

Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

May, 2019

From Death to Life

REMISSION

Just a couple of months ago, I celebrated my 29th chronological birthday, and it was great to be able to gather together with my family, friends, and coworkers. However, this month I will be celebrating an even more memorable and important spiritual birthday. On May 26th a year ago, while sitting in service at my brother Mike's church, the Holy Spirit convicted my heart; it was then that I realized that my life of sin could not continue, and I accepted His invitation to surrender my life to Christ. It was on that day, not so long ago, that not only did I decide to make this most crucial life-changing decision, but also I freely and graciously received salvation, the greatest gift that an individual could receive from our heavenly Father, through the remission of sin.

So, I imagine that each Christian roughly understands what it means to have received salvation. Nevertheless, let me show you how Jesus Himself explains it to Nicodemus in the Gospel of John.

³Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee. Except a man be born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God. John 3:3 KJV

⁵Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. John 3:5 KJV

It's quite clear that experiencing salvation requires that an individual be born of three persons: God the Father (born from above), God the Son (water), and God the Holy Spirit (Spirit). But what exactly does it mean to have received the remission of sin?

The word "remission" is often times heard or used nowadays in the context of an illness, especially following the treatment of cancer. According to Webster's Columbia Concise Dictionary of the English Language, published in 1940, the word "remission" is defined as follows:

Remission – (noun) the act of remitting, diminution or cessation of intensity; a temporary subsidence of the

force or violence of a disease or of pain; the act of forgiving; forgiveness.

Honestly, these definitions do not adequately express, nor completely explain, the word "remission," when applied to a Biblical context from where, why, or how we receive remission. Let's consider the above definitions applied to the following scenario:

I have an infection in my lungs that's causing me to experience excruciating pain when I breathe. I pray to God, and he relieves me of the symptom (by forgiving me, remitting me, or temporarily diminishing my pain) so now each time I breathe, I no longer am experiencing pain. That's great right?! Well, if we rename this infection "sin" and the symptom "God's wrath," no it isn't, because He's only alleviated me of the symptom. The infectious cause (sin) is still present in my heart and the symptom (God's wrath) is only going to return in a matter of time, because I am truly no different.

Now, The English word "remission" found throughout English Bible translations of the New Testament has been translated from the Greek word $\eta \alpha \phi \epsilon \sigma \iota \varsigma$, which is more accurately translated into English as "(the) letting go," or "release." So let's see then how "remission" is to be correctly defined and harmoniously applied in Scripture. For this, let's look at chapter 10 of Hebrews.

The chapter begins by saying that the Old Testament sacrifices, repeated year after year, were never able to make those who brought them perfect, and the blood of bulls and goats was never able to take away sins. But when Jesus Christ came into the world, He came to offer His body as a better sacrifice – the perfect sacrifice – that would, indeed, take away sin, sanctify, and perfect those who believed and received Him. Jesus' sacrifice was the fulfillment of God's will to make those who believed truly holy.

⁹Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first (covenant), that he may establish the second (covenant). ¹⁰By the which will we are

(Continued on next page)

sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once... ¹⁴For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. Hebrews 10:9-10,14 KJV

It is by God's divine will, and Jesus' sacrifice and obedience unto death that has provided us with the ability not only to pass from death to life, but also to live a holy/sanctified life. Jesus explains in John 5:24: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth my word, and believeth Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death to life." And, as we see here in Hebrews 10, Jesus Christ is also the reason why we have been sanctified (made holy – blameless without sin) and perfected (our relationship with God has been completely restored). The remission of sins is essential for that, and comes from the divine will of God, the Father, the sacrifice of Christ Jesus, and the work of the Holy Spirit, as we see in the text as it continues:

¹⁵Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, ¹⁶ This *is* the covenant I will make with them after those days saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write unto them; ¹⁷And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. ¹⁸Now where remission of these *is, there* is no more offering for sin. ²⁰By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; ²²Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Hebrews 10:15-18, 20, 22 KJV

It is through the receiving of the gift of the Holy Spirit alone that we can remain perfect and sanctified. He convicts our hearts and guides us unto the righteousness of the Lord. God is faithful, not only does He "let go" (release) us of our sins of the past, but He "lets go" (releases) us from the bondage of sin in our lives.

Nevertheless, we must always be on our guard because although the spirit is willing the flesh is weak if we don't rely on God.

