

The Communicator

March-April 2011



Time is a gift.

It's so easy to take time for granted. On Monday, my computer stopped working. On Tuesday, I spent approximately two hours on a phone call with customer support, and I eventually had to re-install Windows 7, which meant I lost all my data and other programs, as well. The rest of the day Tuesday was spent trying to install drivers, and get the other functions of my computer back to working order...a wasted day (*from my perspective*). I had so much to do – but I couldn't do any of it. No e-mail, no computer...out of time.

All of this got me thinking about the phrase "*redeeming the time.*" This past Sunday I preached on our redemption – and I know that we can't buy back our time...once the clock ticks, we can't make it go backward, no matter how much money you have...or can you?

If you're a student of Scripture, a couple of verses might have already come to mind – Eph. 5:16 and Col. 4:5. In both of these passages, Paul tells us to (KJV, ASV) "redeem the time." So, maybe we can buy back our time? If it's in the Bible...? Well, to understand what Paul is saying here, one must realize that there are about five or six words in Greek that can be translated by our English word 'redeem,' but they all have slight differences in their actual meaning. The Greek word in Eph. 5:16 and Col. 4:5 is different from the one we just studied this past Sunday (Feb. 13th) when we studied Eph. 1:7-10.

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When Paul says we should "redeem the time," the Greek term he uses is *eksagorázō*. This word not only has the idea of buying back and paying a ransom, but more accurately has the idea of: *taking advantage of an opportunity, to make the best use of; or a figurative use is: to rescue something from loss.*

So, Paul is not saying we can "buy back" time. He is telling us to take advantage of the time God has given us...to make the best use of our time...to rescue our time from being lost. Now there are times in life that we can't do anything about the way our time is used (like my bad computer day). However, I believe that too often, we don't realize the eternal value of our time – that

our time is a gift from God. How are you at using your time? Are you "making the most of every opportunity...?" (Eph. 5:16)

May we all – in our individual lives...and in our corporate church life...make the best use of our time, not just for ourselves, but also for God's glory and His will. As Mordecai told Esther, "And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a **time** as this?"

Pastor Steve

MEN'S MINISTRY NEWS:

Director: Jerry Drobinski (jjdski@aol.com)

Men Under Construction for Christ (MUCC): All men are invited to join us for fellowship and study in the Book of Daniel every Thursday night at 6:30 p.m. in room 2. For more information, contact John Durako at 419-0535 or muc4c@msn.com.

Men's Breakfast: Come the second Saturday of each month at 7:00 a.m. (doors open at 6:45 a.m.) for a free delicious breakfast, fellowship and Bible study—"*Living with Confidence in a Chaotic World.*"

CDOBC Men's Ministry 4th Annual Golf Outing: All men are invited to this annual event on Saturday, March 19th, at the Views Golf Course on Vistoso Boulevard. The cost is \$80—this includes 18 holes, a cart, lunch and prizes. The Tee Time is 7:30 a.m. with a 7:00 a.m. check-in. The format is a 4 Man Scramble and prizes will be awarded. Bring a team or sign-up to be part of a team—*only 5 spots available!* Visit the table in the courtyard between services today, or, contact Jerry Drobinski at 825-6636 or 610-223-6979 (cell) or jjdski@aol.com.

Men's Round-up: The 35th Annual Men's Round-up at Prescott Pines Bible Camp in Prescott, Arizona is planned for April 1st—3rd. The speaker is Walt Wiley (www.wweministries.org). Team tournaments are planned, as well as a golf tournament for an extra fee. The cost is \$98 by March 15th or \$118 after (includes meals and lodging). Register online at www.prescottpines.org.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS:

Director: Kim Berko (kim.f.berko@gmail.com)

Ladies Spring Brunch: All ladies are invited to join us for "Kick Off Spring" Potluck Brunch! It is planned for Saturday, March 5th at 10:00 a.m. here at CDOBC in rooms 1 & 2. RSVP to Stefanie Graham at: graham_11604@yahoo.com or call her at 307-1735 and let her know what you will be bringing and how many will be attending.

Mommy-N-Me: Moms and preschool children are invited to join us on Fridays for different activities usch as play dates, going to the zoo, fellowship, etc. If you would like to participate, contact Tammy Watts at RTW3996@msn.com or 888-8431. Look for future plans in the bulletin or on the church website at www.cdobaptist.org/events.

Church Calendar

To view the church calendar, visit www.cdobaptist.org, then click on events and follow to calendar.

