



w e l c o m e

"Now I bring the first fruits of the soil that you, O LORD, have given me." Deuteronomy 26:10

CCCstaff

Pastors: Charlie Bethel, Wayne Carson, Jake Rosen

Administrative Assistant: Gina Edwards

Church Office Hours: Tue.-Thu. 9 AM - 4 PM

19 February 2012 | 26 Shevat 5772

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Weekly Operating Budget: \$4,500
Feb. 12 General Offering: \$3,639.80

Barnabas: Son of Encouragement, Part 2



The offering box is located in the hallway.

CCC gives 15% of its regular offering to missions. Any additional offerings to missions should be a sacrifice beyond your regular commitment to the ministry of CCC.

Would you like to know about Clayton Community Church? Please ask one of the Ushers for our Welcome booklet. Children are dismissed to their Sunday school classes at 11 a.m. The cry room is available for those with infants who need to be fed and cuddled. It's located to your right as you enter the sanctuary. Nursery is available for infants through 2 1/2-year-olds on the bottom floor of the Education Wing. Worship Bags (crayons & paper) are available during the service. Shalom!

missions committee

Would you like to serve CCC on the Missions Committee? Talk to Brian Ziebarth about applying!



"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."
Ephesians 2:10

2. He encouraged the newcomer

When Saul of Tarsus became a Christian there were those in the church who, perhaps not surprisingly, found it difficult to trust the man who had previously persecuted them fiercely and obsessively. How could they be sure that his change of heart was genuine? Was Paul up to something? Would he emerge from the Trojan Horse of a simulated conversion the more effectively to destroy the Christian movement from within? Some of the Christians at Jerusalem were distinctly 'cool' towards him when he visited the city as a new convert.

It was at this point the Barnabas, a highly regarded member of the church, came forward and interceded on Paul's behalf. He introduced him to the apostles in Jerusalem, convincing them that Paul's conversion was genuine (Acts 9:27). It is doubtful whether Paul would have come to prominence had not Barnabas opened doors for him.

As we picture Barnabas welcoming the newcomer and encouraging him to use his gifts in the service of Christ and his church do we not feel challenged to rethink our own attitude to the newcomer? An influx of new people into a church is sometimes seen as actually posing a threat to the already-established circle of fellowship. 'Things will never be the same again! Longstanding members may resent the way newcomers are given responsible tasks in the life of the church. That was not how Barnabas reacted. He rejoiced that a man like Paul with a great intellect and outstanding leadership potential had been converted to the faith. With the world waiting to be won for Christ how could he do anything but rejoice! There is room for everyone.

Here we touch upon one of the important functions of encouragement: to identify and mobilize the abilities and gifts of committed Christians which, for one reason or another, have been allowed to remain dormant. In every Christian church there are untapped resources, what someone has called 'the frozen assets of the church', which needed to be released and used in the multifaceted work of God's kingdom. There are natural gifts such as a fine intellect, eloquence, a good singing voice, and so on. There are also spiritual gifts which are given by the Holy Spirit such as wisdom, healing, and inspired insight. Both natural and spiritual gifts are essential. If Christians are to be more than spectating supporters of the church their gifts must be discovered and put to good use. We have before us the marvelous example of Barnabas who recognized in Saul of Tarsus great possibilities and potentialities and paved the way for the newcomer to use his gifts.

Finally, Barnabas lived out the meaning of his name in one other way.

3. He encouraged a man who had failed

The man in question was John Mark who accompanied Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey. He stayed with them in their preaching through Cyprus but when they proposed to go further afield into Asia Minor his resolve weakened and he decided to return home to Jerusalem, and so may be said to have deserted the two apostles, betraying the faith they had put in him. Paul was deeply disappointed. He felt so strongly about Mark's desertion that when, some time later, Barnabas was in favour of taking Mark on another missionary venture, he refused to trust him a second time. Barnabas, however, was equally adamant in his insistence that John Mark should be given a chance to redeem himself and

(continued on reverse)

declared his intention to take Mark with him in spite of Paul’s opposition to the idea. Neither Paul nor Barnabas was willing to give way on the matter and it caused a temporary rift between them. Barnabas went his way with Mark while Paul went his way with Silas.

