

Dear Friends,

KD and I just returned from Las Vegas where I had the pleasure of performing the marriage of my daughter, Nicole Michelle to Ruben Moreno on June 16th. I'd like to say that everything went off as planned. However, as KD and I got on I-15, I realized I had left our garment bag hanging in the closet. No suit, no shirts, no dresses. We couldn't turn back because we had to be at the airport in Vegas to pick up my parents who were arriving at 10:30 a.m. from Florida. Patience and calm were the order (*lesson*) of the day.

As soon as we settled into our hotel we went shopping. Within three hours we found shirts, a suit and a tailor, a dress for KD, and new shoes to go with the new dress. What we didn't find was a negative attitude about the additional expenses we had to incur because of my forgetfulness.

It has taken me years of practice and a strong abiding faith in the abundance the universe has for me. There was a time—before Unity—that I lived from paycheck to paycheck. Then I learned the three secrets of living a prosperous life: *An attitude of gratitude, tithing, and good money management.*

One of the first prosperity books I read in the 70's was *Think and Grow Rich*, by N. Hill. When I learned that more millionaires were created during the depression era than any other time before, I took notice. Why? Attitude and intent. How we think and use our thoughts determine what our lives are going to look like and what our future will be.

Earth's economy is a living entity. We give it energy with our thoughts and actions. Right or wrong speculators are doing just that with the commodities market. There are ebbs and flows to all life. Our current state of affairs is no different.

How do we maintain a positive attitude about our personal finances during the ebb of our economy? Practice some of the following ideas to maintain an attitude of gratitude while you are waiting for the tide to come in again.

Remember to keep your thoughts centered on God. Give thanks for what you do have. Speak in the positive and then act accordingly. Visualize peace and harmony for yourself in all areas of your life. Ask for guidance in all you do. Think with your mind and listen with your heart. Tithe back to where you get your spiritual food. Tithing is an action step that leads to greater returns in your life because it builds your faith in God as the source of all your good. Don't look at any one area from which your good will come. God deals in a variety of ways to get your good to you. You just have to keep the channels open by not letting fear close them up.

And if Ego pushes images of fear into your mind, respond by telling it to, "Get lost, Spirit leads, you follow!" Some of the best anti-ego activities are: Affirmative prayer, reading prosperity books and then putting the principles and ideas into action, surrounding yourself with people that look at life with a positive point of view. Create healthy boundaries around yourself so that when you find yourself in a pessimistic environment you'll be able to walk through it untouched.

Jesus taught and proved time and time again: "It is the Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom!" So, ask for it to be shown and given, seek it in all your experiences, and knock on opportunity's door every chance you get!

Abundant Blessings!



Unity Center - Bakersfield
 1619 E Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301
Your Spiritual Home for the 21st Century

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Mailed with abundant blessings to...

- Rev. Chuck's class during Healing Prayer Services 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays**
- Zen Buddhist Meditation w/ Lou Marino - Sundays 1 p.m.(NOT meeting July 6 & 27 & Aug. 24)**
- Cosmic Café with Deborah Goaldman - Saturday, July 12th 1 p.m. in the Ada Davis room**
- Y.U.M.M. (YOU's Monthly Meeting) - July 19th at Border's Café at 2 p.m., ages 14-19**
- Y.O.U. Chapter Rally - at Unity Church of Bakersfield July 26th - 27th ages 10 and up**
- Y.O.U. Sunday! Youth lead the church service on Sunday, August 3, 2008 at 10 a.m.**
- Wear Unity T-shirts to church on Sunday, August 3rd (can be purchased from the Y.O.U.)!**
- BINGO - after services on Sunday, August 3rd 11:30 a.m. with Christina Harris**
- Y.U.M.M. (YOU's Monthly Meeting) - August 9th at Border's Café at 2 p.m., ages 14-19**
- Trip to Lake Shrine on Sunday, August 24 - Please contact the church office if interested in going.**

Dearly Beloved,

We believe in the power of prayer. During the months of July and August we affirm with you that your faith in God's love is your source of health, vitality, peace, abundance, guidance, and well-being. We affirm divine wisdom, harmony, and understanding in all you do and say. Your prayer request will be kept in our prayer box and affirmed each Wednesday at the healing prayer meeting for 30 days. Then we send it to Silent Unity for another 30 days. We welcome your request.

Please pray with me concerning: _____

Please accept this gift of \$ _____ to keep this important work going in Bakersfield.

Abundant Blessings is a bimonthly newsletter. It is our hope that the articles, activities, and information shared within these pages help you to create and live a more abundant life.

Unity Church of Bakersfield

2001 Truxtun Ave, Bakersfield CA 93301

Office & Bookstore

1619 E Street, Bakersfield CA 93301

Phone: 661-327-8614

Website: www.unityofbakersfield.org

Prayer: 1-800-669-7729

Those Who Serve You In Love...

Rev. Chuck Courneyea, Minister

Rev. Shirley Bring, Minister Emeritus

Rev. Dr. R. Cassandra Sheard, Community Liaison, Prayer Team

Ray Wallace, President of Board of Trustees, Prayer Team, Music Team

Eric Foss, Vice-Pres. of Board, Webmaster, Audio-Visual Team

Owen Kulewicz, Sec.-Treas. of Board, Office Team, Y.O.U.

