

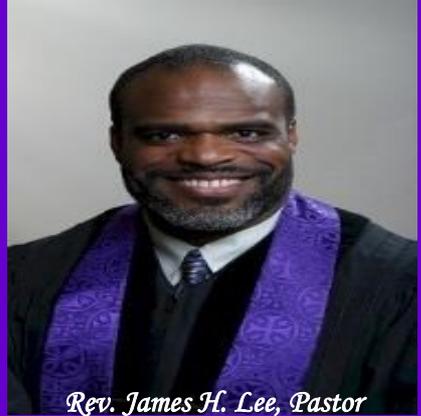
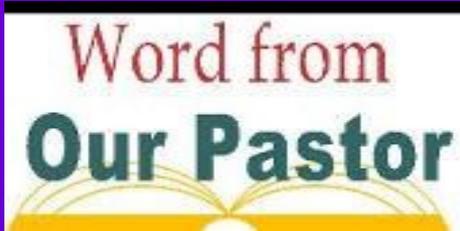
April 10, 2016



NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!

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Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!



Rev. James H. Lee, Pastor

Dear NCFA Family and Friends

I continue to marvel at the grace, mercy, and love that God extends to us. Isn't it great to know that God's mercies towards us are new every morning? Can you imagine the judgments and consequences God has withheld for our sake?! The things we know about, and the things that are oblivious to us....

What does it mean to be loved beyond who we are, what we know, what we can do, who we know, and where we fall short? God has "mad love" for us. God loved Thomas enough to minister where he was in *John 20*. God loved Peter enough to restore him on the waterfront over a meal. How are you experiencing God's love for you? *You are loved, and there is nothing you can do or have to do.*

As I watch the news in dismay, I ponder....if perfect love casts out all fear....why am I afraid....do I have the capacity to move past betrayals, inequity, injustice, etc., to accept perfect love and extend that perfect love to others, especially those I fear or don't know? It is my hope that we affirm our love for Jesus this Sunday. Each of three times we say it with the assurance of knowing that He is saying, "I love you. Do you love me?" May we then be bathed in the love of God and go about feeding and tending the flock—the body of Christ.

Please join us for worship on Sunday morning. Deacon Lucy Oglesby will preach at 8:30, and I will preach at 10:15. Following worship our Deacons will meet, and our friend and UT Professor will continue "Math with Maša."

⁹ For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. (1 Thessalonians 5:9-11)

God Bless You All

Pastor James H. Lee

April 10, 2016



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STEPPING UP



**Thinking with Christ's Mind
Loving with Christ's Heart
Serving with Christ's Hands**

Featured below are just some of the areas within NCF where your time, talents, or treasures are currently encouraged:

* CHILDREN & YOUTH *

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL'S "SURF SHACK" – June 13-17

The kickstart Beach Party-themed Picnic is Sunday, June 12th, and the week will culminate with a June 19th VBS/Father's Day celebration during our worship service. Help is needed NOW and LATER!!

- (1) Teachers and helpers are needed in the Nursery and Church School.
- (2) Building props and preparing crafts will begin soon.
- (3) Volunteers willing to support a fantastic VBS experience are happily encouraged to join the C&Y team.

Contacts:

Elder Danita Nelson, atinad787@gmail.com:

Elder Randy Mojica, mothachozen@gmail.com

◆ CARING AND SHARING *

One of our members needs weekly rides to church, just one way. Can you help occasionally?

Contacts:

Deacon Scott Phillips, scotteric@gmail.com

Carol Saddington, saddington@gmail.com

◆ WORSHIP TEAM *

Extra hands and voices needed at this time:

1. Worship Preparation

Contact: Tim Lenz, running4mexfood@aol.com

2. Communion Preparation

Contact: Nancy Harris, mousiemama51@yahoo.com

3. Ushers

Contact: Elder Matthew Aldas, matthewaldas@icloud.com

4. Audio-Visual Assistance

Contact: Elder Robert Booth, rpbooth66@gmail.com

5. Music—Come sing with our Psalm 150 Praise Team

Rehearse at 9:45am before worship.

