

INSIGHT

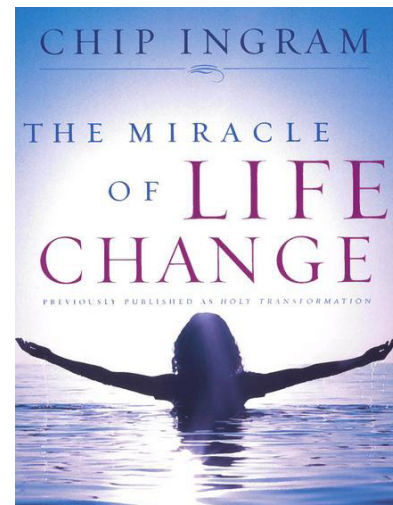
Lent Study

The Miracle of Life Change

As kids we all saw the science experiment in our classroom: the caterpillar ate and ate. Then he spun his cocoon. And then, one day, out came a beautiful butterfly. It is one of the great transformations in nature. But we, too, are meant to transform. “Do not be conformed to this world but be...” The contrasting English word is transformed. But its root is the same as the process that little caterpillar went through: the Greek word is to be “metamorphasized”. Through Chip Ingram’s resources—DVD, study guide and book, we can delve into this topic in a much deeper way. Sunday morning sermons will key off these same themes. And some of our friends

will be sharing one way in which Christ has changed their life.

What a great series to invite someone to join you as we prepare for Easter at the end of March. Friends, as one church, we are being changed, transformed, even meta-morphasized. Let this study be an opportunity for you to join in. Ask at the Connection Center to join a small group this Sunday!



Explosive. Electrifying. Passionate. Hip. Cool. John Torres. His music says it all. In *An Evening With John Torres*, John will premier songs from his upcoming album, *John Torres*. This album features all original songs and will be available in late May/June. The concert will be held at Emmanuel at 6PM on Sunday, February 17.

Joining Torres will be, his friend and special guest, Tino Grigoriou. Torres will play guitar and piano, while Grigoriou will enhance Torres’ soulful melodies playing the cajon and other percussion as well as singing back-up vocals. The duo will also sing a few songs from Torres’ first three albums. In addition, Torres will perform

John Torres Mesmerizes Audience

his signature song, “Hallelujah.”

Torres is a vocalist, songwriter and recording artist who has performed on stages throughout the country, including Dodger Stadium, the Qwest Center, and most recently the Jimmy Kimmel stage at the “Prima Notte” evening, which kicked off the Hollywood Feast of San Gennaro. Torres and Grigoriou have performed for the last two years at the Disney Concert Hall for the Department of Child and Family Services graduation ceremony. Most recently, Torres graced the stage at Emmanuel when he joined Novum Voce in the Elation Arts holiday extravaganza, *Winter Snow*.

Torres’ music has not only been heard live, but in numerous television shows and films as well. Whether singing in large concert halls, intimate settings or at festivals raising money for charity, Torres offers music for a wide variety of tastes. Be one of the first to hear songs from his new album and be a part of this special evening. Admission is free, and a free-will offering will be taken.



Sunday Journey

February 13 is Ash Wednesday, the traditional beginning of Lent. Our Ash Wednesday service is at 7:30PM that evening and is a great start to our season of reflection, self-discovery and growth.

Our Lenten tradition here at Emmanuel is to study a topic as an entire church. On Sunday morning and in our small groups, we explore the same theme to let it sink in a little deeper. Our resource this year is entitled "The Miracle of Life Change" and it comes from our friend Chip Ingram.

The Bible is all about life change. Jesus said that we must be born again. Think of it: the most immutable aspect of our life, the circumstances of our birth, can be redone. And yet, one reason we love the Bible so

much is that there is a very practical "eyes wide open" aspect to the Scripture. So, for example, we read this question: "Can a leopard change his spots?" The follow up is daunting: "Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil." (Jeremiah 13:23)

So which is it? The truth is that God can do within us what we could never do on our own. But he does so through a process. We will look at our own impediments to change and explore some of the ways God changes lives today. We will hear from our own friends as they share how Christ has changed their lives. My prayer is that the "miracle" of life change becomes the reality of life change for every one of us.