CDOBC Lay Leadership

Elders

Lew Backer
Ken Cottrell
Kyle DeFoor
Corey Edmond
Dale Haralson
Tim Knodel
Russ Tronstad

Deacons

George Ballesteros
Noel Delgado
Tony Greco
Lou Hall
Donald Horton
Kyle Randels
Tom Trappman
Bill Updike
Brian Wilson

Deaconesses

Sheryl Cottrell
Meghan Davidson
Tonya Haynes
Shirley Horner
Beth Kolbuss
Beth Silveira
Leona Williams
Debra Wylie

Authenticity and Worship

By Pastor Joseph Berko

I'm something of a neat freak. In college, I would sit down at my dorm room computer to write a paper and usually end up tidying the entire room before penning a single word. Now I have to be honest here, one reason I did this was to procrastinate. But it was *productive* procrastination! I could put off the assignment and not feel too guilty because I was doing something worthwhile. This habit of tidying has stuck with me, but now that I am a little more mature I don't use it primarily as a procrastination tactic as my workspace truly *does* need to be organized for me to be productive! Last week I reached a breaking point with my office here at church. For months I had been able to ignore the accumulating clutter, but I finally could bear it no longer. Everything came off the shelves and out of the drawers. There were piles all over the place, and my office looked like a war zone. But then, one by one, the piles began to disappear. That which could be used was organized, and that which could not was disposed of. What a feeling of relief washed over me as I sank into my chair at the end of the day. I could now focus wholeheartedly on my work without getting distracted by the clutter.

During that whole process, a verse from Hebrews 12 kept coming to mind: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily hinders our progress. And let us run with endurance the race that is set before us." I don't know about you, but "spiritual" clutter has a way of building up in my life. And just like I need to stop regularly and take time to organize the mess in my office, we all need to do the same thing in our lives.

There are many things that weigh us down and keep us from faithfully running the race that God has set before us. If we had the chance to sit down and talk candidly about it I'm sure we could fill page after page with confessions. The cares of this world are a big one for me. It's easy to get caught up in building my own little kingdom--spending too much time and energy planning the next home improvement project, tracking my investments and personal budget, and keeping up with the Joneses. Being a good steward of the resources God has entrusted is important, but we get weighed down when we begin to focus more on the gifts than on the Giver. Our trust needs to be in God and His promise to provide for us and not in our own abilities to earn and manage. Another one that I struggle with is how to spend my free time. All of us need to take time to relax and unwind, but where is the balance between taking needed "me time" and missing opportunities to build God's kingdom because we are too busy investing in ourselves? One other thing that I struggle with that I will mention--and there are many others--is being intentional about getting to know God for who He is. It's too easy to focus on the aspects of God that appeal to me most and not take the time and energy to wrestle through the attributes that make me feel uncomfortable. Because of our fallen state, we often desire a God we can "control"--a God who will not make us feel bad about ourselves. When we see God for who He truly is, however, we come face to face with the reality of our own pride and how far short we fall of His standard. It's not easy to see the ugliness of our sinfulness, but it is essential we do so in order to grow.

So what is it that weighs you down? Can you honestly say that your focus is firmly planted on Christ, or have you gotten sidetracked? Take a moment, and ask God right now to point out any sin in your life that is hindering your relationship with Him and keeping you from growing. Plead with Him to show you where you are settling for good and missing out on what is best. Give Him the authority in your life to set your priorities in order. As I was cleaning out my office, I found a lot of junk. Once I recognized it for what it was, I had a decision to make: Do I cram this into my closet, or get rid of it? When you or I find something in our lives that is weighing us down from faithfully following Christ, we have the same decision to make. Will we try to ignore minimize, or justify it? Or will we get rid of it? Let us "*strip off* every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily hinders our progress."

As we seek to run the race that has been set before us, let us not lose heart when sin creeps back into our lives and our priorities once again get out of whack. In order to keep growing in our walk with Christ we need to persevere. There will be moments of great victory, but those will likely be followed by periods of defeat. One of the ways that we can be encouraged is to look to the godly example of those who have gone before us, that "huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith." Above all, however, may we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, "the Champion who initiates and perfects our faith."

The
Edge

Upcoming Youth Events

March 11-13—Youth Group Guys Winter Retreat, "Living Dangerously" - We will be going camping at the Peppersauce Campground on Mount Lemmon. Cost is \$45 due ASAP! Bring your airsoft gun and goggles.

March 20-26—Youth Room Remodel—During this week we will be painting and remodeling the floor in the youth room.

March 26—Car Wash Fundraiser—Need help raising funds for camp or the mission trip? Be sure to come help out at the car wash.

April 2—Youth Night Dress Rehearsal—We will be having our dress rehearsal for the Youth Night from 9:00 a.m.-noon.

April 3—Youth Night at 6:00 p.m.—Call time for students is at 4:30 p.m.

April 16—Spring Games—The Annual Spring Games for Middle School is at Pusch Ridge—time TBA.

A Look Ahead

May 7—Garage Sale/Car Wash Fundraiser—Parents are needed for this event!