Soloists welcome, please speak with Pastor Lee

Contacts:

Rev. Bill Harris, revbill66@gmail.com

Deacon Jimmy Bohn, jimmy_bohn@hotmail.com

6. After-worship - assorted helpful things

Contact : Elder Matthew, matthewaldas@icloud.com

7. Early Service - Now at 8:30am, Fellowship Hall

Ask how you can help:

Contact : Rev. Trish, geotriholland@yahoo.com

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- ⇒ Lift up Nekia and Sam as she serves in Iraq and Sam awaits her return.
- ⇒ Lift up Kimberly for continued recovery and health. Lift up the family as they assist her.
- ⇒ Lift up our nation; health for Vernon; little kids at school who don't know about Jesus; co-worker Kim who had a miraculous recovery from a leg infection that threatened amputation but healed when people prayed for her! God is still in the miracle business.
- ⇒ Lift up Matt for an accurate diagnosis and treatment to give him improved health.
- ⇒ Praise for the many visitors in worship.
- ⇒ Lift up God's abounding love to prevail for a young family going through a divorce.
- ⇒ Praise for the sermon and encouragement. Praise for so many opened doors and blessings in Caly's life right now.
- ⇒ Lift up Isabelle and John as they assume the role of caretakers for his aging mother Pat.
- ⇒ Praise for Carol's friends and daughter Debbie attending worship with her today. Lift up travel mercies for Jeff as he leaves for Turkey and Greece this week.
- ⇒ Praise for Tracey's mother Cathy feeling well enough to come to worship two weeks in a row.
- ⇒ Praise, praise, praise for Ryan's father-in-law recovering from a recent illness and doing much better. The new treatment for his MS is working for now. Lift up the family as they adjust to his changing needs.
- ⇒ Lift up a friend Jack in New Mexico who was diagnosed with leukemia this past week and has already begun chemo treatments.
- ⇒ Lift up Melissa for God's comfort and strength following a difficult experience.
- ⇒ Lift up Amanda and her family as they grieve the sudden death of her father.
- ⇒ Lift up all marriages to experience the little and big joys that knit spouses together as they run the race to that 50th anniversary goal. Praise for Scott being a wonderful husband to Ashley and father to his daughters.
- ⇒ Lift up Tiffany's friend—God knows the need. Lift up Tiffany's sister as she searches for a sling (to support her recently broken hand!) to match the bridesmaid's gown for the April 23rd wedding of Tiffany and Justin.
- ⇒ Lift up Rey's friend Paul whose father faces cancer surgery this Friday. Also, lift up the whole family as they aid him.
- ⇒ Lift up God's comfort, strength, and endurance for Roxann as she wrestles with many issues at home.

The Lord is near to
all who call on him,
to all who call on
him in truth.

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SUNDAY MORNINGS

NCFA Sunday Schedule

8:30am - Worship Service
1507 Wilshire Blvd.

10:15am - Worship Service
1507 Wilshire Blvd.
9am Adult Sunday School
10am Fellowship
10:45am - Children's Church



NCEFA SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 8:30am -- Wilshire Blvd.

Come rise and shine with us
at our 8:30am service
where we glorify God
through the Word, Prayer, Hymns,
and Communion.

1507 Wilshire Blvd.

In the words of Phillips, Craig & Dean,
"Come, just as you are, to worship."
All are welcome to this traditional,
intimate style of worshipping our Lord.

NCEFA SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 10:15am

We would love to have you and your family come share in the CELEBRATION OF THE GOOD NEWS!

We are worshipping in the Fellowship Hall of Genesis Presbyterian Church on the Wilshire Campus starting at 10:15 a.m.



New Covenant Fellowship of Austin PC(U.S.A.) is a racially diverse community informed by the Bible, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and motivated to share God's love with all. In response to God's love, we are called to equip disciples to faithfully serve, to encourage seekers to joyfully commit, and to implore all to worship our Lord, as we love our neighbors, grow in grace, and live by faith.

JOIN US IN THE CELEBRATION OF THE GOOD NEWS

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- 1st Matthew Castilleja
- 2nd Justin Wallace
- 4th Gemma Munoz
- 6th Jhaliah J'nae Edwards
Alida Tallman
- 11th Kayla Zajicek
- 13th Abigail Iris Longino
- 15th J.T. Longino
Abraham Agbottah
- 16th Kofi Vida-Torku
- 18th Aquanetta Hicks
- 22nd Wonho Shin
- 24th Lucy Oglesby
- 25th Angel Mojica
Lydia Marion
- 27th Saul Cortez

