

GOD IS OUR COMFORT ZONE

Charlie Gómez

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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We all want to feel safe. As a matter of fact, we live in a world that is obsessed with safety. As a result of the dangers that surround us, everything that we possess must be insured, locked and alarmed. Although there is nothing wrong with that, it is easy to follow the same thread and trust in the flesh when it comes to the safety and comfort of our soul. When the circumstances around us dictate the level of our spiritual comfort and encouragement, it might be a sign that we are not taking refuge in the Lord. It says in **Psalm 20:7** **“Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.”**

Why is it so difficult sometimes to run to God immediately? Why wait until all of our efforts have been exhausted to take refuge in God? First, we had been doing that all of our lives before giving ourselves Christ so mentally we are accustomed to that. Second, it is uncomfortable to the flesh. We were used to measure our safety and comfort according to our circumstances. We felt comfortable and safe if our finances are in order, if everything was going well at our jobs and our possessions were safe, if we were healthy and our family and household are running smoothly. We didn't know it, but in reality it was all a false sense of security. What happens when one of those things doesn't go according to our plan and the rug is pulled from under our feet? God calls us to find true comfort and security in Him in **Psalm 91:1-2** **“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”** As it says in this passage, the shelter of the Most High is to be the dwelling place of our soul not a place we visit when we have no answer for our troubles. God invites us to get out of our “pretend” comfort zone and into the only comfort zone there is: the shelter of the Most High. He himself is our comfort. We can trust Him because He is faithful. Only then can we identify with **Psalm 4:8** **“In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.”**

What I do immediately when trouble, doubt or stress come to me reveals if **“The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”** I had to examine myself to find out if this was the case when God put in my heart over a year ago to go to El Salvador to edify and encourage a small congregation that we have been helping for some time. At first I ignored it. It is an extremely poor area where I could get sick (finances, health). It is dangerous and they are warning Americans not to travel there (physical safety). My family needs me and two weeks might be too long without them (family, household), etc. Can you see what my sense of security depended on? God was inviting me to get out of the “comfort zone” I had built on the sand of my circumstances and a false sense of security. As a result of spending serious time in the shelter of the Most High I have decided to go to El Salvador with our brother Leandro Hernández from June 29th to July 10th on a mission to spread the gospel among the poor and edify the saints in El Salvador. Jesus left the comfort of heaven to come to earth, but he never left the shelter of the Most High. The Father led him down a path that wasn't safe, but it resulted in our salvation for the glory of God. No matter what is in store for me down this path, I trust that God is faithful and will also hear your prayers for me.

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

FAMILY MATTERS

HOPE FOR LIFE...ONLY IN CHRIST

Ray Gómez

After being obedient to the Gospel, it took me a while to recognize the hope for life and great gift that was given to me. It wasn't until a few years later that I noticed my burdens -struggles and heartaches- were much lighter by giving them to Christ. I was finally beginning to understand what I was rescued from: a world of darkness and deceit, with no hope at all (**Colossians 1:13-14**). Of course my life struggles were not absent but they were not my primary focus. No longer was I letting the flesh guide instead the spirit was leading me. We need to continually pray to God for the removal of any impurities that may still be in our hearts and that we may always dwell in His presence. (**Psalm 51:10-11**) I'm so thankful for my family in Christ Jesus. That no matter the conflicts and disagreements we may have, there is no doubt we can resolve the issues by being open and transparent. It is by our hope and foundation in Christ that we can forgive and love as Christ has. As Christians, we must be committed to our Lord because of His precious gift when He willingly sacrificed His life for us. Knowing that is because of His mercy and grace that we can take part of this journey to be with Him eternally. The least we can do is submit by being obedient (**1Kings 8:61**), having integrity in our lives, and following His instructions (**Psalms 119:1-2**). Brothers and sisters, we know that living and believing in Christ we will not perish (**John 11:26**). That's such a reason on making the world aware so they may receive the Good News and live a life pleasing to our Lord and Savior. To do as God commands we need to share the hope that was shared to us and set us free with those in the world that may be thirsty in the hope for life that can only be found in Christ Jesus.

