

September 15, 2017



NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!

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Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

*Rev. Jesus Juan Gonzalez
"Jesse"*



Greetings/Saludos, New Covenant Fellowship of Austin!



NCFA Moving Forward!

During our Worship Service on Sunday, September 10th, 2017, Elder Cathy Angell was installed as a member of Session (Class of 2018); and afterwards at the Session meeting she was confirmed as chair of the *Administration and Personnel Committee*.

As part of the moving forward strategy, on Sunday, September 17th, after the Worship Service our Session is leading a panel to follow up on the July 15th Facilitated Meeting led by Mike Murray *to identify issues and generate goals related to the future of NCFA*. All members are encouraged to stay after the Worship Service for about an hour or a little less to hear from Session not only about how *your concerns* have been addressed through its committees but also to respond to any questions you all may have.

Please join me in prayer for the Holy Spirit's guidance and wisdom to all of us over this critical *transitional time* for NCFA.

**Gracias/Shalom/Thanks:
Pastor Jesse**

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Welcome

Fakatalofa atu

Maloe me'a mai

Talofa lava!

Afio mai

Turou Aere mai

Hoan nghênh

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Welkam



NCFA Women

Let's gather together, for a quick update!!!!

Immediately following worship service

Sunday, September 17th

Sunday, September 17th, 2017

Join us for a panel discussion with Deacons and Elders as a follow-up to Mike Murray's workshop



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2017 Matching

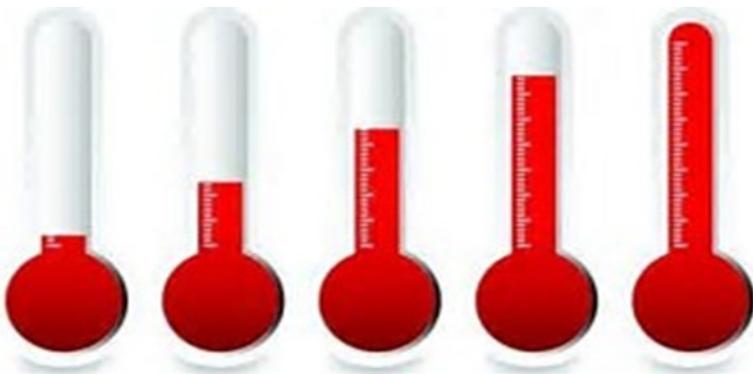


GOAL \$30,000.00

We have received \$15,000.00 - donor donations. Need to raise \$15,000.00 in matching funds in order to meet our goal of \$30,000.00.

Current Amount

Matching Grant to Date:	\$ 5,322.00
Leadership Pledges	\$ 1,200.00
Balance Due to Meet \$15,000 Match Goal	\$ 8,478.00



Please consider giving to help us meet our goal for our challenge with a purpose

So that we may continue sharing God's word and serving our brothers/sisters.

Please mail your donations to the church or feel free to leave a check designated as "Matching Grant" at any of the services/events you attend at the church.

Thank you for your donation!

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pray

- ⇒ Pray for God's chosen students to come to Genevieve's pre-school now that she has passed all the inspections and received her license.
- ⇒ Praise for friends who become family. Lift up Matt for comfort as he grieves his father Al's death. Lift up travel mercies for friends who will attend the funeral services.
- ⇒ Praise for the humbling services of volunteers who have responded to the needs of people resulting from the damage done by Hurricane Harvey along the Gulf Coast. Lift up like provision for all who will be affected by Hurricane Irma. Remember! God will out provide any and all resources offered up by mere humans.
- ⇒ Lift up Vi's friend Deborah who has recurrent cancer. Lift up intercession for the most advantageous treatment.
- ⇒ Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! P-R-A-I-S-E the Lord! Aisha was able to spend two hours with Safia! Aisha is asking forgiveness from God for an abrupt action she took.
- ⇒ Pray for safe travel for Caly to Chicago to meet with Cuban pastors to make plans for ministries in 2018-2019. Pastor Valdez's home was destroyed by Hurricane Irma, and the extent of damage to the church is still not known. Lift up all people affected.
- ⇒ Praise for the luncheon hosted by Turning Point.
- ⇒ Lift up the children and families who will be affected by decisions to be made by Congress about DACA. Lift up the Holy Spirit's direction and influence upon the decision makers.
- ⇒ Lift up our country and church for God's daily intervention in our lives and that he grant us open eyes to see his hand.
- ⇒ Lift up all people affected by the hurricanes. Praise for the heroic actions of people responding to needs of others.
- ⇒ Lift up Christina, her family, and her fiancée Eddy as she grieves the death of her mother.
- ⇒ Lift up Lydia in the Orlando area.
- ⇒ Lift up a mother with vision issues—she will have surgery to repair her retina this week. Lift up comfort for her and her family as they contemplate a possible future with blindness and all the life changes that would entail.
- ⇒ Lift up friends in Florida who will not evacuate for Hurricane Irma. Lift up those grieving a friend's death by car accident. Lift up her granddaughter who will need heart surgery.
- ⇒ Praise for a student at ACC who received the James Hickson Lee scholarship. In her application she claimed her daughter has been a great influence on her life. And now her daughter is supporting her so she can go back to school. Lift up her successful progress to complete a four-year degree and to work with children.
- ⇒ Lift up protection for the Hurricane Hunters flying into the hurricanes keeping track of the strength and parameters of the storm.
- ⇒ Praise for Robert's mother's birthday. Lift up good health for her. Praise for her influence on Robert's life.
- ⇒ Lift up Trish and Scott as they redefine the mother/son relationship in adult terms. Lift up good health for each one.

