



Messenger

St. Mark's
United Methodist Church

1902 Vance Jackson San Antonio, TX 78213
210-344-8393

Regular Weekly

Activities:

† In-person worship will
begin **September 20**

When God's Timing Calls for Making A Difference

Moses and the Burning Bush

Part 2



Exodus 3:7-10 (NIV)
Exodus 4:10-16 (NIV)

See more on

PAGE 4

Exodus 3:7-10 NIV

7 The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. 8 So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. 9 And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. 10 So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

Exodus 4:10-16 NIV

10 Moses said to the Lord, "Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue." 11 The Lord said to him, "Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the Lord? 12 Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say." 13 But Moses said, "Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else." 14 Then the Lord's anger burned against Moses and he said, "What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and he will be glad to see you. 15 You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do. 16 He will speak to the people for you, and it will be as if he were your mouth and as if you were God to him."

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Follow us on Facebook! <http://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Marks-United-Methodist-Church/217072428313881?ref=hl>

SERVE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 at 10:30 am we will go back to in-person worship in the sanctuary. Safety precautions will remain in place (face covering, hand sanitizing, distancing). Help us get the word out for those that would like to participate.

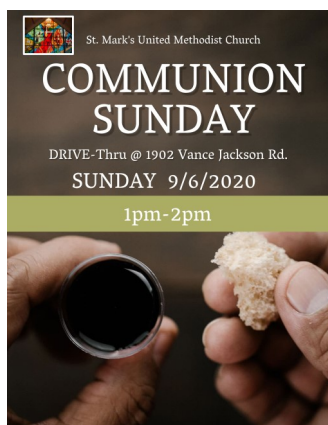
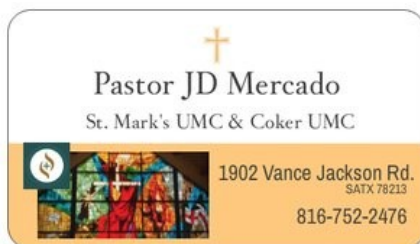
Thank you all for viewing St. Mark's virtual worship on Facebook these past few weeks and for your helpful feedback. Below is the link where you can access the videos of each Sunday service. September 13 at 10:30 am you can have access to the Sunday service.

Thank you for your prayers in these challenging times, we will also be praying for all of you.

*Shalom,
Pastor JD*

Link:

https://www.facebook.com/pg/St-Marks-United-Methodist-Church-217072428313881/videos/?ref=page_internal



As Pastor Mercado continues to find ways to serve the church family and the surrounding community, he greeted approximately 25 persons who came to St. Mark's Communion Sunday Drive-thru September 6.



PASTOR: Rev. Jose David Mercado 816-752-2476
Pastor Email: jmercado@riotx.org

SECRETARY: Lillian Herrera
CHOIR DIRECTOR: Carolyn Hahn

CUSTODIAN: Johnny Mendoza
WESLEY NURSE: Rose Miranda

OFFICE HOURS: 8:30 a.m - 2:30 p.m. Monday - Thursday Closed Friday

EMAIL: stmarksumc@grandecom.net

WEBSITE: www.stmarksumcsa.com

PLEASE NOTE: SCHEDULE HOURS MAY VARY DUE TO COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS.



With Your Help The United Methodist Church is Making a Difference

10 AREAS TO CHECK AT YOUR CHURCH BEFORE WINTER STARTS

Your church should be preparing for the fall months if you have not already done so, says the Finance and Administration agency of the United Methodist Church. While the weather is still nice, there are some things to consider when you are maintaining church facilities:

1. Walk the Property. Take a walk around and through your facilities and take notes of areas of concern.
2. Landscape. Completing seasonal tasks such as cutting grass, trimming hedges, raking leaves, etc. Be mindful of areas used as walkways to prevent slip-and-falls.
3. Facilities Accessibility. Ensuring your parking area is clean, well-labeled, and properly lit will improve the overall appearance of the church. Take time to fix steps, railings, and concrete cracks on walkways/ramps.
4. Roofing & Gutter. Either from a ladder or from the ground you should examine the roof of your facilities.
5. Windows. Check windows for cracks, separation, weather stripping, drafts, and proper latching. Take time to clean the interior and exterior windows of the church. Check with your local energy provider about possible window replacement programs.