Mark Harris, Member of Board, Maintenance, Social Team

Sue Berry, Member of Board, Usher/Greeters Team, SOUL

Margaret Smith, Alternate Member of Board

KD Vargo-Courneyea, Youth Ed Coordinator, YOU Sponsor

Deborah Goaldman, Coordinator of Bookstore Volunteers

Beverly Marino, Coordinator of Church Services, Music Director

Stephanie Apsit, Coordinator of Fellowship Volunteers



The gift of life is one of the greatest blessings we can have. With that in mind it is our pleasure to celebrate the following birthdays:

July

- Ryan Johnson
- Toni Salazar
- Susan Courneyea
- Diane Pinson
- Aliza McCracken
- Rita Steckdaub
- Ron Wayne
- Tara Irwin
- Kendra Heer-Espinoza
- Michael Grundt
- Adam Vasquez
- Darby Silva
- Natasha Kulewicz
- Angelina Harris
- Leslie Homan
- Lynne Courneyea
- Garrett Johnson
- Nancy Ramsey
- Jose Garcia, June Swartz
- Frances McWhinney
- Mark Harris, John Browning
- Joyce Bayless, Sally Stone
- Chloe Boyd, Paul Kemp

August

- Kay Jacobson
- Julia Kulewicz
- Annette Collins
- Felicia Pusateri
- Shay Binger
- Owen Kulewicz
- Carleen O'Neal
- Natalie Garcia
- Ricki Wright
- Stacy Krasinski
- Vickie Bohannon
- Dana Clow
- Marg Mackall
- Patricia Reyes
- Evonne Brown
- Clara Connelly
- Mimi Placencia
- Jennifer Baldwin
- Andrew Zelen
- Dana Whitney
- Sandy Wagner
- Zanda Paulk



Our greatest asset is our volunteers. Your greatest gift to God is to be of service for it enriches the lives of all who are touched by it. When you see the following individuals around the church give them a hug for sharing their "gift of service."

July

Ushers/Greeters:

- Judy & Tom Soucy
- Sandy Wagner / Sue Berry
- Jean Irvine / Wynter Campbell
- Y.O.U.

Fellowship:

- Stephanie Apsit
- Diane Cooper
- Y.O.U.
- Darlene Saunders

Bookstore:

- Joanie Steckel
- Deborah Goaldman
- Char & Ray Wallace

Platform Assistant:

- Mike Oldershaw
- Marion Owen
- Deborah Goaldman
- Ray Wallace

August

Ushers/Greeters:

- Felicia & Owen Kulewicz
- Marilyn Yeich / Sue Berry
- Wynter Campbell / Sandy Wagner
- Darlene Saunders
- Y.O.U.

Fellowship:

- Jennifer Cecero
- Felicia Kulewicz
- Y.O.U.
- Sue Berry
- Lynnette Anderson

Bookstore:

- Joanie Steckel
- Deborah Goaldman
- Char & Ray Wallace

Platform Assistant:

- Mike Oldershaw
- Marion Owen
- Deborah Goaldman
- Ray Wallace
- Margaret Smith



Our Abundance Factor:

Year To Date Income: \$43,588.63
 Year To Date Expenses: \$43,550.66
 Difference: \$ 37.97

As of May 31, 2008

Thank You, God, that our ministry receives the miracle of financial abundance through You, the One Source. Thank You, God, that Unity Church of Bakersfield is blessed with continual abundant prosperity. And so it is, Thank You, God!

Blessings,
Owen Kulewicz
 Secretary/Treasurer

Sometimes at low points in our life, God comes along and sends us a sweet lesson to remind us things aren't always what they seem—I had one of these life lessons recently.

I was turning 70 on Saturday, June 21st and I was feeling a bit sorry for myself. No one seemed to remember this was a special day. My son never called, I didn't get a card from him. My oldest daughter called to tell me she couldn't do anything that day as she was in a lot of pain from a pulled muscle. My youngest daughter told me Happy Birthday and that was it. A couple of friends did call and said Happy Birthday, and one of them wanted to go to dinner. My husband was busy with his health problems . . . Yes, I was a sad, “forgotten” case –or so I thought. Little did I know that God had a lesson for me. My husband said, “Well, never mind. We'll just go have a nice dinner and you'll feel better.” Right!!

So, we arrived at the restaurant and my friend/sister came out to meet me and we went inside. There, much to my surprise, was my family, my friends, and even my minister and his wife. I was totally shocked. It was then that I got the lesson that God had sent me. Love is always there, if you just accept it and do not put conditions on it. It can flow around or through you—it is always there, waiting to bless and nurture you. For those of us who are blessed with children, we sometimes think they are still “children” and it takes a lesson from God to make us realize they are only loaned to us for a short while and then go on to learn their own lessons. When that happens, God sends us another gift in precious friends to sustain us with their love!

Thank You, God!

