

May 5, 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!

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Make Disciples Like
JESUS

A Disciple According To Jesus

1. Denies self, carries cross, follows Jesus.
2. Loves Jesus more than anything else, including life itself.
3. Obeys and holds on to what Jesus taught.
4. Loves other disciples.
5. Bears much fruit.

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

"EQUIPPING DISCIPLES"
to Faithfully Serve in 2017



Servant Discipleship nurtured and reaffirmed in the Eucharist.

"If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples." John 57:79

NEW COVENANT FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTIN (PCUSA)
1507 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 6
Austin, TX 78722-1100

The 2016 NCFA Annual Report is now available, so please be sure you have a copy of it. Its printing time and contents show the kind of transitional time NCFA has gone through these last 12 months since the passing of Pastor James Lee. Over this period of grief and recovery, God's timing has proved that we have been guided by the Holy Spirit; and indeed it takes time.

While great challenges loom ahead of us to keep advancing Pastor Lee's vision for NCFA, this annual report also tells you about a renewed commitment to *equip disciples to faithfully serve in 2017*.

Being aware of the enormous responsibility to be a *transitional pastor* in such a *transitional time* for NCFA, please keep me in your prayers, because I feel like Moses when God told him: ***Why are you crying out for help? Tell the people to move forward.***

Peace/Paz/Shalom:
Pastor Jesse

May 5, 2017



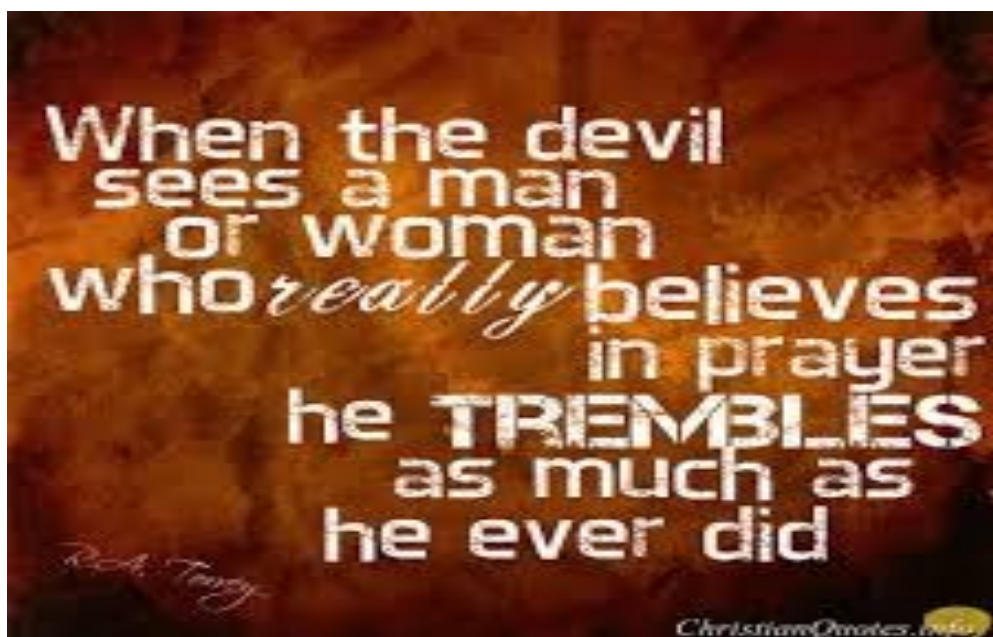
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- ⇒ Trish has made over 100 Baptism quilts for babies. Praise for the faithful families and congregations who raise up these children.
- ⇒ Lift up Carrie and daughter Ashlyn who recently delivered a stillborn child.
- ⇒ Lift up healing for Caly's son-in-law Drew who had a heart attack. Lift up Jae for strength as she supports her husband.
- ⇒ Lift up Jessica and her son that the authorities can find and rescue them from whatever has befallen.
- ⇒ Thanksgiving for the youth who participated in this morning's service. Thanksgiving for the adults who prepared them.
- ⇒ Thanksgiving for the children of NCF and the joy they bring. Praise for the willing hands in the congregation.
- ⇒ Lift up Randy's mother who has been in the hospital and is undergoing further testing.
- ⇒ Lift up those affected by Saturday's severe weather.
- ⇒ Lift up discovery and rescue for Reverend Louis who at age 79 went out for a walk four days ago and hasn't been seen since.
- ⇒ Praise for Tracey, Laura, and Kathy being present today. We've missed you!
- ⇒ Lift up Carol as she returns to Pennsylvania to assist her mother.
- ⇒ Lift up Kimberley's family who lost an Aunt and an Uncle within days of each other.
- ⇒ Praise for Bennet's baptism today.
- ⇒ Praise for Lara recovering from a virus. Lift up Nancy who has it now.



