

SANDY'S WINDS CONTINUE TO BLOW

Robert Carr

The Lord Jesus has enabled us to serve in the following capacity:

Evangelist
Robert Carr

Associate Evangelist
Pedro Gelabert

Spanish Evangelist
Charlie Gómez

Campus Minister
Ladipo Davies

Family Minister
Robert Young

Worship Directors
David Luhrs
George Bullinger

Minister of Finance
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Greetings, Kingdom saint! The Lord has brought us to a new year again! For me, it's my 31st new year as a disciple! I've experienced some good times and some challenging times, but overall, it has been a blessing because Jesus saved me and adopted me into His wonderful Family: the Church! And the best part of it is I will continue being part of His Family long after I leave this world: And so will you! And to that we say Amen and Amen! Jesus Christ is Lord indeed! ☺

You may be wondering why the strange title? Well, the biggest 2012 event that stood out for me has been Hurricane Sandy! I don't think any of us will forget her! What seemed to me to be just a few windy gusts and light rains turned out to be a real devastation! But out of the midst of this powerful storm arose something more powerful: God's love expressed through His children at the Long Island Church of Christ!

Our brother John said in **1John 4:12 (ESV)**, **"No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us."** Though we cannot see God, yet there is a way by which we may know that He is near us and lives in us. That way is by the exercise of love! I have seen God by the many phone calls that were made by members of the LICOC, making sure everyone is alright! I have seen God by hearing of members opening their homes to those who had no light or hot water! I have seen God by witnessing members helping other members rid fallen trees on their property. I have seen God through members volunteering themselves to help those outside the church, distributing supplies as well as gospel tract! I learned that parents took their children out to volunteer; and I learned that members, while having no electricity themselves, went out, seeking to help devastated communities, even driving through neighborhoods, passing our items that they themselves purchased. And the list goes on: members loading and unloading of trucks filled with supplies; members traveling distances to help in the distribution of supplies and tracts despite a gas shortage, etc. I dare say that many in our communities have seen God through the expressed love of those at the Long Island Church of Christ! May God richly bless you for faith expressed through love!

But let us always remember that Sandy's winds continue to blow! I do not refer to the storm that came and went. I am speaking figuratively of the spiritual winds of darkness that continues to wreak havoc on the souls of mankind! The spiritual whirlwind whose ultimate goal is to thrust the soul into an everlasting hell still rages on!

Our work is not over! The Lord continues to call us to be out there in full force. People continue to be in desperate need of something that the American Red Cross, FEMA or any earthly organization cannot provide: The atoning blood of Jesus Christ! So I want to encourage you to continue letting your neighbor see God through your love for their souls as well as for the souls of your fellow brothers and sisters!

Your fellow servant,



Robert Carr

“As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” Joshua 24:15

FAMILY MATTERS

WE WILL SERVE THE LORD

Robert Young

Happy New Year! Thanks be to God the Father and Jesus Christ our Lord for allowing us to see another year. And what will this year bring? Do any of us know the answer to that question? No! So we are left to make some decisions without knowing what the future may hold. I believe the number one decision we have to make, as families in Christ, is to serve the Lord! And what does serving the Lord entail? Reading my bible, prayer, attending church service are all good for preparing us for that service but they are not the service in and of themselves. When we choose to serve the Lord, we choose to get off our butts and put our hands to work for the Lord and allow God to do some amazing things with us. But this means that we will have to spend less time watching TV, less time shopping at the mall and less time rooting for our favorite team. In place of these things we will spend more time sharing the Gospel, more time having bible studies, more time visiting the sick, more time feeding the hungry and more time plugging into the various ministries of the church. And as a parent, if I believe these things are important than why not include my children. Hopefully they will develop a desire to do these things on their own for the Lord. I believe Joshua got it right. He said that he would serve the Lord. He would encourage those in his household to serve the Lord. And at the end of the day, they would all be serving the Lord together. I believe that if we set our goals the way Joshua did the Lord will be pleased with us and our households. So I encourage you, serve the Lord!

“And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” Joshua 24:15

“And the Lord added to their number” Acts 2:47

BAPTISMS

Joshua Araya	December, 2012	Taonga Mubebo	May, 2012
Ruhan Feng	October, 2012	Yolanda Caban	April, 2012
Kyle Watkins	July, 2012	Marie Michel	April, 2012
Dwight Thomas	June, 2012	Ken Begin	February, 2012
Lahsann Rogers	May, 2012	Rhonda Washington	January, 2012

“They gave themselves first to the Lord” 2 Corinthians 8:5

CONTRIBUTIONS

Time Period	Weekly Attendance (Average)	Weekly Contribution (Average)
October 2012	284	\$8,322
November 2012	290	\$10,964
December 2012	276	\$8,399
Weekly Averages for Q3	291	\$8,449
Weekly Averages for 2012	288	\$9,230

Weekly Budget: \$9,000

TRAINING OUR CHILDREN

Bernadette Gómez

Our children go through trials just like we do. These trials are difficult, not just for the child, but for the parents as well. It is difficult to watch our children suffer. Instead of lamenting tough times, we can look to the Lord and His perspective. When we do this, our hearts are protected and the trial is easier to bear because now we have an eternal perspective.

