

# THE TORCH

NOVEMBER

2018

## 10 Assurances to Re-Remember When All You See is Despair

The morning sun rose that Easter morning, and sunrise services celebrating Christ's resurrection took place in churches throughout our little farming community. But I lay in bed. Mourning death. My eyes told my mind it was light, but my heart screamed that it was dark. The prior day found me curled in a fetal position hoping to stop the loss of my pregnancy. It didn't. And I plunged into a dark pit of depression and despair. What do you do when your world lies in ashes? What do you do when the very thing you prayed for doesn't happen? Do you doubt God's goodness to you in these moments? Do you stand with your fist shaking at the sky, demanding answers and hearing nothing? Oh, my heart, yes, yes, and yes. We need to give voice to the whole spectrum of our hurt, anguish, and despair and then re-remember the following truths.

### God Is Faithful

Lamentations 3:19-26 starts out with detailed descriptions of the writer's emotional pain then ends with reminders that the Lord's steadfast love never ceases, his mercies never end, and his faithfulness is unending. In your despair, re-remember that God is your portion and your hope. Soothe your heartache by whispering this truth to yourself: God is faithful and merciful. *"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.'* Lamentations 3:22-24 ESV

### God Is Your Salvation

The salvation Isaiah refers to in these verses echoes Exodus 15:2, which commemorates the defeat of the Egyptians at the Red Sea. After centuries of slavery and mere days of freedom, the Israelites found themselves trapped once more. It was death by sea or death by slavers. But God provided passage through the waters and protection from vengeful people. You might feel trapped like the Israelites did between two seemingly impossible situations. Trust God. Do not give way to fear. And wait for God to save you. *"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.' With joy you will draw wells of salvation."* Isaiah 12:2-3 ESV

### God Tenderly Leads You

To tend indicates care, concern, and leaning in. God leans into our hurt and pain to gather us close to his heart. Quiet your soul; this might require leaning into your hurt. It's distressing because we want to protect ourselves from pain. We wear our seatbelts, we're careful around hot stoves, and we keep a well-stocked first aid kit. But when it comes to despair and emotional ache, God's there in the midst of it, tenderly waiting for you to lean into him so he can lead you through it. *"He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young."* Isaiah 40:11 ESV



## **God Comforts You**

It's easy to feel alone and that our sufferings don't have purpose. It's difficult to embrace the reality of our struggles when others around us don't have the same problems as we do. But there is a bigger purpose in your suffering, and it's this: God comforts you so you can comfort others. Receive the solace God gives you so that you can encourage others. God redeems our emotional pain by giving us opportunities to comfort others.

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too."* 2 Corinthians 1:3-5 ESV

## **God Provides Rest**

It's okay to admit your fatigue and to slow down long enough to feel your exhaustion. You don't have to keep striving to make a way up and over, around and through. You can rest in the arms of Jesus even in the midst of the struggle to deal with the grief, despair, or disappointment you feel. Resting in Christ isn't a circumstantial-driven rest, but it's a heart at rest because it's trusting in the One who knows all, sees all, and is all.

*"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."* Matthew 11:28-30 ESV

## **God Loves You**

God's love for you is not dependent on answered prayers or unanswered prayers, on good circumstances or bad circumstances, on healed relationships or broken relationships. His love is dependent on himself. He loves you with an everlasting love that is given to us through our belief that Jesus is our Risen Lord and Savior. Yes, it will feel as though our lives are falling apart, that trouble seems to be around every bend in the road, or that we can't quite get this living for God thing down. But God loves you through it all. He's there to catch the broken pieces of your life, guide you through the trouble, and give you strength to say "yes" to righteous living.

*"For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."* Romans 8:38-39 ESV

## **God Is Your Strength**

At times our lives will feel desolate. No flower. No fruit. No harvest. Whether we experience intense desert times or a time of severe pruning, we will look at the landscape of our lives and see nothing except barrenness. But because God is our strength, our rock, and our way, we can rejoice. Take joy not in the things that happen or don't happen, but in God himself. He is our strength in all seasons.

