

EMMANUEL VOZ

A Simple Cure!

This is a story about a man I'll call him "Juan".

Juan felt congested but nothing serious. His friend told him to rinse his sinuses but there wasn't time and he forgot later. A couple of weeks passed and the congestion became worse. Cold and flu remedies were not much help, but Juan felt some relief. One morning he got up and suddenly fell. He passed out.

"I think I better go to the doctor," Juan said.

That week, he made an appointment to see the doctor. Before the appointment he passed out again only this time his friend found him and called 911. At the hospital, the staff of nurses and doctors tried to stop the infection with every antibiotic possible. A few days later Juan died. The infection had eaten through the sinus cavities and entered his brain.

A good friend and doctor from Cuba advised Kattia and I that if we use a rinse for the sinuses on our daughters their sinus infections would be substantially reduced. It worked. My daughters constantly had to use antibiotics until we began using that simple rinse. Now we hear about it everywhere, particularly the "Neti Pot", which is a ceramic pot that looks like a cross between a small teapot and Aladdin's magic lamp. There are many simple solutions to severe illnesses if we start practicing them early enough. A simple change in lifestyle can even protect us and prevent many diseases.

In our spirit life, we often find ourselves ill, weak, and sick. We are advised to pray, fast, or read the word, but we're too busy.

"It's not a big deal, I can handle it myself," is our response.

What begins as temptation quickly spreads into sin. That sin of the mind will soon spread to the body. Now we find ourselves completely infected and we try to find relief in a quick dose of religion. This slow but deadly disease affects every aspect of our life. Our marriage, our job, our health, and our family relationships are slowly destroyed by apathy, neglect, abuse, and taking them for granted.

Sin, any form of sin, leads to death.

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A Bean Counter's Crisis

As I usually do, I sat at my computer one cloudy Monday morning, counting the blessings that the Lord has given each of us and getting the deposit ready to take to the bank. I couldn't help but wonder if Jesus was in the room with me, watching me, and contemplating what I was doing. Yikes!



"Why do I have to count all these pennies and nickels?" I pondered. "Where do all these coins come from? And these one-dollar bills, why can't everyone just give twenties or hundreds? Or better yet, write a big check!"

My cloudy morning was turning stormy pretty quick when I remembered a Bible scripture.

Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many *who were* rich put in much. Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans.

Mark 12:41-42, NKJV

What was I thinking? What was I doing? I began looking over my shoulder, first to the left and then to the right. Up and then down. No, not down! I cried out, "Jesus, are you here? I'm sorry, so sorry!"

Okay, so I didn't cry out exactly like that, but I did think it!

So He called His disciples to *Himself* and said to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury.' **Mark 12:43**

So, what was I missing here? What didn't I see? "Lord, please chase these clouds away!" I prayed.

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6

Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, Malachi 3:10

And then I begin to see it again. Wait, it was right in front of me for me to see. Thank you Lord for the opportunity to see it! To see the results of your children worshiping, and learning to worship You in this way. To see your children confirming that all we have is from You and that, out of love and obedience, we return to You a portion of what you have given us!

I began paying more attention to what I was doing and enjoying it again. Now, those pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and even dollars are not a burden to count, but a joy! I don't want to miss the opportunity of counting anyone's two mites. Especially those from our kids! What a blessing! Forgive me Lord, and thank you!

God Bless you,
David Rivera, Finance Secretary

Thanks for the Computer Donations



Praise God! Thanks to Hoover Inc, through Ruben Reyes, we have received the donation of nine complete computers. They have been placed in the classrooms and allow for teachers to use electronic media in their teaching. They are not connected to the Internet for security reasons but are fully functional for DVD, CD, or other external sources. There is also a computer in the office (for official use) behind the Church Secretaries desk so as to not interrupt her work. We are truly blessed. Again, Praise God!

Emmanuel is sending a Missionary to Africa

During youth camp in New Mexico this past summer, Bishop Dorff shared a story about his visit to the Congo. He painted the most beautiful image of a young boy extending his hand to him with love and peace in his eyes. I believe that God planted a seed in my heart at that moment.

Since then, God has increased in me the desire to travel to Africa to serve Him. After sharing with Pastor Garcia this calling, I realized, with his help, that not only is this an opportunity for me, but for us as a church to do mission work in another part of the world where poverty is overwhelming and the need for hope through Christ is evident.