Trials are a perfect opportunity to train our children in **“the way they should go” (Proverb 22:6)**. Our children need to understand the nature of trials, what they are, why God allows them, the purpose God has for trials, and the wonderful fruit that can be theirs if they allow God to train them through those tough times.

My son has been going through some trials and so I used this as an opportunity for training. We studied **James 1:2-7**. We read each verse and discussed it line by line: **“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.” (NIV 1984)**

My son was amazed that God wanted him to consider it “pure joy” that he was facing this painful, difficult trial! He was shocked! So I patiently explained that the flesh is not going to like the way the trial feels. It is not going to feel “good” or “fun” for the flesh, but in your mind and heart you can be positive and have joy in your soul because you are expecting good fruit that God is going to grow in you as you patiently wait on Him. I encouraged him to truly trust God and not doubt God’s love for him.

We discussed how the testing of our faith develops perseverance. That means we learn to press on and be trained by the trial without giving God a timeframe to remove it. Trust that God knows what He is doing. He knows how to best purify our faith and His timing is perfect. We can trust God.

Then I encouraged my son that the blessing of allowing himself to be trained by this trial means that he will grow, be more mature, more complete – better equipped to handle the next trial that comes his way. We also discussed having the courage to ask God for help if we lack wisdom (patience, strength, faith) to endure this trial. I reminded him (and myself) that all we need to do is ask our Father and He will graciously give these qualities to us. He will gladly fill any void because He loves us and wants to comfort us. He also wants to see us succeed and be victorious!

Seeing our children go through trials can be very difficult for us. I try to remember that God has a greater purpose for these trials. He wants to mature our children’s young souls. He wants to perfect their character. He wants to test their faith and purify their hearts so that one day they will make it to heaven and live with their heavenly Father for eternity. When I remember this, all is well with my soul.

“Good works, which God prepared beforehand” Eph. 2:10

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- † Off Bible Class Dates: January 9th, February 6th, March 13th
- † Devotional Service Dates: January 4th, 18th, February 1st, 15th, March 8th, 22nd
- † Suffolk Ministry Ladies Life Talks Winter 2013: January 19th from 11am – 1pm at Natasha Jules Home.
- † Snowtubing: January 26th from 8am – 12:30pm @ Blue Mountain. Contact Rayner Gómez for details.
- † Men’s Order of Service Meetings: January 20th, February 17th, March 17th at 3:45 PM
- † Children’s Ministry Meeting: March 3rd at 3:45 PM
- † Keep up with all church events by joining LIChurch Space! Go to www.licoc.org and click the LIChurch Space link!
- † If you would like to order a CD of a past sermon or seminar, please see Rob Dixon.
- † All announcements should be submitted to David Luhrs.
- † Address/telephone changes can be sent to directory@licoc.org or posted in the Directory Group on LIChurch Space.
- † **Parking reminder** - Public Safety has issued a statement requesting that all church members and visitors **refrain** from parking on any **grass areas** beyond the parking lots surrounding the chapel. Thank you for your cooperation!

“Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel” Mark 16:15

MISSION WORK

- † Apologetics Press.....International
- † We Care Ministries.....West Monroe, Louisiana
- † Ron Clayton.....India
- † Queens & Long Island Harvest Campaigns.....Central Islip, NY

“Watch your life and doctrine closely” 1 Timothy 4:16

BIBLE CLASSES

Long Island Ministry

Wednesdays 7:30pm-8:30pm

Robert Carr (631) 348-7322
New York Institute of Technology Chapel
Carleton Avenue
Central Islip, N.Y.

City Ministry

Wednesdays 7:30pm-8:30pm

Pedro Gelabert (347) 732-2101
St Luke’s Baptist Church Laurelton Sr Center
133-21 232nd Street
Jamaica, NY 11413

College Ministry

Thursdays 7:20pm-8:20pm

Ladi Davies (631) 413-5863
SAC Room 308 at Stony Brook University
100 Nicolls Road
Stony Brook, NY 11790

Spanish Ministry

Tuesdays 7:30pm-8:30pm

Charlie Gómez (631) 772-2889
New York Institute of Technology Chapel
Carleton Avenue
Central Islip, N.Y.

Sunday Bible Classes

Grades 2-12 and Adults

Sundays 12:30pm-1:15pm

Pedro Gelabert, Robert Young
New York Institute of Technology Chapel
Carleton Avenue
Central Islip, N.Y.