

May 12, 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!



HAPPY 2017 MOTHER'S DAY!

Though arbitrarily established in the month of May in the United States since 1908 by Anna Jarvis in Grafton, West Virginia, nevertheless it is a day on the calendar to recognize and to honor motherhood. Mothers are not celebrated in every single country around the world, and the date is not necessarily the same day in May, or it falls in other months.

NCFA will honor both living and deceased mothers and grandmothers on Sunday, May 14th, equally recognizing both biological and adoptive mothers. So, please join us!

While modern societies and cultures designate a particular day for specific observances like Mother's or Father's Day, ever since the giving of the Ten Commandments to Moses at Mount Sinai, one is particularly devoted to parents on a daily basis: ***Respect your father and your mother, so you may live a long time in the land that I am giving you.*** (Exodus 20:12)

Peace/Paz/Shalom:
Pastor Jesse

May 12, 2017



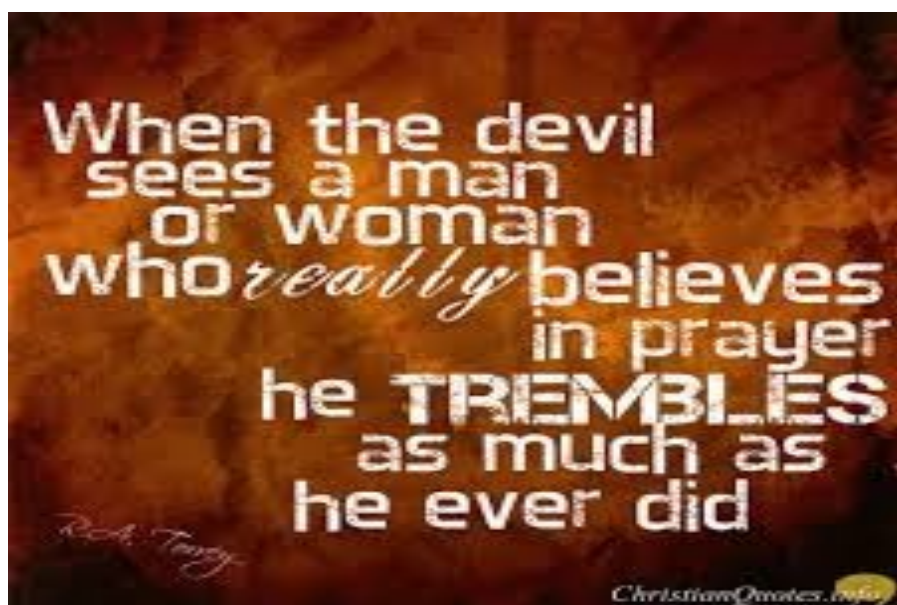
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- ⇒ Praise that God is God and I am not!
- ⇒ Praise that our beloved Pastor James Lee has been with the Lord for a year now.
- ⇒ Lift up Vi as she mourns the death of her youngest brother. Lift up travel mercies as she goes to South Carolina for his funeral. Lift up further travel mercies as she continues on to the Mayo Clinic for a follow-up check. Lift up boring reports.
- ⇒ Lift up logistical preparations and good health for Kimberley and her mother as they get ready to go to Ethiopia.
- ⇒ Lift up Tracey as she cares for her mother. Praise for a good attendant to share duties. Lift up an appropriate house for Stephanie, Colton and children.
- ⇒ Lift up logistics as family gathers for Jacob's baptism on Sunday. May this be a time of blessing to all.
- ⇒ Lift up a family grieving the death of a mother-in-law/grandmother.
- ⇒ Praise for Pastor Jesse being able to participate in the installation of a new pastor at University Presbyterian Church.
- ⇒ Praise for improving health for Nancy and Lara. Thank you to Vi for bringing food.
- ⇒ Praise God for making a way out of no way for Daisay and her children and grandchildren. Praise for help from a friend. Praise for the blessing of three granddaughters.
- ⇒ Lift up NCF youngsters who are graduating from college: Saphia, Placid, D.J., and Henny.
- ⇒ Lift up Rex's father and his caregivers who are with him around the clock now. Lift up healing for Carie's daughter who is recovering from surgery.
- ⇒ Lift up travel mercies for family coming to help with the expected birth of Danita's grandchild.



