



**COMMUNITY SERVICE BASED  
CHRISTIAN CELEBRATION  
2013 Feb 3**

*Helping our community with caring love while enabling them to  
find and follow Jesus!*

**Church for our community!**

# Agenda

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>DURATION EXPECTED</b>	
<b>INTRODUCTORY/ OPENING PRAYER</b>	5 min	3:00
Fellowship time	20 min	3:20
Gathering / Communicating Community needs	10 min	3:30
Gathering prayer needs	5 min	3:35
Prayer for community and praying for needs	10 min	3:45
Short Message/ Discussion /Helpful thoughts to remember from the bible	30 min	4:15
Prayer for wisdom in distribution of monetary contributions and taking tithes	5 min	4:20
Tea coffee and cookies		
View Music video	10 min	4:30
Discussion on work parties and activities planned to support the community over the next period (specifically for the next week)	25 min	4:55
Closing prayer	5min	5:00



# True love and caring . . .

Romans 12:9-17

Love must be honest and true. Hate what is evil. Hold on to what is good. Love each other deeply. Honor others more than yourselves. Never let the fire in your heart go out. Keep it alive. Serve the Lord. When you hope, be joyful. When you suffer, be patient. When you pray, be faithful. **Share with God's people who are in need. Welcome others into your homes.**

Bless those who hurt you. Bless them, and do not call down curses on them. Be joyful with those who are joyful. Be sad with those who are sad. Agree with each other. Don't be proud. **Be willing to be a friend of people who aren't considered important.** Don't think that you are better than others.

Don't pay back evil with evil. Be careful to do what everyone thinks is right. **If possible, live in peace with everyone.** Do that as much as you can.

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Community needs?

# Notes on Needs

## High:

- \$500 oil need for a family
- C & J family needs food \$150
- J & A family needs food \$200
- School fund

## MEDIUM:

Joan (prayer)

Mission Trip for Summer

Feb check on C&J

## LOW:

T.C. needs deck wood \$350 (money put aside in purse- Morry)

Sand and paint the rest of a deck, some boards to be replaced (5 pieces)

## Monthly

Donations for Evergreen Heights Breakfast club / Food bank -\$50 (Not this month)

Food pantry/community cupboard collection on 1st Sunday of each month

coffee, canned fruit, juice, vegetable cans -\$100

Gas fund for needy people.

## **REMINDER:**

Pay C. For assistance to Bill – House cleaning cost \$40 per time and she goes twice a month, \$40 needed –Check this next week

Harvey indicated he has 6 cords of wood

M & L may need more food.(\$150)

J & A may need food (\$200 now)

Donations for Evergreen Heights Breakfast club / Food bank -\$50

Food bank \$100

E+A (check on them)

## Planning needs

1. Mission fund : \$145Kathy + \$100 Penny
2. Heating wood provision : Paid completely
3. C. Deck provision (\$350 Morry)

