

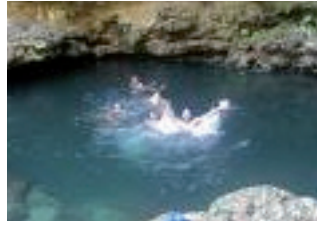
# NYMC This Week...

**W**ater and Wine were the essential elements of Jesus' first miracle. Christian folklore tries to paint Jesus as a miracle before the start of HIS ministry on Earth. However, if we check the facts presented in the Bible, we find the truth is different. The gospel according to Saint John tells us the story.

**J**ohn 2: 1- 11 tells us the story of the wedding Jesus attended. On the third day the wine runs out. Jesus' mother Mary tells HIM and then tells the disciples to do whatever HE says. Utilizing six stone water jars reserved for ceremonial washing, Jesus tells HIS disciples to fill them with water. A total of around 120 to 180 gallons of water are used. Verse eight says "Then he told them, 'Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.'"

**T**he water is then drawn out and served to the master of the banquet. He tasted the best wine. Verse eleven then says "This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him."

**N**otice that this was the "first of HIS miraculous signs" and not a continuation from childhood. Also notice that the water is a symbol used throughout Jesus' ministry. HE as baptized through immersion in water. (Matthew 3;16; Mark 1:10) HE tells the woman at the well HE is the "Living Water." (John 4: 10-16) HE walks on water in Matthew 14 and calms the storm. HE preaches on a boat in the water (Luke 5) HE tells the disciples they will be "fishers of men" in Matthew 4:19. Water is very important even in the death of Christ. On the cross as recorded in John 19: 28, He said "I am thirsty."



## **THE WATER AND THE WINE**

*"But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe."*

**JOHN 19:33-35**



**New Youth  
Made in Christ  
Newsletter  
January 20, 2008  
Volume 2  
Issue 2**

**T**he wine is another important element in the ministry of Christ. The new wine in Matthew 9: 14-17 and Luke 5: 37-39. The wine of the New Covenant in Matthew 26: 17-30. In John 19: 29 the response to Jesus' thirst is given in the form of wine vinegar.

**T**he Living water that cleanses us and the wine that reminds us of the sacrifice of the Lamb of GOD are essential to our faith. Consider the story of when Jesus washed the feet of the disciples. (John 13 : 1-17) Peter doesn't want Jesus to do this but when Jesus explains the reason for this act, Peter wants to have his hands and head cleaned as well. The priests used to wash themselves as apart of a ritual. Jesus wants the washing to be more than a repetitious ritual. HE wants it to be real, refreshing and restorative.

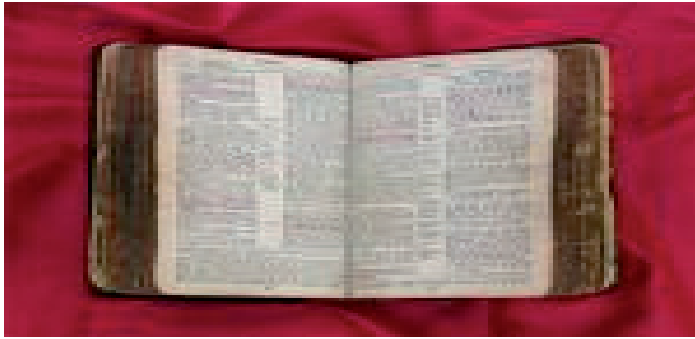
**W**hen was the last time you really reflected on the water and the wine? Do you see that without the cleansing power of the blood of Christ, no water could ever make us clean enough for GOD? Have you truly understood that the New Covenant established in the blood of the Christ grants us the eternal communion with the Father? From the start, Jesus does not hide what HIS purpose is on Earth.

**I**s there something keeping you from truly experiencing HIS love in you life? Is there something blocking your path? Commit to praying for yourself. That Living Water that wells up in you and the wine of the Communion are real examples of Christ in your life. Do not let that go unnoticed. The Lord wants you to be free, to be clean and in full communion (fellowship) with HIM always. Let HIM wash your feet and remember to drink of the wine. There is a wedding feast approaching. Be ready.

## WHO AM I? WHO ARE YOU?

**Isaiah 62:11**

**The LORD has made proclamation to the ends of the earth: "Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your Savior comes! See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.' "**



“Who am I?” This is a question that we often ignore until we hit a crossroads. We are defined by ethnicity, nationality, societal affiliations, church membership, experiences, abundance, or lack of, material goods, others’ opinions, our own opinions, religion, political lean, school, degrees, job, family, friends, and ... What is missing?.... How about GOD!

When we are asked “Who are you?” We might be tempted to answer using one or more of the above defining factors. However, GOD has already defined us. Did you know that GOD wants you to succeed? Success does not mean becoming a wealthy tycoon. What if success means that you make yourself available to HIS will and HIS way? What if one person reached out to another and made a change in their life?

When I see our church “members”, I smile ear to ear. Want to know why? I see people in which Sandra and I have invested our time, energy, prayers, and sacrifices. Sometimes to the point of exhaustion. I see people who are learning to do the same with each other. I feel proud. I feel defined in the Lord. We were called in 1995 to be missionaries to young people. We only pray that we are being faithful to that calling.

