

Servolution 4

Church Family Focus

1) Finishing the Year of 2015

Wednesdays Schedule:

- a) Wednesday, November 25th, the office will be closed and no church.
- b) Wednesday, December 2nd will be a Seekers Night of worship.
- c) Monday – Wednesday, December 7th-9th will be the Camp Logos Ministers Training Event. There will be no service on Wednesday night. We encourage you to share a meal with someone.
- d) Wednesday, December 16th is another Seekers Night of worship.
- e) Wednesday, December 23rd, we will host a Christmas family night with Christmas carols and candles. It will be an open house type of night with refreshments and family fellowship. We will not provide a nursery or separate children's ministry.
- f) Wednesday, December 30th there will be no Wednesday evening service.

2) Looking Forward to 2016

- a) Launching Three Connection Type Ministries
 - i) Women's Ministry, Men's Ministry, Couples' Ministry
 - ii) 2 - 8 weeks sessions on Wednesdays in the spring and the fall. We will be registering on December 6th.
- b) The first Wednesday of every month will be a night of prayer and worship.
- c) 16 for 2016 – CLC will provide the funds to plant 16 churches through Surge.

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In the wake of the Paris attacks, people are left once again with so many questions.

1) Personal Questions:

- a) How am I going to keep my family and myself safe in a world infused with hatred and violence?
- b) Should I travel abroad?
- c) Should I take a self-defense course or buy a gun?

2) National Questions:

- a) Should we close all our borders?
- b) What should be done about the refugee crisis?
- c) Should we suspend the visa waiver policy that now exists?

Senator Angus King, an independent from Maine who sits on the Senate intelligence committee, said Thursday, "Frankly, [the visa waiver program is] a greater vulnerability than the issue of the Syrian refugees who have to go through an 18-month to two-year vetting process.

There are now 38 countries (including France and Belgium) in which millions of people visit the US each year without going through any vetting process at all.

3) Celestial Questions:

- a) God, what is the deal? Why would you allow such evil-minded people to do such terrible things?
- b) There are even broader questions besides why didn't You stop the shooter. How about why didn't You cure the cancer? ...end the depression or stop the drunk driver?

Two Vital Questions:

What has God placed before me and can I really make a difference?

- 1) Can I really make a difference with those outside of His Church?

Colossians 4:5 NIV - *Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.*

- a) Don't let your political frustrations desensitize you to the purpose of the Church.

Remember the apostle Paul was once the terrifying Saul of Tarsus. He led the persecution against the saints, having them attacked and arrested by court order. His assignment was to exterminate Christianity!

In Acts 9:13-15, Ananias says, Oh Lord not Him! You want me to take in this terrorist? God says yes, he is My chosen instrument.

- b) Don't be shocked about the war on Jews and Christians.

Jesus said, "you will be hated...for My name's sake" (Matthew 10:22).

The Christian life is a life of spiritual warfare.

- c) How do we make the most of this opportunity?

- i) Don't react in fear or anger; instead, be courageous and loving!

(1) What the world needs is a bold and loving Church to arise in these troubled days.

(2) These are indeed crazy days, but we have a crazy faith and we have been loved with a crazy love!

We have been given a crazy call.

Matthew 5:43-44 - You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy." v. 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

- ii) Don't react in fear and anger; instead, pray!

Rather than thinking primarily of our own safety or comfort, let's ask God for boldness to seize the opportunity to be Jesus people.

(1) Pray for a sweeping end-time movement to begin in the Muslim peoples around the world.

(2) Pray for powerful God encounters to occur among the refugees in Europe and America.

Christ is building His church in this day just as He has in the past! The church will not be exterminated or silenced!

As one writer says, "God is building His church — *through this refugee crisis* — and the very hellishness of ISIS will not prevail against it."

- 2) Can I really make a difference inside His Church?

The answer is yes, if I act on what He has placed before me.

Galatians 6:10 - So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

- a) "As we have the opportunity"

It is the church leaderships' job to equip you and provide the opportunity for you to serve His Body the church.

Ephesians 4:11, 12 - *And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, v.12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...*

b) "let us do good"

I want to show you a little clip of how some people in our church are "doing good" in the household of God.

What will it cost me and am I willing to pay it?

1) Have you truly considered the cost of discipleship?

In the West, we have grown up for the most part in a comfortable environment where living for Jesus has been easy. The change is happening now.

2) Have you considered the cost of serving the body of Christ?

a) With every choice you make, there is a trade-off. You cannot have it all.

Robert Dickie, writing in Relevant Magazine says, "Everything in life is a trade-off. When we choose one career field, we are foregoing others. When we decide to marry, we are making a lifelong commitment. When we make a purchase, we have less for charity or investments.

b) When we choose a servant's lifestyle, we are making a great trade!

In Luke 14:28, Jesus says, "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?"