

# THE CLOVERDALE CONNECTION

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS

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I just love the book of Philippians. Only four chapters, but they are packed full of powerful promises! What is truly amazing about this short book is that Paul really nails the gospel while he is chained up like a common criminal. He could easily be complaining about his circumstances. Instead...all he does is praise God.

Have you ever read a mariner's description of the *perfect storm*? Hurricane force winds. Bitterly cold temperatures and pouring rain. All of these working together are a recipe for an out-of-control disaster. Paul knows all too well. He had run the gamut of a *Euroclydon*. A tempestuous headwind more commonly known as a *Northeaster* (Acts 27:14 NIV). Fourteen terrifying days of no sun, no moon, no stars, combined with sheets of bitterly cold constant rain and wind. It was a beast of a storm.

Now you don't have to be a mariner to experience that perfect storm in life. It can and does happen to all of us.

What I really like is the way Max Lucado approaches these storms in his book entitled *Anxious for Nothing; Finding Calm in a Chaotic World*. He writes, *as we do our part (rejoice in the Lord, pursue a gentle spirit, pray about everything, and cling to gratitude), God does His part. Our Father gives us the very peace of God.*

Paul writes in Philippians 4:4-7 (NIV), *Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Powerful promises of peace. I love the wording of the NIV...transcends all understanding. Wow! In other words, God's peace is beyond our capability to comprehend! Mind-boggling, if you ask me.

Max has a formula to capture that peace and it is simple...

*Celebrate God's goodness. Rejoice in the Lord always (v.4).  
Ask God for help. Let your requests be made known to God (v.6).  
Leave your concerns with Him. With thanksgiving...(v.6).  
Meditate on good things. Think about the things that are good and worthy of praise. (v.8).*

*Celebrate. Ask. Leave. Meditate. C.A.L.M.*

I think that in this crazy world, we could all use some *C.A.L.M.*

Think on these things...

Martin

**Ministry Highlight...**  
**Evangelism at Cloverdale**



**We recently completed our prophecy seminars with Pr. Tyler Long. Pr. Tyler presented 20 messages starting on April 8 and ending on May 6.**

**Pr. Tyler covered a wide range of topics including the Second Coming of Jesus, Death and Resurrection, Grace and the Law, Revelation's Lake of Fire, and Baptism. If you missed any of these powerful presentations, they are available on our YouTube channel. Just hop on over to Youtube and search for Cloverdale SDA.**

**The meetings were well attended. We had as many as 31 guests for our first few meetings, with a total attendance hovering around 80. Towards the end, we had about 15 guests and a total attendance of about 40.**



**Pr. Jason is following up with those who demonstrated interest, with discipleship classes that meet on Sabbath morning during the Sabbath School time. From those interests, we have Ron Baker, who joined our church by Profession of Faith on May 7. On May 14, Ken and Teri Burcham, Jennifer Priest, Tina Lee, and Emily Nord joined our church through baptism!**

**Praise the Lord!**



**Running a full-blown Prophecy Seminar like this is not easy, but I am so happy for all who were positively impacted by these meetings. Pr. Tyler Long was a joy to work with and I am so happy that Pr. Jason has a dynamic study class that is following up with the interests. Now it is up to us, the church family, to embrace our new members. We must continue to love and encourage those who God is sending our way.**





**Our Prophecy Seminars may have concluded, but evangelism is a way of life here at Cloverdale. It takes all of us doing what God calls us to do. We have more baptisms scheduled. Others are immersed in Bible studies. What is God moving you to do? We all have a role to play in encouraging those God is calling to a closer relationship with Him.**

**Now is the time. Let's be outreach oriented. An important first step is to pray daily for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our hearts and minds. In Luke 11:13, Jesus promised to give us the gift of the Holy Spirit. All we must do is ask and we will receive. This is the most important gift that Jesus will bestow upon us. It is a life changing promise! It is transformational! It is eternal!**

**Blessings...Pastor Marlon**



## **Pastor's Corner**

Hosting an evangelistic series is a demanding endeavor.

Volunteers arrive an hour early to ensure everything is ready before any guests arrive. Often they rush straight from work... hardly having time to eat. Night after night, they set up tables and chairs. They check and double check that the AV system is working. They clean up and remove any garbage left from the previous day. No matter how tired they are, when the first guest arrives...they greet them with a smile.

Evangelistic series are demanding. However, our volunteers do all of this and more, with only one hope in their hearts. That hope is that they have paved the way for someone to learn about the sacrifice of Jesus. The good news of the gospel!

*I love what the apostle Paul wrote in the book of Romans, **How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"** (Romans 10:14-15 NIV)*

For those who pave the way for others to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ, you have beautiful feet. Thank you, volunteers!

We praise God for all those who have accepted Jesus Christ into their lives, either through baptism or profession of faith.

Welcome to God's army of volunteers.

**Be blessed...**



**~ Pastor Jason**