

# The Communicator

May/June 2010

FROM THE



PASTOR

## When We Don't Like Trusting God

There are two ways we usually speak of 'trusting God.' First, we speak of 'trusting God' in the context of our salvation. For some, this is an awkward truth because it feels like we should do something to merit our salvation. However, scripture is clear that there is nothing any of us can do! (Romans 3:10-12). We are indeed saved by grace, "...not of works, so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2-8-9)

My struggle—the part of trusting God I don't always like—is in my daily life, or to be more specific and transparent, trusting Him with my kids. Before you begin to worry about your pastor's life, heart, and devotion, let me explain. Our kids (Brian and Jessica) are 13 and 11, respectively. They are truly developing into more independent persons. As a parent, I am fully aware of the dangers of life that often masquerades as great comforts and pleasures. I worry about their spiritual fortitude and faithfulness. Will they remain faithful as they enter adulthood in the next ten years? Will they make Godly choices? Will they embrace Christ as they distance themselves from us? Will they apply Godly wisdom and principles in their life? These are the questions and concerns that I have. We do our part as parents to model and instill these ideals and truths into their life, but in the end, we cannot force these things to occur...I must trust God with my children. Of course, this is not the only area that is (at times) difficult to trust God. Finances, health issues, success and failure at work are daily issues that tempt me to distrust God and trust myself.

But Jesus says to His anxiety filled disciples, "*Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.*" (John 14:1). No matter my concerns, God calls me (and you) to trust Him. But what does that mean? I sub-

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mit to you that it means more than just saying a prayer(s) and telling the Lord that you are trusting Him. First, trusting God means that I believe in God's sovereign ability, His love for me and His awareness of the details of my life—I call this *passive* trust—a trust in thought and words. Second, I believe that we are also called to *actively* trust Him. This is where many Christians fail. *Active* trust means that you act in a way that reflects your trust of Him and His ways—His commands. It means that I cast my anxiety at His feet as I actively live my life as a witness for my kids—and I actively promote God's truth as I have opportunity in our home (Deuteronomy 6:4-9). *Actively* trusting God means we cast our anxieties about the future at His feet, and we *actively* handle our money as good stewards of the resources God has blessed us with. We budget, give, save, and plan for the fu-

ture; we exercise and eat wisely, we work hard and with excellence in mind.

I've revealed some of my inner concerns and struggles with trusting God...how about you? In what areas do you struggle with trust in God? Be honest with yourself—and then share your thoughts with your spouse, with your small group or Sunday School class. Ask people to pray for you—ask for their wisdom and seek the scriptures for what God says about that issue.

The Christian life is not easy. It's a constant challenge of not only thinking biblically about our life and world, but of acting in a way that reflects the truths of God's Word. I pray that all of us will trust God in all things—even the difficult ones!

Blessings...keep trusting Him!  
Pastor Steve

**By Pastor Ken Fahl**



Most of us as parents or grandparents have read our youngsters the profound story of “Chicken Little.” You remember her—that oblivious little ball of fluff minding her own business in the barnyard, pecking about, when suddenly an acorn fell from a tree and thus, set in motion a succession of events. Running amok like—well, like a headless chicken—she made tracks all over the barnyard to tell her friends that, “The sky is falling!” For most of her journey to see the king—for he must know about this impending disaster—no one challenges her. Like robots, each animal in turn takes up the mantra, “The sky is falling!”

Admittedly, we are not that naïve today. We see natural disasters like the recent volcanic eruption in Iceland as a tragic event causing multiple financial horrors for airlines and passengers. Then we read in the papers of the low test scores in our schools; the drug cartels across the border with Mexico are bringing their fight onto our soil; earthquakes in Chile and China, and even one in California; the financial crisis on Wall Street and the housing market; the cultural/societal mores declining and the loss of civility we see every day; saber rattling in the Middle East as Iran prepares to go nuclear; and, the crisis in evangelical Christianity where churches elevate feelings and fellowship above the *Truth of the Gospel*.

Is the sky falling? If you link all those above mentioned items together, you might well believe that. Someone recently pointed out that even Hollywood has leaped into the breach with three new movies about the end of the world. If you believe the hype...the sky is indeed falling.