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N C F A SUNDAY MORNINGS

NCFA SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday, May 7th

Pastor Jesus "Jesse" Gonzalez



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.**

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

**JOIN US IN THE CELE-
BRATION OF THE GOOD
NEWS**

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

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Jesus Is Present in the Eucharist

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; Luke 24:13-35

Pastor Jesse Gonzalez

New Covenant Fellowship of Austin

April 30, 2017: *3rd Sunday of Easter*

INTRODUCTION:



I grew up with this idea in mind about the Walk to Emmaus. For centuries Christian art and iconography gave us masterpieces in painting, sculpture, and crafts using imagination because artists were not able to visit Israel to get acquainted with the natural characteristics of the land. No question that images convey a striking impression on those listening to stories; and even though the storyteller may remain true to the lesson of the story, inevitably most Middle Ages and Renaissance religious art was widely accepted as the biblical text itself.



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April 30, 2017: *3rd Sunday of Easter*

Many sites have been suggested for the biblical Emmaus, among them Emmaus Nicopolis (c. 160 stadia from Jerusalem), Kiryat Anavim (66 stadia from Jerusalem on the carriage road to Jaffa), Coloniya (c. 36 stadia on the carriage road to Jaffa), el-Kubeibeh (63 stadia, on the Roman road to Lydda), Artas (60 stadia from Jerusalem) and Khurbet al-Khamasa (86 stadia on the Roman road to Eleutheropolis). The oldest identification that is currently known is Emmaus Nicopolis.

TEXT

Verse 18 only identifies one of the two followers as *Cleopas*.

Verses 30-31: “He sat down to eat with them, took bread, and said the blessing (eulogēsen); then he broke the bread and gave it to them. Then their eyes (ophthalmoi) were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight.”



Verse 35: The two explained to them what had happened on the road, and how they recognized the Lord when he broke the bread.

LESSON:

The Greek noun **εὐχαριστία** (*eucharistia*), meaning *thanksgiving*, is not used in the New Testament as a name for the rite; however, the related verb is found in New Testament accounts of the Last Supper, including the earliest such account:

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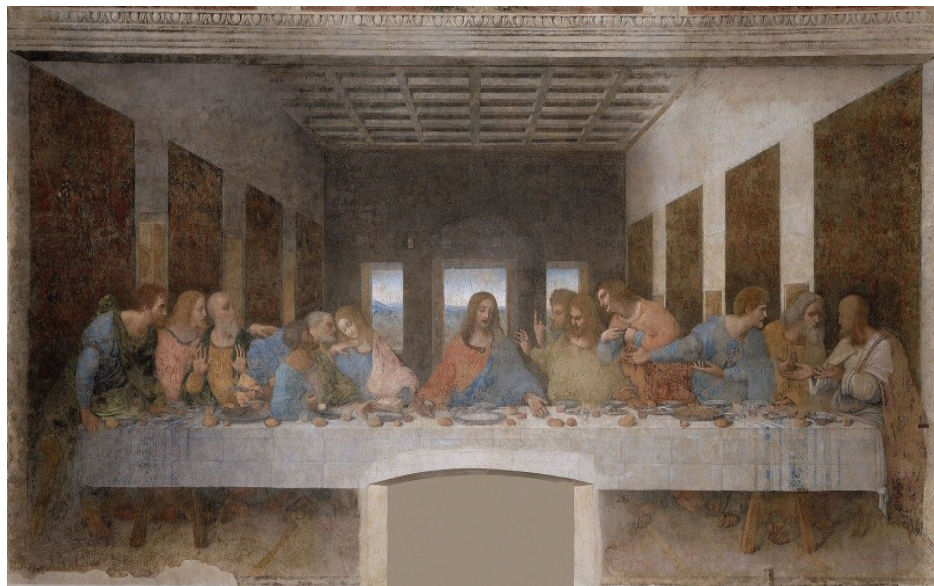
April 30, 2017: *3rd Sunday of Easter*

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, ***'This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'***" (1 Corinthians 11:23-24)

The term "Eucharist" (thanksgiving) is that by which the rite is referred by the Didache (late 1st or early 2nd century), Ignatius of Antioch (who died between 98 and 117), and Justin Martyr (writing between 147 and 167). Today, *"the Eucharist"* is the name still used by Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, Catholics, Anglicans, and Lutherans.