*"Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places."* Habakkuk 3:17-19 ESV

## God Is Your Light

It might be dark, and you might be afflicted, but you won't be crushed. You might be confused, but you don't have to despair. You might be persecuted, but God is with you. You might be down for the count, but you're not destroyed. Why? Because you have the power that raised Jesus from the dead living in you. That's your treasure. God in you, working through you, and enabling you to walk into unimaginable circumstances with grace and confidence because he is your light.

*"For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies."*

2 Corinthians 4:6-10 ESV

## God Has A Purpose

Do not lose heart, dear one. Hold fast to your faith. God has a purpose and he compels you to look beyond your circumstances to the glory that awaits you. Where you see a valley of dry bones, God sees an army. Where you see desolation, God sees new seeds being sown. Fields of corn and soybeans surround me, and the death and resurrection that each seed holds are marvelous. And then when it grows it produces a hundredfold more. Your struggles produce life when you allow God to use them.

*"So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."* 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 ESV

## God Is With You

You are not alone. Even when you feel at your most desperate, cling to the truth that God doesn't leave you nor forsake you. In your darkest hours, hold fast. He will never, never, never abandon or forsake you. Be still. Be strong. Be courageous. And believe.

*"Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."* Deuteronomy 31:6 ESV

I felt more alone in my grief that Easter morning than I ever imagined I could feel. But God met me. He didn't change my circumstances or the days leading up to the miscarriage. But he changed my heart by showing me his. These are the assurances that I re-remember when the way seems long and treacherous and I've lost my way. Cling to them, friend, and let them breathe hope into your weary heart.

**Jessica Van Roekel** is a woman on the journey to wholeness through brokenness. She believes that through Christ your personal histories don't have to define your present or determine your future. Her greatest desire is to see you live this "God-life" with all the power and grace that God provides. Jessica lives in a rural community with her husband and four children. She leads worship on Sundays, but seeks to be a worshiper every day. You can connect with her at [www.welcomegrace.com](http://www.welcomegrace.com) and on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/yourJessicaVanRoekel](http://www.facebook.com/yourJessicaVanRoekel)

**From [ibelieve.com](http://ibelieve.com) by Jessica Van Roekel**

# El Camino as Art

In Michelangelo's day, an artist was always apprenticed to some master artist with whom he learned his craft. Often, this apprenticeship began at an early age and lasted for years in some cases. Michelangelo had such apprentices who painted the backgrounds for many of his panels in the Sistine Chapel. These artisans were already accomplished craftsmen and allowed the master time to paint the stunning figures that we all so admire today.

El Camino is a work of "art," also, a painting by a master craftsman—God! God himself is the master craftsman and knows how His finished work should look, how it should appear from a distance to our community, and how it should look when viewed up close. HE knows what the "viewer's part" (as discussed in the last Torch article) should be. HE knows what our part should be in HIS masterwork.

We, the members of El Camino, are apprentices to the MASTER, and it is our job to do HIS bidding, to paint the background for the Master Painter as HE crafts HIS masterwork at El Camino. HE knows how El Camino should look for HIS future work in our community. HE knows where the points of contrast should be between us and the great churches around us. HE knows our unique capabilities and will craft HIS Masterwork using these unique capabilities. In the areas where we are weak, HE will teach us, give us courage to stretch beyond our comfort zone, and, in time, turn us into HIS prized craftsmen to mold and shape our community in HIS image.

One of the characteristics of an apprentice is that he is always learning from and doing the will of his mentor. The apprentice knows that he has much to learn to perfect his own unique talents, and that his talents can be made great by following the instruction of his teacher-guide.

As apprentices to God, we have much to learn about painting the background canvas for God's work in our community. God knows how El Camino should look to be a magnet for HIM in our community. God's Word is the centerpiece of HIS work on the El Camino canvas, but just as with the paintings on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, HIS work cannot be completed without competent apprentices doing their part on the background canvas of El Camino.

What are our jobs as apprentices for Him? ***We must believe*** that the Master Painter ***can*** craft a masterpiece of El Camino, and that HE can make master background painters of all of us if we respect HIS leading and apply ourselves to HIS instruction.

