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## Upcoming Events

Launching **IMPACT** on Feb 22nd Friday (7:30 PM) at Metro  
(IMPACT is a prayer gathering focusing on the youths of Metro)

All night prayer has been postponed to Friday, February 29 (10 PM to 6 AM)

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## Weekly Schedule

Wed, Feb 13th (Fort Worth) Finney & Susan's residence (7 PM)

Thurs, Feb 14th (Lewisville) Jogi & Sheena's residence (7 PM)

Friday, Feb 15th (Fasting Prayer) Pr. Satish & Anitha's residence (10 AM)

Sat, Feb 16th (Metro) Prayer Meeting @ Metro (7:00 PM)

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# Metro Church of God

February 10, 2008



Blessed be the LORD, because he hath heard the voice of my supplications. The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him. (Ps 28:6,7)

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# Welcome

Greetings to all in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It's wonderful having the people of God gathered together to worship the King of kings and Lord of lords.

*And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.* (1 Pet 4:8, KJV)

*Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.* (1 Pet 4:8, NLV)

I think this verse is very relevant to the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Peter was writing this letter to the church (see 1 Pet 1:1), therefore, we can confidently say that this verse is applicable to each of us who are of the body of Christ.

What is verse 1 Pet 4:8 really telling us? At a first glance, this verse seems to say that if we as a church love each other, then many sins are forgiven. But there is a bit more to it. According to Mt 6:12, the sins that we can forgive is what others have done to us. We have in our power to forgive offenses that others have done personally against us. However, the passage from Peter is from a different perspective. The Holy Spirit here is telling the church that what we need is to have a new and a different attitude toward our brothers and sisters in Christ.

We know that offenses from others come easily. Majority of these offenses come from words rather than any physical attack. We are familiar with this childhood saying, "Stick and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me." Unfortunately, this little innocent saying is false. Words sometimes hurt, and leave deeper wounds than any sticks or stones could ever do. Therefore, it is important for us to be careful of how we deal with our fellow believers by our words and actions. Now the question you may be asking is; "what does all this have to do with the scripture above?" Well, it's rather simple; God is calling us to a higher level.

The higher level we are called to is to display and act in love toward our fellow believers. Not just love, but "fervent charity" (KJV) or "deep love" (NLV) for each other. On top of that, the Holy Spirit is saying that this love should be "above all things" or "most important" in our lives. This kind of love can only come from God. When we come to church with such an attitude of "deep love" for our brothers and sisters, then any words or actions that may happen against us won't easily offend us but rather the love we have for that person will negate the offense (the sin is covered). In other words, the love is so "deep" that offenses are now seen as insignificant and trivial. Our hearts, filled with deep love, excludes these offenses, because there is no room in our hearts to take in the offense. Another way of looking at it is that the love in our hearts is so great that before we even have to take a step to forgive the other person, our love has already disregarded the offense. Of course, this doesn't mean we have free license to offend others as we please and not worry about the consequences, but each of us are called to be the one to practice this greater call to love.

Right now, just think about your children, how many small silly things have they done that irritated us? In a similar manner, most offenses that happen among believers are minor, but unfortunately, people take it very personally and the offense tend to grow in our hearts exponentially the more we think about it. But as we look back on these experiences with our kids, we realize that we have forgotten all the crazy things they have done because of the deep love we have for our children. With the same attitude of love, the Holy Spirit is calling us to a deeper experience with each other by exhibiting "deeper love" for each other.

Now, let's take it a step further. If all our hearts are filled with this deep love, what does it do for the church and for us personally? It transforms the atmosphere of our surroundings. The Holy Spirit is unhindered to work amongst us. Repentance, Revival, Renewal, and Restoration takes place among God's people. God's control is over that person, and the mind of Christ is manifested. A life that is unhindered to the Holy Spirit is a life that can turn the "world upside down".

May the Holy Spirit help each of us to be filled with this kind of love.

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# Sermon Notes

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## Prayer for the Nations: Chad (Africa)

The past few weeks has seen severe ethnic violence in Chad with many deaths and thousands fleeing the country.

Pray for peace and calm in the midst of this terrible storm of hatred.

Pray for peace and freedom among all the ethnic and religious groups.

Chad has more people who have not heard the gospel than anywhere else in Africa.

Pray for Denise Hoover, who is with the Wycliffe Ministries, and other missionaries working in Chad. Pray for their support and protection as they work in this troubled country, and that the good news would spread and transform many lives.

**Words of Wisdom:** "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." (Jim Elliot, missionary to Ecuador killed while trying to evangelizing a tribal group).