²⁶For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for

sins, ²⁷But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. ³¹It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Hebrews 10:26-27,31 KJV

¹My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: ²And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not ours only, but also for *the sins* of the whole world. 1 John 2:1-2 KJV

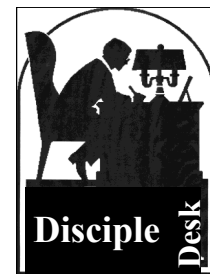
⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to let go (*from*) us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8-9 KJV

God has made it clear that Jesus Christ is truly the propitiation (offering for sin). If we believe in Christ, confess our sins, and repent of them; then not only are we released from our sin, but also through His blood are our hearts cleansed of sin. That is how an individual receives the remission of sin. There is no other way. Jesus Christ is, absolutely and undeniably, the way, the truth, and the life!

So I ask you. Have you accepted Jesus Christ into your life and received the remission of sin? If yes, are you walking in the way of our Lord and Savior and is he the master of your life? If not, what are you waiting for? Today is the day and Jesus Christ is the only way to pass from death unto life.

In the service of our Lord,

Brother Jacob A. Garcia



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TLC

Together Loving Christ

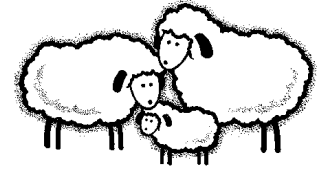
Are you sharing in the exciting and spiritual blessings of studying God's Word and discovering how it applies to your contemporary life?

Join with us in our Adult Study Group at Sunny Place every Thursday at 7:00 p. m.

Grow in the Word!

Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.

Kid's Rock available
for children ages five to nine
Nursery Services Provided



2nd Saturday Senior Luncheon

Saturday, May 11th, 11:30 a.m.
At Sunny Place Church

Come be our guest for food,
great speakers and activities,
Free event for Seniors 55 & up.
Register now at 630/398-2314



Visit us at: www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org



901 E. Oak Street, Addison, IL 60101

Connecting Families With The Love Of Christ

Elders Retreat Minutes, April 6, 2019

Attended by Pastor Pete Weber, Tim Kasza, Phyllis Clark, Sam Jacob, Ted Gehman, Nona Koivula

The meeting began with prayer.

The Purpose, Vision, Mission and church health were reviewed. The purpose scripture is Ephesians 1:9-10 to bring all things in heaven and earth under Christ; to bring all people into this spiritual universe.

Last year the Ministry teams were restructured because the 11 teams were not sustainable among other reasons. The teams are in the process of working out the details of Christ's callings and continue to be driven by Jesus and the Spirit of God. The Christian Education Ministry has concentrated on discipleship training last year and continues this year. The Great Commission calls us to make disciples who make disciples. The Missions and Outreach team has focused on reaching the community with senior luncheons every second Saturday of the month. The attendance is increasing and prayer has become an important part of the luncheon. Missions has planned a three day Missions program the first weekend of May. The Worship team provides true spiritual worship and leadership each Sunday during the Worship Service. The Fellowship team provides support for the Sweet Hour of Prayer with a light luncheon afterwards as well as planning other fellowship opportunities. There are opportunities to serve our Lord at Sunny Place Church of God on any Ministry team. .

Leadership and Ministry development must remain a constant within the Body of Christ. The church needs to train and mentor leadership to provide growth, to equip people for servant leadership.

The Elders watched three videos from the Global Leadership Summit held in August 2018. The topics were Emotional Intelligence, Cultural Intelligence and Gender Equality

Craig Groeschel, Senior Pastor at Life Church focused on Emotional Intelligence. He answered the question; how a leader leads a team. A leader must make a team feel valued. Four critical words ...I notice, You matter. A leader inspires and empowers members of the team. It is You centered leadership not Me centered. He said there are thirty three attitudes that inspire people. Six of these are a heart to care, optimism, humility, set the tone, be a good listener and be secure in leadership fully engaged. He said have the courage to be real, authentic, not needing to always be right, be transparent and allow you to get it wrong.

The group watched a video presentation by David Livermore on Cultural Intelligence which is driven by cultural differences. His talk focused on the capability to relate effectively across culturally diverse situations which transcend ethnic, organizational, generational, gender and other contexts. He proposed to lean into differences and each person can improve his or her ability to relate to cultural differences.

