JUBILEE TIDINGS

CHURCH OF GOD

Newsletter of RCCG Jubilee Centre Sydney Parish

R10/391 Park Road, Regents Park, NSW, Australia, New South Wales



Word from Pastor Solomon Olugbemiro

THE ATONEMENT (LEVITICUS 16:16-22)

For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul - Leviticus 17:11.

Atonement is the action of making amends for a wrong or injury. It is the most significant event in the bible, but it is the least spoken about topic amongst Christians today. The whole of the bible itself was set on the significance of the atonement. The atonement is the mother of our relationship with God since the fall of man in the book of Genesis.

The best way to understand the atonement is to take a look at the parties involved. On the one hand, we have a loving God who is passionate about His creation. God loves man so much that He loves to keep company with him. His love for man never diminishes even from the time of creation through to the disobedience of man, till now and unto eternity. Our God is so loving, so graceful and so merciful. On the other hand, we have an ungrateful sinner who has a sense of entitlement, whose focus is always on himself, whose mind is on how he will satisfy the pleasures of his heart. The fallen man is:

- disobedient and rebellious
- ungrateful and unfaithful
- self-seeking and self-destructive
- hopeless and powerless

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"Surely, he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. 5 but he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed." Isaiah 53:4-5

Isaiah spoke about the real atonement: He prophesied about Jesus, who is the lamb, the scape goat that took our sins upon him.

and almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission Hebrews 9:22

At atonement he took our place; He gave us access to the throne room. He grants us access to the presence of the Most High God. He abolished the rituals of sacrifices and their associated danger. The bible says

that the soul that sins must die - Ezekiel 18:20

Through atonement, He traded places with us.

"He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world."

1 John 2:2

"who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed." 1 Peter 2:24



We need to celebrate atonement more than anything else because without atonement there is no thanksgiving, no faith, no forgiveness, no prayers, no worship, no love, no salvation. Each time I think of atonement, I see a loving father who is forever:

- Faithful
- Sure
- Loving

Each time I think of atonement, I see a loving father whose mercies endure forever. My prayer for you is that the blood of Christ Jesus that was shed for you will not be in vain in Jesus name.

GLAD TIDINGS



The JCS family extends a warm welcome to our newest member, Deaconess Joy Olugbemiro, our pastor's wife. She recently joined us from Nigeria.



Congratulations on your engagement Sis Tonia and Bro Adam. God guide you through this journey and bless you every step of the way.









The Power of the Cross

SIS ALICE ODEH-AKIDELE

Have you ever wondered the cross of Jesus is called 'the old rugged cross'? Well, I did after I had my own rugged experience. During service year (a compulsory national service every graduate of a higher institution in Nigeria is expected to take part in for a whole year), I was (and still am) part of the one big family - the Nigerian Christian Corpers' Fellowship. I was opportune to participate in the rural rugged outreaches. One I will never forget was the trip to Okitipupa. The entire journey is one to remember - a rough one. We travelled through rocky roads and forests with leaves slapping on our faces. And oh, who could forget the mosquitoes? They were our constant companions at night, we spent two nights and we survived! We had a mission, a mission to reach the rural area with the gospel of the cross and the newness of life it gives in many ways.