Session Members

- *Rev. James Lee
Pastor/Moderator
- *Elder Kathy Smith
Clerk of Session
- *Rev. Oliver Smith
Administration & Personnel
- *Elder Bill Harris
Buildings & Grounds
- *Elder Randy Mojica
Children and Youth
- *Elder Ben Hooks
Discipleship & Men's/
Women's Ministry
- *Elder Mary Jo Mojica
Finance & Stewardship
- *Elder Robert Booth
Congregational Life/
Lay Ministry
- *Elder Vernon Bailey
Missions/Evangelism
- *Elder Matthew Aldas
Worship & Membership

Deacons

- Kathryn Aldas
- Ashley Phillips
- Scott Phillips
- Carol Saddington, Chair
- Cathy Trifiro
- Roxann Vallejo

April 2016

- 5th 6:30pm Men's Ministry Dinner,
7pm Study
- 6th 6:30pm Fellowship Dinner
7:00pm Ministry Meetings
- 7th 6:30pm-Diabetes Class
- 17th 4th Sunday after Easter
8:30am Early Worship at Wilshire
Rev. Lydia Hernandez, preaching
9-10am Adult Sunday School
9:45m Psalm 150 Praise
Team Rehearsal
10:15am Worship at Wilshire Blvd.
Pastor James Lee, preaching
Sunday School Ages 3-5
(Rm. 1); Grades 1-5 (Rm. 7)
Special Called Session Mtg.

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NEW COVENANT FELLOWSHIP PICTURE DIRECTORY

Please come and be recognized as part of the New Covenant Fellowship Church Family by having your photograph taken any Sunday before or after worship by appointment with Oliver.

Signup sheet on back table each Sunday or contact Oliver at mmoesmith@aol.com

Free Appointments

Free-Will Offering for Portrait Packages



NEW COVENANT FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTIN
DIABETES EMPOWERMENT EDUCATION

MARCH 31, 2016 THRU MAY 5, 2016

6:30 – 8 PM

APRIL 28TH AND MAY 5TH CLASSES WILL BE HELD ON CAMPUS, EXACT LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED AT A LATER DATE.

**NCFA – FELLOWSHIP HALL
1507 WILSHIRE BLVD., AUSTIN - 78722**

**INSTRUCTOR:
CALY FERNANDEZ, CHWI/CERTIFIED DIABETES INSTRUCTOR**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
CALY FERNANDEZ AT CALYFLOWER2020@YAHOO.COM**

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Café Justo

Café Justo is a coffee grower cooperative based in Salvador Urbina, Chiapas, Mexico. They market a pure, organic coffee which is grown, harvested and marketed in the spirit of justice. Our goal is to provide incentives for people to remain on their family lands.

Orders will be arranged through NCFA's Evangelism Committee. Please see Caly Fernández to place an order. Coffee is available in 1 and 5 pound bags. The cost of a 1 pound bag is **\$10.00** and a 5 pound bag is **\$ 40.00**. Dark roast, medium roast and decaf are available in ground or whole beans. Coffee will be delivered biweekly to NCFA.

Contact Caly to make your purchase today!
(512)228-4712



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Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

“Liberating Encounters”

John 20:19-31

Pastor James H. Lee

**New Covenant Fellowship of Austin
April 3, 2016– 2nd Sunday in Easter**

John 20:19-31 ¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” ²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” ²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

This is one of those important texts for us to read after Easter. Part of the reason why it’s so important is, again, we know that Christ Jesus was resurrected, and he begins to show himself to those who were following him. It’s also important for us to know that even the faithful disciples had a little fear; they had a little doubt. And they wondered themselves why it is that things happened the way they did and what they were supposed to do next. It’s also important for us to know how Jesus ministers to his children, his disciples, in ways that sometimes we fail to do because we’re so intent on either the process or the end result that we forget that there are people in here who need to be cared for and loved and to walk through in a powerful way. As I’ve preached this over the years, one of the things that I am mindful of is “triage.” I love the old TV show “*M*A*S*H*.” When you’re having folks who come in and they were in battle and then when they are on the table, you’re doing everything you can to give them another minute, another day, another week. And every now and then we need a little something to help us make it through another minute, another day, another week. And so these texts are so very helpful.

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As we work through this sermon today, *“Liberating Encounters,”* I want us to not only see what Jesus does but also to see that as we are His disciples and as we are on this journey, we are also called to be blessings for other people. In *Ephesians 6* it goes through this whole thing about the armor of God: the helmet of salvation, the breastplate of righteousness, the sword which is the word of God, the shield of faith to quench the fiery darts of the ways that the enemy would come at us. And then it tells us to gird our loins with the belt of truth. And in the latter part we are told to shod our feet with the Gospel of Peace. The Gospel of Peace. And Jesus says that to his disciples in the text. His peace, peace that he gives, not that the world give us, but that he gives. That’s what he grants unto us.

