



January 2010
From the Desk of
Rev. Chuck

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Dear Friends,

It is me or did we have one of the fastest turn-arounds of any year on record? It seems that I had no sooner held our annual burning bowl ceremony on the 1st Sunday of January, 2009 that here it is again for 2010.

Just like all families, our spiritual one here at Unity Church of Bakersfield, has seen many changes occur in 2009. What gives me hope for the new year is that God is always showing us that our needs will be taken care of. Maybe not in a way we thought of, but taken care of non-the-less. As Jesus often taught: *God knows your need before you even ask.*

Unity echos the teaching made by Jesus and reminds us to *go to God first for all our guidance and wisdom and then to the outer world as directed*, all will be taken care of. When we enter into a partnership with God failure of any kind is not an option because God can not fail!

How many times have we tried to go it alone? How many times have we gone to the outer world for our answers only to be disappointed in what we were given? If things are not working to bring us a sense of peace, understanding, abundance, good-will, or well-being, it's not God's fault.

Being in partnership with God is a 24 hour practice, as God will never leave you. We either believe God is everywhere present, or not. Jesus knew he was never alone and when he wanted private time with God he would "go apart" and pray to God who heard him in secret.

When the disciples saw how prayer helped Jesus they asked him, "Master, how do we pray?" We are told he said, "*Pray like this, 'Our Father....'*" Jesus gave us the secret to entering into a partnership with God. The secret is two words: ***Our Father!***

Remember, the disciples were of the Jewish faith, schooled in prayer as soon as they could talk. They were all aware of their ritual prayers as set forth in the Torah. So why ask Jesus how to pray? Because they saw a connection that Jesus had with God that no one else had at the time.

That connection was a true "meeting of the

minds" if you will. Divine mind (God) with human mind (Jesus). Through the activities of prayer and meditation, Jesus was able to maintain the connection so that he could teach humanity a whole new way of connecting with God again. The disciples liked what they saw and wanted that connection too.

The third part of being in partnership with God is to know who is in charge. Jesus knew this early on in his ministry and often addressed the issue this way: *I do nothing of my accord, it is done by God who sent me here.*

As Jesus put it: *You have nothing to fear for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. He knows your needs before you ask so go to God first in prayer and meditation, and remember who is really in charge. And don't forget that the things I have done you will do also, and greater will you do.*

So here we are, getting ready for a whole new year. And just as we tried in many ways to control last year, it still passed us by. The year 2010 when added together 2+0+1+0 = 3. It will be a reminder that 2010 is the year of the trinity. I allow myself to be open and respective to the creative trinity of mind, idea, and expression, I can create a year of abundant blessings.

In partnership with God I affirm: ***I Can In 2010!***

Abundant Blessings?
Rev. Chuck

Unity Orientation on Saturday, Jan 16, 2010 in the fellowship room at 9 a.m. Open to all new members and those looking to find out more about Unity Church of Bakersfield .

New Member Sunday will be held on Sunday, Jan 31, 2010 in the church at 10 a.m.

Annual Membership Meeting
 Sunday, Feb 7, 2010
 Meeting & luncheon in the fellowship room following services. By-law changes and the election of new board members will take place at the meeting.