

THE CLARION

INLAND EMPIRE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

APRIL

VOLUME 53

ISSUE 4



VBS VIRTUAL TRAINING CLINIC

OVER 200 CHURCHES
REACHING
4.2 MILLION PEOPLE
WITH THE GOSPEL OF
JESUS CHRIST



UPCOMING EVENTS

April 25
VBS Clinic—now Virtual!

May 11-13
Pastor's Retreat

May 15-17
Jenness Park Minister's
Wives Retreat

April 18

Video conference will be available for viewing anytime until the end of April.
- videos for every age group and rotation!

April 25

10 AM - Zoom conference with prizes and Q&A time with the conference leaders.



In order to participate you **MUST pre-register.**

The link will be sent only to the emails that have signed up.

Register Here:
www.iesba.org/vbs-clinic



909.687.1360



WWW.IESBA.ORG



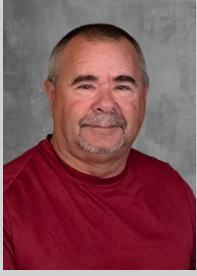
Inland Empire



iesba



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Suite 545
Ontario, CA 91761



DERYL LACKEY
DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS

Philippians 4:6-7 - "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

That passage was easier to adhere to just a few days ago! It's amazing how quickly life can change; in this case it's on a world-wide basis. However, as we navigate through this surprising season together, let me begin with some things I am thankful for.

#1 God's proven faithfulness. He is never anxious. He is never caught off guard. Over the years I have stood in constant amazement of his ability to take those things that are evil, wrong, or, in this case, the reminders that we live in a sin infected world, and he somehow brings good out of them for His glory. As I have had the privilege of talking with numerous spiritual leaders over the last few days, it is evident that God is doing that even now.

#2 I am convinced that this recent Sunday (March 22) more Americans heard at least a portion of the Word of God than possibly any other Sunday in our nation's great history. I have yet to come across a pastor who was not surprised and encouraged by the amount of people who logged into their online service, in whatever capacity it was delivered. This has been the most encouraging impact of what we are going through I have heard thus far. All of us know from experience that once the Word of God goes out and it gets into someone's heart it has an amazing power to transform. Numerous Americans who found themselves at home Sunday morning, isolated, stressed out, and in need of hope logged in and listened to a church service!

#3 For our pastors and churches who have embraced this time and, through the Holy Spirit's leadership, are finding new and, in some cases, very inventive means to minister to both those who know and those who, as of yet, do not know Christ.

It is important for you to know that as a church you are part of a larger family here in the Inland Empire. We have churches who have offered to help if you need to record your online service earlier in the week and don't have the proper equipment to do that well. We have also found a number of online giving approaches that are easy to set up and use. Every pastor I have chatted with has asked that we give them a call if they can help others. Please contact us and we will do what we can to help you overcome the barrier you are facing or find someone to provide the needed expertise. You will also find in the Clarion a number of Zoom meetings. We have 5 pastor breakfast and lunch gatherings each month, and for at least the next month they will be Zoom meetings. We will also be setting up some weekly online meetings for our spiritual leaders to become tighter, to share ideas, and most important to hear and pray for one another.

Here are some of the common prayer requests I have heard:

1. That our spiritual leaders would stay emotionally and physically healthy as they minister to others.
2. Finances are a big concern. It is too early to tell, but some churches I have spoken to have already seen somewhat of a drop. Pray that God, through his people and in whatever means he chooses, will sustain our churches financially through this time and that the leaders of each church would have great wisdom when it comes to financial stewardship during this very uncertain season.
3. That those who are "checking out" church online will indeed come when we can gather together again and experience the needed refreshment, excitement and acceptance that we all need when we meet together as church families.
4. Many of our churches meet in schools and of course are unable to meet there now. Yet there is also great uncertainty that when life get back to a normal flow, when and if those schools are going to allow them back to use the facilities. This is a very hard time for new church plants and many of our language churches who most always feel the financial hit the hardest.

Please pray for us as well, that we would be wise in our words, wise in the Association's resources, and that we would be a meaningful resource for our pastors and churches as we go through this unique time as the Family of God.