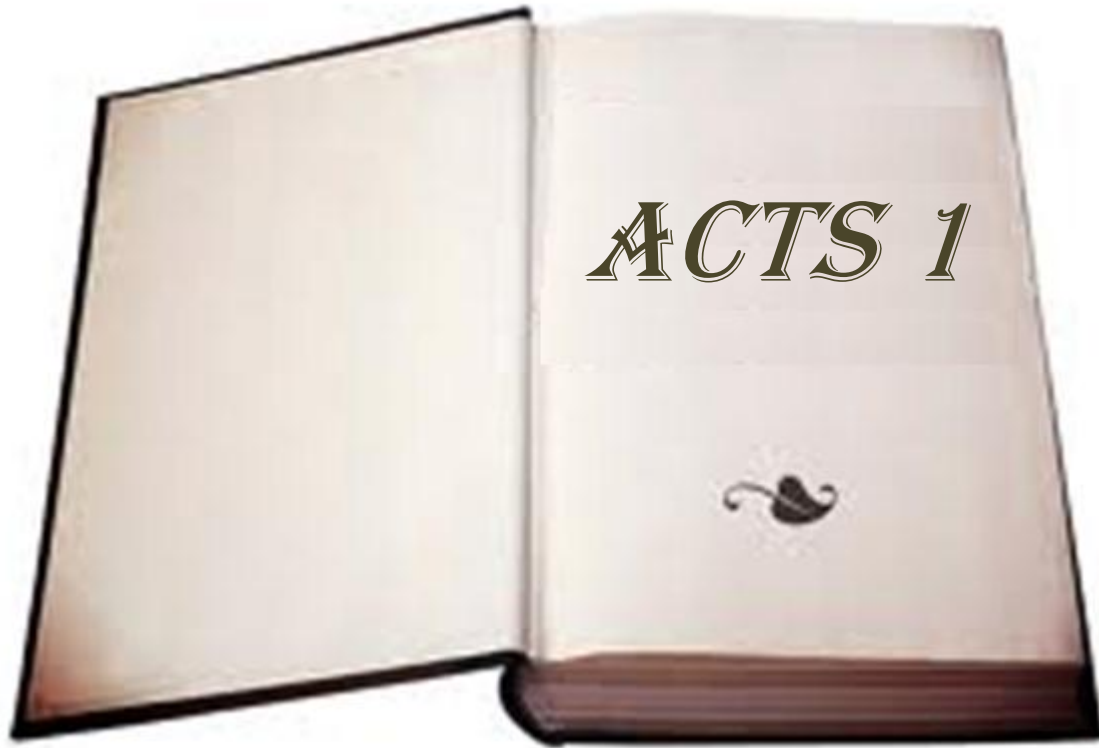
	GIFTS DISTRIBUTION FOR NEEDS	TOTAL	Kathleen	Morry	Ken&Penn
	PURSE TOTALS	\$ 340	\$ 145.00	\$ 95.00	\$ 100.00
27-Jan-13	Morry additional purse money	10		10	
27-Jan-13	income	320		320	
27-Jan-13	Family needing food. L.	-150		-150	
27-Jan-13	Food bank support for families	-100		-100	
		\$ 340			

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*ACTS 1*



So they suggested two men. One was Joseph, who was called Barsabbas. He was also called Justus. The other man was Matthias. Then they prayed. “Lord,” they said, “you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen. Show us who should take the place of Judas as an apostle. He gave up being an apostle to go where he belongs.” Then they cast lots. Matthias was chosen. So he was added to the 11 apostles.

# Joseph Justus Barsabbas

So we need to choose someone to take his place. **It will have to be a man who was with us the whole time the Lord Jesus lived among us.** That time began when John was baptizing. It ended when Jesus was taken up from us. The one we choose must join us in giving witness that Jesus rose from the dead.”

He was with the disciples the whole time!

**Joseph was a member of the wider  
circle of disciples**

# Joseph Justus Barsabbas

In Christian tradition, he is numbered among the Seventy Disciples mentioned in Luke 10:1-24