June 5-10—Summer Camp for Middle School and Sr. High Students—Camp is located at Forest Falls, CA. Estimated cost is \$299 due by May 15th.

July 17-22—Mission Trip at the Campo Indian Reservation outside San Diego, CA. The students will be given an opportunity to put their faith into action as they take the love of Jesus to this Indian Reservation. The students will work on various building projects and present the Gospel through a VBS. The price of this trip is \$299 due by May 11th.

College and Young Singles Ministry

The College/Young Singles Sunday School class meets at 9:00 a.m. at the home of Tom and Betty Cetas—7725 N. Sendero de Juana, 85718 (a map can be found in the church office). You can contact Tom and Betty Cetas at 906-1888 (Tom) or 906-8983 (Betty) or e-mail them at tcetas@gmail.com for more information.

The Gathering

(for young adults)

Join us every Thursday night as we gather to sing, pray, and enjoy a time of fellowship at Einstein Bros. Bagels from 6:30-8 p.m., located at the intersection of Ina and Shannon (a couple minutes west of Foot-hills Mall). Go to www.cdobaptist.org/gathering for more information.

Upcoming Events

Between-Time Snack Bar: Come visit the snack bar between services on March 27th for some delicious treats at a great price!

Prayer Gathering: Meet in room 1 at 6:00 p.m. on the first Sunday of every month to pray for our troops, church family, missions and ministries.

Welcome Class: Would you like to know more about Canyon Del Oro Baptist Church, or, would you like to know how to become a member? If so, plan to attend a Welcome Class on Wednesday, March 9th, at 6:30 p.m. RSVP to Debbie in the church office at 297-3900 or drandels@cdobaptist.org.

First Taste Luncheon: Are you new to CDOBC or would you like an opportunity to get to know us better? Please join us Sunday, March 13th, for a luncheon at 12:00 p.m. in rooms 1 & 2. Your whole family is welcome! We will enjoy a delicious meal, chat with pastors and ministry leaders, meet other newcomers, and learn more about the church. Please call the church office to RSVP, or visit: cdobaptist.org/events to register. See you there!

Golden Corral Luncheon: Everyone is invited to join the Alive & Active Sunday School class for lunch at the Golden Corral (Thornydale south of Ina Rd.) on Thursday, March 17th at 11:30 a.m. See you there!

Adult Sunday School Potluck: Sign-up in your Sunday School classes, for you and your family, for a potluck immediately following second service on March 20th in rooms 1 & 2. Hope to see you there!

Youth Night: Everyone is invited to the next Youth Night on Sunday, April 3rd at 6:00 p.m. in the CDOBC sanctuary. Support our youth as they share testimonies, lead worship, do skits and present a message. (Prayer Gathering will meet at 5:00 p.m. in room 1 before the program.)

Right Hand of Fellowship: We are offering the Right Hand of Fellowship on Sunday, April 10th, during both worship services. If you would like to become a member of CDOBC, contact the church office at 297-3900.

Cantata: The CDOBC Choir presents, "On A Hill Too Far Away," Sunday, April 17th during the 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. worship services.

Easter Brunch: Join us between services on Easter morning for a free, delicious brunch sponsored by the Between-Time snack bar.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Flute Lessons: If interested, contact Melanie Van Kley at 219-8156.

Free: USED desk (includes one pencil drawer), 4-drawer file cabinet, and shelving. Contact the church office at 297-3900, if interested.

March

2-March Madness
9-Smack!
16-Inside-Out Night
23-No Club-Spring Break
30-Drive-in Night



April

6-Cross Night
13-April Showers
20-Good Humor Man
27-Buck Store #3

May

4-Awards night

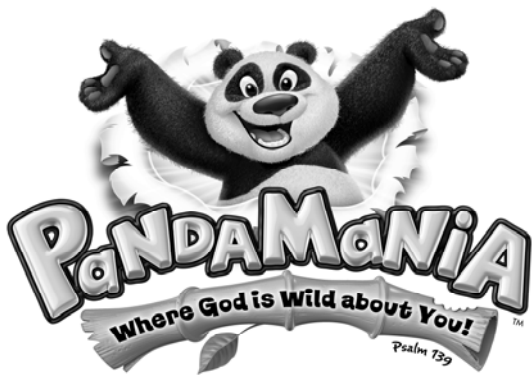
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Please contact us with your new address or if you no longer want to receive the newsletter.

*Committed to helping people
become mature followers of Jesus*



***Ready for the
adventure of a
lifetime?***

At PandaMania summer VBS, kids discover that God is *wild* about them—a fact that will change them forever! PandaMania is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Mark your calendars for June 13-17. Sign-ups for kids will begin in early May. We're already looking for volunteers willing to join in on the fun. Contact Sarah Nichols or Kim Berko for more information at:

pandamaniacdobc@hotmail.com