As we work through the sermon today, I just want us to think about these things, the *Care and Concern*, the *Commissioning*, and then the *Challenges and Correction*.

Care and Concern:

Again, we are called to be a compassionate and caring people. And the compassion and the care comes out of the compassion and care that we have received from our Lord and our God. Amen. In *2nd Corinthians* it says, *“may you be consoled with the consolation that we have received from Christ Jesus.”* When you look at our text it says *“...it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews.”* They needed to be cared for. Have you ever been afraid? Have you ever felt like you were paralyzed and could not go, get up, or do because of whatever it was that was out there or in here that could impact you? But they were afraid of their leaders because if their Messiah was killed and they did that to him, and you know they’d seen Jesus perform miracles, what would they do to them? They needed to be cared for, to be ministered to.

Have you ever been disappointed? Had expectation that something else was going to happen and when it didn’t, you had to continue on, to live on with your disappointments? We need to be cared for. I love that as we are part of the Scriptures as they feed us and tell us, we each experience things in life so that we can show compassion to other people. That *6th chapter of Galatians* continues to hunt me down like nobody’s business. It says that *“those of you who are spiritual, if somebody has been found in a fault restore such a one considering yourself, lest you also fall.”* Care, compassion when we need it the most. Amen?

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April 3, 2016– 2nd Sunday in Easter**

So they were in a room seemingly protected by a door, afraid of what could happen, afraid of the commitments they had made. Sometimes even afraid of what's in them. And lo and behold, Jesus comes in. And it wasn't like the situation in *Acts* where Peter's been knocking on a door. You know they have prayed for Peter to be free and come on in, and he's knocking and they wondered who he is. He let them know who he was, and he said, "You've been praying for me to be here; I'm here but you won't let me in." (*"I hear you knockin' but you can't come in,"*—oh, wrong song.) But Jesus comes in through the door. And I love how different denominations and different folks preach it. They say, *"Jesus was so much God that he went through the door. But he was so much man that we'll learn later on that he had a fish sandwich."* And that's who we serve, the one who is both God and man but has compassion for us when we need it the most, and when they needed it the most.

And so the doors were closed; they were locked. And Jesus came and he stood among them. You know what he said, ***"Peace be with you."*** Whew. Sounds like just good words and you'd expect to hear them, but the words behind the words are *"I'm anxious, I am afraid, I am angry, I am doubtful. I don't know what is going on and how much longer I can hold on."* And Jesus says ***"Peace be with you."*** And then He shows them his scars, and it's like "Whoa!" At first glance you'd say that he shows them the scars to say that he's alive. But I'd say he shows them the scars also to let them know that he cares and that he has the capacity to understand. Isn't it something when you're with someone who understands you and what you are going through? That's what Jesus does. And if you're like my old football coaches: "Boy, you need to get on up now. You know we gotta get through this practice to win this game. I know you're sore, but you've got to work through the pain....No pain, no gain." No, Jesus says ***"Peace be with you,"*** and he shows his scars. "I've been there, I've done that, and these are the markings."

There is a guy by the name of Erwin McManus, and I have been reading so many of his books for so long—and I have felt like I was quoting him so often that I felt I had better slow down from quoting him for awhile. But he wrote a book called *Soul Cravings*, and in it he says, *"A sense of destiny gives us the strength to face overwhelming obstacles and hardships. When you know who you are, and you know where you're called to go, it gives you the capacity to overcome overwhelming circumstances or obstacles and hardships. See, at the same time, living a life with a powerful sense of purpose gives us energy and enthusiasm to get up in the morning and face the day. It is in the worst of situations that we are able to discover the best in us. It is also in these moments that we are able to most clearly see what is true and what is real and what it means to be fully human."* Amen?

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When you're right in it, you know of your strengths, you know of your weaknesses, and you know what you can do and what you can't do. And you know that you are human. I have a friend who's been going through, and she says, "I don't want to cry anymore." I said, "You must cry; let the tears flow because it's a part of your grief. One day there will be tears of joy as you're grateful for the life that was given to you and that you cared for and that is now in glory and doesn't have to suffer anymore. You don't have to be ashamed of those tears; they remind you that you are human. To grieve deeply means that you have loved deeply. And so rather than hide it, stuff it, keep from sharing it, let it flow. Let it flow.

