

THE AUTUMN OF LIFE

Pedro Gelabert

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

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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This season, the fall, or what I preferable like to call *autumn*, makes me think about growing older – not in the sense of aging per se, but in the sense of maturing; of becoming wiser and therefore prepared. Autumn is about preparation – all those in this season are getting ready – getting ready for winter.

If you prepare during the autumn of your life you will enjoy a great winter, a winter in expectation of the new life that will come in the spring of your meeting up with Jesus on the other side. Notice how in the autumn we see a beauty of a different sort than in the springtime. Autumn is beautiful – it is my favorite season! It reminds me that in my autumn years I have a beauty of my own – the beauty that comes from being mature and wise in Jesus. Autumn is not about *knowing* things but about *living in obedience* and having the clear conscience to truly *enjoy* this walk with our Lord and Master without guilt or insecurity, no matter what difficulties may be present at this stage. I no longer derive my security from the flesh. I am becoming aware that the flesh counts for nothing in the long run. The fact that my body is aging and becoming even weaker is a reminder that I am preparing for an eternal spring with Jesus on the other side.

Yes, autumn is a sign that life will continue to go on, but in a very different way than you may imagine. Many see autumn as a time of preparation for death (as in winter all seems dead), i.e., the falling of leaves; but in Christ it is a preparation for the real life to come:

1 Peter 1:23 NIV “For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God”.

I also see something in this wonderful world God created. I see that it stands out particularly in the autumn and throughout the winter: the evergreen tree. Even though all the other trees are showing external signs of preparation for winter the evergreen tree boldly shows is perpetual endurance of youth and vigor. I like to think of this as a representation of those who are in Christ. Even though we are aging on the outside we are perpetually young and vigorous on the inside through the Spirit of Jesus! The evergreen tree shows that life goes on. It continues vigorous, vibrant and full of life!

God desires for life to continue, but not just to continue – to be renewed. That’s what the seasons tell me. That’s what the Gospel aims to do. The Gospel is what prepares us for the spring of a lifetime. In the autumn of my life I am feeling more alive than ever before! It gives me reason to hope that amidst all the shortcomings I have in the flesh, my brilliant Christian colors can continue to make a difference as I carry the saving information to everyone around me.

**“BORN THAT MAN NO MORE MAY DIE
BORN TO RAISE THE SONS OF EARTH
BORN TO GIVE THEM SECOND BIRTH.
HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING
GLORY TO THE NEWBORN KING!”**

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

FAMILY MATTERS

ONENESS

Victor Quaye

Happy New Year Family! As we look ahead to 2015, let's fulfill the vision of oneness Jesus desired. John 17 records Jesus' longest prayer and reveals His dying wish that the church would all be one! In **John 17:20b-21** Jesus says **“...I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”**(ESV) Oneness or unity is something that can easily elude us. However, oneness is what will point the world to Jesus. Accomplishing oneness requires understanding what first unites us. The fact that we've all been forgiven by the blood of Christ unites us. With the help of the Holy Spirit, a proactive effort is required by each individual member to accomplish this great feat. We can fulfill the vision Jesus had for us to be ONE by forgiving each other the way He has forgiven us, by practicing love as listed in **1Corinthians 13**, by telling the lost about Jesus and by proclaiming His death until he comes. As we look ahead to 2015, let's fulfill Jesus' vision and strive for oneness. Amen!

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

BAPTISMS

Michelette Langs November, 2014
Tevin Rouse October, 2014
Leah Young July, 2014
D'ona Patterson July, 2014
Amanda Catherine May, 2014

Judy Jarrett May, 2014
Jason Fontaine May, 2014
Amanda Plompen May, 2014
Luis Hernandez May, 2014
Ian Wall April, 2014

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

CONTRIBUTIONS

Time Period	Weekly Attendance (Average)	Weekly Contribution (Average)
October 2014	235	\$9,736
November 2014	250	\$8,478
December 2014	244	\$9,671
Weekly Averages for Q4	243	\$9,232
Weekly Averages for 2014	260	\$9,540

