

## Love God

### Psalm 63

A Psalm of David when he was in the wilderness of Judah.

1 O God, you are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You. In a dry and thirsty land; Where there is no water.

2 So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory.

3 Because Your loving-kindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You.

4 Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name.

5 My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, And my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips.

6 When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches.

7 Because You have been my help, Therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice.

8 My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me.

9 But those who seek my life, to destroy it, Shall go into the lower parts of the earth.

10 They shall fall by the sword; They shall be a portion for jackals.

11 But the king shall rejoice in God; Everyone who swears by Him shall glory; But the mouth of those who speak lies shall be stopped.

This is one of my favorite Psalms and it expresses something that I would like to experience; a deep thirst for God. I would like to be able to say that God's goodness is better than life and that my heart is closely clung to Him. I would just ask that you search your heart and ask yourself if you indeed consider Christ as the greatest treasure in your life. And I do not mean here to love God because of what He can give but because of Who He is. May God help us to see His beauty in all its splendor so that we may love Him as he truly deserves!

**Shalom, Brandon Logsdon,  
Worship Pastor**

## Life Group Corner

### WHAT CAN "LIFE GROUPS" DO FOR YOU?

- ⇒ They provide an environment for the life change that Jesus Christ intends for every believer
- ⇒ They provide a place to connect with others
- ⇒ They give us others who we can be accountable to
- ⇒ Real community can happen in an atmosphere of prayer and celebration
- ⇒ It gives us an avenue for both service to one another and evangelism to the community to take place

Pick up a catalog (catalogs are located in the foyer) or view online at [www.cccg.net](http://www.cccg.net); to view the different types of groups, hosts, studies. Pick one and sign up!!

## Ministry Opportunities

Looking for a way to serve?? We have several "ministry opportunities" for you to choose from. View these options and call the church office (836.8487) and you'll get CONNECTED!!

1. Building
2. Grounds
3. Fellowship
4. Media
5. Ushering
6. Welcome
7. Nursery
8. Children
9. Youth

# the Illumination

Monthly Newsletter of Christian Church of Casa Grande | August 2011

### Missions Needs

**Home of Hope** a Faith base solution to life controlling abuses of drugs and alcohol. Pray that the Convey of Hope Outreach Program will be a success. The outreach will be at Peart Park; Saturday, August 6 @ 8a.

**Seeds of Hope** hunger and homelessness persist in Casa Grande, despite our community's growth and change. The hungry include severely impoverished families and individuals, and families or individuals who are unemployed. The "Hot Lunch Program" operates with volunteers. Pray that they will continue to get the volunteers to help with the program.

**American Indian Christian Mission** Pray for the new thrift store the students, staff and ministry teams worked this year to build provide funds for the needs of student activities that they have not had before.

**United Christian Youth Camp (UCYC)** pray for the staff, programs, and safety of the children & the planting of mustard seeds as our children learn and grow in Christ.

### Pastoral Thought

## Stand Firm

In August we will be starting a new sermon series. It is called "Stand firm". We will be doing a study of the book of First Peter. It is a call to stand firm in the midst of suffering.

For a couple of years now we have been going through difficult times. The economy has suffered and many people have lost jobs and even homes. The financial stresses may be weighing you down. With tough economic times come other stresses as well, such as marital and relational stresses, depression and poor health. The media and the government appear to be bolder in criticizing, demeaning and even mocking Christianity.

## Mission's Needs Cont ...

**Good News Production** Pray for their continued success as utilizes and provides technology to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ worldwide.

**Harvest Heralds (Africa)** pray for Minister Richard Mabeya at Ongata Rongai, Kenya. Pray his family's health, safety and continue to be a living example and to bring others to Christ in Africa. They have also started a Bible college as a way to train men and women for leadership in their 20 churches.

**Wycliffe Bible Translators (Solomon Islands)** Pray for the Montgomery family for their re-adjustment to life in America, Additional monthly financial support, The editing of the Wala New Testament recording, Lee as he prepares for the Banquet tour and his new role with Wycliffe.

**Black Forest Academy** Pray for the Maier family health, safety they will be ministering at the Black Forest Academy Missionaries in Germany...