- The cross of Jesus brought Him shame, pain, humiliation and mockery. But, He withstood it all just so he could get us back from the grip of the enemy. This rugged cross is the message Christ brought to us, the only way of salvation. The cross shows the seriousness of sin but much more the immeasurable love of God. Over the years, the cross has stood the test of time having the capacity to endure the rough handling that has been meted out to it.
- The most beautiful thing the cross gives us is reconciliation. God loves us so much that He gave His Son to redeem us to Himself again. Jesus gave it all so you and I can return to the garden of Eden and enjoy fellowship with our Father. We have been given this same ministry 'so that by our example, we might bring others to Him (2 Cor 5: 18-21).
- The power of the cross brings one to the place of worship and surrender to God and His will. Jesus, our example portrayed this all the way. He lived not for Himself but, the will of the Father was top priority for him. The foundation of a Christian's journey is surrendering to God which is an act of worship.
- The cross is a call to service and sacrifice. Jesus left His throne, his royalty. He did not hold himself in high regard; rather, He humbled Himself to pay the sacrifice. In Mark 10: 41-45, Jesus calls for service as the way to being the greatest. As the Author of our faith, follow in His footsteps. Do not hold it back, give it all out.
- The cross is a place of discovery. It opens up a new chapter/life of possibilities. The repentant thief discovered
 himself at the cross. He had an encounter with Jesus Christ, he met with the power of the cross and Jesus answered
 him saying "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise (Luke 23:43).

Are you searching for your identity? Do you want more than just the ordinary? Come and cling to the old rugged cross and receive its power. The old rugged cross still maintains its power!



Who Do You Think You Are?

ANTHONIA SOLIDO

At some point in our lives, we have been asked this question by someone for whatever reason. Or, we may have had to ask ourselves the question while reflecting on our values. The issue of identity isn't always addressed satisfactorily when believers are confronted with the question by unbelievers. This is because, while some believers think it is prideful to answer the question with the confidence of who we really are, others are offended by the question and the perceived motive for the question and simply abandon the conversation. Who are we really?

Jesus' death and resurrection changed so many things for us. God became man, taught us the true meaning of worship, did so many miracles but was crucified like a common criminal and bore the punishment of the whole world so that he could reconcile us to God. And because of this, we are not only assured of eternal life (Jn 3:16, Rom 6:23) because the requirement of the law was fulfilled (Eph 2:15), but we have been given a new identity (Il Cor 5:17, Col 3:10). We have been made righteous because of Jesus (Rom 10:4, Phil 3:9).

Who we think we are creates the foundation on which our self-worth and self-esteem are anchored. The emphasis here is on the word 'think'. What others say we are, or what our circumstances say we are, does not have as much effect on our lives as what we think or believe. Who you think you are and what you believe your place is, will determine your relationship with God, how you approach him in prayer, how you talk about him to others and how you face trials and challenges when they come your way.

The bible tells us that we belong to God (1 Jn 4:4, Rom 8:2.) What an awesome gift it is to belong to the Almighty. What a privilege to call the creator of the universe Father (Rom 8:15)

How can you witness for Christ if you do not know who you are in him and because of him? We are not like any other person who has not experienced the love of Christ or his salvation. We are different because the blood of Jesus made a difference. The cross made a difference (Isa 53:5). By grace we have been saved, through faith (Eph 2:8, Gal 3:26). We do not boast of ourselves or our 'good deeds', but we stand confident in God's love and the finished work of Christ, know that nothing can separate us from God's love which is in Christ Jesus (Rom 8:38-39).



So, as we reflect on this month's theme of atonement, I pray that we will invite the Holy Spirit to reveal to us our true identity in Christ Jesus so that we will not allow the wrong idea of our value to take root in us. Let us consider carefully what the death and resurrection of Jesus mean to us personally, guard our hearts from the wrong ideas about our identity, treasure the greatest gift of God to us which is his son Jesus, and share this gift with confidence knowing who we have become, because of Jesus Christ.



Winter is Here!

EXTRACTS FROM CENOVIS WEBSITE

Many people will be happily saying good-bye to a long, hot summer and welcoming the new season, just as many of us will be dreading the cooler weather arriving. Winter is often given a bad rap as it brings with it the cold & flu season and those cold, dark mornings. However, with a little effort there is no reason for our health to suffer during the colder months! There are a number of things we can do to help keep ourselves and our family just as healthy, happy and active during winter as we are during summer.



Boost immunity

It's important to take care of our health throughout the year but during the winter months it becomes even more essential. Eating well, getting enough sleep and staying active are all important during winter to help keep you and your family healthy and to support your immune systems. Supplements containing herbs and nutrients such as echinacea, garlic, vitamin C, and zinc will help to support healthy immune function.