We must be willing to accept the tasks necessary for success and apply ourselves diligently. As Michelangelo once said, "Trifles make perfection, and perfection is no trifle." There are many seeming trifles in the background work of our beloved El Camino. Volunteering to help in the nursery, teaching in a Connect group, greeting visitors to our foyer, counting the offering, serving in the youth department as surrogate mothers and fathers who can speak into young lives on topics where parents' voices have grown stale.

Just as the Sistine Chapel could never have been painted by Michelangelo alone without his background artists, **God cannot paint HIS masterwork on El Camino without us as HIS hands and feet in HIS work.** Join your leadership in painting the background for God's El Camino Masterpiece. Serve HIM with passion!

—Paul Davis II

# Youth Program in Transition . . .

There are changes going on in the Youth Department that affect both Middle School and High School groups. I will attempt to answer the key questions about these changes. We are in the early stages of this transition and are still putting the details together. We will elaborate more later.

**What is happening?** Kyle Yeager has resigned as youth director and has taken a job in the food management business. His management skills will be very welcome at Sauce—go by and wish him well sometime.

**Why is he quitting?** Kyle feels that God is leading him to reach his own generation (the millennials) and that he is better qualified to meet those needs. His resignation as youth director was necessary to make him more effective in that future ministry.

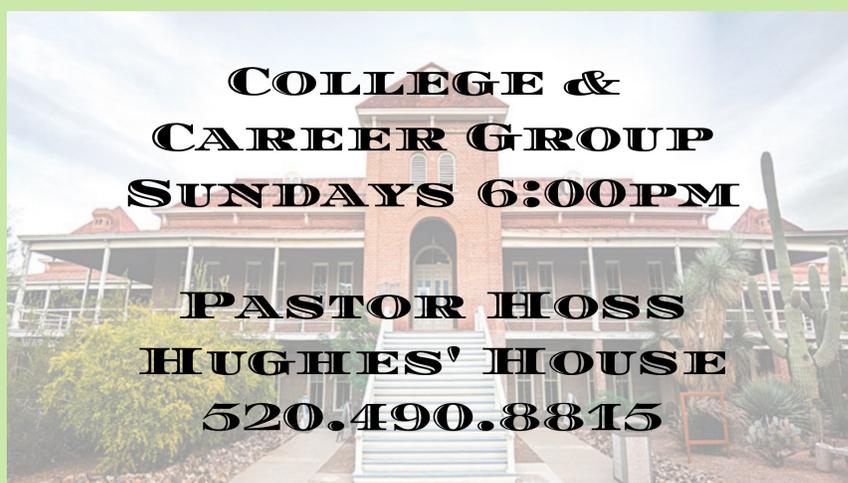
**When is it happening?** Kyle's last working day was Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. He has already begun working at his new job and we wish him every success and God's richest blessings in his future.

## How is Youth Ministry to function during the interim?

- Friday & Sunday evening Middle School and High School programs will be on hiatus until November 4<sup>th</sup>. Additional announcements will be made over the coming weeks.
- Danny Klingenberg will lead the Middle School Ministry. Danny has some very good ideas for building relationships with those in this age group. He will be coordinating with Kristen Duran to provide a seamless transition for our kids from Elementary School into Middle School. Danny loves kids and loves teaching God's Word—He will be great in this role. All we lack is a female sponsor or two to offer their love and guidance to the youth.
- High school will continue Sunday mornings with Pastor Tom teaching our youth. We encourage youth to come and bring their friends as Pastor Tom leads in a unique study of his own. They will learn about themselves while learning about God in their lives.
- Over the next several weeks leadership will be looking at several models for the High School youth group that will include both Sunday mornings and Sunday evenings. The pace of this activity depends considerably on finding caring, concerned youth sponsors. If you are interested in being a youth sponsor that can help shape these young lives, please contact either Pastor Hoss or me.

We can all look forward to exciting days ahead as the youth program regroups and grows in its outreach.

—Paul Davis II





# Family Ministries

We are up to our 9<sup>th</sup> week of Awana and it's been a wonderful experience working with the kids!! On September 30th, we had Crazy Hair night and many of the kids participated and even several of the adults participated! We had 67 kids that night and, as seen in this picture, almost all of them participated.



On Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, our Sunday morning preschoolers learned about David and Goliath and were able to use slingshots to sling "rocks" at the Goliath on the wall, wonderfully drawn by Assistant Director for Preschool, Ruthie Goltz. It looks like they had a great time!!



During Good News Club, on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, we passed out t-shirts to the kids and we passed out Bibles on October 24<sup>th</sup>. In Young People's Choir, the kids are learning the songs of the musical and beginning to learn the motions as well! They seem to be enjoying the songs!

During Wildside, on September 21<sup>st</sup>, we played a game where we showed the kids that we are all connected because of similar interests, but mainly because we are all children of God. On October 5<sup>th</sup>, we learned that God leads us no matter what and we learned about a woman named Deborah who God used to lead Israel. During game time we played scooter soccer and the kids had a blast!!



## Upcoming Events

November 2nd	Wildside Preteen Youth Group
November 4th	Awana
November 7th	Good News Clubs
November 11th	Awana
November 14th	Good News Clubs
November 16th	Wildside Preteen Youth Group
November 18th	Awana
November 21st	NO Good News Clubs
November 25th	NO Awana
November 28th	Good News Clubs



# women's ministries



For 46 years Nancy Baker has been a challenge to her patient and loving husband, Calvin. Growing up in an 8-pack sibling group and moving every 3-4 years with her missionary parents taught her how to rely on and love the Lord, and gave her a fierce independent spirit; but did not provide fertile ground for learning social graces or how to blend inconspicuously into a group.

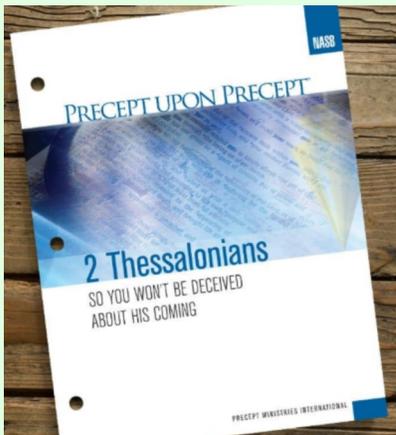
Calvin and Nancy have six children ranging in age from 27 to 44. But there are also over 50 other people who have dropped in from six months to three years, calling the Baker residence “home.” Clearly Nancy has a loving and accepting heart with nebulous boundaries.

Education and critical thinking were strong family values, so Nancy attended college. After changing her major three times, Nancy graduated with a degree in education. She utilized that educational teaching in both Alaska and Arizona. She thrived in Alaska taking a snow machine, boat or float plane to teach students at remote camps. However, she quickly learned that submitting to the strict regime of classroom teaching in Arizona that it was not a good fit.

Studying the Word of God, communicating with God, and sharing that relationship with others is Nancy’s true passion. And God, who loves doing miracles, has provided all kinds of unusual opportunities for her to do just that.

<p><b>NOV 10TH</b> <b>9:30AM-12:00PM</b> <b>Saturday</b> <b>Meet in D-pod</b> Peace with God Speaker: Nancy Baker</p>		<p><b>DEC 11TH</b> <b>6:30PM</b> <b>Christmas Open House</b> At Laurel Weise's Home Call the Church office for more information, 520.886.7770</p>
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# BIBLE STUDIES AT EL CAMINO