Other Protestant denominations rarely use this term, preferring either *"Communion," "the Lord's Supper,"* or *"the Breaking of Bread."*

In spite of differences between Christians about various aspects of the Eucharist, there is, according to the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, *"more of a consensus among Christians about the meaning of the Eucharist than would appear from the confessional debates over the sacramental presence, the effects of the Eucharist, and the proper auspices under which it may be celebrated."* (Leonardo Da Vinci, 58³²)



Is Jesus with us or not? How and where can we perceive Jesus' presence in our midst?

The Road to Emmaus gives us some clues.

- 1) Hitting the Road:** While Emmaus can be either a true, an imaginary, or symbolic place, the point is that as disciples we have to walk, we have to move ongoing to missions posts. Jesus joins us along the way, like these two disciples.

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April 30, 2017: *3rd Sunday of Easter*

- 2) **In the Sacrament:** Either as a rehearsal of the Heavenly Banquet mentioned in Revelation, or the Memorial for Jesus' redemptive sacrifice, or the commandment included in the words of institution, *"every time you eat this bread and drink from this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."*
- 3) **In the Koinonia:** The communion, joint participation; the share which one has in anything, participation, a gift jointly contributed, a collection, a contribution, etc. It identifies the idealized state of fellowship and unity that should exist within the Christian church, the Body of Christ. *"For where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them."* (Matthew 5²:64)



The Eucharist is already central in our liturgy, but we still have to keep looking for Jesus in the sacrament: The English word sacrament" is derived indirectly from the Ecclesiastical Latin *sacrāmentum*, from Latin *sacrō* ("hallow, consecrate"), from *sacer* ("sacred, holy"). This in turn is derived from the Greek New Testament word "*mysterion*." In Ancient Rome, the term meant a soldier's oath of allegiance, and also a sacred rite. Tertullian, a 3rd-century Christian writer, suggested that just as the soldier's oath was a sign of the beginning of a new life, so too was initiation into the Christian community through baptism and Eucharist.

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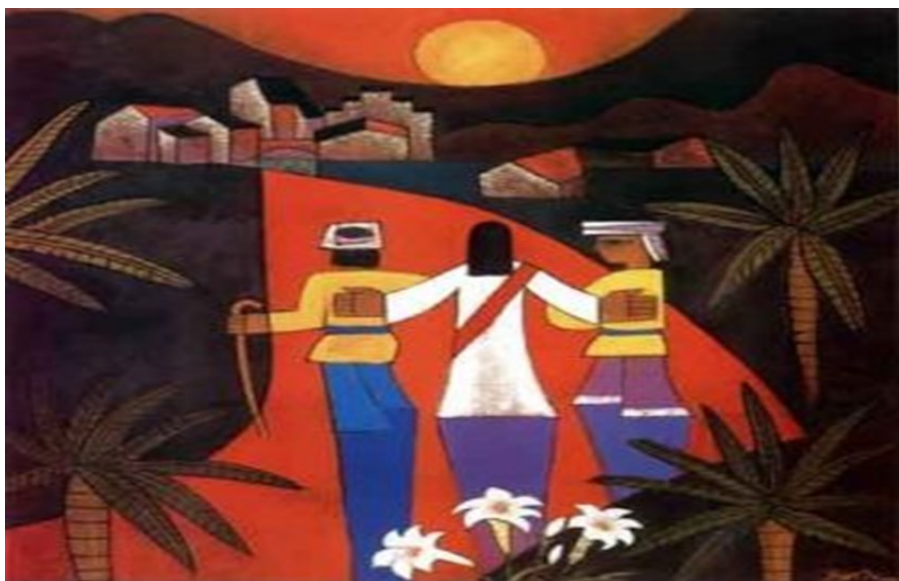
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New Covenant Fellowship of Austin

April 30, 2017: *3rd Sunday of Easter*



We have to be on the move and go places: Community Garden, Immigration Detention Centers, Manos de Cristo, Nursing Homes, Cuba, and Hospices.

We have to eat together at least one Sunday a month and to invite friends, relatives, and neighbors.

