

August 18, 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!



Vayan con Dios Aldas Family

During the Worship Service of Sunday, July 23rd, NCFA had the *bittersweet* opportunity to send off the Aldas Family to Roanoke, Virginia, where Matthew has been called as Youth Minister with Raleigh Harbor Presbyterian Church. His ordination will be held there on Sunday, September 17th, 2017.

On behalf of NCFA, our Board of Deacons approved giving Matthew a robe as an ordination gift. On behalf of the Board of Deacons, Cathy Angell and Pastor Jesse presented Matthew with this gift.

Thanks be to God for the years that NCFA enjoyed having Kathryn, Kyrie Grace, Koryn Irene, Kinley James, and Matthew in our midst. They all will be deeply missed as well as Matthew's service as Intern Seminarian.

The Aldases are among the many examples of lives that have been touched by NCFA ministry and whose presence has graced our congregation. May God bless them in their new call in Virginia!

Gracias/Thanks: Pastor Jesse

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- ⇒ Praise God for Michael's (Lucy's brother) good checkup at MD Anderson!
- ⇒ Praise God for a couple's sobriety.
- ⇒ Continued prayers for Marg and John's healing with the help they are receiving.
- ⇒ Lift up JJR for healing of a torn ACL. He is out for the football season and feeling down about it. The good news is that he is a junior and will have his senior year to try again.
- ⇒ Praises for DJ graduating Summa Cum Laude and being nationally ranked in Track! Praise for his strong faith. Congratulations to proud grandmother Vi!
- ⇒ Praise for a good time with family and friends last weekend for Doris and Vernon. Praise the Lord for all his blessings. Let us each one show love and compassion to each other.
- ⇒ Praise for Robert and the fun dance classes he teaches.
- ⇒ Lift up strength and guidance for Lucy's father as he cares for her mother who is experiencing health problems. Lift them all up as they seek medical diagnoses and advice.
- ⇒ Praise for Scott and Ashley's 10th anniversary and vacation time together. Thanks to Ashley's mom for taking care of the children. Lift up Charley as she starts Kindergarten. Lift up logistics of childcare, school, jobs, home.....
- ⇒ Lift up the fallout that will follow the events in Charlotte. Pray for God's clear guidance on how we should respond and how to prevent future occurrences.
- ⇒ Praise for Cathy S. graduating from Stephen F. Austin with her Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education! Lift up her son Eli as he begins a new chapter in his life.
- ⇒ Lift up the many world-wide and national conflicts. Keep in mind that God is in control of everything.
- ⇒ Praise for Trish's granddaughter's safe return from Japan.
- ⇒ Lift up today's session meeting.
- ⇒ Lift up all teachers, staff, children and families transitioning back to school.
- ⇒ Praise for the men in the church who share their gifts: Robert for teaching dance; Pastor Jesse for leading Wednesday evening Bible study.

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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

\$1,700.00



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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Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

Sunday, August 20th



**Commission Teachers
& Students
--Receive Pentecost**



**Youth Back-to-School
Party at
Shadow Glen Amenity
Center, Manor**

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SUNDAY MORNINGS

NCFA SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday, August 20th,

*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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Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

Learning to Walk on Water

Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Matthew 14:22-33

New Covenant Fellowship of Austin

August 13th, 2017: *10th Sunday after Pentecost*
Day of Prayer for the Peaceful Reunification of the Korean Peninsula College and Young Adult Sunday

INTRODUCTION:



The *Sea of Galilee* (mentioned in Matthew, Mark, and John) or *Lake of Gennesaret* (only in Luke) is 696 feet below sea level so that strong wind gusts can create storms at any given moment. I had a chance to experience it myself when we had to wait two days before navigation was again allowed and finally my field trip group could sail from Tiberias to Capernaum. Let me tell you, it was really scary to me that first moonless windy night in Tiberias imagining being in the middle of the lake on a small boat.

The image on the wall gives us an idea of what the disciples saw and felt around 3 in the morning, screaming with fear: ***“It’s a ghost!”*** The Greek word that Matthew uses is *Phantasma*, that by the way is the root for *fantasma* in Spanish. Though not necessarily based on Greek the concept of *pneumatos hagiou* was translated into many English versions as *Holy Ghost* instead of Holy Spirit. Nevertheless, the Greek concept of *Phantasma* as well as in Spanish is a terrifying and scary image.

Walking on water is at times used as an example of an impossible task. The phrase is widely used to refer to the performance of extraordinary tasks, as in the titles of books that aim to show individuals how to break through their personal limitations and achieve dramatic success.

Could we ever learn how to approach Jesus on water?

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LESSON:



Jesus calms down the confusion onboard saying: ***“Courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid!”*** The Greek word for fear is ***phóbos*** that fundamentally means to *withdraw* (separate from), i.e. to flee (remove oneself) and hence to avoid because of dread (fright).