*Precepts Bible Study*

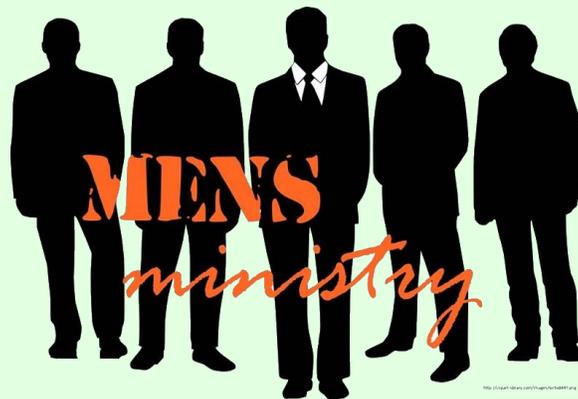
Thursday Mornings  
9:00 AM - C-3

So You Won't Be Deceived  
About His Coming

*Precepts Study*  
**2 CORINTHIANS**

**The Christian in  
ministry and affliction**

Monday evenings - 6:45 PM  
**WEST 9**



**MEN'S STUDY**

**MONDAYS @ 6:45PM**

**D BUILDING**

# EL CAMINO MISSIONARY FELLOWSHIP



Lori Navrodtke

Richard Franco



**Meeting**  
**Monday, Nov. 5th**  
**9:00am C Building**

El Camino Missionary Fellowship will be hosting Lori Navrodtke, Recovery Services Manager, and Richard Franco, Community Services Director from Hands of Hope on Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at the Speaker time of 10:30am.

Hands of Hope Tucson is a faith-based non-profit organization that provides free services to women facing unplanned pregnancy, prevention services to youth and families, and recovery services for men and women struggling with an abortion experience.

Hands of Hope is one of the local ministries which El Camino Baptist Church has supported. In fact, their administrative offices are across the parking lot, close at hand! Hands of Hope Ministry's verse is: "We love because He first loved us." From I John 4:19. They are continuing to expand this ministry, and we want to be able to intelligently and fervently pray with them.

The regular Monthly Missionary Fellowship Meeting is held on the first Monday of the month in C and D Pod. At 9:00am we will be doing the "Popper Project" for Nogales Baptist Seminary, making candy Christmas Gift Rolls. We want to try to finish up a total of 350 "Poppers" for the Seminary. We have about 150 or so completed, so with some willing hands, we will complete them this time. At 10:30am we will be having Lori and Richard sharing, and then at 11:30am we will have a potluck lunch.

Hope to see you there!  
Don Gibbens

# **Newcomers Class**

**November 18th  
10:30 am Prayer Room**

**NEW TO  
EL CAMINO?**

**Please fill out information card in the Welcome Packet in the back of the Worship Center chairs, at the Greeter's Desk, or call the church office 886-7770 ext. 19.**

**Sign up for a Newcomers Class to find out who we are and what we offer at the Greeter's Desk!**



# El Camino Library Ministry

## FICTION

**Shadows Over England** By Roseanna M. White

**#1 A Name Unknown**

**#2 A Song Unheard**

**#3 An Hour Unspent**

This series, set in 1914-1915 London, focuses on a patchwork family of orphans brought together by necessity and love. They are street thieves - only for the preservation and safety of the family. As the children become adults, they find faith in God and turn from thieving to employment helping the British Admiralty war efforts of WWI.



**#1** Rosemary Gresham is from the world of orphans and thieves in London. Peter Holstein is a well-to-do recluse and friend of the King of England. Rosemary is hired by Peter to organize his haphazard library in the hopes of finding some important documents that prove his loyalty to England. But she intends to find proof that he is a German spy.

**#2** Willa Forsythe is a talented musical prodigy, but she is also a thief. She is tasked with stealing a cypher from famed violinist Lukas De Wilde. Both sides of the war efforts want to get hold of his father's work as a cryptographer. Lukas's remaining family is in danger, and hers will be in danger if she does not find the key fast enough.



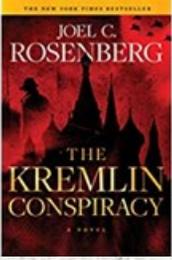
**#3** Barclay Pearce, the eldest orphan who created a family out of mis-matched street urchins, is committed to living his new life as a Christian according to what he reads in the Bible. However, his skills as a thief are also the same skills that are enabling him to serve his country during the time of war. He is assigned the job of obtaining an invention from a clockmaker that may give England an unbeatable military edge—and Germany realizes it as well.

**The Beloved Christmas Quilt** By Wanda Brunstetter, Jean Brunstetter, Richelle Brunstetter

In this trilogy of stories, written by three generations of Brunstetter women (mother, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter), a beloved heirloom quilt brings hope to three generations of Amish women at Christmastime. The quilt has a scripture verse embroidered on the back: "For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me." (Psalm 31:3) Each woman attempts to use the scripture in her daily life as she makes choices that affect her home and family.