6. Equipment Check. Make a plan to examine and perform necessary maintenance on all of your seasonal equipment.

7. Winter Equipment. As you put away mild weather items, take out your cold weather supplies, like doormats, heaters, rakes, etc. Make these items readily available.

8. Fire Safety & Prevention. Arrange to service fire extinguishers. Your local fire department may be able to help you with this process. Also be sure to check the batteries in all the smoke detectors throughout the church. Replace dying batteries.

9. Plumbing & Insulation. Check faucets, drains, plumbing and the surrounding insulation for leaks and corrosion. Perform general maintenance and repairs.

10. Lighting. Take a stroll around the property at dusk. Take note of what time lights come on and ensure that all lights are functioning properly.

Take the lead and start this project for your church today.

General Council on Finance & Administration website. The World Service Fund provides basic financial support to program-related general agencies, which are especially important to the common vision, mission, and ministry of The United Methodist Church. Umcgiving.org



Apportionments

ST. MARK'S FINANCIAL OVERVIEW FOR MONTH OF JULY - 2020

Operating Cash Balance on June 30, 2020	11,360
Non-Designated Contributions - July	13,309
Operating Expenses	18,428
Other Income/(Expense)	1,521
Operating Cash Balance on July 31, 2020	7,762

July receipts were lower than budgeted. July operating expenses were lower than budgeted. Mission Giving was favorable to the budget as we are only paying amounts specifically donated for apportionments and no payment was made in July. Trustee expenses were unfavorable as a result of unplanned expense and higher utilities as a result of the summer heat.

Pastor compensation was favorable due to the transition to our new pastor. Lay personnel compensation was favorable to budget due to a budgeted position remaining vacant. We received \$1,500 from the Conference to help with compensation during the pandemic.

Our operating cash balance on July 31, 2020 was positive.

We continue to spend more each month than we receive in contributions. This will result in our need to use reserve funds to pay our monthly obligations. If you have any suggestion on how we can increase our monthly contributions, please let us know. The Finance Committee thanks you for your support to St. Mark's. God Bless you all.



From Rev. Jose David Mercado **When God's Timing Calls for Making a Difference - Part 2**

**September
2020**

As we move through the story of Moses and his calling to an old age, we see that making a difference for people who were enslaved and who were asking for a savior was not an easy task.

In Exodus 3:7-8, the first thing we can see is that God saw the suffering and heard the anguish of his people. Therefore, it is God Himself who identifies the condition of people and He is the one who calls people to the task of fulfilling God's purpose. The Lord had a wonderful plan for His people and Moses was the person who would set it in motion. God chose Moses, not because he was the best for this job, but because His power would manifest through him. It was God's initiative to rescue the People, take them out of their situation and take them to a place of prosperity, where they had the freedom and dignity that every human being deserves.

We also see that God gives a direct order to Moses in verse 10, to go and free the Hebrew people, but then the situation gets complicated when Moses begins to make excuses for not doing what God has commanded him. Let's list Moses' excuses and God's responses to get a clearer view of the situation:

1. Moses begins to doubt his ability to do what God has commanded him (v. 11). God answers: He will be with Moses and will do signs through him (v. 12).
2. Moses begins to doubt the identity of God, and that the people would ask him the name of God (v. 13). God responds: "I am He who has sent me to you" (v. 14).
3. Now he begins to doubt his speech problem and his inability to speak in public (Ex. 4:10). God answers: "Go on, get going, I will help you speak and tell you what to say." (Ex. 4:12)
4. In the end, Moses ran out of excuses and says: I beg you to send someone else (Ex. 4:13). God answered him with anger this time: "Your brother Aaron is very eloquent, and he will speak for you." (Ex. 4:14-16).

For God, there is no physical, mental or emotional impediment by which we cannot do what He has commanded us to do. For Moses, his age made him doubt and underestimate the ability that God would give him to fulfill the work that God had commanded him. He doubted his mental capacity to convince the people that God had sent him. He also doubted his emotional state, since he was a stutterer and this task affected him emotionally to such a degree that he would have trouble speaking.

Wasn't God aware of all of it? Of course, yes. God knows all our impediments and yet, He calls us to do His redemptive work in people suffering from diseases, drug addictions, hopelessness, and loneliness. Making a difference is doing what God tells us to do, with the faith that He will do the miracle in the lives of those we serve with love.

Questions to ponder:

What is keeping me from fulfilling God's call? 

