

themessenger

"The Other Good News!"

SCC VISITS
NYC

OCTOBER 2017 **FREE!**



SCC Messenger

SING FOR THE MOMENT



By Matt Branham
Editor-in-chief

One does not simply plan a visit for New York City.

There was an itinerary for those who went on the NYC trip, but we never followed it. I had about three-hundred dollars on hand and an additional hundred for emergency funds, but I ended up needing even more than that. We figured that leaving our vacation rental three hours early would give us plenty of time to get breakfast and get some shopping done before heading home, but it took nearly all three hours just to get to the bus.

One does not simply live in New York City, either. Brooklyn's definition of a "cheap" 1-bedroom apartment runs for \$2,500 a month, without utilities. In "the city that never sleeps", who could really afford to? I

happened to talk to a owner of a nearby deli shop, who happens to work 16-hour shifts every single day. One option residents have to pay their ungodly rent is to lease out a chunk of space from their apartment. We didn't see our host much, and even with renting out space, he said he was lucky to afford one day off a week.

If neither time or money is an issue, however, this city can certainly entertain. Anything you could ever want (for better or worse) is readily available here. You can be in Times Square at 2am, and you'd still see giant stores and concert/theatre venues packed with people. I shudder at the very thought of celebrating New Year's here. While we came here for a life changing experience, it didn't come from all the

city's bells and whistles, but from worshipping with a group that has hundreds of singers, dozens albums, and multiple Grammy awards on its resume. I'm talking about what is effectively America's premiere church choir, The Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir.

Every year, more than a thousand people from around the world gather for a music conference. That's several days worth of practicing and worshipping with the choir, capped off with everyone singing on stage during a Sunday morning service. I once marched a halftime show at a NFL game ten years back, and not even that gave me a near-paralysing experience like this conference did.

There were times of prayer and healing as well. This year's theme

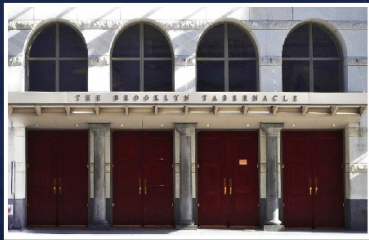
was "Sing For Joy", and that's something I admittedly did not have coming into this trip. At one point, I had the honor of speaking with both Director Carol and Pastor Jim, some of the most holy ghost filled people on the face of this planet. With them praying with me, my heart began to thrash around, as though a thorn-filled vine had been ripped out from where it was growing. There was so much fear and bitterness accumulating there, all gone and replaced with joy in a instant.

I believe it was a good twenty minutes before I could speak or walk again, but I had never felt more alive. Having that joy is the difference between going through the motions and being a good and faithful servant of the Lord.

And that is something I plan on keeping.

The Messenger Newsletter is a publication for the church by the church. If you have a story, prayer, event, or announcement that you would like to share, please submit it to the church office by e-mail or hard copy by no later than the last Sunday of this month. Information for the church bulletin is due every Friday at 6pm, as well as any verbal announcements for our Sunday service.

ABOUT



- THE CHURCH -

The Brooklyn Tabernacle is a multicultural, non-denominational church in the heart of downtown Brooklyn. The church began with a handful of members in a small, rundown building in a difficult area of the city, and today it is a congregation of about ten thousand people who attend the weekly services. Pastor Jim Cymbala and his wife Carol, who directs the Grammy Award winning Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir, have had the privilege to not only preach the gospel in the inner city, but also to see new churches grow out of the congregation in response to needs in other parts of the city and elsewhere in the country, as well as internationally. Because of its location, The Brooklyn Tabernacle has a unique open door to minister to the cross-cultural melting pot of New York City. The church itself includes members from all walks of life, and diverse ethnic and national origins. Central to the growth and outreach of The Brooklyn Tabernacle has been a strong emphasis on prayer, through the Tuesday Night Prayer Meeting and the Prayer Band, which is devoted to interceding for needs from around the world.