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

BAPTISMS

Caleb Brown	April, 2015	Michelette Langs	November, 2014
Frank Giambrone	March, 2015	Tevin Rouse	October, 2014
Russel Silverman	March, 2015	Leah Young	July, 2014
Mark Brazier	February, 2015	D'ona Patterson	July, 2014
Selena Jules	January, 2015	Amanda Catherine	May, 2014

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

CONTRIBUTIONS

Time Period	Weekly Attendance (Average)	Weekly Contribution (Average)
April 2015	263	\$9,107
May 2015	251	\$8,955
June 2015	252	\$8,941
Weekly Averages for Q2	250	\$8,946

Weekly Budget: \$9,000

GOD IS ENOUGH

Rebecca G. Young

As Women of God, our call of duty is high, after all, isn't our role model the “**Proverbs 31 Woman**”? She wakes up early, goes to bed late, she cooks, she sews, she is business savvy, she is in good physical shape, she is hard working, everyone in her household is well taken care of, she is diligent, her hands produce good fruit, she is generous & kind, she has a good reputation, she is strong and dignified, filled with wisdom, and she even has a sense of humor. As a young woman, I am certain she was obedient to her parents and a help to her family. As a single woman, I am sure she was diligently seeking God's will, carrying out His plan for her, & helping those in need. As a married woman, I am sure her husband & children lacked nothing good and are blessed. As a grandmother, I believe her children and grandchildren were blessed to have her nearby, longing to be like her in every way. These words in **Proverbs 31** were written by a son pertaining to a lesson his mother taught him speaking of the kind of woman who would be a blessing to him & his household... the kind of woman whom he should seek after... the kind of woman God sees fit to be described and noted in His Word. God wants us to know about this woman of noble character who fears Him.

When we look at this woman we may all feel inadequate and ill-equipped, and we may even want to pretend that she doesn't exist. We may say, “She can't exist!” I dare say, I think it is worth taking a close look at her simply because God, our Heavenly Father, wrote about her. He knows what it takes to be successful...as a woman, as a wife, as a mother and as a grandmother. He knows how challenging this life can be and He knows what is needed. I trust Him. He knows what He is doing. The Scriptures teach us that He created us for this purpose. When God created man & all the animals, there was not a suitable helper for him, so God created a woman to help him and become one with him (**Genesis 2:20**). Think about it. He made women with the purpose to provide all that is needed by men. Wow! Can it be? Can we actually fulfill this purpose? It is wearisome to even think about meeting all these needs...but, it is a noble task, it is praise worthy, and it is rewarding. God believes we can do it, otherwise He would have given it to someone or something else. When we live out God's purpose for us as women, we find love, joy, peace, & happiness. Not only does God know what is needed, He knows what will fulfill us & make us happy. When we labor for others & be the helpmeets God has created us to be whether it is as a young daughter, a co-worker, a member of the Lord's church, a friend, a wife, a mother or a grandmother, we find peace & satisfaction because we are doing what God made us to do!

When you're feeling tired or overwhelmed with your role, as I sometimes feel, draw strength from the Lord. Know that your abilities may not be enough, your physical or emotional strength may not be enough, but God is! **God is enough!** He said in **2 Corinthians 12:9**, “**My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.**” And I will say what Paul said, “**Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.**” God's power is sufficient and perfect. I am not sufficient or perfect. **BUT HE IS.** **Psalm 68:35 & Psalm 29:11** say that God gives power and strength to His people. **Psalm 18:6; 30:2; 33:20; 34:17; 40:17; 63:7; 115:9, 11; 121:2; 124:8**...the list goes on and on...These verses talk about how God is our help in times of need. Our God may be asking us to do a big job, but He has our back. **Psalm 28:7** “**The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped.**” We may be the help meet of man, but God is our help! What more can we ask for?

You've heard of ARMY STRONG... Well, we are GOD STRONG

There is no one stronger than our God!

He lives in us!

God is aware...God is able...God is enough!

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- † Off Bible Class Dates: July 15th, Aug 12th, Sep 9th
- † Devotional Service Dates: July 10th, July 24th, Aug 21st, Sept 4th, Sep 18th
- † Annual BBQ: July 18th 11:00am -5:00pm at Belmont Lake State Park
- † VBS: August 2nd – August 5th
- † Men’s Order of Service Meetings: July 19th, Aug 16th, Sep 20th
- † Children’s Ministry Meeting: July 5th, Sept 6th at 3:45PM
- † Children’s Ministry Supervisors’ Meeting: Aug 30th at 3:45PM
- † Keep up with all church events by joining LIChurch Space! Go to www.licoc.org and click the LIChurch 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 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
- † Hope of Life, Orphans, Lifeline Int’l (providing orphan rescue, adoption assistance, and children’s homes)...International
- † Healing Hands Disaster Relief.....International

“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.