

# SAN MARCOS CHURCH MESSENGER



## Bible Miracles

By Pastor Basil Bell

When you study the Gospel narrative you discover that there are as many recorded miracles as recorded parables. In both instances, the real number probably runs in the hundreds, but the number of miracles recorded only number thirty or thirty-five. Study the parables of Jesus, whether the smaller, which are classified as metaphors or those seen as parables, and you will see that the number of miracles and parables are approximately the same.

The miracles are all the ringing of a bell before a sermon.

- When Christ breaks the bread then He gives a sermon on Himself the bread of life.
- When He raises Lazarus from the dead He then preaches a sermon, I am the resurrection and the life.

Jesus declares Himself to be the light of the world and later the same day He proves it by bringing light to a man born blind.

So a miracle was like the ringing of a bell and then Jesus taught what was implicit in the miracle's sign.

Some people think that there are miracles all the way through the Bible. That is not true. There are many books with not a miracle mentioned.

If the gospel narrative were an invented story, it probably would have said that John the Baptist, Christ's predecessor worked many signs. He didn't work any. Miracles in the Bible only come in clusters as a rule. They come

in some great crisis or to usher in some dispensation.

There are many ministries today that are very big on signs and wonders. They forget that whenever that expression is found in the Scriptures it only has to do with a special redemptive work by God, such as the Exodus movement or the great redemptive work of Christ on the cross. Take your concordance and look up wherever 'signs and wonders' occur and you'll see that none of those instances tell us that you can expect them every hour of the day.

If you look in the Bible there are only four times when miracles are found in clusters:

1. The Exodus.
2. The time of the reformation under Elijah and Elisha.
3. The Babylonian captivity.
4. The launching of the Christian church.

*"Some people think that there are miracles all the way through the Bible. That is not true."*

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#### Editor's Note.

Greetings and Happy February! I "Googled" February and found some interesting facts in regards to this month: February is usually a very cold month in the northern half of the world, and in the southern hemisphere there is usually midsummer weather; the 2nd day is often referred to as Ground Hog Day; there's the ever-popular, especially for the retail world, Valentine's Day; President's Day is always observed on the third Monday, since both Washington's & Lincoln's birthdays were this month; Amethyst is the birthstone, and my daughter's and mine favorite color; and lastly, Primrose is the flower for this month. Lotsa interesting stuff huh? If you want to read more on February births, happenings, etc., check out the website at [www.entourages.com/barbs/february.htm](http://www.entourages.com/barbs/february.htm). In closing, please remember to pray for those who are ill, disabled, or hurting at this time...remember everyone is going through something in their lives and we all need constant prayer and support of some kind. God Bless! *Nalani Seto*

Last February I had several people share a poem or some type of saying that was special to them, and I wanted to reprint a couple to share it with you again, in particular two that were shared by Esther Gerardo. My heart and prayers go out to everyone in her family. She will be terribly missed. I will especially miss her hugs; she was always so sweet to everyone, as well as a pillar in our church. This is in remembrance of her.



*June 1988*

*"poem, and I have no idea who wrote it, but it's stuck in my mind all my life:"*

*Two lovers walking down the street.  
She trips, he murmurs, "Careful, Sweet."  
Now wed they tread the selfsame street;  
She trips, he growls, "Pick up your feet."*

It's the same street and the same woman, but somehow the growling husband has forgotten what the lover once knew: how to cherish the woman he loves. What a loss!

Forgetting to cherish...it can be so easy and so dangerous. I've done it and maybe you have too. So today I'm making a list of things about my wife: What she likes. What she dislikes. What she's good at. What she dreams of. What makes her special. I'll bet I'll find a lot of things I have forgotten to cherish about her.

You could try it too — with your spouse, or a child, or a dear friend, or anyone you've been taking for granted lately. God gave us a wonderful gift when He gave us our families and friends, and only asks in return the simple, essential Christian commandment: *to love them.*

#### **What Does Love Look Like?**

It has hands to help others.  
It has feet to hasten to the poor and needy.  
It has eyes to see misery and want.  
It has ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of man.  
That is what love looks like. — St. Augustine

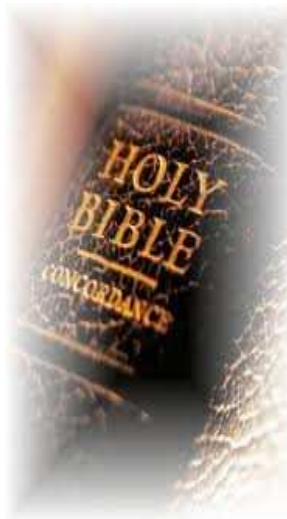


It is important to remember that in the last days, the Antichrist, using power given him by the devil, will use great miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven, to deceive the world (Revelation 13:13). So while miracles come from God, the enemy of souls has his counterfeit miracles to deceive the world and lead it away from Christ.