Who am I? A child of the Eternal, Most Holy GOD. Who am I? A pathetic soul that GOD has had to mold over and over again to sometimes make me do what HE has called. Who am I? A man that has a broken heart for youth that are going to hell so fast that they flash by my eyes. I cry out to GOD to give me just a moment to share the Gospel with them. Who am I? A desperate person praying that his children will one day accept Christ as their Savior and carry on the work.

It is not easy. But I BELIEVE with all my heart that the Lord has given us all the opportunity to live for Christ and make a difference in the lives of young people. It is the hardest thing I know to do. I cannot ever give it up. I am an addict to Youth ministry. Once we got started, we just couldn’t stop. A soul is going to hell. How can I/we let that happen?

I need to do this. I am not defined if I am not working with young people. I know this for certain. Anywhere I am called to serve, I need to be a friend of GOD and follow HIM no matter what. Who am I? A fool for Christ struggling every day of my life to motivate and encourage young people. I want my kids to have a strong youth ministry. I have too often seen churches that leave the youth out in the cold. Guess what? They freeze. They become like ice to the things of the Lord.

I dare you to let GOD define you. I dare you to step up and be counted. I dare you to live for Christ. I dare you...

Are you ready! Are you READY! Are YOU READY! The Ground Zero battle cry still echoes in my mind. Do you hear it? It starts as a small voice and grows. I know you all have the guts to do this. I BELIEVE in all of you. Do you believe GOD’s promise to use you as a mighty army? Wow! I can see the multitude gathering. HE is calling. Calling you. Calling you by name. Wow! Get ready. The battle is on. Want to jump in? Who are you?

***NYMC THIS WEEK...***

**NYMC  
C/O  
RVBC  
150 Franklin Ave  
Oakland, NJ 07436**

**PHONE:**  
201-978-0049 Pastor Cruz  
201-978-0050 Sandra Cruz

**Pastor:** Roberto Cruz

**Worship Minister:** Steven Cruz

**Discipleship:**  
Pastor Cruz & Steven Cruz

**Children's Ministry & Finance:**  
Ruth Cruz

**Assistant Finance Director:**  
Anamar Graciani

**Youth Leader:** Efrain Gonzalez

**Media Publications:**  
Jose Gonzalez

**Spanish Translators:** Gilberto  
Graciani & Jose Gonzalez

**E-MAIL:**  
7rcruz@msn.com  
nymcmom@hotmail.com

“NOT YO  
MAMA’S  
CHURCH”

**WHEN WE DO STUFF..**

**Every Sunday @ 1 pm – Discipleship  
Every Sunday @ 2 pm – Worship Service  
1st three Saturdays each month – Youth and  
College Ministries**

**All the time – Prayer, Praise, Supplication  
Why?**

**Matthew 28: 18-20**

**Matthew 22: 36-40**

**Romans 15: 5-6**

*NYMC exists to Nurture the hearts and souls  
of those who seek the true GOD and Yearn  
for HIS Salvation, to provide the opportunity  
for the hearts and souls to Mature by getting  
Involved in the family of GOD and Cry out in  
praise to the one true GOD.*

**Nurture = Ministry  
Yearn = Evangelism  
Mature = Discipleship  
Involved = Fellowship  
Cry out = Worship**

**PEACE**

**Spanish translation available  
Mensaje disponible en español**

## NYMC MONTHLY BIRTHDAYS:

January:

10: Sandy  
 14: Ye  
 22: Kayla  
 27: Catarina

### NYMC HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE MINISTRIES CALENDAR JANUARY – APRIL 2008

#### JANUARY

#### **WHO IS GOD? WHO AM I?**

SESSIONS: 12TH & 19TH

The 19th will also be used to celebrate Kayla's Birthday from 2 PM – 5 PM. This session will commence at the end of the party.

We will examine:

- Who GOD really is
- Why does HE love me?
- How can I show my love/appreciation for what HE has done

#### FEBRUARY

#### **GOD SHOWS HIS LOVE**

SESSIONS: 9TH, 16TH & 23RD

(THE BUILDING IS IN USE ON FEBRUARY 2ND)

We will analyze:

- How GOD has expressed HIS love
- How relationships are a living model of GOD's love
- How we should glorify GOD through our relationships

#### MARCH

#### **CHRIST IN PROPHECY**

SESSIONS: 1ST, 8TH & 15TH

We will explore:

- The prophecies of Christ's life in the Old Testament
- Investigate how they came alive in the New Testament and our lives

#### APRIL

#### **NEW COVENANT**

SESSIONS: 5TH, 12TH & 19TH

We will:

- Investigate the life of the early church under the New Covenant
- Study evangelistic methods used by the early church
- Apply Biblical strategies to our evangelistic efforts

#### **CELL GROUPS**

These groups will meet with leaders on the Saturdays not listed above. These dates are: January 26th, February 2nd, March 29th and April 26th. Each group will determine the time and location. Ladies will meet with Sandra and Ruth while the men will meet with Roberto and Steven.