Eating well

As winter sets in it can be tempting to start eating more of those warm comfort foods that are often high in fat, salt and sugar. Instead, find comfort in foods such as warming and nourishing soups and stews full of flavour and healthy vegetables. Be sure your diet includes winter fruit and vegetables packed with vitamins and minerals such as sweet potato, green leafy vegetables, beetroot, kiwi fruit, mandarins, bananas, garlic and ginger.

Keeping bugs at bay

Although we can do a lot to support our health and immunity during winter it is not always possible to avoid catching a cold or flu. The viruses that cause colds are spread by sneezing, coughing and hand contact. Wash or sanitise your hands regularly and avoid close contact with someone who has a cold. Keep household surfaces clean as well as kids' toys when someone in the family has a cold. If you are ill, be sure to drink plenty of fluids, including water, hot tea and soup. Avoid alcohol and caffeine and get plenty of sleep. Supplements such as vitamin C, zinc and echinacea may help relieve the symptoms and reduce the duration of a cold.

Circulation

During winter our hands and feet can often feel cold. Our hands and feet are at the extremities of our bodies which means they are the furthest from the heart which is pumping blood around our body to help keep us warm. Vitamin E and the herb Ginkgo help to support peripheral blood circulation, thereby alleviating cold hands and feet. Keep moving with gentle exercise to help improve circulation to the extremities of the body and don't forget your socks and gloves! If you can't seem to keep your hands warm (and it's not bothering you excessively) take solace in the old saying "Cold hands, warm heart"!



Members' Spotlight

Meet Oluwapemisireayomi (I call her Miss P), full of smiles that warm any heart.

Oluwapemisireayomi is a wonderful child, and we, the parents, are ever thankful to God for having her in our lives. She makes us complete as a family. She is very hard working and funny, you need to see her helping mom and dad re-organise the house. She is full of energy, never tired, always up and about except when she is found sleeping.

Pem is a lover of books. Her favorite book is "God knows all about me". She brings the book to dad, mom, and grandma to read to her many times in a day. In fact, we get tired of reading it 100 times a day to her, but she never stops coming for it.

Pem is not particular about a specific food, but she loves varieties, especially African foods. Her favourite cartoon is Cocomelon. She enjoys watching it on any device. Pem also loves riding in her electric car. At her age Pem loves shopping for her things herself, of course, accompanied by mummy. She is a fashionista! She compliments her outfits with a handbag. She is an exceptional child, displaying the attributes of someone who knows what she wants.

Pem has got good postures for pictures, but she is never a fan of taking pictures. Despite that, mum always wants to capture the moment as she's growing so fast. Her matron gave her the pet name - Drama Queen because she can be cheeky sometimes. Finally, Pem loves being in the presence of God, living by her name Peniel - 'Face of God'.











Children's Day Out

EASTER HOLIDAY OUTING

It was all fun at Luna Park, from the moment we walked through the gates to when we had to say our goodbyes. The rides, excitement and laughs were all worth it.

Thank you to everyone who made this possible and to the church for the support.









JUBILEE TIDINGS



















Prayer Meeting

8pm to 9pm immediately after Digging Deep on Wednesdays

Prayer Points

- Praise God for He alone is Lord Almighty.
- Appreciate God for the free gift of salvation through Christ Jesus.
- Pray for His presence in our midst as we fellowship together in all our services and programs.
- Pray for the wisdom of God on the pastor and council members as they continually deliberate on the church's affairs and progress.
- Pray for project Nehemiah, ask God to prosper this project.
- Pray for families and the church that God will help us to channel His love in us to those around us bringing in the sheaves.
- Ask God to touch the hearts of those still in the dark, for His word to bring them to light..



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Family Sunday

















Remember: Our mission is to take as many people with us to heaven. Keep reaching out in love.