Permanent *thanksgiving* testimony: blessing food, morning and night prayers, prayer meetings, and milestone celebrations.



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April 30, 2017: *3rd Sunday of Easter*

CONCLUSION

The Baptism, Eucharist, and Ministry document of the World Council of Churches, attempting to present the common understanding of the Eucharist on the part of the generality of Christians, describes it as "*essentially the sacrament of the gift which God makes to us in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit*";

"*Thanksgiving to the Father*";

"*Anamnesis or Memorial of Christ*";

"*the sacrament of the unique sacrifice of Christ, whoever lives to make intercession for us*";

"*the sacrament of the body and blood of Christ, the sacrament of his real presence*";

"*Invocation of the Spirit*";

"*Communion of the Faithful*" and

"*Meal of the Kingdom*."

Amen.

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NCFA'S ANNUAL

Mother's Day Tea

& SWEET TREATS

Sunday Morning

May 14, 2017

-before church in the kitchen-

Tacos & Ties

NCFA

Father's Day Fiesta

SUNDAY JUNE 18TH

~before church en la cocina~

Salud!

Bring your appetite

May 5, 2017



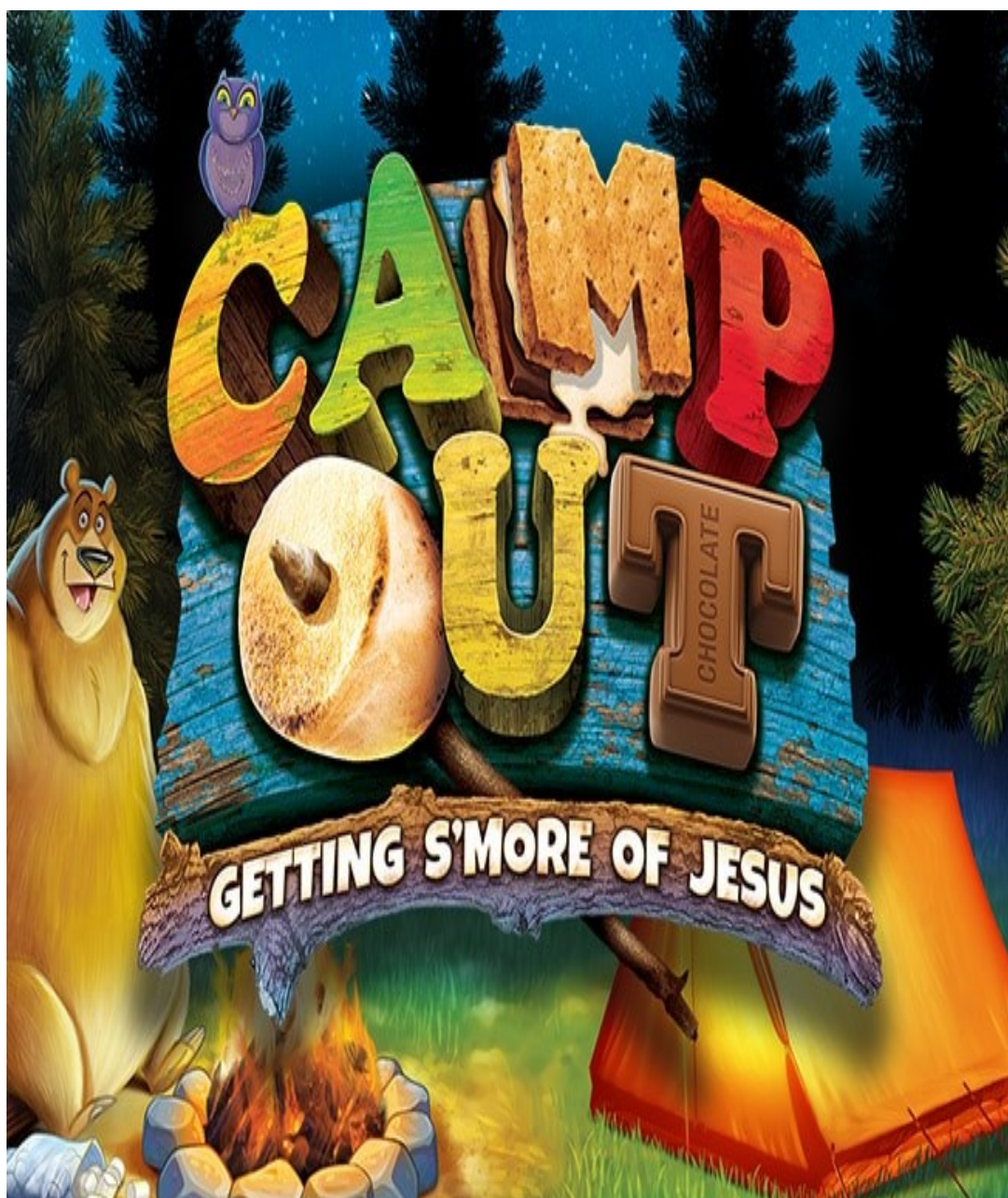
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SAVE THE DATE!!