We have an opportunity to partner with Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church and the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, to show God's love and compassion to those in Africa. My plans are to travel with members of Westlake Hills to Lusaka, Zambia Africa from June 16th to July 3rd. Our focus is simply to share God's love through prayer and worship.



My focus will be on the children. For example, I will be able to visit an orphanage, carry babies, and pray over them. It is for this reason that I am asking for your help both financially and through prayer. I have contacted the Bishop regarding the trip, and I will be working with Pastor Garcia and my family to plan the details.

I am not sure what the Lord has planned for me, but I am at peace with God's calling me to carry out this mission. Please pray for this mission trip to Lusaka, for those traveling with me, and for our church, Emmanuel.

Thank you and may God bless you abundantly,

Iliana Rodriguez

The UMW held its Membership program on February 26, which was led by Odelia Treviño. What a wonderful surprise to have Hermana Aurora Rodriguez join us. She has given so many years of faithful service to the UMW that she stands as a role model for us all. We all were able to fellowship together afterwards with a delicious brunch.

One new project the unit will be implementing will be distributing Bibles to the children in Candy Varela's class. Our Sunday school teachers work so hard in planting the seed. We pray this gift will help water it to grow.

We invite you all to join us for our April 2nd business meeting, as we will begin planning our Mother Daughter Banquet on May 7th. More info will be coming for this big event.

We welcome all to come and join us for our programs and meetings so that together we work in the mission work of the UMW.



In Christ,
Dora Ancira, Secretary

Our Gifts from God – Don't Bury Yours

As members of Emmanuel United Methodist Church, we are called to faithfully participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. This year, I am hoping our church can focus on our gifts, specifically for the service to honor God.

Since our earliest days in Sunday school or perhaps part of church sermons, we have heard scripture and parables that remind us that we, God's children, are each gifted in unique and wonderful ways. The apostle Paul describes twenty spiritual gifts in his letters to the churches at Corinth, Rome, and Ephesus. We are all blessed with one or more of these spiritual gifts. Knowing our gifts and using them to serve God through the church, the community and the world is at the heart of stewardship.

Listed below from Dan Dick's book, Revolutionizing Christian Stewardship for the 21st Century, is a brief description of the twenty gifts of the Spirit proposed by the apostle Paul. See if you can discover your own gifts and how you might use those to better serve God and fulfill the church's mission.

Administration: Organizes human and material resources for the work of Christ, including the ability to plan and work with people to delegate responsibilities, track progress, and evaluate the effectiveness of procedures.

Apostleship: Spreads the gospel of Jesus Christ to other cultures and foreign lands.

Compassion: Have exceptional empathy with those in need that moves us to action.

Discernment: Separates truth from erroneous teachings and relies on spiritual intuition to know what God is calling us to do.

Exhortation: Have the gift of encouragement and see the silver lining in every cloud.

Faith: Faith is a gift that empowers an individual or a group to hold fast to its identity in Christ in the face of any challenge.

Giving: Is able to use the resource of money to support the work of the body of Christ.

Healing: This is the gift of channeling God's healing powers, physical, emotional, spiritual, and psychological, into the lives of God's people.

Helping: Helpers assist others to accomplish the mission and ministry of the church.

Interpretation of tongues: Interpret foreign languages without formal study to communicate with those who have not heard the Christian message or the ability to interpret the gift of tongues as a secret prayer language that communicates with God at a deep spiritual level.

Knowledge: Knowing the truth through faithful study of the Scripture and the human situation.

Leadership: Move the community of faith toward a God-given vision of service, and enable others to use their gifts to the very best of their abilities.

Miracle working: Invoke God's power to accomplish what appears impossible by worldly standards.

Prophecy: Prophets allow God to speak through them to communicate the message that people most need to hear.

Service: Serving the spiritual and material needs of other people within and beyond the local church.

Shepherding: Shepherds nurture other Christians in the faith and provide a mentoring relationship to those who are new to the faith.

Teaching: Brings scriptural and spiritual truths to others. Teachers are revealers.

Tongues: Communicates the gospel in a foreign language or speaks to God in a secret, unknown prayer language that can only be understood by a person possessing the gift of interpretation.

