

THE CLARION

INLAND EMPIRE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

JUNE

VOLUME 53

ISSUE 6

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.

September 21-23, 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.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 21-23
Pastor's Retreat



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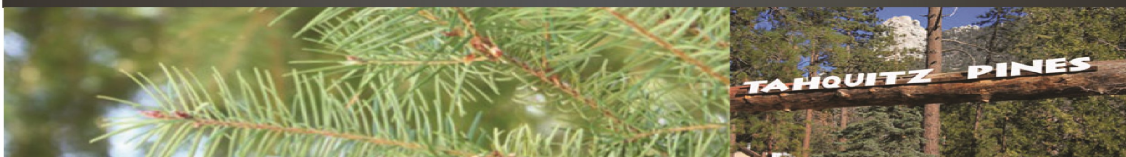
Inland Empire



iesba



3210 E. Guasti Rd.
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Ontario, CA 91761





DERYL LACKEY

DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS

As we move towards regathering, I want to share one observation: Every church will do it differently, and no church will do it perfectly. However, as we have learned, a well thought out and practiced plan is best, even if something is missed. And opening with no plan could be devastating. We are here to help in any way that we can as you consider how your specific church family will begin gathering. I have found the materials provided on the Pacific Justice Institute website helpful when it comes to what to consider for drive-in services, outside meetings, and inside gatherings. We are also able to connect you to others or share with you their approaches during this season.

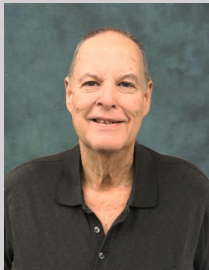
As I talk with pastors one-on-one and other Directors of Missions like myself across the country, it is amazing to see that God is working in a very noticeable way. The stories of people being saved, the way church members have stepped up and supported their church in so many ways, and the creative methods that have been utilized, many of which will continue as we figure out what the new “normal” looks like, are truly amazing stories and evidence of what many expected when all of this unfolded: That God, in spite of all the challenging and sometimes brutal challenges that this pandemic has created, would somehow reach into peoples’ lives and draw them to Himself. We serve an amazing Savior!

Regarding our Pastor gatherings in June, we are going to try to meet in restaurants, respecting their distancing requirements. (I am not sure what that will look like, but we can easily accommodate.) Each of the places in which we meet expect to be open to inside service, so we will do our best to meet together while also trying to bless them as they seek to reopen. There will also be three Zoom meetings for all pastors/spiritual leaders in which we will discuss how requirements set forth by our state, how to navigate them, and seek to help one another as we move through them. The regular Pastors’ meetings are listed in The Clarion. The three zoom meetings will be as follows:

June 8th 10:00 a.m. meeting # 838 4126 7200

June 17th 10:00 a.m. meeting # 868 7662 2798

June 22nd 10:00 a.m. meeting # 829 9378 6345



Robert Hendricks

Pastoral Care

In Ephesians 4:4-6 there is listed the seven “ones” of Christianity. *“There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.”* Paul believed and lived with absolutes! There are people of our day that say there are no absolutes only what each one thinks at any given moment in time. I am very glad that they are wrong. There are absolutes and Paul lists them for us to see and follow.

One of those absolutes is “just as you were called in one hope of your calling”. Of course, Paul was talking about the assurance we have in Jesus that He will one day come and take us home with Him and as a down payment He left The Holy Spirit as a guarantee of the promise of eternal life. The writer of the book of Hebrews in the 11th chapter verse one says this: *“Now faith is the assurance of things **hoped** (my emphasis) for, the conviction of things not seen”*. Then in the 12th chapter the writer says in verse 2 *“fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God”*. Our faith gives us hope that not only is Jesus there with the Father we will, when He calls us home, be there around the throne as well. If ever there was a time for faith and hope it is today.

We find ourselves in the midst of a pandemic today and we don’t have a frame of reference from the past to help us through. The Bible does not use the word pandemic (but there were some none the less) but it talks about events that left thousands dead all around them. These events were brought about because a great number of God’s people were no longer following him. In Deut. 28:15 He warns them what would happen if they did not follow Him and verse twenty two Moses shares the physical results: *Deut. 28:22, “He will afflict you with weakness, fever, inflammation, infection, (in Heb. hot fever) sword, blight, and mildew; these will attack you until you perish.”*

Now what does this have to do with us today? Our heavenly Father may be calling us back to Him in a new relationship. It’s hard to think that we may be the cause of something so catastrophic in our world. It is hard for me to think about myself having influence beyond the small world around me but as His children our Father expects us to have influence expanding far beyond what we think of as our sphere of influence.