So, the *first lesson* for us to walk on water is to overcome our phobias (fears): homophobia, claustrophobia (fear of having no escape and being closed in), acrophobia (fear of heights), aquaphobia (fear of water), monophobia (fear of being alone or isolated or of one's self), mysophobia (fear of germs, contamination or dirt), necrophobia (fear of death or the dead), spectrophobia (fear of mirrors), **xenophobia** (fear of strangers, **foreigners**, or aliens), and many other phobias that anyone may have. What is our biggest one? The *second lesson* is related to faith. I think that Peter had a mix of excitement and faith when he started walking on water toward Jesus, but the wind was strong enough to frighten him. Jesus’ words For Peter are for us too, ***“What little faith you have! Why did you doubt?”***

No question that we require a constant and sustainable faith every step of the way. A faith that is still there once the initial excitement has gone. Our spiritual journey and pilgrimage is a lifelong race full of joys as well as sorrows and setbacks.



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We don't need to be in the middle of a big body of water to drown. How many times some have of us have felt like we are *drowning in a glass of water*, a phrase meaning we are overwhelmed by trivial or inconsequential events.

Internal and external factors are pressing me to the point to conclude that there is no way out from my fears. I started to walk on water and now I am drowning, what's going on? How could it happen?

That's why the *third lesson* is to pray without ceasing. The way to overcome our *phobias* and to keep strengthening our *faith* to persist in our spiritual pilgrimage is the discipline of prayer. The devotion of private prayer and corporate prayer is crucial to sustain us over trouble waters. When the disciples asked Jesus why they couldn't drive an evil spirit out, he answered: "***Only prayer can drive can drive this kind out.***" (Mark 9:29)

CONCLUSION



You are looking now the *water font* at the entrance of the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary Chapel. It didn't exist during my seminary years but I am glad it is there now as a *reminder of our Baptismal Covenant*.

Today's Gospel lesson reminds me that since my baptism I have been *walking on water*. Peter's distraction by the strong wind makes me to realize that every time I have felt spiritually and morally sinking down in water, besides my lack of faith, it is because I forgot my Baptismal Covenant.

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My baptism is so distant in time and how it feels that I forget that I am a member of the *Covenant People of God*, not by my own merits but because of God's grace in Jesus Christ.

Jesus asked his followers to celebrate Communion in remembrance of him, and it has been celebrated as often as possible. On the other hand baptism, though also ordered by Jesus, is a one-time ceremony that we can only experience again when some else is baptized. So, what a wonderful opportunity we have in reconnecting these two sacraments with bringing the visible elements of *water*, *wine*, and *bread* into our worshipping space as the signs of God's Covenants with us.

Amen.

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Latin Dance Classes



Where: 1507 Wilshire Blvd, Fellowship Hall

When: Saturdays-starting 8/12 (4-6p),
8/19 (4:30-6:30p), 9/2 (4-6p),
9/9 (4-6p)

Who : Adult Singles and Couples

How : Register on-line @

www.ncfaustin.org

Come and learn the wonderful dances of Salsa Merengue and Bachata with former Jazzy Dance Company member Robert P. Booth

Contact: Robert Booth @ rpbooth66@gmail.com

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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



94

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

AUGUST

- 4th Alexandria Washington
Carver Washington
T'ahna Daniels
- 5th Safia Essien
- 7th Aaron Lee
Roxann Vallejo
- 9th Ben Hooks
Chris Cortez
Illiyana (Chica) Cortez
- 10th Gray Montgomery
- 11th Katasha Williams
- 15th D'Sean "De De" Johnson
- 17th Mary Mojica
Charles Nemir
Eddie Daniels III
- 24th Zachary Ryan Castilleja
Rachel Draper-Marion
- 25th Rick Oglesby
- 27th Abraham Weaver
Eddie Daniels, III
- 29th Tyler Weaver
- 30th Rev. Jeff Saddington
- 31st Henny Trifiro

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

AUGUST 2017

- 20th
 - 11th Sunday after Pentecost**
 - 9-10am Adult Sunday School
 - 9:30am Praise Team Rehearsal
 - 10:15am Worship at Wilshire Blvd.
 - Commission Teachers & Students
 - Receive Pentecost Offering
 - 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)
 - 1:00pm Youth Back-to-School Party at Shadow Glen Amenity Center, Manor**
- 22nd
 - 6:30pm Men's Bible Study - Dinner
 - 7:00pm Bible Study
- 23rd
 - 6:30pm Fellowship Dinner
 - 7:00pm Bible Study—Led by CLP Vi Lee
- 26th
 - 10:00am Jane Mack Circle Bible Study