BRUCE HITCHCOCK

CHURCH GROWTH STRATEGIST

God's Goodness: His Unexplainable Benevolence

Dr. Bruce Hitchcock

Bible Verse: Read Corinthians 2:9, NLT

That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him (1 Corinthians 2:9, NLT)."

Benevolence is an action. Even though it is a noun, it is still a verb. Benevolence is the action of doing good to another person or object. We can show goodness to another person by providing comfort or support in the time of need. However, we also perform an act of goodness when we pick up a piece of trash that destroys the beauty of creation or could possibly be harmful to an animal.

God is good, all the time. His actions are always a result of goodness because He is Good. In being goodness itself, He is always good to us.

God is Benevolent

1. God's Goodness is Revealed in God's Limitless Provision: 1 Corinthians 2:9 tells us that our human eyes cannot see, our human ears cannot hear, and our minds cannot fathom in any way the good things that God has prepared for those who love Him. In our wildest dreams we cannot conceive, in our finite minds we cannot perceive, all that God has planned for us.

Love is and always has been connected to faithfulness and obedience. If I say I love someone and continually disobey them, my love is all words and no action. That great theologian Clint Black sings, "Love isn't something that we're in, it's something that we do." Jesus says, "*If you love Me, obey (keep, NKJV) My commandments* (John 14:15, NLT)."

2. Benevolence is tied to holiness: "*Is there any god who is as great as our God,*" asks the Psalmist in Psalm 77:13-15? The answer to this rhetorical question is "no." Verse 13 says, "*Your ways, O God, are holy*". Our God has worked wonders and miracles on this earth with mankind watching. He continues to work these miracles every day. God has not only saved us, but in His goodness, He will raise us from the dead according to 1 Corinthians 6:14.

3. Benevolence is expressed in His mercy: His love for us and goodness to us knows no boundaries. God's mercy is included in this everlasting love. In God's mercy, we see His deep and abiding compassion for us, His kindness towards us, and His unending forgiveness (Titus 3:4-5)

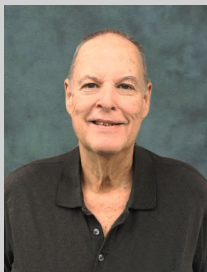


JUAN SANTOS

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Muchas circunstancias en la vida se convierten en un tiempo de espera. Un nuevo trabajo, un problema familiar, una enfermedad. La buena noticia es que Dios quiere usar este tiempo para enseñarnos que él está trabajado por nosotros mientras esperamos. Hay dos cosas que Dios quiere enseñarnos en los tiempos de incertidumbre. En primer lugar; Dios quiere Renovarnos. **Mateo 9:17 Ni tampoco se echa**

vino nuevo en odres viejos. De hacerlo así, se reventarán los odres, se derramará el vino y los odres se arruinarán. Más bien, el vino nuevo se echa en odres nuevos, y así ambos se conservan. Cuando estamos pasando por una circunstancia Dios desea hacer cosas nuevas. Pero lo más importante él quiere hacer algo nuevo en usted. Segundo Dios quiere darnos Quietud. **Salmos 62:5 -Solo en Dios halla descanso mi alma; de él viene mi esperanza.** Dios le ayuda a usted a estar en quietud sabiendo que la circunstancia por la cual estamos atravesando pasaran. En este tiempo de incertidumbre quiero animarlo a que nos mantengamos unidos en oración y sigamos confiando. Dios **sigue** estando en control. **"Feliz domingo de Resurrección"**



Robert Hendricks

Pastoral Care

We woke up a few days ago and found ourselves in a different world. It was sudden almost like a crazy politician's nightmare handed to them by a befuddled news media looking for a new topic to occupy the air space. It almost seemed like the fake news we have become used to. Yet it is real.

All of a sudden our Church buildings are standing empty every day not just during the work week. There is no touching, hugging or face to face encounters which defined our very existence. No longer do we look out and see the faces of the faithful as we share God's Word. Has Satan suddenly found a way to destroy the church or is it our Lord trying to wake up His Church? It doesn't matter why, what matters is this – What Is His Church Going To Do About It? Romans 8:28 still applies today and there will be a time when we will look back on these days and ask ourselves that question – what did we do about it?

