

# La Voz Del Desierto



Bishop Jim Dorff  
D.S. Rev. Elmer Armijo



## Father's Day

Thanks to Sonora, today Father's Day is celebrated in a large number of countries around the world. Historians have recorded that there was a tradition to celebrate Father's Day even thousands of years ago. Their study say that 4,000 years ago in Babylon a son called Elmesu carved a father's day message on a clay card. In his message Elmesu wished his father a long and healthy life. There is no knowledge as to what happened to this father son duo but it is believed that several countries retained the custom of celebrating Father's Day. The tradition of celebrating Father's Day as seen today originated in the last century. Though there are several people who are credited for furthering the cause of Father's Day, there is far greater acceptance for Ms Sonora Louise Smart Dodd's contribution. A doting daughter from Spokane, Washington, Ms Dodd is recognized as the Founder or Mother of the Father's Day Festival. Inception of the Father's Day took place in Sonora's mind when she happened to hear a Mother's Day sermon in 1909. Sonora, who was 27 then, had begun to recognize the hardships her father must have gone through while bringing up his six children alone. When Sonora was 16, her mother had died during childbirth. Sonora's father a Civil War veteran by the name of William Jackson Smart raised six children including the newborn on his own. Sonora questioned that if there is a day to recognize mothers then why is not there a day to honor fathers? Many people laughed and joked at Sonora's idea. But her will did not droop. She began a sincere campaign lobbying for the cause of Father's Day. Her hard work began to show signs of success when Spokane celebrated its first Father's Day on June 19, 1910 with the support of Spokane Ministerial Association and the local Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). To pay tribute to her affectionate father, Sonora wished that Father's Day be celebrated on her father's birthday on June 5, but it so happened that there was not enough time for preparation and the day came to be celebrated on third Sunday in the month of June. The noble idea of celebrating Father's Day became quite popular in US so much so that President Woodrow Wilson approved of the festival in 1916. President Calvin Coolidge too supported the idea but it was President Lyndon Johnson who signed a Presidential Proclamation declaring the third Sunday of June as Father's Day in 1966. Then in 1972, President Richard Nixon established a permanent national observance of Father's Day to be held on the third Sunday of June.

### Serving the Community

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*This happened one time after a pastor had made an appeal in the church for a*

***“Sacrificial Offering.”***

A certain man, a member of the church, came to him and handed him a check for **\$50.00**. He asked, *“Is this gift a satisfactory one?”* The pastor immediately replied,

***“If it represents you.”***

There was a moment of soul-searching thought and then asked to have the check returned. He left and a day or two later returned handing the pastor a check for **\$5,000.00**.

Again asked the question, *“Is my gift a satisfactory one?”* The pastor gave the same answer as before,

***“If it represents you.”***

As before, a truth seemed to be driving deeply. After a few moments of hesitation he took back the check and left.

Later in the week he came again with a check. This time it was for **\$50,000.00**. As he placed it in the pastor's hand, he said,

*“After earnest prayerful thought, I have come to the conclusion that this gift does represent me and I am happy to give it.”*

Perhaps in this light the words of

***1 Corinthians 16:2,***

***“As God hath prospered him,”***

**Tithes and Offerings in our churches may take on a new meaning.**

# A Word from the Pastor

Rev. Carlos E. Espinoza



Artesia, El Getsemani - Carlsbad, Monte Sinal - Roswell, El Divino Pastor

## Are You Still Living Under Condemnation?

*“I have swept away your offenses like a cloud,  
your sins like the morning mist.*

*Return to me,  
for I have redeemed you”*

*Isaiah 44:22*

What a powerful message. God assures Isaiah that He will not forget His children. Are you a child of God? Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior? Have you confessed your sins and forsaken them? If so, then you are a child of God! Praise God!!! Now, here's a question for you. Are you living under a condemnation that someone else put on you? One of the reasons why I feel I am in God's ministry, is because He has placed a burden in my heart to speak to the self-inflicted condemned person and to tell the truth.

Do you remember in the old Western T.V. movies, when they were about to hang a condemned man for his lawlessness? They always would bring him his last meal and a priest would join him in his cell to **comfort** him. Now you may be asking yourself, “Are you telling me that the church is not telling the truth?” No, that's not what I am saying. But what I am saying is that there are many churches throughout the religious realm that have watered down the Gospel for their own purpose, for their own benefit. Whether it be for the inflation of membership, tithes and offerings, or for whatever reason. But the truth is that the church has laid a heavy (unwanted) burden of condemnation on those who are divorced, separated, illegal, or for just having a criminal record. Whatever reason may be, we as children of God are to *LOVE* not *JUDGE*. The Bible, God's Holy Word, not man's word tells us: *“There is now therefore NO condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.” Romans 8:1*