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**N
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A**

SUNDAY MORNINGS

NCFA SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday, September 17th

*Pastor Jesus "Jesse" Gonzalez-
Preaching*



NCFA 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

Real Church...
Real People...
Real Simple...

Real Church...
Real People...
Real Simple...

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“Petit Comité”

Psalm 149; Matthew 18:15-20

New Covenant Fellowship of Austin

September 10th, 2017: *14th Sunday after Pentecost*
Christian Education Week & Celebration

INTRODUCTION:



The expression in French *Petite Comité* means *small group*. And I am using it today because of Jesus' promise to his followers in Verse 20 about being with a *small group* of two or three *together or gathering* in his name. Ladies are more familiar with the adjective *petit* applied to woman's *small-size clothing*. Not everybody realizes that the word is one of many used in English that are borrowed from French. And the noun *comité* is French for *committee*.

The other interesting finding in the Greek text in Verse 20 of today's Gospel lesson is the translation of *coming together or gather* based on the verb *συνάγω* (*sunagó*) meaning: *to lead together, i.e. to bring together, hence come together, to entertain*. And *sunagó* became the synonym of the Jewish liturgical movement and meeting place known as the *synagogue* well before the destruction of the Second Temple in 70^{CE}.

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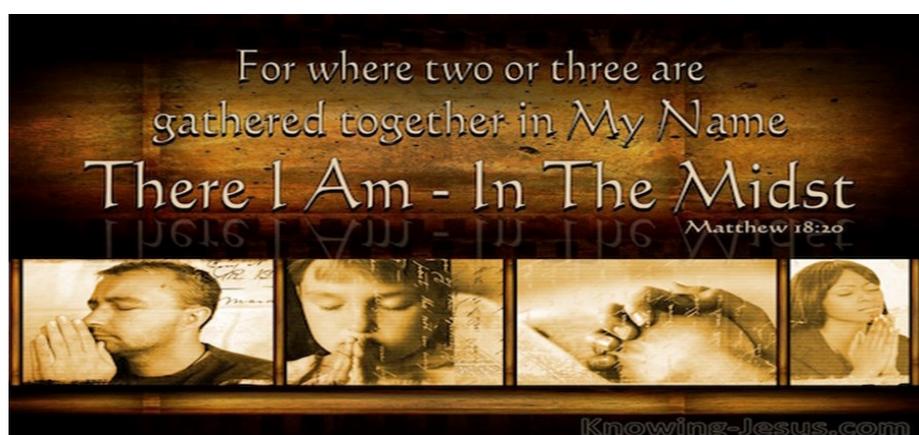
September 10th, 2017: *14th Sunday after Pentecost
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Regarding *petit comité* let me mention the following about another *coming together group* necessary to start a Jewish prayer service:

Individual prayer is considered acceptable, but prayer with a quorum of **ten adults**—a **minyan**—is the most highly recommended form of prayer and is required for some prayers. An adult in this context means over the age of 12 or 13 (*bat* or *bar mitzvah*). Judaism had originally counted only men in the minyan for formal prayer, on the basis that one does not count someone who is not obligated to participate. The rabbis had exempted women from almost all time-specific positive **mitzvot** (commandments), including those parts of the prayer that cannot be recited without a quorum, due to women in the past being bound up in an endless cycle of pregnancy, birthing and nursing from a very early age. Orthodox Judaism still follows this reasoning and excludes women from the minyan. Since 1973, *conservative* congregations have overwhelmingly become egalitarian and count women in the minyan.

Various sources encourage a congregant to pray in a fixed place in the synagogue (*מקום קבוע, maqom qavua*).