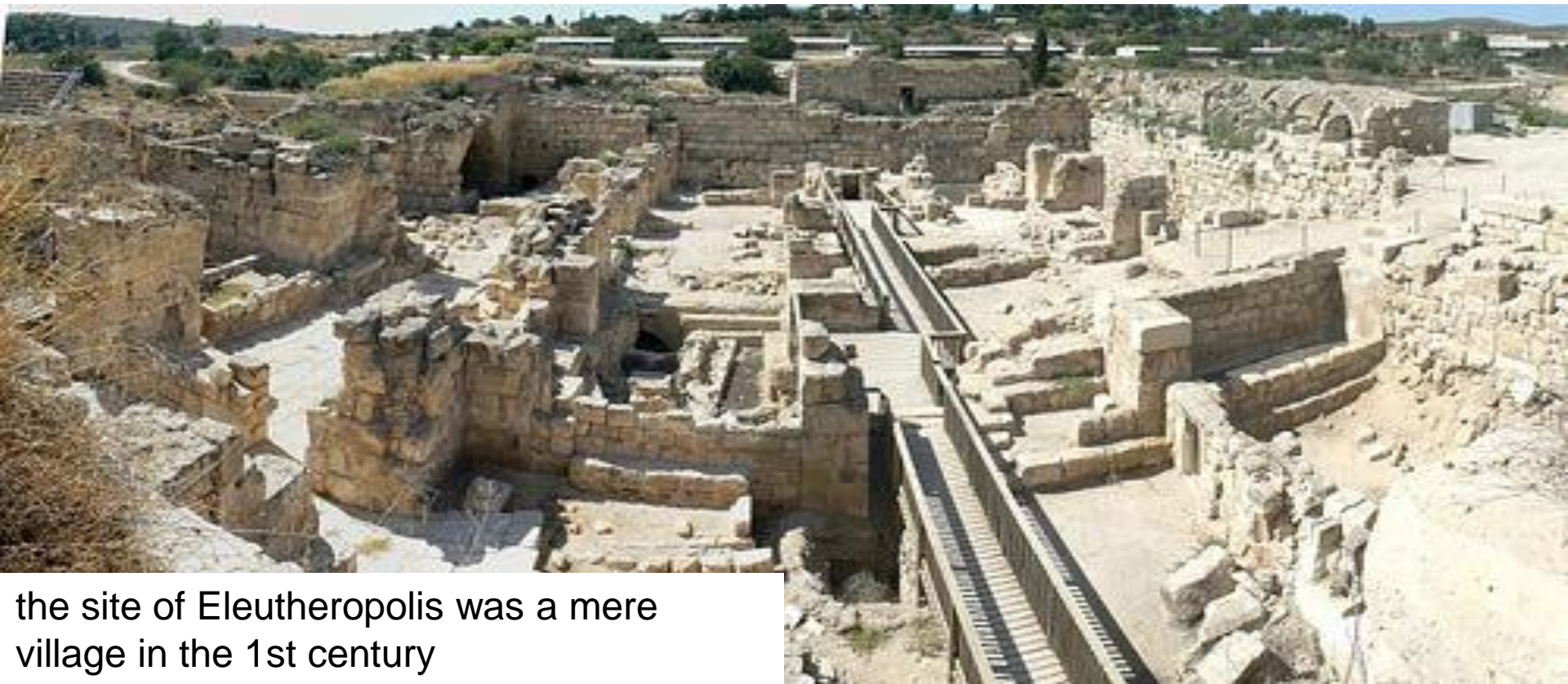
After this the Lord appointed 72 others. He sent them out two by two ahead of him. They went to every town and place where he was about to go.

*He is not mentioned in the gospels anywhere either....  
...what can we learn from this?*

# Joseph Justus Barsabbas

In Christian tradition, this Justus went on to become Bishop of Eleutheropolis, where he died a martyr

Eleutheropolis (Greek, "City of the Free") was a Roman city in Israel, some 53 km southwest of Jerusalem. Its remains still straddle the ancient road to Gaza.



the site of Eleutheropolis was a mere village in the 1st century

# Matthias

It will have to be a man who was with us the whole time the Lord Jesus lived among us

no mention of a Matthias among the lists of disciples or followers of Jesus in the three synoptic gospels

Even his name is variable: the Syriac version calls him throughout not Matthias but "Tolmai"

According to Nicephorus (*Historia eccl.*, 2, 40), **Matthias first preached the Gospel in Judaea**, then in Aethiopia (made out to be a synonym for the region of Colchis, now in modern-day **Georgia**) and **was stoned to death in Colchis**



*Nicephorus ~ Greek historians around 1320.*

# Matthias – “false writings”

Surviving fragments of the lost Gospel of Matthias  
attribute it to Matthias,

but Early Church Fathers attributed it to *heretical  
writings in the 2nd century*

***Not everything that says  
“gospel” is a Christian gospel!***

So they suggested two men. One was **Joseph**, who was called **Barsabbas**. He was also called **Justus**. The other man was **Matthias**. Then they prayed. **“Lord,”** they said, **“you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen. Show us who should take the place of Judas as an apostle. He gave up being an apostle to go where he belongs.”** Then they cast lots. Matthias was chosen. So he was added to the 11 apostles.



**“you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen. Show us who should take the place of Judas as an apostle. He gave up being an apostle to go where he belongs.”**

Do we think God knows our heart?  
How do we feel about that?

“you know everyone’s heart. **Show us which of these two you have chosen.** Show us who should take the place of Judas as an apostle. He gave up being an apostle to go where he belongs.”

When we ask God to show us something do we wait for a blinding light, words out of heaven or miracles?  
How does God show us things?

Then they cast lots. Matthias was chosen. So he was added to the 11 apostles.

**Casting of lots occurs frequently in the bible...**

Leviticus 16:8 He must cast lots for the two goats. One lot is for me. The other is for the goat that carries the people's sins away.