It stands to Barnabas’ undying credit that he was prepared to take a risk and put trust in Mark a second time. In the event his confidence was fully vindicated and he, rather than Paul, was shown to be right. Mark rewarded his trust and went on to become a most useful servant of Jesus Christ. Indeed, when Paul was later a prisoner at Rome we find that Mark is with him and the apostle is planning to send him on a mission to Colossae. The man who once failed has become the trusted colleague.

Barnabas knew Mark well (according to Col. 4:10 he was his cousin) and believed in him at a time when he was discredited. The confidence Barnabas placed in him helped to restore his own confidence and served as a spur to renewed commitment. Barnabas understood the truth that God’s forgiveness not only wipes out our failures but makes possible a new beginning. It was what Jesus did for Peter after he had denied his Lord: it was what Barnabas did for John Mark.

This then was Barnabas. We have seen how remarkably he lived up to the name given to him by the apostles. He was a true ‘son of encouragement’. He encouraged the needy by helping to meet their needs. He encouraged the newcomer by finding a place for him in the fellowship and work of the church. He encouraged the man who had failed by giving him another chance. Barnabas was indeed an encourager *par excellence* and remains an outstanding example to all who make his acquaintance through the scriptures. ■

upcoming events - invite your friends!

- Friday, February 24, 7:15 PM: Beit Chesed Erev Shabbat special guest Dr. Al Reichman from Chosen People Ministries
- Friday, March 9, 6:30 PM: Beit Chesed Purim Play with Covenant House Players
- Sunday, April 1: Palm Sunday
- Friday, April 6, 6 PM: Beit Chesed Passover Seder - Full meal, \$10 adults, \$5 children 6-12. Seating limited, reserve early!
- Sunday, April 8: Easter

ongoing weekly events

- Adult Sunday School: Sunday before church, 9:30-10:30 AM in the CCC fellowship hall. Open to all.
- Kibbutz Girls: Monday, 6:30-8:30 PM at CCC. Geri Weis, 314-849-2977
- Chesterfield Small Group: Tuesday, 7 PM. Jake Rosen & Jack Scharr, 314-504-8539
- South City Small Group: Tuesday, 7 PM. Roger & Debbie Phillips, 314-781-8482
- Beit Chesed Messianic Congregation Shabbat Service: Friday, 7:15 PM. Jake Rosen, 314-504-8539, www.beitchesed.com

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...”

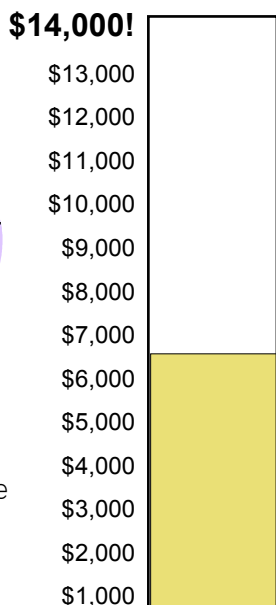
One-on-One Discipling is a mentoring program to get one grounded in the basics of the Christian faith. Contact Barb Foy or Jack Scharr for more information, or fill out a discipling information card and drop it in the offering box.

...teaching them to observe all that I commanded you.” (Mat. 28:19-20)

Announcements

- The two directories we put in the hallway recently have gone missing. These directories were available for people to update their contact information; if you know where they are, please return them to the office ASAP so we can publish the church directory in a timely manner.
- Carolyn Sittser would like feedback on the Chinese New Year Potluck we enjoyed a few weeks ago. Please fill out a survey for Carolyn today!

RAISE THE ROOF



Help us replace the fellowship hall roof! Drop a donation in the offering box. \$6,635 has been received, with less than \$8,000 left to raise!

Prayer Requests

Please pray for the peace of Jerusalem & the Middle East

Our Soldiers Stateside
Ft. Bliss, TX - Nate Wagoner
Westpoint - Mark Allen

Our Soldiers Overseas:
Afghanistan - John Oros, Joe Seavey
South Korea - Joshua Hudson
Israeli Army - Sarah Mizrachi, Liel Meyuseff

If you have updates to this list, please contact the CCC office. To join the prayer chain, e-mail the church and we will send you an invitation to the CCC Prayer Warriors Yahoo Group.