In Christ,
Pastor Stuart

Deonomination Discussion Talks

February 10 & 24

We have two guests joining us in February. On Sunday, February 10 at 4PM, Rev. Jeff Bridgeman, Interim Pastor of El Monteceito and former member of the General Assembly Council, will join us to discuss why he feels it is both faithful and correct to remain within the Presbyterian Church.

On February 24 at 4PM, we have Rev. Dr. Mark Paterson joining us. Mark is pasturing his church as they move through the process of leaving the Presbyterian Church and he will share why he believes that is an appropriate response to the present situation. Following

each of these presentations we will divide into small groups to discuss our own thoughts and feelings related to the presentation and the topic.

Every one of us will be better informed in hearing these two men. They are not just "experts" but pastors who have wrestled long and hard with these issues and bring a seasoned wisdom. In addition, I consider both Jeff and Mark friends. I know you will be blessed to meet them and know them.

Pastor Stuart

Campsite Registration for Carp Retreat

On Friday, March 1 at 8AM, we can reserve campsites for our annual Carp Retreat. The retreat will be held September 13-15 at Carpinteria State Beach. Campsites can be reserved by going online at www.parks.ca.gov. Click on "Make a Reservation Now," then choose Carpinteria SB. You can reserve up to 2 campsites per transaction. We would like to reserve the Raccoon groupsite in Anacapa, which holds up to 40 campers. Even if you don't plan to camp this year, please help us by securing campsites for others.

We have extra computers in the church office, if you would like to use them that morning. Please call Sharon in the office for assistance in online registration and to report your campsite reservations.

New West Symphony Fellowship Event

Saturday, February 23

Join us for Emmanuel's Fellowship Evening with the New West Symphony, Saturday, February 23. We have arranged to have 24 tickets available for this event. Held at the Civic Arts Plaza, the tickets are \$43 for mezzanine seating and include a 7:30PM coffee reception prior to the 8PM concert.

Internationally renowned Maestro, Boris Brott, founding artistic director and conductor of New West Symphony, will conduct Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto* and Beethoven's *Eroica*. Award winning violinist, Rachel Barton Pine is the featured artist.

There will be a pre-concert "Meet the Artist" event on Thursday morning, February 21 starting at 9:30AM in the Scherr Forum of the Civic Arts Plaza. No tickets

are needed for this event which lasts about an hour and is very interesting and educational.

There will also be a pre-concert event at 7PM the night of the event. Ticket holders are invited to go to the concert hall's orchestra section to hear a 30 minute presentation on program content.

A sign-up sheet with additional information is available in the narthex at the Connection Center.

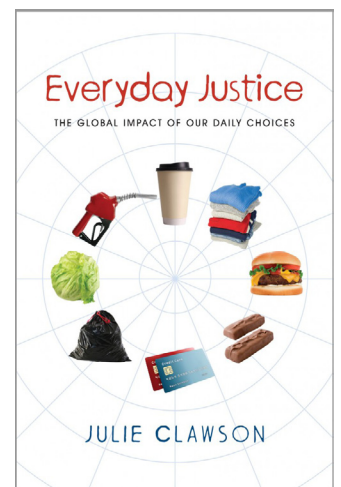


Rachel Barton Pine,
violinist

Everyday Justice - A Book Review

A lot of us wrestle through how to incorporate Christianity into areas of our life other than Sunday mornings and weekly Bible-studies. In the midst of our quest to allow our whole lives to be transformed by Jesus, it is possible that we have overlooked many aspects of the day-to-day. The call to love our neighbor (let alone our enemy) and to give without expecting return overtly affects the way we view the impoverished and those affected by the latest natural disaster. But does it affect the way we purchase clothes, drink coffee, and dispose of our trash? In Julie Clawson's book "Everyday Justice," she unveils how a lot of our daily actions in the Western world actually are fueling a system that causes injustice to our brothers and sisters around the world—but do not be discouraged, for the remedy is not a lifestyle overhaul.