What is my excuse in which God does not have a positive answer for me? 

T **TO BE CONTINUED...**

Haciendo la Diferencia

Éxodo 3:7-10 NVI 7 Pero el Señor siguió diciendo: —Ciertamente he visto la opresión que sufre mi pueblo en Egipto. Los he escuchado quejarse de sus capataces, y conozco bien sus penurias. 8 Así que he descendido para librarlos del poder de los egipcios y sacarlos de ese país, para llevarlos a una tierra buena y espaciosa, tierra donde abundan la leche y la miel. Me refiero al país de los cananeos, hititas, amorreos, ferezeos, heveos y jebuseos. 9 Han llegado a mis oídos los gritos desesperados de los israelitas, y he visto también cómo los oprimen los egipcios. 10 Así que disponte a partir. Voy a enviarte al faraón para que saques de Egipto a los israelitas, que son mi pueblo.

Éxodo 4:10-16 NVI 10 —Señor, yo nunca me he distinguido por mi facilidad de palabra —objetó Moisés—. Y esto no es algo que haya comenzado ayer ni anteayer, ni hoy que te diriges a este servidor tuyo. Francamente, me cuesta mucho trabajo hablar. 11 —¿Y quién le puso la boca al hombre? —le respondió el Señor—. ¿Acaso no soy yo, el Señor, quien lo hace sordo o mudo, quien le da la vista o se la quita? 12 Anda, ponte en marcha, que yo te ayudaré a hablar y te diré lo que debes decir. 13 —Señor —insistió Moisés—, te ruego que envíes a alguna otra persona. 14 Entonces el Señor ardió en ira contra Moisés y le dijo: —¿Y qué hay de tu hermano Aarón, el levita? Yo sé que él es muy elocuente. Además, ya ha salido a tu encuentro, y cuando te vea se le alegrará el corazón. 15 Tú hablarás con él y le pondrás las palabras en la boca; yo los ayudaré a hablar, a ti y a él, y les enseñaré lo que tienen que hacer. 16 Él hablará por ti al pueblo, como si tú mismo le hablaras, y tú le hablarás a él por mí, como si le hablara yo mismo.

A medida que avanzamos en la historia de Moisés y su llamado en una edad avanzada, vemos que hacer la diferencia en un pueblo que estaba esclavizado y que pedía agritos un salvador, no fue una tarea fácil.

En Éxodo 3:7-10, lo primero que podemos ver es que Dios vio el sufrimiento y escuchó la angustia de su pueblo. Por lo tanto, es Dios mismo quien identifica la condición de las personas y Él es quien llama a las personas a la tarea de cumplir el propósito de Dios. El Señor tenía un plan maravilloso para su pueblo y Moisés era la persona que lo pondría en marcha. Dios eligió a Moisés, no porque fuera el mejor para este trabajo, sino porque Su poder se manifestaría a través de él. Fue la iniciativa de Dios rescatar al Pueblo, sacarlo y llevarlo a un lugar de prosperidad, donde tuvieran la libertad y dignidad que todo ser humano merece.

Vemos también que Dios le da una orden directa a Moisés en el verso 10 para que fuera a liberar al pueblo hebreo y la situación se complica cuando Moisés comienza a dar excusas para no hacer lo que Dios le ha mandado.

Enumeremos las excusas de Moisés y las respuestas de Dios para tener una visión más clara de la situación:

1. Comienza Moisés a dudar de su capacidad para hacer lo que Dios le ha mandado (v. 11). Dios le responde: que estará con él y hará señales a través de él (v. 12).
2. Comienza Moisés a dudar en la identidad de Dios, y que el pueblo le preguntaría el nombre de Dios (v. 13). Dios le responde: “Yo soy me ha enviado a ustedes” (v. 14).
3. Ahora comienza a dudar de su problema del habla y su incapacidad de poder hablar en público (Ex. 4:10). Dios le responde: Anda, ponte en marcha, que yo te ayudaré a hablar y te diré lo que debes decir. (Ex. 4:12)
4. Al final Moisés se la acabaron las excusas y dice: te ruego que envíes a alguna otra persona (Ex. 4:13). Dios le respondió esta vez con enojo: tu hermano Aarón es muy elocuente y el hablará por ti (Ex. 4:14-16).

