

**DINUBA CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
**355 E. SAGINAW AVE**  
**P.O. Box 726**  
**DINUBA, CA 93618**

**JAN 2022**

**ON TRACK**

### **“You Only Get One Last Chance”**

Life and love are God’s first gifts to you. Then with the gift of Free Will He says, “Well, here’s your chance at life. Make the most of it.” Your life is your chance to love, live, receive, give, learn, teach, forgive, repent, celebrate, help, and serve. And while grace and mercy give you chance after chance, from your first breath to your last, it is one chance, your chance. Scripture spells out the spiritual depth of the concept of “chance”. 1 Timothy 6: 17-19 Give orders to those who have money and goods in this life, not to be lifted up in their minds, or to put their hope in the uncertain chances of wealth, but in God who gives us in full measure all things for our use; And to do good, having wealth in good works, being quick to give, taking part with one another; Making ready for themselves a safe place for the time to come, so that the true life may be theirs.

This is talking about how to use the gift of wealth, but the concept applies to any and all gifts. All gifts have an element of chance to them. Putting your hope in your abilities is not why God gives gifts. They are simply the way God shows you what He can do if you let Him use your gifts. How you use each gift, highlights, “chance”. A chance to include or exclude God. To obey or disobey. Hebrews 11: 13-16 All these came to their end in faith, not having had the heritage; but having seen it with delight far away, they gave witness that they were wanderers and not of the earth. For those who say such things make it clear that they are searching for a country for themselves. And truly if they had kept in mind the country from which they went out, they would have had chances of turning back. But now their desire is for a better country, that is to say, for one in heaven; and so it is no shame to God to be named their God; for he has made ready a town for them.

This scripture makes me think of the song, “I have decided to follow Jesus.” No turning back, no turning back. With each daily choice to follow Jesus there is a perpetual choice to turn back. The Rich Young Ruler had a chance to follow Jesus, he turned back to his wealth. Sin, every sin, is taking a chance on turning away from Jesus, and turning to self. But there is nothing better than following Jesus, He is always leading you to what is better. Just a closer walk, the best is yet to come, heaven is where Jesus is.

“You never get a second chance to make a first impression.” That is true. My first impression from DCC was wonderful, so, well done! And pretty much everyone who encounters DCC mentions encountering a friendly church. So, as far as first impressions go, DCC is doing very well, and that is a beautiful thing. Making a good first impression is important. But what if you make a bad first impression? The next reality is also true. “You never get a second chance to make a second impression.” And so on. The more important understanding that society would benefit from is, “Your life creates a lasting impression.” And your control of that impression is conditional, the impression you leave with people is partly based on you, and partly based on the others.

Think of the first impression Jesus made. Angels, Wisemen, a Star, Virgin Birth? Think of the second impression? Well, we don’t have that recorded, escaping to Egypt? The next experience we have of Jesus is as a boy, teaching the religious leaders, growing in wisdom and stature. The next? The Gospels. But what is your impression of Jesus today? In truth? Your current perception, impression, belief, faith, is the essence of your salvation in Christ. Your first impression of Jesus is most likely not your eternal impression, your saving impression, your lasting impression. Maybe the more important impression that should be focused on is your last impression. What I mean by that is, what if your last experience of Jesus becomes your last experience of Jesus? Jesus knows, you never get a second chance to make a last impression, learn from Him.

Before you breathe your last breath, have your last chance, sing your last song, dance your last dance, think about this first, every person you encounter has free will too, and it may be their last chance to encounter you, or, your last chance to encounter them. SO, make the most of each chance you get. As we enter a new year, it will continue to be your chance to live out the gifts God has given you. Luck is often used to describe the concept of “games of chance” or “gambling”, but really, there is no such thing as luck. There is time and choices of how to use it. Luck implies that God is not in control. Any good fortune you encounter is because of Him, any bad fortune is allowed by Him. Whatever happens to you simply provides you another chance, how will you respond?

You’ve got one chance at this day the Lord has made. . . make the most of it! Peace folks!

Pastor Jim

# JANUARY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 Praise Team 6:30-8pm	6	7	8 Christmas Clean Up
9 Birthday Social	10	11	12 Praise Team 6:30-8pm	13	14	15
16 Congregational Meeting	17 4-H	18	19 Praise Team 6:30-8pm	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Praise Team 6:30-8pm	27	28	29
30	31					

## JANUARY Birthdays

2 Sally Larralde  
 12 Maggie Hanson  
 13 John Lee  
 16 Malachi Cameron  
 20 Daniel Quintana  
 24 Lorene Burt

29 Bruce Tinker



# JAN 2022

## GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANTS

**COMMUNION:** Sandy Sills

**BAPTISM:** Julie Nichols

**SOCIAL SUNDAY:** Jane Chang & Nellie Rubiaco

**DEACONS-BIRTHDAY SOCIAL**

\*JD Allen, Noe Larralde, Daniel Quintana

**MEALS ON WHEELS COORDINATOR**

**FOR JAN: Toni Gerbrandt @ 591-7960 or 967-0740**

**DEACONS & USHER** (if you can't be there for your Sunday, please ask another deacon to fill your spot)

- 2 Armando Pedroza
- 9 Jim Melban
- 16 Robert Vogt
- 23 Joseph Larralde
- 30 Jeff Hanson

**ELDER MEDITATIONS:**

**COMMUNION**

- 2 Rudy Gonzales
- 9 Corky Seitz
- 16 Jerry Chang
- 23 Chris Franks
- 30 Bruce Tinker

**OFFERING**

- 2 Bruce Tinker
- 9 Steve Worthley
- 16 John Lee
- 23 Mario Delgadillo
- 30 Rudy Gonzales

**HOMEBOUND VISITATION**

- 2 Rudy Gonzales
- 9 Corky Seitz
- 16 Jerry Chang
- 23 Chris Franks
- 30 Bruce Tinker

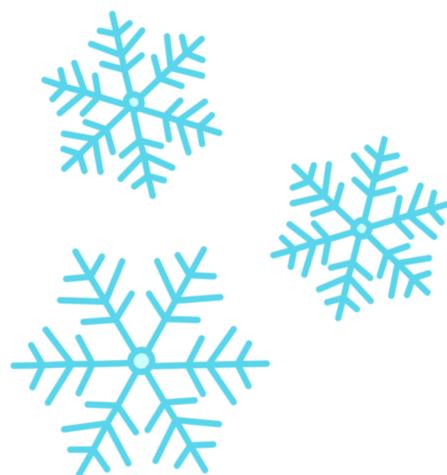
**CHURCH LOCK UP**

- 2 Bruce Tinker
- 9 Steve Worthley
- 16 John Lee
- 23 Mario Delgadillo
- 30 Rudy Gonzales

**Nursery is available for ages**  
**newborn to age 4**



*1 Peter 5:2  
Be shepherds of God's  
flock that is under your  
care, serving as overseers  
– not because you must,  
but because you are  
willing, as God wants  
you to be; not greedy  
for money, but eager  
to serve;*



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# Happy New Year!