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NCFA SUNDAY MORNINGS

NCFA SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday, May 14th

Rev. Dr. Dan Saperstein



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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Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

Voice Recognition Code

Psalm 23; John 10:1-10

Pastor Jesse Gonzalez

New Covenant Fellowship of Austin

May 7, 2017: 4th Sunday of Easter

INTRODUCTION:

Good Shepherd, 3rd Century from Roman Catacomb of Callixtus



Byzantine Orthodox

Today's text in the Gospel of John chapter 10 cuts at verse 10, just before the well-known *Parable of the Good Shepherd* starts in verse 11 with the affirmation ***I am the good shepherd***, to end in verse 21. Nevertheless, in these first ten verses Jesus provides us with a remarkable prologue emphasizing two key elements for his *followers* (sheep): *voice recognition* and the only *authorized entry way*.

TEXT

Three times Jesus makes reference to the voice recognition. Verse 3b: ***the sheep hear his voice (phōnēs) as he calls (phōnei) his own sheep by name, and he leads them out.***

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Verse 4: *the sheep follow him, because they know his voice* ([phōnēn](#)).

Verse 5: *they will not follow someone else; they will turn away from such a person, because they do not know his voice* ([phōnēn](#)).

Phóné: a voice, sound. Original Word: **φωνή, ἥς, ἡ**
Definition: a sound, noise, voice, language, dialect.

And three times Jesus makes reference to a gate/door, and twice as a metaphor.

Verse 1: *the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate* ([thyra](#) = door), *but climbs in some other way, is a thief and a robber.*

Verse 7: *I am the gate* (thyra = door) *for the sheep.*

Verse 9: *I am the gate* ([thyra](#) = door)

Thyra: a door. Original Word: **θύρα, ας, ἡ**
Definition: (a) a door, (b) met: an opportunity.

The other characters mentioned in this text.

The **gatekeeper** in verse 1: **θυρωρός** = **thuróros** = door-keeper.

Θυρωρός, οὔ, ὁ, ἡ. Definition: a door-keeper, porter, guardian

The other voice(s) in verse 5: **ἀλλοτρίων** = [allotriōn](#) = strangers

Ἀλλότριος, ἰα, ἰον - Transliteration: **allotrios**.
Definition: belonging to another person, belonging to others, foreign, strange. **Διάβολος** = devil.

Spiritism and Spiritualism turned to divination or magical practices.

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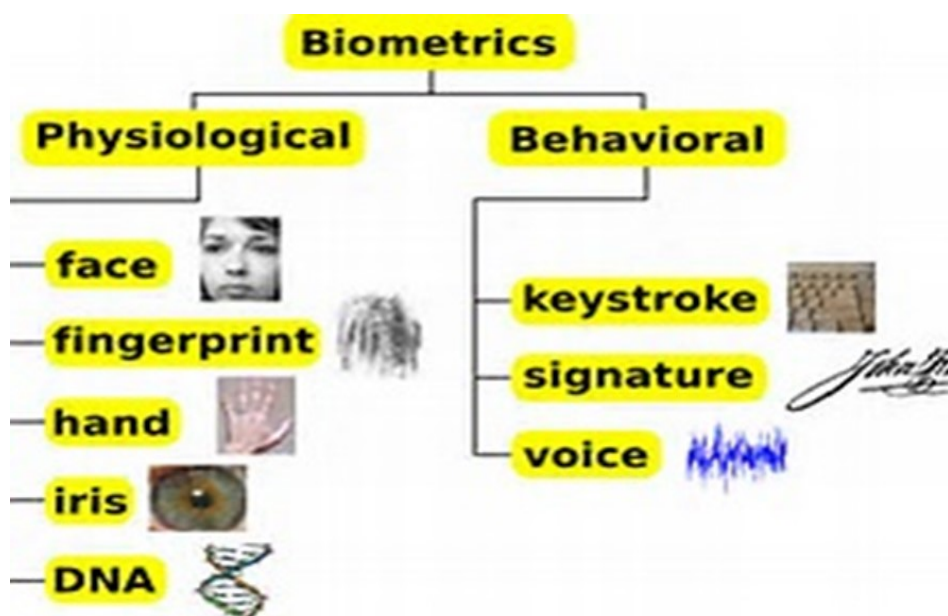
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May 7, 2017: 4th Sunday of Easter