Most of God's miracles today are miracles of providence. What do I mean by providence? It means that the world and our lives are not ruled by chance or by fate, but by God. God is a being that of whom all the affairs of life are open to. He uses His power and wisdom to work affairs in our lives that bring about His will for us and for His kingdom without destroying human choice and by using the natural course of events to work themselves out for our good. When you and I see only one solution to a problem, the Lord might have a thousand different ways of achieving the desired outcome and without performing a 'miracle'.

When Christians speak of a miracle it is usually a miracle of providence, no less wonderful and no less miraculous. But it saves us from making the mistake that we can do as we wish and that God will always adjust it by interfering. That is not so. If we are dedicated and seek to please the Lord, all sorts of things will still go against us. All sorts of troubles will exist, but the Christian has the assurance that God will do His will in our lives in His time and in His manner. God is not confined to natural law; He can step out of the natural and use miraculous signs. But if you look carefully at the long millenniums covered in the Bible narrative you realize that our Lord God uses the natural more often than He does the super-natural to accomplish His will in our lives.

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BASIC  
INFORMATION  
BEFORE  
LEAVING  
EARTH

"For God so loved the world that He gave  
His only begotten Son, that whoever  
believes in Him should not perish but  
have everlasting life"

John 3:16 NKJV

## Recipe of the Month

### Chocolate Dipped Strawberries *DeliciousLiving.com*

A Perfect Valentine's Day Treat!

Chop a 3-1/2 ounce dark-chocolate bar and place in a blender. Bring about 1/2 cup coconut milk to a simmer in a small pan and pour over chocolate. Add 1 tablespoon raspberry liqueur and blend on high until smooth. Pour into a nice-looking bowl and refrigerate. Wash some ripe strawberries, leaving the stem ends intact, pat dry with a paper towel, and place them in another bowl. Dip a strawberry in the chocolate, scooping on a thick coating, and serve. To make ahead, place on a baking sheet lined with waxed paper and refrigerate.



## February Calendar of Events

- 12 — Baby Shower for Jacquolin Ketchum @ 12p; It's a Girl!  
Adventurer's Meeting (see Elisa Roman for details)
- 19 — Memorial Service for Esther Gerardo @ 1p
- 25 — Elder's Meeting @ 2p

## Upcoming Events / Announcements

If you're willing to serve on the Church Building Committee, please see Pastor Bell.

If you're interesting in signing up for Dr. Wes Youngberg's 12-week health series, please pickup a flier in the foyer. There is also a sign up sheet and if there's at least 12 people who sign up, he will teach it at the San Marcos church.

Marriage Retreat @ Pine Springs Ranch presented by Karen & Ron Flowers, see church bulletin for more details.

Don't forget the weekly bible studies and prayer meetings here at the church, see the bulletin for details.

### Friday/Sabbath Sunset Times

Feb 3 / 4—5:21p / 5:22p

Feb 10 / 11—5:28p / 5:29p

Feb 17 / 18—5:34p / 5:35p

Feb 24 / 25—5:40p / 5:41p

## February Birthdays



- |                              |                                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 - Elizabeth Lopez-Martinez | 16 - Gabby Estrada - Fred Wegand |
| - Jose Hernandez             | 17 - Jazmin Balderas             |
| - Mikayla Bautista           | 18 - Andrew Bell                 |
| 3 - Cory Dunn                | 19 - N. Soto                     |
| 4 - Marvin Beddoe            | 20 - Steve Stilson               |
| 7 - Kimberly Pearson         | 24 - Ruth Morgan                 |
| 8 - Jaiden Manrique          | 26 - Laverne Eng                 |
| 10 - Yeni Lita               | 28 - Henry Hsu                   |
| 11 - Evan Graham             | - Luis Torres                    |
| - Jerico Pamintuan           | 29 - Gidget Cruz                 |
| 12 - Karen Scholl            |                                  |

## Newsletter Info

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**Church Service is held on Saturdays.**

**Sabbath School - 9:20am**

**Worship Service - 10:45am**