Too many people in the religious system have used tactics of “*condemnation*” to destroy the church of Jesus Christ, minimizing it by not allowing these forgiven children of God to benefit from the blessings of our Lord and King Jesus Christ. This is just one of the reasons why churches don't grow. We have men and women who stand behind their pulpits on Sunday morning and judge. Have you ever heard anyone say, “Boy, did he throw some big rocks today!” How sad! But guess what? God has His answer. *Psalms 103:12 “As far as the east is removed from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.”*

Wow! Praise the Lord! Just as the clouds are swept away by the wind and the morning dew is soon dried by the morning sun, so has God forgotten, swept away, and no longer sees our sins. You will remember the past, acquaintances will remember your sins, and Satan will certainly constantly remind you of them as well. But, God who knows everything about you has absolutely no memory of your sins, that is, once you have asked for forgiveness in the name of Jesus!

The consequences of sin remain very real and the memory of many sins may also remain, but God is faithful and just to forgive. When God sees the blood of His Son, Jesus, applied on us, He remembers our sins no more.

I know I have spoken hard but I stand on the Word of God that gives me the authority, strength, but most of all, the courage to write these things that the Lord's Spirit has placed in my heart for you this day.

If you feel you are living under “**condemnation**,” rebuke it in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and begin to live the life He intended you to live. Satan only wants to destroy you and make you feel unacceptable. Remember that Satan uses others to do his dirty work. Stand clean and firm in the God who saved you through His Son Jesus Christ!

*“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy;*

*I (Jesus) came that they (you) may have life, and have it abundantly.”*

*John 10:10*

God Bless you and keep you in His loving arms.



# Women's Corner

with  
Carmen Espinoza

*“Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another.  
Instead, make up your mind not to put a stumbling block or obstacle  
in your brother’s way.”*  
**Romans 14:13**

Do you remember when back in grade school you wanted to be like someone you knew? A sports personality? A television host? A radio D.J.? As a child I was always told that one day I would choose my husband by looking to see if he had any of my father’s qualities and character. They were so right. Today both my father and husband have so much in common. When they get together they can’t help but discuss Theology. No one ever seems to win. They walk off thinking each one made their point and won.

This brings me to my point for today. There are many things that each of us cannot do, but there are also numerous things we can do, and do very well. We don’t have to compare ourselves or our abilities and achievements with other people or their talents or accomplishments. We are free to be individuals. God has an individual plan for each one of our lives. Some of our lives will intermingle together, but each of us must have the liberty to be led by God. We even have the right to make our own mistakes and learn from them. I always thought that Christians were perfect. No! They are just forgiven!!!

You see, God allows people like you and I, the right of free choice, and we must maintain our right in that area, in addition to being certain that we are not party to stealing someone else’s right. We don’t have to be like our husbands who probably have many wonderful qualities, or the pastor’s wife, or the next door neighbor, or the lady at church who seems to have it all together. Sometimes we allow other people to become a law to us, thinking we must be what they are. God put in us many wonderful qualities, therefore creating a totally different creature for His glory. We don’t have to compare our prayer life to another person’s or Bible Study habits to someone else’s. As long as we are sure in our hearts we are doing what God is leading us to do, that is all that is required of us to do.

Many times we want to please people and make them happy. It’s not that this is wrong, but this kind of thinking can lead to making the wrong decision or decisions. It is scriptural to try to live in harmony with others and in peace with everyone. Read **Romans 12:16,18** and see what it says.

Make sure your desire to please others does not cross over the line and lead into a controlling relationship.

When we get out of God’s will, it sends a ripple through the body of Christ who is the Vine.

When I think of the word “LIBERTY,” I sense a form of freedom, of life.

When someone preaches about “LIBERTY,” I feel alive. But when legalism is preached, I sense and feel *death* all around.

## Live to live for God!



We're always here to talk, to pray or just to listen. We don't offer professional counseling, but we can provide you with spiritual guidance, heartfelt prayer, honesty, resources, and connections to skilled Christian counselors. I invite you to share your prayer requests with me. Share with me what's in your heart; write, I'll be waiting. **Matthew 6:5-15**

May God bless you,

**Carmen Leticia**

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## Woman...

Who can find  
a virtuous woman?  
For her price  
is far above rubies.  
She stretcheth out  
her hand to the poor,  
yes,  
she reacheth forth  
her hands to the needy.  
Charm is deceitful,  
and  
beauty is vain:  
but a woman that  
feareth the Lord,  
is to be praised.

## Faith Builder

**1 Timothy 4:14** says that you have a gift inside of you. And so many women today neglect that gift. ALL women possess special gifts and talents; you are no exception. But, your gift is no guarantee of success; it must be cultivated and nurtured; otherwise, it will go unused...and God's gift to you will be squandered.