LESSON:



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Speaking about *petit groups*, Jesus *reaffirms* to get one or two witnesses for conflict resolution after an initial *one-on-one* approach has failed citing Scripture in Deuteronomy 19:15: ***“One witness is not enough to convict a man of a crime; at least two witnesses are necessary to prove that a man is guilty.”***

There are so many conflict resolution programs and manuals out there applicable to legal, contractual, and private matters. Our probable failure within the Church of Jesus Christ is not to starting conflict resolution with a Scripture-based approach like Matthew 18:15-20. Despite Apostle Paul’s advice in 1 Corinthians 6:1-2: ***“If one of you has a dispute with a fellow Christian, how dare he go before heathen judges instead of letting God’s people settle the matter? Don’t you know that God’s people will judge the world?”*** personal, congregational, and denominational matters have started or ended in judicial courts.

We are humans and as such we are far from perfection. We are exposed to sin by commission and by omission. Among the many possible forms of sin is our inclination to talk trash against others. Some others just avoid confrontation and leave things as they are.

Besides the risk of accusing innocent people, it is now evident that the real abuser, molester, or bully person covers her/himself with the fact that he/she will not be confronted, denounced, or exposed.

CONCLUSION

TWO OR THREE WITNESSES

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Psalm 149; Matthew 18:15-20

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Today’s Scripture lesson contains two new Jesus’ teachings about the *power of prayer* and the new *minyan* or quorum to pray; 1) In Verse 19: ***“Whenever two of you on earth agree about anything you pray for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven;”*** and

2) In Verse 20: ***For where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them.*** No longer need to wait for the tenth person to start the prayer or any meeting.

Nevertheless, a clarification is needed: Two or three are not the *ecclesia* (the church or the entire congregation) but just the *sunagó*, the start *coming together*, and the *basic witnessing group*.

In the men’s meeting we are two or three lately, but we want all men to join us. At the Wednesday night Bible study and Prayer & Praise, we are between two or five (average three); but we want all of you to study and praise with us. Some of the Session Committees are of one person, but we want more of you joining. There is a blessing for the *petit group*, but we want all of you to be *blessed* too.

Amen.

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All Church Retreat



WHERE: MO Ranch, Hunt, TX

WHY : Fun, Fellowship, Food

DATE : Oct. 6-8

OPTIONAL DONATION:

Individual: \$25

Family : \$50

REGISTRATION: www.ncfaustin.org

CONTACT: Robert P. Booth
rpbooth66@gmail.com

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Announcements



www.ncfaustin.org



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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- 5th Jimmy Bohn and Kimberly Hall
- 25th Vernon and Doris Bailey
- 28th Bill and Nancy Harris

SEPTEMBER

- 3rd Greg Buford
- 4th Sofia Bohn-Hall
- 5th Kathy Smith
- 8th Dorrette Ayensu
- 12th Joe Parsons
Miranda Cortez
- 16th Charlie Shin
- 17th Kim Parsons
- 18th Ricky Palacios
Jace Lopez
- 20th Paula Akujor
Paul Akujor
- 22nd Juan Ortiz ("Junior")
- 24th Precious Hernandez
- 25th Carol Nemir
- 26th Clarke Spinks
Kellcee Justice
- 27th Cheyenne Hernandez
- 28th Elena Endres
JoJo Akujor
- 29th Erin Grisdale

Session Members

- *Rev. Jesus (Jesse) Gonzalez
Interim Moderator
- *Elder Nikkie Shubitz
Clerk of Session
- *
Administration & Personnel
- * Elder Zaira Amado
Buildings & Grounds
- *Elder Randy Mojica
Children and Youth
- *Elder George Washington IV
Discipleship & Men's/Women's
Ministry
- *Elder Mary Jo Mojica
Finance & Stewardship
- *Elder Robert Booth
Congregational Life/
Lay Ministry
- *Elder Kimberly Hall
Missions/Evangelism
- *Elder Viola Lee
Worship & Membership

Deacons

- Ulysses Cox
- Rey Mojica
- Ashley Phillips
- Scott Phillips
- Cathy Trifiro
- Roxann Vallejo

SEPTEMBER 2017

15th

15th Sunday after Pentecost

- 9-10am Adult Sunday School
- 9:30am Praise Team Rehearsal
- 10:15am Worship at Wilshire Blvd.

Pastor Jesse Gonzalez, Preaching
Sunday School—Nursery & Ages 3-5
(Room. 1);

10:45am Elementary – Grades 1-5
(Room 8)

10:45am Junior/Senior High
(Room 5)

12:15pm Join us for a panel discuss-
ion with Deacons and
Elders as a follow-up to
Mike Murray's workshop

Women of NCFA
Join us for a quick update
on Jane's Circle Bible Study

17th

6:30pm Men's Bible Study - Dinner
7:00pm Bible Study

18th

6:30pm Fellowship Dinner
7:00pm Bible Study