None of us are strangers to life’s difficulties, nor do I want to make light of any of those items on the list. My question to all of us is, “In whom do you trust?” “Are the claims that Jesus made true? Is He who He said He is? Have you put your faith in His ability to save you? Have you put your faith in **Him**?” If so, then neither natural disasters or man-made ones have the power to terrify us. “Is His arm too short to save?” His word promises through Isaiah the prophet: *“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” (Isaiah 41:10)*

Chicken Little and her cohorts, in fear, were on their way to see the king, a king impotent in every way. We have a King who is in every way adequate for our every need, for every disaster and who is waiting with open arms for us to rush to Him. Even if the sky does fall, we need not fear. *“...and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20)* Now that’s real security!



Kathie and I want to thank our church family at CDO for the outpouring of prayer, condolences, and cards we received with the passing of my Dad and then my Mom. I know they are in a much better place now, fellowshipping with Almighty God, and no longer having to suffer with the ailments that all but took away any quality of life from them this last year. Even though we have the assurance that we will be reunited with them in glory some day, we still bear the sorrow and sadness of separation from them here on earth. Your loving support has meant a great deal to us. Thank you for being a congregation that cares in so many ways. *Lew Backer*

### CDOBC Lay Leadership

#### Elders

Lew Backer  
Allen Birdsall  
Tom Cetas  
Jim Dover  
Dale Haralson  
Jim Penick  
Russ Tronstad

#### Deacons

Brent Avey  
George Ballesteros  
Tony Greco  
Lou Hall  
Kyle Randels  
Tom Trappman  
Bill Updike  
Brian Wilson

#### Deaconesses

Sheryl Cottrell  
Tonya Haynes  
Shirley Horner  
Beth Kolbuss  
Amie Oetter  
Beth Silveira  
Debra Wylie  
Leona Williams

**By Pastor Joseph Berko**

When I was in grade school my mom began attending a weekly “Community Bible Study.” Since my brother, sister and I were being home-schooled at the time, we got to tag along. Thankfully, there was a program for kids. While I honestly don’t remember much about that class, what I do remember—or rather *who*—was David Knudsen. I don’t know what his problem was, but he had it out for me the moment I stepped foot into that classroom. Perhaps he felt intimidated that I might usurp his position as the class know-it-all. Maybe it was remarkable good looks. Whatever it was, there was a definite and unresolved tension between us. A couple of years later it was to my great chagrin that David Knudsen walked on *my* turf when his family visited the church where I attended. Our relationship from that point up through high school was civil, but we just did not like each other. Today—outside of my wife—I consider David to be my best friend. The best aspect of our relationship, in my opinion, is the openness we have in sharing our thoughts, heart attitudes, feelings (yes, *feelings!*) and even sins with each other. As I look back over the past few years, I have no doubts that this friendship has both strengthened my faith, and helped me to grow in holiness.

We all need friends like David Knudsen. Brothers and sisters in Christ who know us, understand us, care about us, and have our best interests in mind. If you are reading this, chances are very high that you regularly attend Canyon Del Oro Baptist Church. Can I ask you a few questions? Do you have friends here at church, or just acquaintances? Is there anyone with whom you share your faults, failures, struggles, and successes? Do you feel like you truly belong and are a part of a community? Are you growing in holiness because you come to this church? If you were to disappear from this church, would anyone notice? How would the church be different?

These next few months, I want to look with you at what scripture has to say about the church. There are many metaphors throughout the New Testament that refer to the church, and today we will briefly examine the fact that we are the “temple” of God.

When I looked up “temple” in the dictionary, I found this definition: “A building devoted to the worship, or regarded as the dwelling place, of a god...” Historically, the Jewish temple was regarded as the place where God dwelt. This physical building was the place where priests represented both themselves and the nation of Israel before a holy God—offering gifts, as well as, sacrifices for sins (Hebrews 5:1). The first temple was built by Solomon. One thousand years later when Jesus was born, it was the center of Jewish religious practice with sacrifices still being offered for the forgiveness of sins. Is it at all surprising that the religious leaders were confused when Jesus claimed He would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days (John 2:19)? Jesus was not speaking of the physical building. He spoke of His *body*. His *body* would be crucified (destroyed) and raised to life 3 days later (rebuilt). Jesus could rightly say this because He was God in human flesh. His physical body was the dwelling place of God Almighty—it was the Temple.