Today, accept this challenge: Value the talent that God has given you, nourish it, make it grow, and share it with the world. After all, the best way to say

**“Thank You”**

for God's gift is to use it. Amen?

**JESUS**  
THE KING  
OF HEARTS



**Roswell**

The month of June has been a good month for El Divino Pastor (EDP). It started out windy and hot, but on the second day we were beginning to see storm clouds in the horizon. The possibility of rain was there and it seemed to brighten up everyone here, including the Aliens. :O) Early in the month we had a visit from a church in Oklahoma that brought in 10 young strong men to do mission work at the church. They helped us out by cleaning the yard and inside of the church. We were also able to place a new air-condition unit in the Sanctuary for hotter days later on this summer. I guess my sermons will not be as hot as before! The church congregation is being blessed with its continual sacrificial giving of tithes and offerings. It is the goal of this congregation to achieve its directive of paying 100% of apportionments to the RGC. With God's help, it will be a dream come true. EDP started having Bible studies on Fridays at 10:30 am and had for its first Bible study an attendance of four adults. For some of you this may be peanuts; but for this congregation, it's a victory in the making. Please continue to pray for this very small congregation.



**Artesia**

The young people of this congregation have gotten all excited about the Youth Summer Camp coming up in July. Last month 11 of them went to the Northwest District Camp and when they came back they were on fire and with excitement just to know that there are other young people just like them with the same thoughts, problems, likes and dislikes, and they wanted more. So with that in mind, there is a rumbling of talk as to how many are going to this year's Youth Camp in the Sacramento's in July. A "Lock-Inn" has been set for August 6 & 7 with the youth of Templo Nazaret in Lubbock, TX and Carlsbad. On Sunday the 7th there will be a united service with the other two churches with Rev. Eutimio Gonzales bringing the message and then all sharing in the celebration of Holy Communion. Congratulations are in order for this congregation that has already paid in full (100%) its apportionments to the RGC. Praise the Lord God for insurance! With the high winds this area has sustained, our roof was damaged. With the small rain amount that we finally received, the roof leaked. So now we need to have it repaired. Thank you for your prayers.



**Carlsbad**

Well, it finally happened. This month Carlsbad received showers! Real rain fell across its parched lands and came as a great blessing to all. No one was heard crying, "Rain, rain, go away!" The city had gone over 220 days without rain and it came at a very good time. There have been too many brush fires in the area and with the rain it held it down to a minimum. Monte Sinaí is also preparing to send a good group of young people to the Youth Camp.

The Safe Sanctuary course will be given to all staff and adults interested in ministry among our children and young people in July. A high interest has been shown among the adults of all three churches and there is an excitement for the future of our churches. As you know, the children of our churches are the future of the church.



### **WHAT HAPPENS IN HEAVEN WHEN WE PRAY?**

This is one of the nicest e-mails I have seen and is so true: I dreamt that I went to Heaven and an angel was showing me around. We walked side-by-side inside a large workroom filled with angels. My angel guide stopped in front of the first section and said, "This is the Receiving Section. Here, all petitions to God said in prayer are received." I looked around in this area, and it was terribly busy with so many angels sorting out petitions written on huge paper sheets and scraps from people all over the world. Then we moved on down a long corridor until we reached the second section. The angel then said to me, "This is the Packaging and Delivery Section. Here, the graces and blessings the people asked for are processed and delivered to the living persons who asked for them." I noticed again how busy it was there. There were many angels working hard at that station, since so many blessings had been requested and were being packaged for delivery to Earth. Finally at the farthest end of the long corridor we stopped at the door of a very small station. To my great surprise, only one angel was seated there, idly doing nothing. "This is the Acknowledgment Section," my angel friend quietly admitted to me. He seemed embarrassed. "How is it that there is no work going on here?" I asked. "So sad," the angel sighed. "After people receive the blessings that they asked for, very few send back acknowledgments." "How does one acknowledge God's blessings?" I asked. "Simple," the angel answered. Just say, "Thank you, Lord." "What blessings should they acknowledge?" I asked. "If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world. If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy." "If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the many who will not even survive this day." "If you have never experienced the fear in battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pains of starvation... You are ahead of 700 million people in the world." "If you can attend a church without the fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death, you are envied by, and more blessed than, three billion people in the world." "If your parents are still alive and still married...you are very rare." "If you can hold your head up and smile, you are not the norm, you're unique to all those in doubt and despair....." How can I start? By sending a thankful prayer to Heaven.



**ATTN:**

**Acknowledgment Dept.**

**"Thank you, Lord, for giving me the ability to share this message and for giving me so many wonderful people with whom to share it."**

*I thank God for everything, especially my wife, all my Christian family and friends.*