If we take seriously Jesus' call in our lives to love other people, then what Clawson says matters a lot. She unpacks a lot of the issues, explains how our current choices hurt the people we are supposed to care for, and explains how we can make tweaks in our lives so that our choices promote justice for the disadvantaged of the world. Borrow my copy or buy one for yourself and learn how the message of the Gospel comes to bear on our day-to-day decisions that make an impact all over the world.



- Jared Del Dosso

Sr. High Forest Home Trip

This February 15-18 the youth will be going to Forest Home to support the kitchen staff. Instead of participating in the regular programming, every winter we go up and work alongside the kitchen staff to improve the experience of the campers. Please pray for our group that there would be an environment of community and love fostered among all of us, and that our worship would be just as tangible through service rather than through learning and singing.

An Evening With Nita

God's Hidden Treasures

Nita Hanson will speak in the Fireside Room at Emmanuel on Monday, February 11 at 7PM.

She will be sharing how God continues to bless the ministry of God's Hidden Treasures in Ukraine. Their mission is to serve the needs of the poor, afflicted and the orphaned of Ukraine; and to bring God's love through personal relationships in the name of Jesus Christ.

Founded in 1997 by Nita, God's Hidden Treasures is serving the needs of the disabled and orphaned. Since that time the ministry has expanded in both scope and areas served, in response to people's needs. They serve widows, orphans, and handicapped—the forgotten ones. Refreshments will be served.

We look forward to seeing you there. Please RSVP to Dori Knipe at 805-492-6822 or by email at doriknipe@verizon.net.



Support for Firecamp 13

Prison Ministry

The EPC Prison Ministry fulfilled its Christmas tradition of delivering toiletries and other items to the inmates at Firecamp 13 in Malibu. The inmates in this minimum security facility for women help fight the brush fires that threaten us in Southern California. Each firefighter is limited to the personal effects that she can carry in a small fanny pack, and thus they have requested travel size toiletries.

Thanks to contributions provided by our congregation throughout the year, members of the Prison Ministry were able to fill and deliver 100 2-gallon zip-lock bags to the ladies at the fire camp just before Christmas. This year our bags contained soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, candy, microwave popcorn, Christmas cards, and several dozen other items.

Ken Knipe provided a lesson in Scripture to the women as they assembled in the dining hall to receive their gift bags. We also located and distributed a cache of Bibles left over from our visit earlier in the year.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 2/2 Men's Breakfast
8-10AM, fireside room
- 2/6 Empty Nesters, 7PM at
the Bond's
- 2/10 Denomination Talk
4PM, sanctuary
- 2/11 Nita Hanson speaks
7PM, fireside room
- 2/12 Parents of Young Children
5:45PM drop off children at
EPC nursery, 6PM at Bond's
- 2/13 Ash Wednesday Service
7:30PM, sanctuary
- 2/15-18 Youth at Forest Home
- 2/17 John Torres Concert
6PM, sanctuary
- 2/18 President's Day
Church Office Closed
- 2/20 Senior Salad Luncheon
12:15PM, fireside room
- 2/24 Denomination Talk
4PM, sanctuary

March

- 3/1 8AM Register On-Line for
Carp Campsites
- 3/1-3 Women's Retreat at
Forest Home

Weekly & Bi-Monthly Groups
ROMEOS - (Retired old men eating out), Thursdays 8am at the Newbury Park IHOP
Mom's In Prayer, 8:30am, every Friday, Youth Room
MOPS - Mothers of Preschoolers, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 9:15am
MOTS - Moms of Teens, every Wednesday, 12pm, Youth Room