Commissioning:

But Jesus as he is there with them does something special. Not only does he say, "*Peace be with you,*" but then he says, "*As the Father has sent me, so I send you.*" ²²*When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."* Oooh! He commissions them. And what I love about our church is when folks join and become a part of this church and they're called to leave, we commission them. If you're called as a missionary for a season, we commission you so that we all know that God's Kingdom is not limited to this place. And that the church is not limited to this church. And we commission folks for the purposes of God and for God's glory. Jesus commissions them even after he had already commissioned them. Sometimes we need to be reminded that the call is without revoke. And as much as we disqualify ourselves here on earth, in Glory there is no disqualification.

And you say, "Well, that calling thing is just for the preacher...." Nope! It's for all of us. Your life has meaning; your life has purpose. You will touch lives that many of us will never touch. You will go places that we won't or can't go, but you can, for the purpose of God and for the blessing of those around you. He commissions us.

He says "*Receive the Holy Spirit.*" Now if I were a scholar, I would say, "Well, wait a minute. Weren't they supposed to wait until the Pentecost—you know, that's when the Spirit will come and be poured out." No, he breathed it, whooo! I used to say "whoa!" When you get a sense of the Spirit of God in your life, it's like "whoa!" I wanted us to sing "*Yes, God is real for I feel Him in my soul.*" Have you ever had a fluttering in your heart when you've gone through something, or even a tear that flowed down? Or you found yourself laughing about something and no one else could see it, so they're like, "Why is he laughing? What is wrong?" Something about the Spirit of God being present with you. The old football in me would remind us that the Holy Spirit in the Greek word is like a "pair o' cleats" (*paraclete*). So every time I put the cleats on, I knew that the Holy Spirit was with me. To go alongside of us in our journeys. So the next time you put your boots on, your shoes on, your sandals on, you're going to remember "I am putting on my **Paracletes** because

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Now, we’re the type who want that spirit so we can *do* some things. I want to do this, I want to do that. No. Be led to go where you’re called to go, to do what you’re called to do when that time comes. Even Paul would say later on, ***“Don’t prepare the speech.”*** Why? Because the Spirit will give you what you are to say when you are there. There is a part of us that says, “Mmmm, I’m writing that down; I need to be prepared; I need to know what’s going on. There’s another part that says “As we trust, as we’re in tune, it becomes more natural.” Just like we intuitively in the most positive way can anticipate the actions, the thoughts, and the moves of those we spend the most time with. I say the “most positive way” because sometimes we’re like, “I knew you would do that.” “I knew you would say that.” “You always...” or “You never...” Mmm-mm. But in the best positive way it’s like, “Oh, I know where you were about to go and I am ready.” How did you know? It’s just one of those things; it’s the spirit—the Spirit of God that’s in us.

So he commissions them out from beyond locked doors. He commissioned them from fear that’s in the head and the heart that’s in the body. He commissions them. He commissions them to go back into the community in which they came from. And if you remember when he commissioned them the first time, he said “I am sending you out as sheep among wolves.” But why would you do that? “So that lives can be transformed and incredible things can happen. So that you can fully live...so that you can fully live.”

Challenges and Correction:

Well, everything was great. Jesus came and he did his thing, and one of the disciples was really excited. So he did what we do when we have some good news, go tell everyone about it! And he went and talked to a brother named Thomas. Thomas is like “Hmmm, I don’t know about you, but unless I can see the scars, put my hand in in them, I won’t believe.” Okay, I like that because a week later, guess what? Jesus found Thomas. When he did, he came in and said the same thing he said to the others. ***“Peace be with you.”*** Because who needed peace? Thomas. Now he gets a bad rap of being “doubting Thomas,” but I’ll tell you I’m glad Thomas said what he said in ***John 14*** because when Jesus said, “Y’all know the way,” Thomas said, ***“Uh-uh, I don’t know the way.”*** Jesus said ***“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father but by me.”***

I am so glad Thomas said ***“Uh-uh, until I see it, I won’t believe it.”*** “I know no Christians in 2016 believe that or say that, you know....I gotta see it to believe it.” None of us do that, do we? Oh, we’re so spiritual. We walk by faith and not by sight. We have faith in such a way that we can believe those things that are not before they even happen. Though every now and then we ***are*** those who say “If I don’t see it, I won’t believe it.”