Wisdom: Translates life experience into spiritual truth and applies it to daily living.

The gifts given by God are for us to use through the church to take the will of God into our church, community and the world. Please reflect and pray on these gifts to see where you might apply your own to further God's work.

I am working with our Pastor to provide a questionnaire to help you determine where you might use your gift to honor God. Look for a link to the questionnaire in next newsletter or pick up a paper copy on the table by the bulletins in April.

Gerri Willems, Stewardship Chair

A Simple Cure!

(Continued from pg. 1)

By going back to the basics of prayer, fasting, scripture, fellowship, praise and worship, we cleanse what is stagnant and can develop into sin. When we experience God, His presence, His blessings, His love, and His grace and mercy in all that is around us, we appreciate and treasure what is good and from God. We begin to remove the negative that leads to first apathy, then anger, and lastly hate. If we keep our eyes on the good, God will take charge of the evil. Let your body, soul, and spirit be washed by the purifying Holy Spirit today. Reject all that is evil and practice all that is right.

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

James 4: 7-10

In Christ,
Pastor Garcia

Calendar of Events**April**

Youth Spring Retreat	Fri. 1 st thru Sun, 3 rd
Trustees Meeting	Sat. 2 nd at 8:30AM
UMW Business Meeting	Sat. 2 nd at 9:30AM
Church Council	Sat. 9 th at 8:30AM
SPRC Meeting	Mon. 11 th at 6:00PM
UMM Breakfast	Sat. 16 th at 8:30AM
Children's Dress Rehearsal	Sat., 16 th at 10:00AM
Children's Program Service	Sun., 17 th at 10:45AM
Children's Easter Egg Hunt	Sun., 17 th at 12:30PM
Maudy Thursday Service	Thurs. 21 st at 7:00PM
Good Friday Service	Fri. 22 nd at 7:00PM
UMW Special Program	Sat. 23 rd at 9:30AM
Easter Sunrise Service	Sun. 24 th at 6:30AM
Easter Service & Cantata *	Sun. 24 th at 10:30AM
UMM Breakfast	Sat. 30 th at 8:30AM

* Indicates a Spanish/English service.

May

Mother/Daughter Banquet	Sat., 7 th at 10:30AM
Church Council	Sat. 14 th at 8:30AM
Communications Meeting	Mon. 16 th at 6:00PM
Nominations Committee Mtg.	Wed. 18 th at 7:30PM
Newsletter Deadline	Sat., 21 st
UMM Promise Keepers	Tues. 24 th at 6:30PM
Shoreline Ministry Meal	Sat. 28 th at 6:30PM

Easter is April 24th

Sunrise service is at 6:30AM

Breakfast & Birthday celebration for Pastor Garcia to follow.

Combined Service & Cantata at 10:30AM

Maundy Thursday Service

April 21st at 7PM

Good Friday Service

April 22nd at 7PM

He is Risen!

**June**

Children's Summer Fun Kickoff	Wed. 1 st at 6:30PM
UMW Meeting	Sat. 4 th at 9:30AM
Father's Day Banquet	Sat. 11 th at 4:30PM
Confirmation Sunday	Sun. 12 th at 8:30AM
Family Picnic	Sun. 12 th at 12:00PM
Annual Conference	Thurs. 16 th thru Sat. 18 th
UMW Garage Sale	Sat. 25 th at 7:00AM
Youth Get Together	Sat. 25 th at 6:30PM

Prayer Petitions / Peticiones de Oración

God's justice & peace in the World
Victims of Japan earthquake and tsunami
Our Country and its leaders
Those without employment
Our church council & other church leaders
Our college and returning students
Ernest Rivera (in Afghanistan)
Austin Latino Ministerial Alliance
Bishop Jim Dorff & his cabinet
Rev Edward Garcia

The health & recovery of:

Those in our congregation with chronic illness.
Elizabeth Almaguel
Grace Menchaca
José and Anita Almanza

Willie Blair
Joe Esparza
Natalie Gonzales
Carlton Maxwell

The homebound & elderly:

Julia López
Nephtalí Luna
Dora Hernández
Esther Esparza
Lily Rojas
Rosa Munguía
Aurora Rodríguez
Esther Ancira
Minnie Russell



Prayer Requests

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[Recipient]