LESSON:



Jesus spoke in Aramaic, but his words were written in Greek. No one drew a sketch of Jesus or did a sculpture of him. The image of Jesus that we have today was developed from what the master painters and sculptors of the Middle Ages gave us. And the phonograph wasn't invented till 1877 by Thomas Alva Edison.

How can a disciple recognize Jesus' voice?

How can I make myself sure that I am listening to Jesus' authentic voice?

I am bringing our present use of technology just to try to give an idea of our quest to make sure we are following the Good Shepherd, not to solve the issue, because this is a faith matter.

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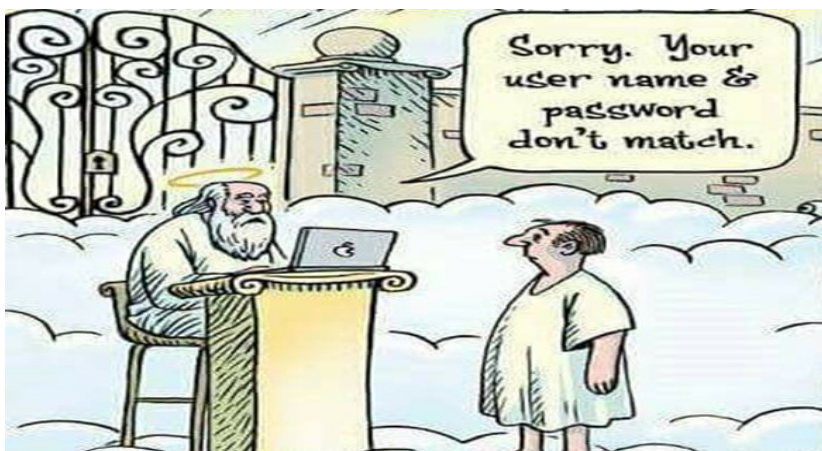
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May 7, 2017: 4th Sunday of Easter

CONCLUSION



In Romans chapter 8, the Apostle Paul gives us a clue: ***Those who are led by the God's Spirit are God's sons. For the Spirit that God has given you does not be afraid; instead, the Spirit makes you God's children, and by the Spirit's power we cry out to God, "Father! My Father! God's Spirit joins himself to our spirits to declare that we are God's children. Since we are his children, we will possess the blessings he keeps for his people, and we will also possess with Christ what God has kept for him; for if we share Christ's suffering, we will also share his glory. (14-17)***

Paul's thesis is that through Christ we can approach the Father to talk and the Father listens to us and responds to us with blessings instead of spoken words. God's Spirit gives testimony to my spirit!

God through Christ calls (phonei) each of us by name. Just this past Easter Sunday we remembered the Gospel account of Mary Magdalene who could recognize Jesus only after Jesus called her by name. Again, the Apostle Paul in Romans gives us a clue: ***So then, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message comes through preaching Christ. (10:17)***

Amen.

