

Why I Am Glad Christ the Redeemer Church Exists in San Marcos

By Steven Price

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Celebrating the 5th Anniversary of CTRC

Five years ago Gary called me up when he was still the minister at the other church and he told me that it was not working out. He told me he was going to resign and that there were some people talking about starting a new church here in town. I asked him one question, "Is Bert Cobb going to help start the new church?" He told me yes, Bert was going. I said, "Well then I am going also." I grew up with Shane, Bert's son, so we have known each other a long time. I trusted the Cobb family.

I grew up in this town and this town needed a new church. We needed Gary and Pam and we needed the kind of thinking they brought to church and to town.

I was baptized in this church in the San Marcos River at the Parkerson River Place. Gary said that Curtis enjoyed seeing baptisms and bikinis at the same time at our baptisms. I don't recall the bikinis but I will always remember my baptism for the rest of my life. There were river tubers going by and there was a train going by just as I was baptized. That is so San Marcos with the tubers and the trains.

Over the past five years I have attended church here at CTRC some Sundays and some Sundays I have gone to my wife's church. I am married to a Catholic and my boys are growing up in the Catholic Church so I go with them sometimes to church. Between their church, sports, school, and life it just gets complicated some Sundays as you know. Some Sundays I go with them, some Sundays I would go here. Some Sundays I just would not know what to do so I stayed home, just to be honest. But I have always been very glad that this church existed in this town. This church is needed.

Gary and I have breakfast on a regular basis. I have to work hard to find a time in my business calendar to have breakfast with him. Don't take this wrong Gary, because it means a lot to me, but I have to block out two hours for breakfast because we always have a lot to talk about.

This church exists for the good of other people and for the good of the community. My mother has been struggling with her health and sometimes I just need to talk to Gary. Sometimes I will be planning to call Gary to arrange a breakfast to talk with him about something and then the phone rings and it is Gary. How does that work?

Last week mom was hospitalized and I was about to call Gary. I got a phone call and the caller ID said Gary Smith. How does that happen? We had breakfast together and I was trying to make arrangements with him to meet my mother and talk with her after she got out of the hospital.

Gary said, "She needs a pastor. I will go to the hospital and visit her today." I shrugged,

not being sure it was a good idea. But it is Gary's profession so he must know what he was talking about so I agreed to his going and I gave him her hospital room number.

He visited her that day. He gave her a wooden cross. She asked for two more for two dear friends of hers. So he returned to her room the next day with two more crosses for her friends. She told me that his visits meant so much to her and helped her so much.

It is hard to find this kind of caring and this kind of church and this kind of pastor. Your church members can not be everywhere during the week so Gary's face is your face during the week at hospitals and doing things around town in your name.

That is the kind of thing this church stands for in this town. It is hard to believe it has been five years since we started this church but it was a very good thing to do. It is an honor to speak today on this occasion of the 5th Anniversary of CTRC. San Marcos needs CTRC and we need more churches like this one.