I think we are adapting well. I see Pastors and Churches doing some things that many never dreamed about. We are finding new ways to be face-to-face with those we love. This past week Patty and I were together with all of our children their spouses, our grandkids and our great grandkids. Then when that Zoom session was finished our grandkids ask if they could meet with just grandpa and grandma and the grandkids. WOW!!! The last picture we have of all of our grandkids together was 16 years ago and now here they all were right here on our computer screen talking back and forth and laughing together. It was fantastic!!

I know, I know that many of you have been using social media for a long time and you are saying so what, but for many of us as individuals and churches we have only communicated one way – face to face. I know we would call or text different people but mainly it would be on Sunday morning or at a meeting but now we all are scrambling to catch up and begin to communicate regularly with our church family in many different ways.

What I am saying is this – I am so proud of our Inland Empire Baptist Family for what is happening. I know it is strange, different and challenging but it's real and we are finding new ways to accomplish our mission. I believe that what we learn today will be with us for a long time. God may be asking us what we would do if you we no longer had a building in which to meet.

Pastors, keep up the good work, meet each challenge with faith and keep on finding ways to love on God's people. I love you all.

Minister's Wives Retreat

Roundup:

Stronger Together

May 15-17, 2020

JENNESS PARK
Christian Camp



PASTOR'S VIRTUAL BREAKFAST SCHEDULE:

For the month of April, we are going to move our pastor breakfast meetings to Zoom. All pastors are more than welcome to join us. Below is a list of the four meetings we have scheduled. There will also be other meeting set up for the purpose of sharing, encouraging, and praying for one another as spiritual leaders. (zoom is both an app. And a website)

April 1st 8:00 a.m. zoom meeting # 123-780-856 (this takes the place of the Norco/Corona breakfast)

April 2nd 11:00 a.m. zoom meeting # 538-607-800 (this takes the place of the Yucca Valley luncheon)

April 13th 8:00 a.m. zoom meeting # 829-462-148 (this takes the place of the Menifee breakfast)

April 14th 8:00 a.m. zoom meeting # 653-663-321 (this takes the place of Fontana breakfast)

Two Zoom meetings have been set up for the purpose of praying for one another:

April 9th 9:30 a.m. zoom meeting # 943-511-595

April 15th 2:00 p.m zoom meeting # 361-825-8245

All events are tentatively scheduled. We will update as each event gets closer to let you know if it is going to occur. Please check your emails to find out, including your junk mail. We use vertical response as an email platform, if you can make sure our emails are going to your inbox. We want to assist each church as best we can, while also following the stay-at-home mandate. Thank you for your understanding!

Q & A with Kevin Ezell

President, North American Mission Board
of the Southern Baptist Convention

**Monday, March 30, 2020
11:30am at 3210 E. Guasti Rd.
Ontario, CA**



Dr. Jonathan Jarboe, President of The Baptist Foundation of California will host this Webinar for pastors, church leaders, students, and other Baptist leaders.



Register for the zoom conference here: <https://bit.ly/2QHJINh>

11th Annual Southern California Pastors Conference

The Southern California Pastors' Retreat affords pastors an opportunity to be renewed and refreshed. Held at the beautiful Tahquitz Pines in Idyllwild, this event is much more than a retreat. Pastors will find this event filled with encouragement, fun and new ideas to take back with them.