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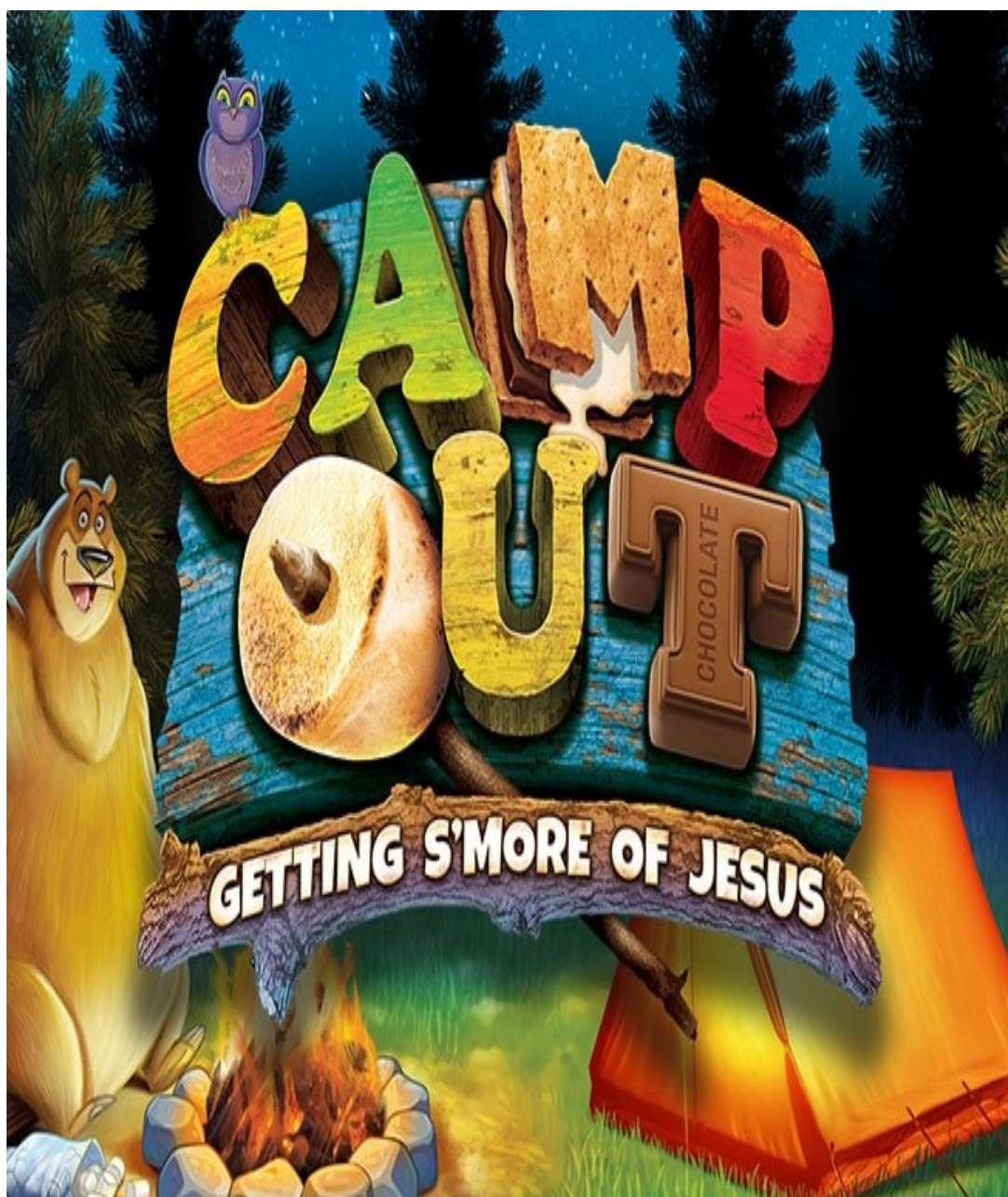
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SAVE THE DATE!!

