word, that align our nation with ungodly values and practices will have ramifications spiritually, morally, and socially that I fear are so damaging, we may not believe it if God were to show us. No, I am not referring to money or oil even though that should concern us. With a stroke of a pen, we have permitted men to wander into women's bathrooms, because they claim they identify as a woman, or vice versa. We have decided to subsidize immorality with tax dollars by paying for transgendered people to have sex reassignment surgeries on Medicaid and Medicare and other government funded programs. We are allowing our military personnel to transition into whatever gender they wish to identify themselves as (and really that is not as large a distraction). I heard of a truck driver that was in the left lane when the sign said no trucks allowed. He was pulled over by the police and when asked why he was in that lane as a 18 wheeler, he said, me and my truck are identifying as a VW. Of course his ploy didn't work any more than it should work with gender.

With another stroke of a pen the unborn become more vulnerable in America, but also throughout the world as an executive decision makes sure we fund abortion with tax payer dollars, not only in the US, but also around the globe. Organizations like Planned Parenthood and others like it, will receive money from the US Govt. (your tax dollars) to perform abortions in the US and other nations. This is not the way we in the US should be leading the world. President Biden even said that he would codify Roe Vs. Wade to become the law of the land. I will be honest enough to recognize that some reading this may not agree with me when I say that abortion of our children is evil and straight from the pit of hell. Our nation is in trouble and headed toward even more trouble. We are morphing into a barbaric, desensitized to evil, but overly-sensitized to the politically correct cancel culture. We have become self-absorbed with our own internal strife and forgotten the Christian narrative upon which our society's infrastructure of law and order are based. We have lost sight of higher moral values and the very principles that made us great as a nation. We need to pray for a REVIVAL in the land — for a REAL new start, one that begins in the heart of men and women, boys and girls. The real Church needs to rise to her feet for the Glory of the Lord. Many churches have embraced the verbiage of critical race theory (which is antithetical to the redemptive story of the Bible) and the politically correct speak popular in our nation. But I still believe the real church can not be stopped. We may become persecuted and taxed, but we can not be stopped. Why do I believe that? Because Christ said, "The gates of HELL will not prevail against her (the true church)." Start praying for God to do His work among us and through us!

Blessings,  
Bro. Dennis

It is time for us to reconsider this matter of the church.... It is as accepted as a convention that we never question or doubt...But I wonder how many ever sit down and say, "What is this? Maybe the church is just something that is here; it doesn't have any value and doesn't have any reason for being here." How many present-day Christians have ever searched the Scripture with a serious burden on their hearts to know what the church is? ...It seems that the average person spends more time and intellectual labor each year filling out income tax forms than he or she spends in a lifetime trying to learn from the Scriptures and from the light of the Spirit what the church is...Why is it in the world? What did Jesus mean when He said, "On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it" (Matthew 16:18b)? If people were to chew their pencils and walk the floor and go out for a walk and come back and work on it and search and think and discern and divide and go through all that they have to go through to make out their income taxes every year, I believe that they could come up with some wonderful answers.

—A.W. Tozer

Is your name Grace?  
Because you are  
AMAZING!



## Fun facts on Valentine's Day

- 73% of Valentine Day flowers are bought by men, whereas women buy only 23% of Valentine flowers.
- The heart is the most common symbol of romantic love. Ancient cultures believed the human soul lived in the heart and its red color is thought to be the most romantic.



	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Leona Harris Brian Kidd	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Diana Owen
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Jeff Sones  11:30 AM Bluebonnet Baptist Association Lunch Meeting	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Ron Brock Alyssa Ensle Trip Locke
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Maria Day	<b>17</b> Willie Trumbull	<b>18</b> Jerry Groves Sharon Yandell	<b>19</b> Anita Ingle	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Wanda Stewart	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Dominga Aguilar Julian Candelaria	<b>24</b> Dwayne Anderson	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> David Glover	<b>27</b> Barbara Solis
<b>28</b> Jodie Bryson						