With this in mind, it is incredible to think that as both individual believers, and as the church, we are referred to as being the temple of God. Look at 1 Corinthians 3, verse 16: “Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the spirit of God dwells in you?” How can this be? Those who confess their sins and believe that Jesus is the Son of God who died and was raised to life are given the Holy Spirit to indwell them (Acts 2:37-38). Verse 17 continues: “If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.” WOW! We are called holy. This is not something that we can claim responsibility for. Jesus Christ has accomplished this for us (1 Corinthians 1:30-31). Let’s jump over to Ephesians 2:19-22.

It’s interesting to note that while the passage in 1 Corinthians speaks definitively about our identity (“you are the temple of God”), the passage in Ephesians hints that there are both ongoing and corporate elements that we need to realize. “So then you are no longer strangers...but you are *fellow citizens with the saints*, and are of God’s household, having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together is *growing* into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are *being built together* into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.” (emphasis mine)

As we strive to follow Christ we seek to grow in holiness, realizing that we will not fully reach this goal until heaven. We do this on an individual level, but also as a church (Proverbs. 27:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; James 5:16). Together, we are the temple of God. Will you join me this week in taking some time to evaluate and pray about our involvement in the temple of God here at CDOBC?

One last thought...If you remember, the first part of the dictionary definition of temple was this: “A building devoted to the worship...of a god.” If we are temples of God, then it follows that our bodies will be devoted to the worship of God, and as a church we act together in worship of God. This week, let’s live for Him!



## We Serve A Big God!

**By Scott Nichols**

How many times do we go to church, hear about God, and go on with our lives without really stopping and thinking about how vast He is? I know that based upon my own experiences that I quite often get caught up in the things going on around me and lose sight of how great God is. In Sunday School the youth group has started a series on God's characteristics with the goal of hoping to discover more about the God that we are created to worship. The first week was on God's vastness.

Have you ever taken a moment to pause and look up at the stars? Psalm 19:1 states: *"The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands."* To get a glimpse of how vast, mighty and glorious God is, all we need to do is look up at the stars and see His greatness.

Let's take in to account some basic astronomy by looking at the Milky Way Galaxy—the galaxy in which we live. Scientists estimate that it is 100,000 light years in length and has a width of 1000 light years. (Just for reference, a light year is how far light travels in a year. Light travels at 186,282 miles per second. It takes light eight minutes to reach earth after leaving the sun.) It is also estimated that there are 200,000,000,000-400,000,000,000 stars in the Milky Way Galaxy. Our star, the sun, is just one in the massive number of stars, and yet, God is over them all.

Let's take one further step and look at the universe. Scientists have taken pictures through the Hubble Space Telescope in which they can see thousands of galaxies that are visible. They contain billions of stars. If you were to try and calculate how many stars there are in the universe you would come up with a gigantic number. (125,000,000,000 billion galaxies times 100,000,000,000 stars in each galaxy [a rough estimate] yields the number of 12,500,000,000,000,000,000 stars!!!)

The universe is completely vast and beyond comprehension, yet, God is above it all! The even more amazing thing is that He loves us! Each and every one of us! Let's not lose sight of how glorious God is!

## 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](http://www.cdobaptist.org/gathering) for more information.

## College and Young Singles Ministry

Come join us on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. meeting in the home of Tom and Betty Cetas—7725 Sendero de Juana. We are currently studying the book of Mark. You can contact Tom and Betty at 297-7583, or at [tcetas@gmail.com](mailto:tcetas@gmail.com) for more information about this class.

## EXTRA!! EXTRA!!

We have moved the church newsletter to the church website at [www.cdobaptist.org/newsletter](http://www.cdobaptist.org/newsletter). You will receive one more hard copy of the newsletter (July/August edition). If you do not have the capability to view the newsletter on the church website, or prefer not to, please call the church office at (520)297-3900 or e-mail [drandels@cdobaptist.org](mailto:drandels@cdobaptist.org) (if you have not already done so) to let Debbie know you would like a copy mailed to you.