Para Dios no hay ningún impedimento físico, mental o emocional por el cual no podamos hacer lo que Él nos a mandado a hacer. Para Moisés su edad lo hizo dudar y menospreciar la capacidad que Dios le daría para cumplir la obra que Dios le había mandado. Dudaba de su capacidad mental para convencer al pueblo de que Dios lo había enviado. Asimismo, dudaba de su estado emocional, ya que este era tartamudo y esta tarea le afectaba emocionalmente a tal grado que tendría problemas para hablar.

¿Acaso Dios no sabía todo eso? Por supuesto que sí. Dios conoce todos nuestros impedimentos y aun así nos llama para hacer Su obra redentora en un pueblo que sufre enfermedad, drogadicción, desesperanza y soledad. Hacer la diferencia es hacer lo que Dios nos manda, con la fe de que Él hará el milagro en la vida de aquellos a los que servimos con amor.

Preguntas para reflexionar:

- ¿Qué es lo que me impide cumplir con el llamado de Dios?
- ¿Cuál es mi excusa en la cual Dios no tenga una respuesta positiva para mí?

Con aprecio y amor su pastor, JD Mercado

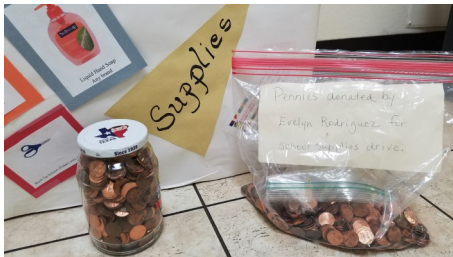


You're invited to Project Transformation's Open House on Thursday, **September 24, 5:30 pm - 8 pm, Blessing at 6:30 pm.** Join in-person or on Facebook Live. Come see the transformation of the Education Building to the housing for PT's Interns to live, grow and serve! For those attending in person, please wear a mask and know we will be walking through the house practicing social distancing with doors open. The Facebook Live event can be viewed via <https://www.facebook.com/PTRioTexas>.

Mary Flannigan, Senior Director of Operations & Impact, Project Transformation Rio Texas



As children all over begin the 2020-2021 school year, many groups continue their efforts to support them any way they can. Once again St. Mark's did their part through the School Supplies Drive.



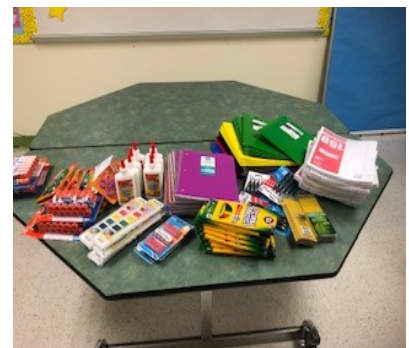
Even one of the youngest members of the church did her part. Precious three-year old Evelyn Rodriguez raised a whopping \$20.68 pennies. In total, \$620.68 was collected this year for the students at Arnold Elementary School.

Susan Philbin and Kathy Jack went shopping for the supplies. Pastor Mercado and Susan made the delivery at Arnold last week.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this outreach ministry. And, a big thanks to our sister church Coker UMC for donating 35 backpacks filled with supplies.



Let's continue to support all students, staff and parents with our prayers.



PRAYERS & PRAISE



Bob Ailerson
 Jill Anderson
 Kennedee Bailey
 Kylee Brown
 Bucky Coley
 Esdras Cuervo
 Alice Logan
 Michael Mendoza

Eric Miletti
 Will Schuetze
 Warren Dunetz

 St. Mark's Shut-ins &
 homebound friends
 Those suffering from
 coronavirus

Rosie Mendez
 Those suffering from
 job/economic loss
 For justice and peace
 Those impacted by
 hurricanes, storms,
 wildfires
 Pray for each other



Marcos Barrientos on the passing of his beloved mother, Alma.

Mrs. Barrientos passed away August 29, 2020.



September 4 Violet Hinton
 September 5 Nancy Sutton
 September 11 Kathy Jack
 September 15 Melissa Mendoza
 September 17 Velma Pinedo
 September 20 Sharon Crippen
 September 24 Jay Austin
 September 25 Carolyn Hahn
 September 29 Scott Crippen

*You are unique, created by a loving God who designed the perfect plan for your life.
 Prayers that you see the beauty in yourself on this special day and every day.
 Happy & Blessed Birthday!*