Weekly Budget: \$9,000

TRIALS, TRAINING & TRANSFORMATION

Bernadette Gómez

As I reflect over the years, I'm in awe of God's grace and mercy and how God transformed my heart helping me to understand lessons I never thought possible. I had no problem believing in God. But having an intimate relationship with my Father, and *trusting* Him with my life, well that was another story altogether. In my spirit there was this struggle: my mind knew God is faithful, but my heart struggled to trust God and stop treating Him like a “divorced Daddy” who is “far away”. My heart also struggled with feelings like: “He’s too busy to notice me.” or “I’m so small, why is my business important to Him?” I logically knew these were all lies, but fighting against my evil heart, I knew I wasn’t making much headway. So I prayed for God to perform a miracle in my heart: to not just believe Him, but to trust Him with all my heart, soul, mind and strength.

The way God answered my prayer was remarkable. God didn’t use some “magic salve” to heal my deep wounds. Instead He used trials of the most painful kind – trials that involved my precious son. I confess to you that sometimes my heart not only deeply resented the trials, but at times my heart was even tempted to question God’s judgment because the trials were so bitter. But I persevered and reminded myself of **Hebrews 12:11** “**No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.**” When you are going through your most painful trial, remember that God loves you deeply and has a purpose in all of your pain and suffering. The key is in allowing ourselves to be trained by the trials He gives us.

How do we allow ourselves to be trained by our trials? Remember that a disciple or student is trainable. In **Matthew 10:37-39 and Luke 14:26-27** it talks about the things and influences which make it impossible for a disciple to be trained. As I examined each list I knew that I didn’t struggle with putting the relationships of family and loved ones before the Lord. But then I examined my life and thought to myself, “What does my life consist of?” Our lives consist of our hopes, dreams, desires – our agenda. What occupies your thoughts? How do you spend your time? In your conversations with others, what do you find yourself talking about? This is your “life” that **Matthew 10** and **Luke 14** are discussing. God is reminding us that He is MASTER and that it is His agenda and His will for our life that matters now.

God exposed in me that I resented my trials because I felt they were getting in the way of my agenda: to be the best **Proverb 31** woman I could be for the Lord. (I can now see it was really for my ego.) God’s agenda, to transform me into the image of His Son, was clearly clashing with my agenda. I had to remind myself of the following scripture: **John 12:25-26**, “**Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.**” Doesn’t this remind you of Mary sitting at Jesus’ feet versus Martha serving according to her “agenda” of what she thought was best? What keeps you from being trainable? Is it a certain relationship? Or perhaps you need to surrender your agenda (your hopes and dreams) to God’s will for your life?

I don’t resent trials anymore. They are what we need to BE faithful, GROW faithful, and STAY faithful. In hindsight, I can see that the trial ran deep, but so did the healing. He healed that very deep wound completely. No longer is there a hole in my soul. I’m humbled and amazed at how He not only healed me, but grew qualities in me that weren’t there before: faith, hope and peace. Remember, when we are going through our most painful trial is when God is performing His deepest surgery on our souls. Trust Him through the trials and allow yourself to be trained by them. Let Him transform your heart and your life. You will be amazed as He performs miracles and heals parts of your heart that you didn’t think were possible. Praise God for His wisdom that surpasses understanding. Praise God for His love and healing! 😊

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- † Off Bible Class Dates: Jan 14th, Feb 11th, Mar 11th
- † Devotional Service Dates: Jan 9th, Jan 23rd, Feb 6th, Feb 20th, Mar 6th, Mar 20th
- † LICOC Suffolk Ministry Ladies Life talks: Jan 17th 11:00am -1:00pm at Jules Residence
- † Men’s Order of Service Meetings: Jan 18th, Feb 15th, Mar 15th
- † Children’s Ministry Meeting: Jan 4th , Mar 1th at 3:45PM
- † Children’s Ministry Supervisors’ Meeting: Feb 22th at 3:45PM
- † Keep up with all church events by joining LICChurch Space! Go to www.licoc.org and click the LICChurch Space link!
- † 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 LICChurch 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
- † Hope of Life, Orphans, Lifeline Int’l (providing orphan rescue, adoption assistance, and children’s homes)....International
- † Healing Hands Disaster ReliefInternational

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

BIBLE CLASSES

Long Island Ministry

Wednesdays 7:30pm-8:30pm

Arthur Shlesinger (631) 293-0632
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.