### Upcoming Events



Between Time Snack Bar on May 30th and June 27th. Come and enjoy special treats between worship services!!!

Baby Shower for Star Jones on Saturday, May 8th, at 2:00 p.m. in rooms 1 & 2. All women are invited!

## **MEN'S MINISTRY NEWS:**

Man in the Mirror Conference is planned for June 3-5, 2010 at Community Church of Joy in Glendale, Arizona. For more information and to register, go to [www.maninthemirror.org](http://www.maninthemirror.org), or call 800-929-2536.

## **WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS:**

Women of Faith Conference - "IMAGINE" TOUR - October 1 & 2 (Friday & Saturday) - US Airway Arena-Phoenix, Arizona - \$89 Special Group Rate (available *only* through Group Leader-Michelle Racioppo) - [www.womenoffaith.com/phoenix](http://www.womenoffaith.com/phoenix)

Ladies! The next **Women of Faith Conference** is only months away! Please pray about joining us for 2 days of fun, praise, worship, laughter and tears, and see how God will leave you a changed woman! The theme this year is "IMAGINE," and you are invited to *imagine* how God will touch your heart and your spirit as you allow yourself to be Christian believers, praising His Name and laughing until you cry. If you have never been before, or even if you have, each year is different. Sheila Walsh, Natalie Grant and Luci Swindoll are a few of the ladies who are on the lineup for the Lord! *Sign up now to ensure your discounted group ticket price* that will include great seating, as well as, box lunches for both days. **To purchase your ticket(s)** call Michelle Racioppo/Group Leader at 977-3381, or, e-mail her at [luv2ulord@aol.com](mailto:luv2ulord@aol.com). Tickets are limited so reserve yours right away! If you need hotel accommodations, speak to Michelle for those details. A special offer of *pay as you can* is available for ticket purchases. May God bless us as we grow closer and closer to Him!

## **Opportunity to Serve God as a Short-term Missionary**

*"Go ye unto all the world..."* was Jesus' last command. Have you ever thought you could serve as a missionary to a foreign country?

Your Missions Committee is planning on a special opportunity for our members to do just that by serving on a short-term mission trip to Eastern Europe during the late spring or early summer of 2011. The committee is working with the Greater Europe Mission which leads Christian teams to assist churches, evangelical groups and schools in various projects throughout Eastern Europe. Usually such projects are about two weeks in duration and would involve a commitment to work on practical projects. We ask you to think about this challenge and pray for God's guidance on how He would lead you to serve. It is not too early to begin your planning now. This would be a wonderful opportunity to truly have a vacation with a purpose. Would you consider this challenge?

You may know a number of our members who have served on short-term mission trips and have been greatly blessed through their service.

The Missions Committee will be providing further information in a meeting on Sunday, June 6th at 5:00 p.m. in room 2. In the meantime, please pray for God to reveal His will for you. For further information, contact Dale Beyer, Chairman of the Missions Committee at 877-8611.

**CANYON DEL ORO BAPTIST CHURCH**

9200 N. Oracle Road  
Tucson, AZ 85704-8500

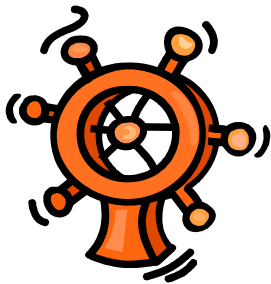
Phone: 520-297-3900

Fax: 520-297-5114

E-mail: [office@cdobaptist.org](mailto:office@cdobaptist.org)

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*Committed to helping people  
become mature followers of Jesus*



# Vacation Bible School

## June 14–18, 2010

### 9:00 a.m.—noon

Get ready to set sail on an exciting high seas expedition in God's Word this summer for Vacation Bible School! Registration begins on Sunday, May 2nd. The cost is \$5 per child that will include a CD and t-shirt. You can print out a registration form for your child *now* on the church website at [www.cdobaptist.org](http://www.cdobaptist.org)—click on the VBS slide or Events.