Joshua 18:6 Write reports about the features of those seven shares of land. Bring them here to me. Then I'll cast lots for you in the sight of the Lord our God.

Then they cast lots. Matthias was chosen. So he was added to the 11 apostles.

### **Casting of lots occurs frequently in the bible...**

Nehemiah 10:34

“We are the priests, Levites and people. We have cast lots to decide when each of our families should bring a gift of wood to the house of our God.

Psalm 22:18

They divide up my clothes among them. They cast lots for what I am wearing.

Then they cast lots. Matthias was chosen. So he was added to the 11 apostles.

Isn't this gambling?

Why?

How would we “cast lots” today?

Proverbs 16:33

Lots are cast into the lap to make decisions. But everything they decide comes from the Lord.

Proverbs 18:18

Casting lots will put a stop to arguing. It will keep the strongest enemies apart.

# What do we do when decisions are hard to make?

1. **Pray** : Jesus prayed in Gethsemane, we need to as a minimum pray asking God for wisdom and guidance. Prayer to lock up selfishness, repenting of sin, and holding up the burden to God to enable him to lift it (“Come to me, all of you who are tired and are carrying heavy loads. I will give you rest. Become my servants and learn from me. I am gentle and free of pride. You will find rest for your souls. Serving me is easy, and my load is light.” Matthew 11:30 NIRV)

# What do we do when decisions are hard to make?

2. **Listen to trusted Christian's advice:** (The way of a foolish person seems right to him. But a wise person listens to advice. Proverbs 12:15 NIRV) Wiser experienced Christians can be gentle, loving and guiding at the same time. Sometimes they will even offer help from the community that can help us feel less alone in these times. Non-Christians cannot give Christ based advice. Be careful of giving this Non-Christian advice too much weight, but listen to them as well. Sometimes they have good ideas you can then pass across to Christians to help you evaluate.

# What do we do when decisions are hard to make?

### 3. **Read God's word, the bible:**

Sometimes we don't hear from God because we simply don't go to God's word when we are stressed with decisions. God left these words to enable us to use them, but if we ignore the light of the word, it's hard to see the way through the fog of despair.



# What do we do when decisions are hard to make?

## 4. **“God’s glory” consideration:**

When we are under stress, it often slips our mind that we are not central to life, God is. Our lives are of value as they bring God glory. What is the decision path that will best bring God glory? Often this can help decide between options that look similar at first glance. It’s part of applying the “love God” guidelines of the Christian walk.

# What do we do when decisions are hard to make?

## 5. **What will assist others?:**

Christians are to not be selfish, but we are to “love others as we love ourselves”. Taking this into consideration when making a decision can also help discern one way as being better than another.

# What do we do when decisions are hard to make?

6. **What will show God to the world more clearly?:** Another Christian evaluation criteria is which of the decisions will enable others to meet and see God more clearly. How can our decision reach others more effectively for God. Sometimes this can help us decide on the correct path.

# What do we do when decisions are hard to make?

7. **“Cast lots!”** If everything in the above six steps have been done, and there is still no clarity of what to do and there are choices to be made that all seem of equal importance. then we step into a simple decision making situation that is very biblical. We can toss a coin and take the outcome as the correct path.

**Can you see that Christians can never end up without ability to decide, using the above seven steps?**

Agonizing for days upon days, is not what God wants in our lives.

God wants us to experience the joy of living, even through the tough circumstances of life.

# PRAYER NEEDS

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I am every man  
Wonderful merciful saviour  
God of this city  
Heavens Joy awaits  
East is from the West  
While you were sleeping  
You raise me up  
Light of my life  
How great is our Great

Who am 1

Gentle Shepherd  
Mighty to Save



Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary

Next slide. . .



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	PURSE TOTALS	\$ 265	\$ 145.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 100.00
3-Feb-13	Income	805		805	
3-Feb-13	Contribution towards oil for a family	-500		-500	
3-Feb-13	Breakfast fund for Evergreen school	-50		-50	
3-Feb-13	food for Family A & J	-200		-200	
3-Feb-13	food for Family C & J	-150		-150	
		\$ 265			

SGC next week

but not the week of 17<sup>th</sup> Feb



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CHRISTIAN CELEBRATION**

***Helping our community with caring love while enabling them to  
find and follow Jesus!***

**Church for people disillusioned with church, who want to make a difference!**