The third video was a lecture by Danielle Strickland, pastor, author and judge advocate. She challenged all listeners to be transformational leaders able to imagine a better world. God made Adam and Eve, men and women are better together. She said gender equality is possible and sustainable in this world. Jesus empowered His disciples and dismantled systems to advocate gender equality. We can use our influence to improve our leadership skills and implement change.

Pastor Pete led the group discussing the church strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and trends. The servant leadership of Sunny Place will help people to live up to their potential as followers of Christ in a fallen world and to always focus on intentional leadership, ministry growth and development. Pastor Pete has organized and led 17 retreats as pastor of the Sunny Place Church of God. **We know The Church is the hope of the world.**



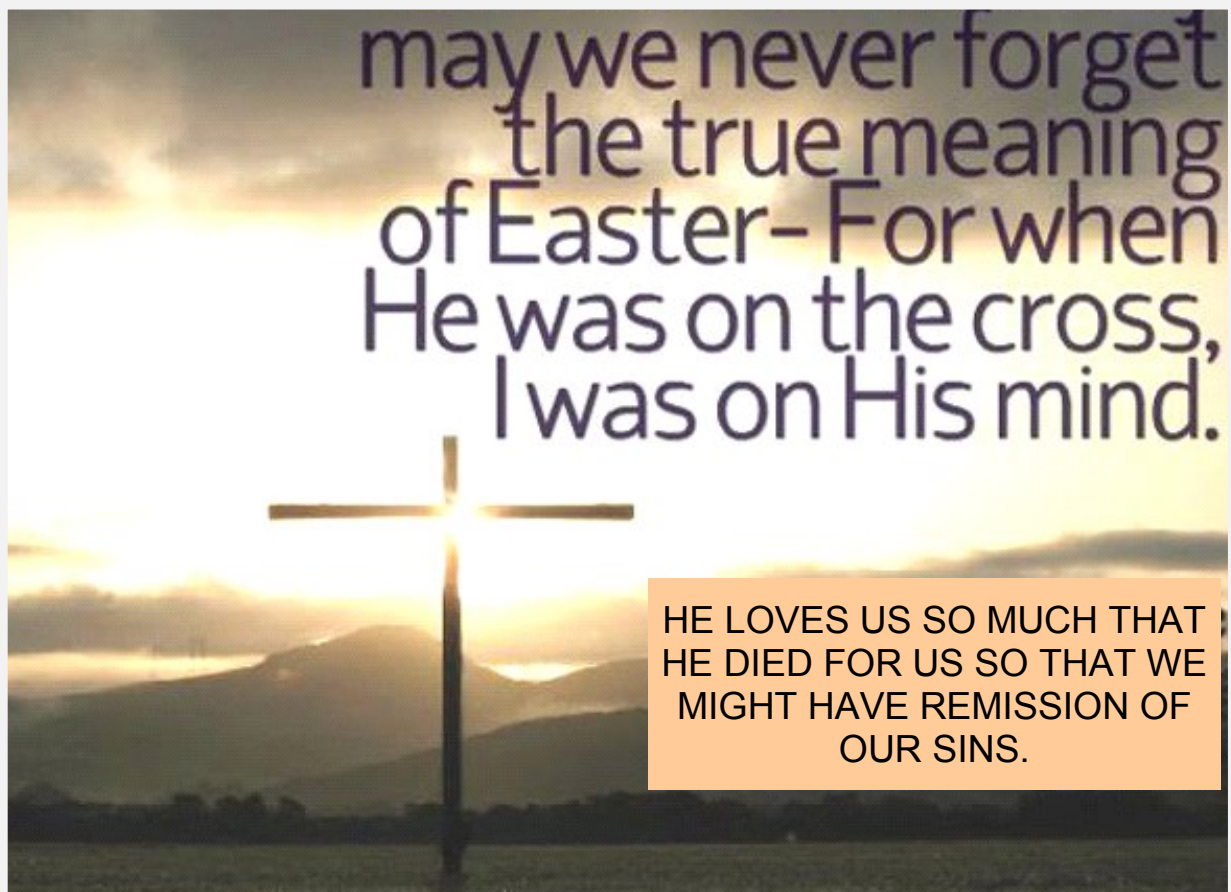
Kid's

Connection

Remission of our sins

Remission, is like a cleaning agent applied to an ink stain, the stain wouldn't have to be covered over, because it would be cleansed, or erased. This is a picture of remission of sins. When we receive Christ as our Savior, we become new creatures in Him (2 Cor. 5:17) We begin again with a clean slate. Remission means "a wiping out as though it had never been."

