

Women's History Edition



A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer, it sings because it has a song.

-Maya Angelou



His hands are stretched out for you!

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We do not need to fear the past, present, or future because we are secure in the love of Christ. **God is for us** (Romans 8: 31). *The Father* is for us and proved it by giving His Son (Rom. 8:32). *The Son* is for us (Rom. 8:34) and so is *the Spirit* (Rom. 8:26). God is making all things work for us (Rom. 8:28). **In His person and His providence, God is for us.** Sometimes, like Jacob, we lament, "All these things are against me" (Gen. 42:36), when actually everything is working for us. The conclusion is obvious: **"If God be for us, who can be against us?"**



The believer needs to enter into each new day realizing that God is for us. There is no need to fear, for our loving Father desires only the best for His children, even if we must go through trials to receive His best. "For I know the plans that I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11, NASB).

As the Easter Season is approaching we should focus on the key things that our Lord has done for our benefit:

He stretched out His hands in the past (Romans 8:34a). "It is Christ who died."

Christ died for us (v. 32). The argument here is from the lesser to the greater. If when we were sinners, God gave us His best, now that we are God's children, will He not give us all that we need?

In His death He stretched out the hand of mercy to us. "Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords! For His mercy endures forever: (Psalm 136:3) "With a strong hand, and with an outstretched arm, For His mercy endures forever." (Psalm 136:12) *"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* (Romans 5:8)

Christ "furthermore is risen"! In His resurrection He stretched out the hand of "Justification" to us. "Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified." (Romans 8:30).

Christ "makes intercession for us!" He is stretching the most powerful hand to us. *Christ intercedes for us* (Romans 8:34). A dual intercession keeps the believer secure in Christ: the Spirit intercedes (Rom. 8:26–27) and the Son of God intercedes (Rom. 8:34). The same Savior who died for us is now interceding for us in heaven. As our High Priest, He can give us the grace we need to overcome temptation and defeat the enemy. (Heb. 4:14–16) *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace; that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Easter means the Risen Lord is on our side, but the real question is are we on His side with our obedience, serving, and giving?

God bless,

Pastor Joe

Why are you a Christian?

It is the hope of Sisters Georgiana Sugars and Velma Haliburton that when non believers pose this question, the subject matter in their new series Apologetics, will be of some assistance. The series set to begin Tuesday, March 20th, is geared to equip participants to be able to defend their faith with biblical truth.

Not to be confused with the English definition of apologizing {as in for something}, Apologetics is biblical. I Peter 3:15 says, "be ready always to give answer for the hope that is in you. "The answer you give {to the question why you are a Christian} is apologetics. There is a distinct difference.

The objective of Apologetics is to help take the fear out of sharing faith because "you can share with confidence if you know what you believe and why you believe what you believe," says Sister Sugars.

The series will be held at the Trinity campus on Tuesdays from 7-8:30pm.

Prayer Warriors Persevere

Karine Clay has suffered in silence for a number of years. Initially believing that the constant pain she felt and blurred vision she endured was due to multiple sclerosis, she later learned that a brain tumor was slowly growing behind her left eye.

Upon Pastor Joe's request, prayer warriors committed to a 9-hour vigil.

After 4 1/2 hours, Karine's surgery was deemed a success! Her brother Ryan Gibson reported, "the majority of the mass has been removed and she was lucid. Doctors are testing the mass to see if it was cancerous. I'm thankful for everyone who prayed for her."

Karine is currently in ICU.



Celebrating the last 10 years of Women's History

1997

Madeleine Albright is sworn in as U.S. secretary of state. She is the first woman in this position as well as the highest-ranking woman in the United States government.

1998

During Operation Desert Fox in Iraq, Lt. Kendra Williams, USN, becomes the first U.S. female combat pilot to bomb an enemy target.

1999

Lt. Col. Eileen Collins is the first woman astronaut to command a space shuttle mission.

Nancy Ruth Mace is the first female cadet to graduate from the Citadel, the formerly all-male military school in South Carolina.

2005

Condoleezza Rice becomes the first African-American female Secretary of State.

2006

Effa Manley, co-owner of the Negro Leagues team Newark Eagles, becomes the first woman elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

2007

Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) becomes the first woman Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Drew Gilpin Faust is named president of Harvard University. Its first woman president in the school's 371-year history.

Youth Spotlight

Music man, well boy, Brennon McKinley dazzled members of ACTS with his performance on drums during the youth tribute to Black History. Only 4yrs old, Brennon picked up his first set of drum sticks at the tender age of three.

He debuted his talents with an impromptu performance at the ACTS baptismal the evening of Friday, February 23rd and members were shocked to see little Brennon playing like a veteran.

"He's always had a natural affinity for playing," says Traci McKinley, proud mom of the mini percussionist. "He actually has a collection of drum sticks from some of music's greatest drummers. It's pretty amazing."

When asked what he wanted to do when he grew up, he pointed to his drum set and promptly began playing!

ACTS New Youth Choir

ACTS youngest members will have an opportunity to minister in our regular worship service thru music and songs with the formation of the ACTS Youth Praise Choir. Our children between the ages of 4 to 13 yrs. old will be formally taught to sing to the genre of gospel music.

We encourage parents with young children to please make sure your child attends the youth rehearsals during worship service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. The Youth Praise Choir will perform every 4th Sunday of the month.

Our own Lara Rann, a UCLA Grad Student studying Ethno Musicology will be the Music Director for this group. Anyone interested in having their child participate should contact Traci McKinley at the Church Office (310) 393-4107.

March Madness

March Madness is a phenomenon that grips the national sports psyche from the first week of March through the first week of April. March Madness is the moniker that is given to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Men's and Women's Basketball Tournaments that determine the national champions of college basketball.



The men of ACTS has shared in their own version of "march madness" for quite sometime. Meeting in the north gym at USC every second and fourth Sunday, the men are able to fellowship through sport.

Last season, ACTS was represented by two teams who participated in the Christian Athletic Association and had several members of the team, in turn join the church.

March Madness sends millions of fans into a synchronized frenzy each year. Plans to have this frenzy translated to Christ through sports is currently in the works.

If anyone would like to participate in ACTS version of March Madness, please speak with Daryl McKillian or call the church office at 310-393-4107.

Let's Celebrate!

ACTS March Birthdays

Dominique Alexander - 8th
Alexis McKinley -11th
Krystal Allen - 13th
Monica Allen - 13th
Valyncia Todd - 15 th
Sunny Collins—18th

The Women of ACTS (We are blessed!)



Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.
-Proverbs 31:11



A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.
-Proverbs 31:10



She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.
-Proverbs 31:12



Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her.
-Proverbs 31:28



She speaks with wisdom, and her faithful instruction is on her tongue.
-Proverbs 25:26

Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.
-Proverbs 25:29



Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.
-Proverbs 25:31 (NIV)