The real truth is that it is not our influence but God wants to use us to spread His influence throughout the world and He will if we are open to His plans and His will. Did we as Christians cause the pandemic in our world today? I don’t know! This I do know with all my heart – God is up to something! Paul says in Eph. 5:15 and repeats it in Col. 4:5 that we are to make the most of the time (redeem the time or buy back) we are in. My interpretation of that verse would be that we are – to bring redemption to an evil generation or time. Now that it looks like we are going to be able to begin worshipping together again let’s not forget what we have learned these past months but incorporate it into our activities in the days ahead. It seems that more people have been won to the Lord while we have been away from the building than when we were in the buildings. WOW! It seems more people have been watching online than when we were in our buildings. WOW! There are absolutes and we know them – “one Lord ... one God and Father who is over all and through all and in all”. Even though there are many who say there are many God’s we know the truth. Let’s continue to take our world for Him!!



JUAN SANTOS

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Vivimos en un mundo que en los últimos meses está cambiando. Los noticieros, las redes sociales nos bombardean con malas noticias todos los días. La pregunta es, ¿Qué debe hacer la iglesia en medio de este caos mundial? Jesús nos da el antídoto para sanar al mundo, las buenas nuevas. Los creyentes somos la fuerza para que este mundo encuentre esperanza. Hemos sido llamados y escogidos para hacer una diferencia por medio de Jesucristo. Mostremos al mundo un estilo de vida diferente. El mundo nos necesita. ¡Trabajemos unidos!

Juan 14:27 - "La paz les dejo; mi paz les doy. Yo no se la doy a ustedes como la da el mundo. No se angustien ni se acobarden."

Anuncios:

Tendremos una conferencia por medio de Zoom el sábado 6 de Junio a las 10:00am. Quiero invitarlos a que se conecten con otros pastores.

El Seminario Gateway y las oficinas de la asociación abren en Junio.

-Retiro de pastores IESBA será el 21- 23 de Septiembre, 2020

-El Retiro de varones 2020 está cancelado.

-Llámemme si tiene alguna necesidad de oración (714) 914-4879



BRUCE HITCHCOCK

CHURCH GROWTH STRATEGIST

NOTICE-PASTOR'S RETREAT MOVED

Due to the Coronavirus Epidemic, we have moved the Pastors' Retreat to September 21-23, 2020. Unless otherwise notified, all reservations and payments made for the original retreat (May 11-13) have been moved to that new date. For more information, contact Bruce Hitchcock by email at: brucehitch@msn.com.

Study: The Promises of God: True, Timeless, Transforming

Hebrews 13:5 states that God will never abandon us. He will not reject or disown us. We are His children by the second birth. We are born again into His family. But how do we know that this promise is true? How can we be sure that any promises He made to people two thousand or more years ago still are applicable today? How can we know that God's promises will transform our lives? Are we still in our sin? The Bible answers all these questions and more.

- God's Promises are Truthful: 2 Corinthians 1:20, "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so, through Him, the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God." God is Truth (John 14:6). Therefore, everything God says is true. Think about it. If God could lie would He still be God? The answer is simple, no. God is not a man in the spiritual sense (Numbers 23:19). He does not have a sin nature (1 Peter 1:19). God cannot sin (1 Peter 2:22).
- God's Promises are Timeless: James 1:17, "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." God never changes. He is in control. Colossians 1:17 explains, "He is before all things, and in Him, all things hold together." He is the eternal God. Psalm 48:14: "For this God is our God forever and ever; He will be our guide even to the end." God's promises have an eternal impact because He is timeless.
- God's Promises are Transforming: 2 Corinthians 7:1, "Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God." God's promises are transformational. If we seek His understanding and wisdom, God will guide us through the spiritual growth process. It all begins with the timeless truth of God found in His Word the Bible. Remember this promise, "nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:39).



PASTOR'S BREAKFAST SCHEDULE:

1st Wednesday of the month: 8:00 am, The Original Pancake House, 1750 Hamner Ave., Norco - (951) 403-6900

1st Thursday of the month: 11:00 am, Asian Buffet, 57676 Twentynine Palms Hwy, #101, Yucca Valley - 760.365.0708

2nd Monday of the month: 8:00 am, Coco's Bakery, 27990 Bradley Road, Sun City - 951.672.8003

2nd Tuesday of the month: 8:00 am, Chef's Country Cafe, 17039 Valley Blvd., Fontana, CA 92335, 909.823.2200

Zoom Meetings:

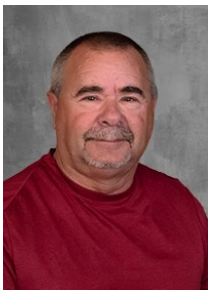
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If your church has a past or present event you would like featured in our newsletter, please email angie@iesba.org

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