## ***The Kremlin Conspiracy*** By Joel C. Rosenberg



With an American president distracted by growing tensions in North Korea and Iran, an ominous new threat is emerging in Moscow. A czar is rising in the Kremlin - a Russian president feverishly consolidating power, silencing his opposition, and plotting a brazen and lightning-fast military strike that could rupture the NATO alliance and bring Washington and Moscow to the brink of nuclear war. But in his blind spot is a former U.S. Secret Service agent who is trained to protect but ready to kill to save his country.

***The Kremlin Conspiracy*** follows the stories and rise of two men -- American Marcus Ryker who was inspired to join the Marines after 9/11 and Oleg Kraskin, a man who rises through the governmental ranks of Russia after marrying the daughter of the man who would himself rise from Prime Minister to President.

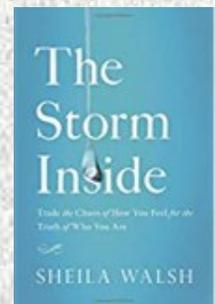
As each man faces the trials in his life, he must learn lessons about loyalty, faithfulness, overcoming tribulations, and forgiveness. This story takes the reader through bombings, assassination attempts, invasions, and military coups. It's a story that could be taken right off the front pages of our newspapers!

## **NON-FICTION**

### ***The Storm Inside: Trade the Chaos of How You Feel for the Truth of Who You Are***

By Sheila Walsh

In ***The Storm Inside***, Sheila lets women know that they can grow in the midst of their everyday storms, no matter how they may feel. You will learn to see yourself as God sees you, not as someone forever tossed by the waves but as a woman fully known, fully loved, and growing ever deeper in faith and hope.



Through Scripture and the sharing of personal stories, Sheila shows how heartbreak can become strength, shame lead to love, restoration undo rage, and courage overcome insignificance.

This powerful book will help you:

- Redefine your failures as a new beginning instead of an end.
- Replace the words *always* and *never* in your life with positive declarations of hope.
- Know with confidence how to help a friend in chaos or crisis.



**DONATIONS  
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# **BLESSINGS MINISTRY**

**VOLUNTEER  
NOW**

**DO YOU HAVE TIME ONCE OR TWICE A  
MONTH TO HELP DELIVER MEALS?**

**AN HOUR OR TWO OF YOUR TIME WILL  
BLESS OTHERS!**

**CONTACT  
RICK AND JOAN BEAMISH  
520.258.8667**

# WHY NOT JOIN US?



**Seek First**  
singles & single again

1st & 3rd Mondays  
off campus

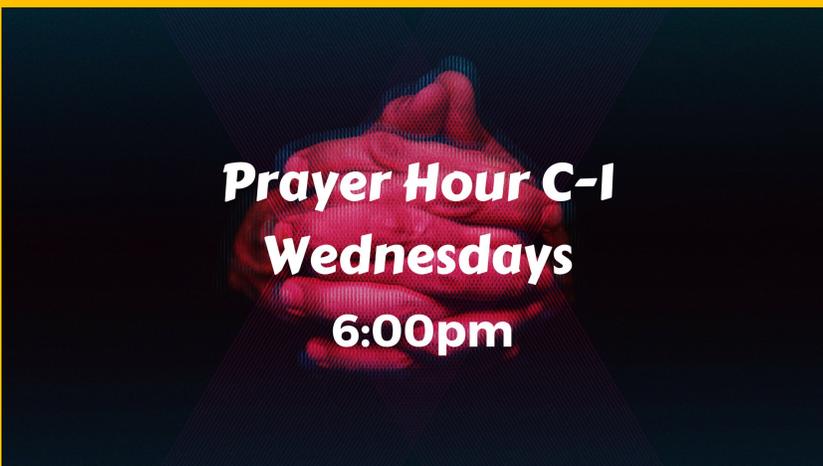


Tuesdays & Thursdays  
8:00 am

**P 3 1**  
**Fitness**

**BETH DAVIS**  
**520-101-2013**

[www.p31fitness.com](http://www.p31fitness.com)