By Margaret Smith

Ray greeted me this morning with my book of writings and a hopeful look on his face. So, I chose this love note I received from God a few years ago.

Love, Char Wallace

TRUTH

If it is Truth you seek, do not look for it in someone else. Look in your own backdoor. How do you know when you are looking for your Truth in someone else that they are not seeking theirs in you? What a responsibility to bear. Someone else's Truth!

How can you look past the beauty in your own heart; the glory and wonder of all that is in store for you? You can only go your own way.

Although the same heart beats in all, the path around and through each heart is different. Finding your own way to fulfillment is the only way to reach the One Heart. You would not go to your neighbor's closet to choose what to wear. Do not try to fulfill your dreams in his vision either. When you consciously walk your spiritual path, you know that when the way is rough, you are not alone. You have a guide, I walk with you! You have waited a long time to find your own way, I will not force you to your fulfillment, you must choose it. The more joy you give and are open to receive, the more will be added unto you.

Outreach Opportunity

Did you know that your gently used clothing can help others enter the workforce?

We are collecting interview clothing for the Mojave Career Closet. We are especially in need of men's dress shirts, ties, and dress slacks.

Please drop your donations by the church.

BUDDHISM AND ZEN AS A WAY TO BETTER COMPREHEND THE TRUE NATURE OF REALITY

Class continues meeting at the new time of 1 p.m. on Sundays in the Ada Davis room, hosted by Lou Marino. The class meets every Sunday except for July 6, July 27, and August 24 (which will be the trip to Lake Shrine). Class includes guidance into 20-minutes of silent meditation. The book "The Key, and the Name of the Key is Willingness" by Cheri Huber, available in the church bookstore, will be used. The class includes discussion of various subjects in the light of Lou's experience of the Buddhist way. Lou studied with a Zen Buddhist Roshi (teacher) for 6 years and was in training to become a Zen Buddhist priest. He was a full-time resident in the Vichara Monastery (near Coulterville, CA) for 2 of those years. If you have any questions, contact the church office at 327-8614 or Lou at 587-9312.

BINGO!

Come join us for Bingo after church services on Sunday, August 3rd at 11:30 a.m. Christina Harris will be our facilitator. Pick up a \$5 gift certificate from your favorite shopping or eating place, and we will use these for prizes!

“Unity: a Path for Spiritual Living”

This issue of “Abundant Blessings” includes a booklet as a special gift to you. Published by the Association of Unity Churches International, this thoughtful reference provides at a glance Unity’s understanding of God, Jesus, Humankind, and the Bible. Also, our “core values”, the foundation of Unity’s success, are listed and discussed.

Reverend Chuck brought us copies from his last trip to Unity Village. Your Board of Trustees was so moved by this booklet, that we voted to include a copy with our bi-monthly newsletter. It would be an excellent item to share with someone who is curious about Unity and what we believe. We know each booklet will find it’s way to the right and perfect reader. Enjoy!

Ray Wallace, Board President

**REV. CHUCK SAYS “WEAR YOUR
UNITY T-SHIRTS TO CHURCH ON
SUNDAY, AUGUST 3RD - Y.O.U.
SUNDAY!”**

TRIP TO LAKE SHRINE

On Sunday, August 24th tentative plans are to leave Unity Church at 7 a.m.

We'll travel to Pacific Palisades in rented vans with drivers.

The cost of this trip is yet to be determined, but estimates are \$50 to \$100 per person.

The dress code is casual, but no shorts. There are a few other restrictions.

We will attend services at 11 a.m. at the Self-Realization Fellowship (www.yogananda-srf.org) then go down the hill (either walking or in the vans) to the grounds of Lake Shrine to enjoy the peaceful atmosphere and tour the area.

The grounds include a Court of Religions honoring the five principal religions of the world, and also the Mahatma Gandhi World Peace Memorial, where a portion of Gandhi's ashes is enshrined. The Lake is on 10 acres . . . very peaceful, very beautiful!

After our quiet time at Lake Shrine, we will go out to lunch together (Dutch treat), and then possibly stop by a beach for a while before returning to Bakersfield.

Please contact the church office by **August 10th** to sign up for this trip. We will need to pre-pay for the vans and drivers, so we will request payment for the trip in advance. You will need to bring extra money for your meal, gift store shopping, etc.

Call 327-8614 to sign up. All are welcome.

Cosmic Café

The Cosmic Cafe is a spiritual and philosophical conversation group for mind-stimulating discussions. The menu of topics may include the following: responsibilities of global citizenship, the language of relationships, evolution of the soul, life after death, enlightened parenting and more. Participants will decide on the topics most meaningful to group. We then bring to the table our personal experiences and inspirations gained from any source to share as delicacies with one another.

The first meeting will be Saturday, July 12 in the Ada Davis Room at Unity Church at 1 PM. For further inquiries contact Deborah Goldman at 871-9578 or

goaldmand@yahoo.com

Prison Ministry Donation Fund

The prison ministry led by Deborah Goldman often contributes Bibles and other spiritual reading materials to inmates in California Correctional Institutions. Your contributions to a donation fund through Unity Church will assist in these purchases. Contact the church if you are interested.