

Los Altos Church of Christ

"...being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose." Philippians 2:2

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This Sunday...I Don't Want To Talk About It

Shame. It weighs the body down at its very presence. It draws our eyes low to the ground in fear of rejection. It resists authentic relationship and cripples the calling God placed on our lives. Shame plays no favorites- it has impacted all of humanity from the time of the fall and the response has always been to hide. To hide from others- what we have done or what has been done to us, and to hide from God out of fear that His grace has met its limit in us.



Wednesday Night Fellowship...Dinner at Terrie's 6:30 and at 7:00 new series, "Shoes".

PRAYERS *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7*

- Pray for the Jang family. Family members and loved ones are going through some tough trials regarding health issues.
- The sister of Faye (Joanie's caretaker) has Covid. Her name is Althea.
- Walter Grove asked we pray for a Mormon family known by his daughter Jill. The family is leaving that organization and are fearful. Prayers for their new journey.

Continue to pray for Terry Shipp...Lu...Sue Collins...Marge Shipp...Autumn and Brooke...Mike and Sharon...John and Jennifer...Abbie...Jocelyn's mother...Christine's mother...the Gordon family...Walter Grove...Roger Townsend... Berry... The Britton Family ... Barbara... Gwen and her son Caleb... City of Children... Healing Hands International... Japhet's work in Zimbabwe...and New Hope Uganda.

The MAGI Project

The MAGI Project is a work by Healing Hand International to share God's love with children in need. Local evangelists in Honduras, Zambia, and at the Texas-Mexico border use MAGI boxes to reach out to their communities and share the good news of Jesus. You can provide a MAGI box for only \$30. It's a simple way you can **Make A Godly Impact. To learn more or contribute directly, go the Los Altos webpage and click on the "MAGI Box" tab. Or you can put a check in the collection box on Sunday and designate that it is for the MAGI project in the memo area.**

Thoughts for the week...

Flattery is saying something to a person's face that you wouldn't say behind their back. Gossip is saying something behind a person's back that you wouldn't say to their face. - Dave Stone

The Begats Are The Point

By Patrick A. Mead

When I was 8 or 9 yrs old, our little mission church launched a Read Through the Bible in One Year effort. I was in, especially since the kids got a dispensation to read only the New Testament. I was the son of the minister so...how hard could it be? I couldn't wait to start so, sometime during the service, I cracked open my New Testament and started with Matthew Chapter One.

Thud. My enthusiasm ran into a brick wall. All those begats... Is this any way to start a story? This is the Greatest Story Ever Told! I knew that because we had a tract in a rack by the front entry of our tiny church building that said so. Why would you start a story this way? (Besides, we did a lot of scripture reading aloud in worship and I was terrified that I would be handed that chapter. Why would a loving God allow that to happen?)

Later, I learned the standard answers: 1) Jews have their own ways of telling stories. What seems annoying to us was just setting the scene for them. 2) Matthew's gospel is all about Jesus being the Promised Messiah and King so Matthew had to establish his kingly line early in the story. I have no reason to doubt either of those answers but, over the years, I think there is more to it than that.

Matthew 1 is history, but it is much, much more than history. It breaks my heart when I hear people say that they don't like history. Often, it is traceable to a boring history teacher who forced names and dates on them without revealing the drama and context of the times. But history is us! When you go through the list of names in Matthew 1, it is imperative that you remember that each of these were individuals, real people with hopes, dreams, fears, successes and failures.

They were people. I am blown away by the fact that Jesus entered a human story – a badly broken human story.

We see Tamar here. Abraham was no superhero and, if he lived today, he'd be named in the #metoo movement and for good reason. David? Can we say "murder, treachery, adultery" for starters? There's Ruth, the Moabite, when Moabites weren't allowed anywhere near the worship of God (Deuteronomy 23:3). We can talk about Rahab and Manasseh if you'd like, but I'd rather not. These aren't the kind of ancestors about which one might brag on Facebook. Sure, it is a royal line and there is royal blood there but there is also an inordinate amount of commoner, stranger, foreigner, and "questionable individual" blood there, as well.

That's the story Jesus entered. God entered a very human story full of broken human beings, people with good intentions, some people with evil intentions, women of questionable provenance with histories that make us blink, and some men that, in my opinion, should have been lopped off the family tree a long time ago. God didn't lop them off and for good reason.

God is with us. He isn't with just the super holy. He isn't just with those who have many generations in "the church" and who are known for being "sound." He is with all of us. He is with the woman whose past shames her (even if she had little or no control over what happened to her). He is with David whose good name is forever sullied by his treatment of those around him and his shameful use of power to get what he wanted. He is with Tamar when no one else was. He is even with Manasseh. Let that one sink in for a bit.

He is with us. He entered our story as one of us. He continued to live and walk and teach as one of us. And in the next world, we will be called his brothers and sisters because that is what we are.