**Prayer Hour C-1**  
**Wednesdays**  
**6:00pm**

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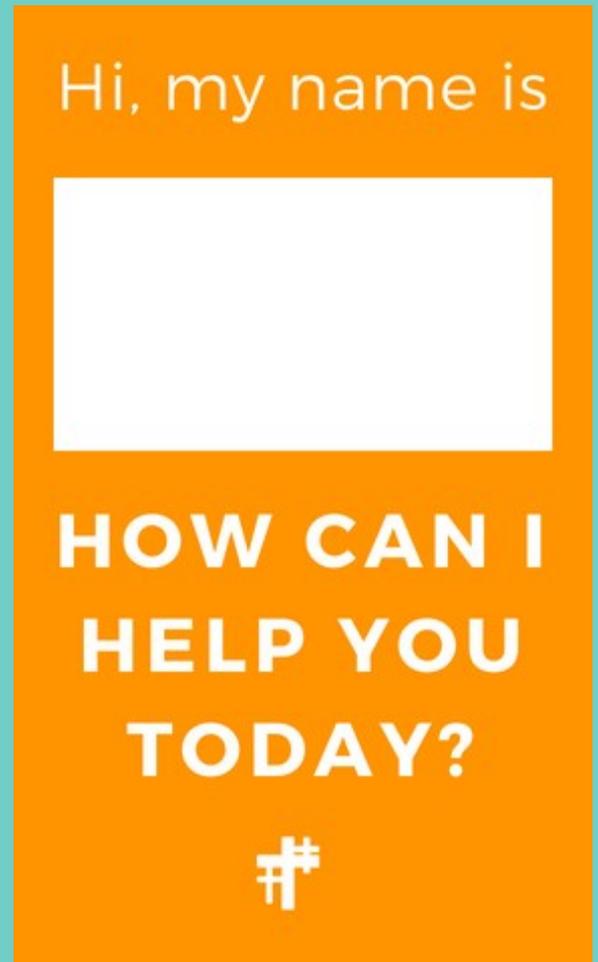
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BUDGET	\$ _____
BUILDING FUND	\$ _____
MISSIONS	\$ _____
OTHER	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____
NAME	_____
ADDRESS	_____

Request forms available at the  
Welcome Desk

# Why are people wearing these orange nametags?

If you see someone wearing one of these name tags on Sunday, they are part of our staff and leadership. They are here to assist you!



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# What's Happening

## Sundays

- 9:00 am Worship Service
- 10:30 am Connect Groups
- 4:00 pm Awana (various locations)
- 6:00 pm College Group at Pastor Hoss' Home

## Mondays

- 9:00 am El Camino Missionary Fellowship in C Building  
(first Mondays of the Month)
- 6:45 pm Women's Precepts Study in West 9
- 6:45 pm Men's Book Study in D Building
- 7:00 pm Seek First - locations vary (call church office)  
(Meets 1st and 3rd Mondays)

## Tuesdays

- 8:00 am P31 Fitness in the Family Activity Center
- 9:00 am Women's Prayer in Prayer Room
- 6:00 pm Small Group Bible Study in College Room  
(Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays)
- 6:30 pm Ladies Night Out - location varies  
(Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month)
- 7:00 pm Men's Basketball in the Family Activity Center
- 7:00 pm America's Matters in C1  
(Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays)

# At El Camino

## **Wednesdays**

- 6:00 pm Prayer Hour in C1  
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
in the Worship Center

## **Thursdays**

- 8:00 am P31 Fitness in the Family Activity Center  
9:15 am Women's Precepts Study in C3

## **Fridays**

- 7:00 pm Wildside Preteen Youth Group  
(Meets 1st and 3rd Fridays)  
7:00 pm Middle School Youth Group  
In the College Room

**Questions?**  
**Call our office for more information!**  
**520.886.7770**

OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



# The Torch

• PRINTED FOR THE FIRST  
SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH - AT  
GREETER'S DESK

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