- THE CHOIR -

The Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir is directed by Carol Cymbala, the wife of Pastor Jim Cymbala. The 270-voice choir, which for the most part is composed of vocally untrained church members, has recorded three videos, three DVDs and numerous albums, winning five Dove Awards and six Grammy Awards. Their concert venues in New York City have included Carnegie Hall, Radio City Music Hall, and the Madison Square Garden Theater. They also had the honor of singing at the Billy Graham Crusades that were held in New York City's Central Park and Flushing Meadows Park. The choir sang at the 2012 Presidential inauguration in Washington, DC before an estimated viewing audience of 1 billion people. The recognition that the choir has received has provided them with an open door for ministry in presenting the gospel message through music to people all over the world.

But the choir was not always such a large ensemble. It actually began with nine people in the mid-1970s. Soon the small choir became a vital

part of the worship services of The Brooklyn Tabernacle. In the early 1980s Carol felt a desire to make a first recording. When she had trouble finding enough material, Carol began to write songs herself. The funds for the production of the first choir recording were raised by the choir members themselves who pre-sold albums to their friends and family members. The choir ended up raising enough funds to cover the rental of a large studio for one night, during which all of the sound tracks, vocals, and solos had to be recorded. What a joy it was for those early choir members to distribute that first album to their friends and loved ones!

After nearly thirty years of recordings and live performances, Carol and the choir continue to rely on the Lord for his grace and direction in their ministry. The Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir is a highly unlikely group of people, a mixture of ethnic and economic backgrounds, in the heart of a city synonymous with coldness and decay. Made up of doctors, attorneys and former street people, nurses and ex-crack addicts, the choir is a unique cross section of humanity. Pastor Cymbala explains: "None of us would have met if it weren't for Christ. Our backgrounds are just too diverse. But all of us have one thing in common: we have all been lifted up and changed by the power of Jesus Christ. So the choir sings, not about a mere theological

doctrine, but about what has happened to them. It's not just the lyrics of a song; it's a reality to each of them." Starting each rehearsal with prayer reinforces that principle as the choir asks the Lord to bless their music and anoint their songs for the services.

"I just want to see people drawn to Jesus Christ," Carol Cymbala says, "I want the music to be the arrow that points them to him."



- CHOIR F.A.Q -

What is their style of worship?
Carol favors hymnals over contemporary music because of their simplicity and for being "Biblically sound." The music is generally played at a slower pace so the lyrics are easier to "soak in".

When do they sing?
The Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir is scheduled to sing at all three Sunday worship services. They also perform at special times and events.

What is required to join?
You must be a member or are thinking of becoming a member at the Brooklyn Tabernacle.

How is the audition process?
There are three interviews. The first has the singer singing a song to a committee. The second has Carol asking a few questions about their walk with God. The last interview involves the senior pastor, who enforces a strict schedule and codes of conduct.

THE CON

Choir Director, Carol Cymbala.



Directors and staff take on a few questions about the choir.



Special concert for attendees.



View facing the audience.



Soloist Challenge Winner, Tajuana Guthrie.



The Brooklyn trip was amazing! Each conference session started with the Word delivered.
Hearing over a thousand voices sing praises to our Lord is heavenly! I ho

-Patricia Boy

Every once in a while, my dreams do come true!! I [

- Paige Ros

CONFERENCE

There was lots of worship and great moments to be had here.

Assistant Director, Brandon Camphor.



Special guest singer, Sidney Mohede.

Conference attendees singing with the BT Choir.



led by Pastor Jim Cymbia, a great theologian with a big heart for the lost and suffering.

Hope more of our congregation will go next year for spiritual refreshing!

Myer Jones-

[got] to worship GOD with these awesome people!