Whenever a person accepts Christ as his Savior, his spirit is recreated .and his sins are remitted once and for all. When a child of God sins, he breaks fellowship with God. Their way back into fellowship is found in First John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." When we do this, we once again stand in the presence of God as though we had never done wrong. Thank God there is remission of sins. He loves us so much and does not want anyone to be separated from Him. .





2019
Missions Festival

Friday, May 3, 2019 through Sunday, May 5, 2019

Friday night: 6:30 p.m. Festival Kick-Start with our missionaries, at Sunny Place Church

Saturday morning: Meet 7:45 a.m., at Sunny Place Church for our Servant Project, at Pacific Garden Mission, located in Chicago.

Sunday morning: Worship with Chris Peck, President/CEO from Hope Hill Youth Services, located in Hope Hill, Kentucky.

Followed by a celebration International Dinner

June 9-12, 2019
[The NICE Foundation](#)
Located in Highland, IL



July 17-20, 2019
[Hope Hill Youth Home](#)
Located Hope, KY

About the NiCE Foundation: NiCE equips Nicaraguans to reach their country for Christ. We are 501 (c) 3 Christian non-profit. We are based at our warehouse in Highland, Illinois, about 25 miles northeast of St. Louis. We have no employees—we are all volunteers.

NiCE equips ministries with the goal of fostering independence, rather than creating dependency. We work with ministries that our organization is directly involved with plus a network of other free-standing ministries. Although our leadership has worked in Nicaragua since 1992, NiCE Foundation was formed in the year 2000.

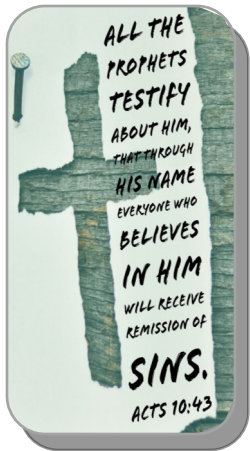
Our three main areas of ministry include our Child Sponsorship Program, FEED NICARAGUA meal packing, and leadership of short-term mission teams to Nicaragua.

Sunny Place Sewing Sisters
Saturday, May 18th, 9:30
Creating diapers for NICE Foundation

After a breakfast buffet, we'll dive into creating 20 inch x 20 inch flannel diapers for infant's mothers. Please bring flannel if you wish. Sewing machines are available.

We'll sing and make joyous music unto the Lord.

Please let Nona know your Plans to participate.



Afternoon of Prayer,
light lunch following

Sunday,
May 19th
after Worship Service

Sunday School Line-Up

Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

"Disciplemaker's Living Guide"

Part II of teaching on discipleship,

Led by
Pastor Pete



Children's Classes

Led by Carla Weber

Nursery services are provided

Let's Celebrate Mom
Come join us for
Mother's Day Dinner

Sunday, May 12th, 12:30 p.m.
The complete meal will be provided
(no need to bring a dish to pass)

Everyone is invited,
bring your family.

RSVP Laura
@ 312-307-8031



Thursday Evenings

7:00 p.m.

at Sunny Place






"Power to be Witnesses"

A Bible Study
Through Luke's letter of
the Book of Acts

Led by Pastor Pete



May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Elders Meeting 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place</div>	2 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place</div>	3 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Missions Fest With our Missionaries 6:30 p.m. at Sunny Place</div>	4 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Missions Fest Servant Project at Pacific Garden Mission, Chicago Meet 7:45 a.m. at Sunny Place</div>
5  Holy Communion <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Mission Fest Chris Peck, from Hope Hill Youth Services & International Dinner</div>	6	7	8	9 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place</div>	10	11 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">2nd Saturday Senior Luncheon 11:30 a.m. at Sunny Place</div>
12 <i>Mother's Day</i> Dinner 	13	14	15	16 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place</div>	17	18 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Sewing Diapers for the NiCE Foundation 9:30 a.m.</div> 
19 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Afternoon of Prayer, Light lunch following 12:30 p.m. at Sunny Place</div>	20	21	22	23 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place</div>	24	25
26	27 <i>Home of the free, because of the brave.</i>  MEMORIAL DAY	28	29	30 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place</div>	31	