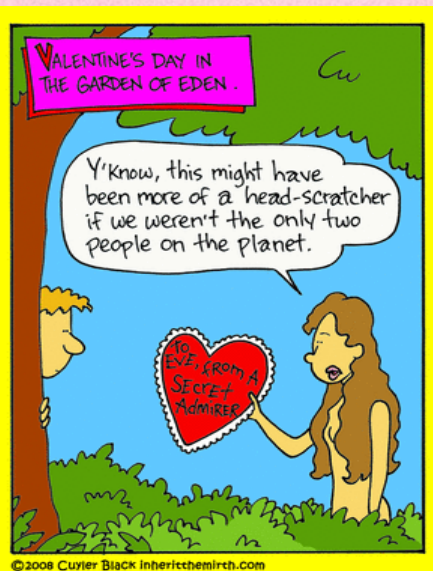
**TEACHERS**  
receive the most  
**VALENTINES CARDS**



—Source: Hallmark research cards

**DID YOU KNOW?**

More than 36 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate are sold for Valentine's Day each year.



©2008 Currier Black Inheritthetmirth.com

**DID YOU KNOW?**

About 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are exchanged in the U.S. each year.



On average, humans spend **\$26** on their **PETS** for Valentine's Day.

—Source: BING





## IMPACT WEEKEND IS COMING!!

We've bumped our premiere youth event to April this year!

Students are encouraged to register early to ensure a spot and a t-shirt. We hope to see all of our CBC students and hope they invite lots of friends and guests to come with them.

Chris Selby has graciously agreed to be our guest speaker again this year.



Advent Overture will lead the worship sessions. We welcome them in their first CBC Impact Weekend experience.

Registration is available online vis the CBC website.

Click on the banner on our homepage or go to our Student Ministries page to sign up and pay!

[www.calvarysanmarcos.com](http://www.calvarysanmarcos.com)

Contact Randy McDaris @ 512-353-8540 or 210-557-2151 or email

[randy@calvarysanmarcos.com](mailto:randy@calvarysanmarcos.com)

# An Open Letter

From Your Children's Ministry at CBC



In missions today, the most abandoned, forsaken mission field in the world is the children. In spite of the facts that statistics in most countries around the world claim at least 50% of their population consists of children under the age of 15, and that most Christians today accepted Christ between the ages of 4-14, this harvest field is virtually untouched. Jesus gave the command to "go and preach the gospel to every creature" however, subtle worldly philosophies have persuaded the majority of Christians that children cannot make a decision for Christ until they can "reason" or until they can reach a certain age. It is generally accepted that young children cannot receive Christ as their Savior and be born into the Kingdom of God. In Matthew 18:14 it says, "not one of these little ones should perish." This is God's will. We need to be reaching kids for the gospel.

At Calvary Baptist Church we are in need of teachers and volunteers who will be a part of this great commission. If you are looking for a place to serve, maybe Kids Ministry is for you. The ultimate goal in kids ministry is to see hearts transformed through the gospel. Heart transformation does not happen through the work we do ourselves, it happens through the work Christ did on the cross. Many people when they think of "Children's Ministry" they think of babysitting. We aren't just "watching" the kids. Working with the kids and teaching them the Bible and about God is so much more than that. These kids are the future generation. We need to be reaching them for the gospel. To have a Children's Ministry we need volunteers. It can't happen without you. I strongly ask that if you have ever considered being a part of the kids ministry that you pray about it, but then also talk to a staff member. We are need of Sunday School teachers and Children's Church teachers. There is an interview process and we do background checks on all of our volunteers which is through Ministry Safe. We also provide training for new teachers. Charles Spurgeon I think said it best in his book Feed My Lambs when he wrote "The best of the church are none too good for this work. Do not think because you have other service to do that therefore you should take no interest in this form of holy work. But kindly, according to your opportunities, stand ready to help the little ones and to cheer those whose chief calling is to attend to them. To use all this message comes: "Feed my lambs." To all who have any knowledge of the things of God, the commission is given. See to it that you look after the children that are in Christ Jesus."

Prayerfully consider being a part of our Children's Ministry. To those are already serving, thank you! You don't know how valuable you are!

In Christ,  
Sarah Trumbull, Children's Minister