a Simms-

PLACES VISITED

Times Square



One World Trade Center



9/11 Memorial



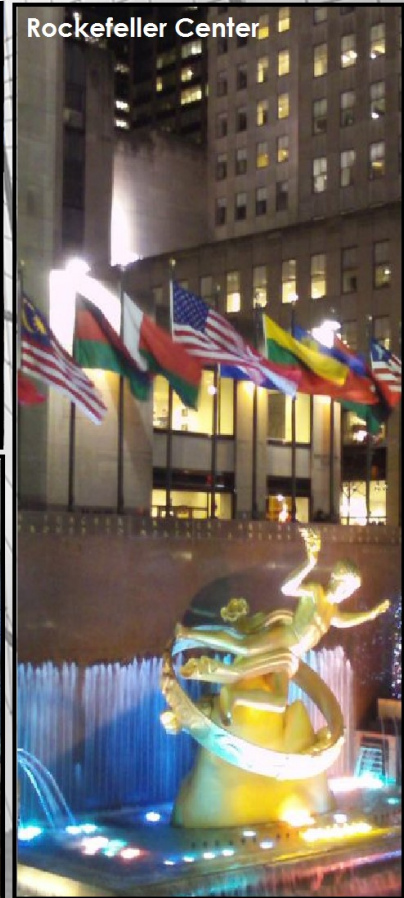
Statue of Liberty



Brooklyn Bridge



Rockefeller Center



Brooklyn Pentecostal Assembly



View from Staten Island Ferry



PRAYER AVE

Shannon Aupperle
Diana Boyer
Dave Gould
Reenie Griggs
Bill Grubb
Mickey & Bill Kindel
Warren Lynum

Paul Lynam
Jack Lent
Barb Scheffer
Brittany Smith
Denise Weirich
Betty Theiss

CELEBRATION CIR

10/8 Tony/Pam McKee
10/9 Michele Elrod
10/12 Hannah Moore
10/13 Chris Leseneski
10/17 Deanna Pottinger
John Michael
Poulakos III
Lucas Leseneski
Diane Grimes
Sue Moore
10/18 Gordon/Michelle Young
10/19 Marilyn Shidler
10/21 Dave Lombardi
10/24 Leo Lombardi
10/30

FOLLOW THE LEADER 
"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." Mark 8:34

EVENTS

OPEN ELECTION

The annual congregational meeting and election of officers of Summit Christian Church will be held **November 15th, 2017**. Members of the congregation may make suggestions for potential candidates from other members of themselves for positions of elder, deacon, trustee, or educational director by submitting their names in writing to one of the elders by **October 16th, 2017**.

UPWARD SUNDAY

October 15th is Upward Sunday. Most of our Upward athletes, cheerleaders, and their families will join us for a special celebration. We will worship together, followed by a tailgate party and closing program. If you would like to participate in our gathering, please sign up in the lobby. Bring a side dish!

BOARD/ELDERS MEETING

Our monthly Board and Elders Meeting will take place on **October 17th**. If you have a ministry report, please e-mail it to the church office as soon as possible. The board meeting will begin at **7:30pm**, followed by the elders meeting at **8:00pm**.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Our Wednesday Night Bible Study has resumed, and we are doing a deep study of the "end times." If you are interested... sign up at the welcome center, and we will see you at **7pm!**



Summit Christian Church
133 South Hawkins Ave.
Akron, OH 44313

ENTIRE CITY ENGULFED IN ARTIFICIAL FOG AFTER MEGACHURCH LEAVES DOOR OPEN

NEW YORK CITY, NY—The entire New York metropolitan area was blanketed in a bizarre manufactured fog for several hours Sunday morning after staff at Baywatch Church accidentally left a foyer door cracked open, allowing the artificial mist from the church's Sunday service to billow out into the community.

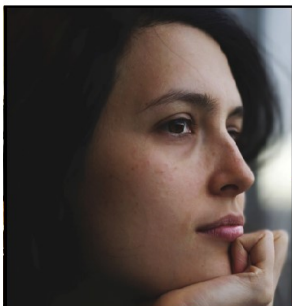
The church uses a specially modified fog machine designed to

pump out 400 times the recommended amount of fog, in addition to a proprietary, specially concentrated formula for the machine's

fluid, allowing the church to create a dense, moody atmosphere every service. But when an usher failed to close a door all the way,

the church suddenly found itself supplying its state-of-the-art, worshipful fog to the entire community. Cars careened into one another

as visibility quickly hit zero, all while churchgoers at Baywatch Church continued worshipping as normal, totally unaware of the havoc their exported worship experience was causing all over the Tri-State Area. As giant industrial fans were brought in to begin dispersing the fog, the National Guard emergency team asked all churches to "please fog responsibly."



IN OTHER NEWS:

Drama Still Tragically Following Local Woman Who Just Hates Drama

Local Christian Proud Of Himself For Loving People Who Are Exactly Like Him

For more Christian satire news, visit the Babylon Bee at babylonbee.com or fb.com/babylonbee.