JUNE 16-18
VBS
ΛB2
JUNE 16-18



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Team Leaders

Patricia and Doug Caroom

AJ DeLafuente

Pastor John Wanyonyi

TOPOSA PRAYER CALENDAR April 26-May 9

Toposa villages where we are working. Please pray fervently for God's power to be revealed and for them to choose to step out of witchcraft. Rukuk, Rengkoi, Lotiir

Packing and preparing for mission trip.

James 1:5 "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."

April 26. Depart USA for Kapoeta flying via Amsterdam to Nairobi.

Prayers for all the cargo to arrive safely in Nairobi. Prayers for team's health to remain strong.

April 27 Arrival Nairobi. Short night rest at Missionary Guest House

April 28 Mission flights to Kapoeta, South Sudan. Orientation with team leaders.

April 29. Church planting training with Toposa Team.

Prayers for Clear presentation of the Gospel and that community leaders will pray to accept Christ as Lord and Savior.

Exodus 14:13-14 "Moses to the people, 'Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. ...The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.'"

April 30 Sunday. Toposa Worship! Best WORSHIP ever! Singing and Praising God!

Psalms 100 "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise."

Pray as God draws new Believers to Himself.

April 30 - May 7 Camping with Toposa teams in villages Rukuk, Rengkoi, Lotiir

God protect us. Good weather for travel days. Prayers for translators. God bless us to communicate His Word clearly with His Power.

Villages saturated in witchcraft. Only through prayer can these bonds to satan be broken.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NLT) We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.

Discipleship of New Believers. Establish new Bible Story Groups

Jesus Film shown at night. Pray that many will come to Know Him.

Community Transformation introduced in the villages. God reveal CT leaders and teams.

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God has a plan to restore His Toposa who are starving, sick and immersed in witchcraft.
Jeremiah 29:11-14

Moringa Tree training. God bless the seeds we are bringing to the village. May the Toposa experience God's love and blessing from the bounty of these trees He has created to help them.

May 7 Afternoon return to Kapoeta. Wrap up and prayers with Toposa leaders. God give us your words of encouragement for the Toposa leaders to follow up with new Believers and new churches. Ephesians 3:20

May 8 Depart Kapoeta for USA via Nairobi and Amsterdam. Safe travel and make connections.

Followups. The Church Planters who are students will return to their schools in various towns near Kapoeta. Pray that they will plant reproducing Bible Story groups in their schools.
For those students going to school in Kapoeta that they will use weekends to Disciple the new Believers.

For the MANY new Believers that God has reached: That they will hold firm to their New Life in Christ and establish and reproduce Bible Story Groups in their villages.

Rest for the Pastor John Wanyonyi May the Kenyan churches be generous in the support of his family.

New Believers and Leaders in the villages will grow in the Lord and reach others.

God bless you for your faithfulness in prayer. To God be the Glory.



**Pastor Wanyonyi Family
Emmanuel, John, Josiah,
Esther, Dan, Cynthia**

**God bless and protect
them.**



**Our Joy Toposa
Church
Planters**

May 5, 2017



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You're Invited!

Spring Presbyterian Women's Luncheon

Covenant Presbyterian Church

Wednesday May 10, 2017

10:30am

\$10 cost for lunch.

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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Being Real, Relevant, and Racial-



MAY

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

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

7th **4th Sunday of Easter**
9-10am Adult Sunday School
9:45am Praise Team Rehearsal
10:15am Worship at Wilshire Blvd.
Pastor Jesse Gonzalez, preaching
Sunday School—Nursery & Ages 3-5
(Rm. 1); Grades 1-5 (Rm. 7); and Junior/Senior High (Pastor's Office)

9th 6:30pm Men's Bible Study-Dinner
7:00pm Bible Study

10th 6:30pm Fellowship Dinner
7:00pm Bible Study

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 Bible Study