**Adonai International (Aaron & Katie Eleiott Ficker)** Pray for His provision-not just financially but for others who feel the call to come alongside to help for the needed expansion of Clinic Services, Feeding Programs and an Acute Care Facility.

**Team Expansion** Pray for Rodney & Linda Peterson success in their role training missionaries before they depart so that they'll be well adjusted and most effective in the field.



## Pastoral Thought Cont.

Peter calls us all to stand firm in the midst of this suffering because in the end suffering is for our benefit. It refines our faith, builds us up in the faith and demonstrates that we are truly children of our heavenly Father. Jesus reminds us that even as they persecuted Him they will persecute us as well. It is my desire that as we go through this study in Peter that you will be encouraged and strengthened in your faith. And that you will "Build It Up", grow strong and "Stand Firm."

## VISION STATEMENT....

**WORSHIP GOD, MAKE  
DISCIPLES, WIN THE LOST  
AND CARE FOR OUR NEIGHBOR**

## A Word from the Youth & Family Pastor ~ Paul Adams

### All Fired Up

*"God said to Moses, "I AM who I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you." (Exodus 3:14)*

Moses was terrified. First he had spent forty years in Egypt- the most powerful nation on earth- as a prince. Popular, revered, and held in the highest esteem. Add to his resume forty years in the desert as a shepherd working for his father-in-law. Now he kneels trembling before Jesus in the burning bush being commissioned for a holy cause. He was being sent by God Himself to set the Israelites free from the Egyptians. Promotion? Sure. Chance to be restored to greatness? Absolutely!

Only - he didn't want to go.

He fired excuse after excuse at the blazing King. Christ had an answer for every one of them. One of Moses' excuses was "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

Jesus had an answer... "I AM who I AM."

In the same way Moses was a master of excuses when it came to delivering the Jews, aren't we the excuse experts when it comes to delivering the gospel? God Himself has commissioned us (Matthew 28) to "go and make disciples of all nations..."

But God—what if I don't know what to say? What if they reject me? What if they ask me a question, I don't have the answer to?" The bottom line is this...the great "I AM" has sent us. Excuses fade into oblivion when it comes to Christ. When we realize who God is—excuses fall flat.

So who is God? Who is this "I AM"

First—we know that He is "one God." Deuteronomy 6:4 reminds us, "The LORD our God, the LORD is one." Christianity is a monotheistic faith. "Mono" means one. "Theo" means "God." We believe in one God.

Second—we believe in one God who is comprised of three persons... the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Each is fully God. Each is fully unique. Three persons: one essence.

The title some have given this truth is "The Trinity." One God (unity) - comprised of three persons (Trinity).

Get it? Neither do I. Neither does anyone, except God. God is infinite. We are finite. As one expert said, "For us to try to comprehend God is like a gnat trying to drink in the ocean."

But get this. This triune God is sending you on a mission. This holy mission is to spread the Gospel to a dying world. Just like Moses, our excuses fail. Why? Because the "I AM" has sent us. We are on a mission for God—let's get busy.

*"I have crucified with Christ and I no longer live but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body I live by faith in the Son of God who love me and gave himself for me."*

Galatians 2:20

## Upcoming Events

**Every Tuesday—TOPS 9:30a  
CMA 5:30p / AA / GA 6:30p**

**Every Wed—WNL (Youth only  
currently) 6:30p**

**Every Thursday—AA 6:30p / HA  
8:30p**

**8/2 T. L. Life Grp Mtg. 12:15p**

**8/7 L. G. Host Lunch / Mtg. 12:30p**

**8/9 MOPS (1st Meeting) 9a**

**8/9 Elder Meeting 6:30p**

**8/14 Media / Worship Fellowship  
12:30p**

**8/16 Board Meeting 6:30p**

**8/21 65'ers L.G. (Potluck) 12:30p**

**8/26 Faith ~n~ Family Night 6:40p**

**8/28 3rd Semester Life Groups  
BEGINS**

**Please visit our website at  
[www.cccg.net](http://www.cccg.net) to view all events  
and their times.**

## Psalms 31

In You, O LORD, I put my trust;  
Let me never be ashamed;  
Deliver me in Your righteousness.