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Now the first time he came through the door, they didn't even have to say that. Why? Because he came among them and showed them his hands and his side. But this go-round he had to say “Do it” because he knew where Thomas was. And he tells him not just to touch. He says, *“Plunge—that’s the Greek word—plunge your hands into this hole, put your hand into my side.”* I was like, mmm, whoa, that’s a little too much, Jesus. But if the pain, the suffering, the challenges you face were deep and out of the ordinary, you need a deep and out of the ordinary to get you out of it sometimes. You don't need the status quo “We'll bless you.” You don't need the status quo “I'm anointing you.” You don't need the status quo, “You are forgiven.”

What is easier, to say “Stretch forth thine hand” or “You're forgiven”? “Pick up your mat?” or “You are forgiven?” Or...Put somebody on your horse or your mule and take them over to a place and say “Take care of them; here, this is enough money, but if not, I'll take care of the debt later on.” And one could say, “Well, that was the challenge.” But I don't look at it as the challenge. I looked at it as correction, and correction can seem like it's so hard and so violent, so this.... But if you've ever broken an arm or a hand or whatever, to put it in a splint is to correct it. To put it in a cast, even though it itches, is a correction so that the bone can heal and mend and be protected. He wanted to protect Thomas from more pain.

Do y'all know when we doubt, when we fear, we cause pain? Because we're like, “I'm not going to hurt any more. You're not going to do to me what So-and-So did to me. I've had that one before; I know that.” Thomas said “Not today,” and Jesus ministers to that, and he commissions him as he does the other ones, but he corrects Thomas's understanding by being with him. And do you know what Thomas did to let you know he understood and there was a correction? Whoo! He was able to recognize Jesus and believe. And *believe!*

But I love this last part. He said now you believe because you put your hand in here and here and here; but *“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”* Any of those in the house? Have y'all seen Him? Do you yet believe Him? Ah yeah, see, I love that. Every now and then I have to just have that stirring in me: I believe, I believe, I believe. I don't see it the way I want to see it, but I believe. I hadn't yet been released from this cord, but I believe. I believe.

I am fighting for couples who are struggling because I believe in them, and I believe in their marriages, and I believe in what I believe to be the best good for them. I believe for couples that are preparing to be married, as I get to say to them what it is that I see special about them and that God is using in them, but to also say, “The best of what you have will require you to work and will call you to move beyond the fear that you have so that the Holy Spirit can correct what is broken in you and bring about a healing so that you can live again, live again.” Amen? Live again.

April 10, 2016



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Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

“Liberating Encounters”

John 20:19-31

Pastor James H. Lee

**New Covenant Fellowship of Austin
April 3, 2016– 2nd Sunday in Easter**

Liberating encounters. As you leave here today, know that you don't leave just as the person you came. You leave as an ambassador of Jesus Christ. You leave as a representative. You leave as one who has been redeemed. You leave as one who has been declared righteous.

May the Spirit of God flow freely through you to bring forth healing and peace to someone else. And you may not have scars like Jesus, but you have scars and can say “He brought me through this, and I know he can bring you through it too.” Amen.

God, thank you. Thank you for love, grace, and mercy. Thank you for human beings like Thomas who could say “I don't understand, I gotta see it to believe it.” Who say the things that we say. But thank you, Lord, that you will not allow us to stay stuck in the muck and the mire. You will not allow us to remain broken if we want to be healed. And so, God, I pray that you will minister to every one of us in the way that we need to be ministered to the most, and give us the courage to allow your peace which surpasses all of our understanding to guard our hearts and our minds so that we can live more fully and wholly unto you. I ask your blessings over this word and over our lives. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!



We Care Kits

“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” 1 Peter 3:15

We are currently accepting the following donations

Food/Drink Items:

- Granola Bars, Trail mix, or peanut butter and crackers
- Vienna sausage – 5 ounce size cans
- Water bottles – 8 ounce size

Hygiene/Personal Items:

- Travel Size Toothbrush & Toothpaste
- Travel size hand sanitizer or hotel size bar soap
- Men’s size small crew ankle length white or black socks

Quart size freezer bags

Please note: this is a smaller kit with fewer items.

All donated items should be placed in the donations box located on the back table by the AV equipment. If you have any questions, please email me: calyflower2020@yahoo.com or call me at (512) 228-4712.