May 11-13, 2020

Tahquitz Pines Camp in Idyllwild
55251 South Circle Drive, Idyllwild, CA 9254

Cost \$150.00 for cabins, \$110 for bunkhouse
Scholarships Available

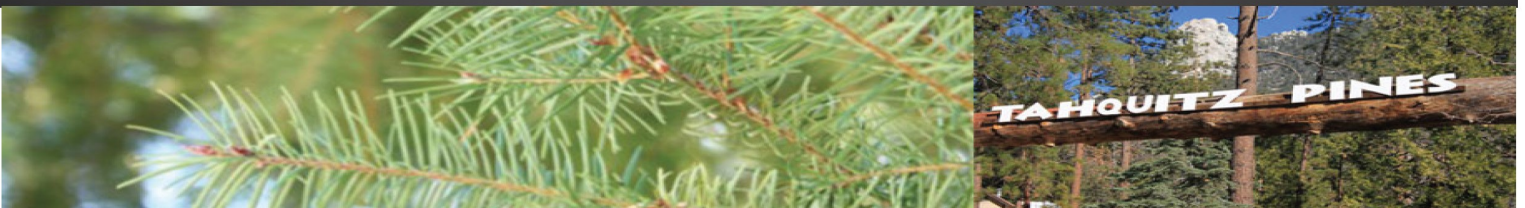
SAVE THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!
3 days, 2 nights, 5 meals, great speaker

REGISTER AT WWW.IESBA.ORG

Payment must be received by Friday, May 6, 2020 by 3:00 PM

Bruce Hitchcock: call or text at (714) 420-1092 or email brucehitch@msn.com
(if you are texting, please include your full name and church)

Sponsored by California Southern Baptist Convention in cooperation with your local Southern Baptist Association.





WHAT IS A WORKSHOP ON BIBLICAL EXPOSITION?

The **Workshops on Biblical Exposition** aim to recover the centrality of God's Word, preached expositively, to the benefit of the life and health of the church in our generation. In order for this kind of preaching to take place, the Bible must be properly understood and rightly handled. To that end, each Workshop consists of two and a half days covering **Principles of Exposition** (instructional talks on how to better handle biblical texts), **Small Group Practice** (when you will share and receive feedback on two passages you prepare in advance), and **Preaching** (encouraging exposition). Each of these sessions is carefully designed to be interrelated for the greatest value in improving your work.



Mike Bullmore



Aaron Messner



Mark Rogers

DATES: May 20-22, 2020

MAY 20-22

LOCATION: Fellowship Church
650 Oak Valley Parkway
Beaumont, CA 92223

Register online at

COST: \$159 (\$139 before Apr 29)

www.simeontrust.org

WEBSITE: www.simeontrust.org



FEBRUARY FOOD GIVEAWAY

Our latest food giveaway was held February 29, 2020, from 8am-10am at Gateway Seminary. This food giveaway was such a success! By 7:30 am, we had a line of people waiting for us to begin, and almost all of the food was gone by 9:30. We appreciate Watermark Church and God's Pantry for providing and helping to distribute all of the food to pastors and students. Our next giveaway will take place on May 30, if possible. We hold them whenever there is a 5th Saturday in a month.



2020 PASTOR'S MARRIAGE RETREAT

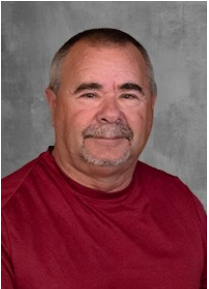


In March we held our annual Pastor's Marriage Retreat. This year we had 65 couples in attendance, at the Ontario Airport Hotel. The keynote speakers were Steve Davidson along with his wife Shirley, and they did an outstanding job. Their honesty and transparency about their marriage and life impacted everyone there. Worship was led by Ruben Galarza from The Vine Church in Rancho Cucamonga along with Cody Flannery from Orangecrest Community Church in Riverside. We want to thank everyone who donated to help keep the costs low for our pastors, and everyone who helped make this event possible!



If your church has a past or present event you would like featured in our newsletter, please email angie@iesba.org

INLAND EMPIRE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION STAFF



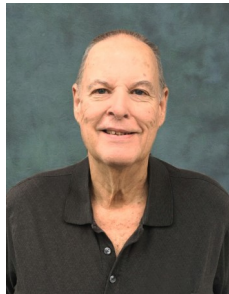
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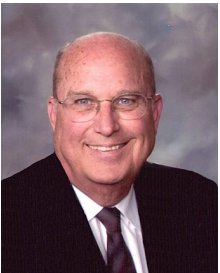
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