JUNE 16-18
VBS
ΛB2
JUNE 16-18



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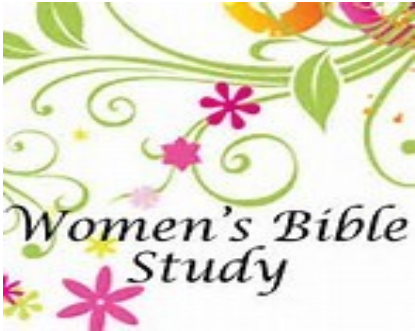
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Ministry Showcase Sunday
May 14th, after church.
Come learn about all the different committees and what they have been doing this year at NCFA.

Jane's Circle — Bible Study

The Jane Circle, named after Jane Mack, meets May 20th, at 10am in the kitchen.

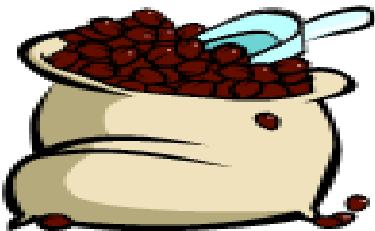
Get ready for our Horizon's Bible Study by reading the Gospel of Luke.



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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WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Friends, we need your help. We are our best when we serve together. Please consider ways you can help our ministry leaders and ministries.

**Coming together is a
beginning;
keeping together is
progress;
working together is
success.**

Henry Ford



FOOD PANTRY AVAILABLE TO ALL



The New Covenant Fellowship Deacons are now providing a free to all food pantry each Sunday. This is to help anyone who needs a little help in the obtaining of groceries. The table at the back of the church will have canned goods and other non-perishable food each Sunday. If you or anyone you know needs some help with groceries, please feel free to partake of the items available.

If you are able to donate food items to this table, please feel free to do so and bless you for your contribution. Paper bags with handles are also needed and if you have extra ones of these, please put them on this new food table.



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MAY

4th Anayah Mojica
5th Said Bohn-Hall
10th Dexter Lee, Sr.
11th Placid Unegbu
Dana Williams
13th Mallorie Muñoz
16th Caly Fernandez
Kathryn Aldas
17th Luke Oglesby
20th Fortune Unegbu
21st Philippe (Jimmy) Bohn
Robert Booth
26th Lillie Daniels
Dexter Lee, Jr. (DJ)
Margaret Spinks
28th Alex Hernandez
31st Pam Nemir
Cathy Trifiro
Janet Masters

MAY 2017

Session Members

***Rev. Jesus (Jesse) Gonzalez**
Interim Moderator

***Elder Nikkie Shubitz**
Clerk of Session

***Elder Oliver Smith**
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

14th **5th Sunday of Easter**
Happy Mother's Day
9-10am Adult Sunday School
9:45am Praise Team Rehearsal
10:15am Worship at Wilshire Blvd.
Rev. Dr. Dan Saperstein; preaching
Baptism Jacob Kishigo Saperstein
Son of Jenny and Patrick Saperstein
Sunday School—Nursery & Ages 3-5
(Rm. 1); Grades 1-5 (Rm. 7); and Junior/Senior High (Pastor's Office)
12:30pm Sessions Meets in Kitchen
Deacons meet in Pastor's Office

16th 6:30pm Men's Bible Study-Dinner
7:00pm Bible Study

17th 6:30pm Fellowship Dinner
7:00pm Prayer and Worship Service

21st **6th Sunday of Easter**
9-10am Adult Sunday School
9:45am Praise Team Rehearsal
10:15am Worship at Wilshire Blvd.
Pastor Jesse Gonzalez
Sunday School—Nursery & Ages 3-5
(Rm. 1); Grades 1-5 (Rm. 7); and Junior/Senior High (Pastor's Office)

23rd 6:30pm Men's Bible Study-Dinner
7:00pm Bible Study

24th 6:30pm Fellowship Dinner
7:00pm Bible Study-Led by Elder
Danita Nelson