Did you know?

A friend of mine, Sylvia Hordosch pointed out to me after reading the short essay below that "The Hebrew words for mercy and a female womb / uterus have the same root!"

After learning this (thank you Sylvia) I did a little digging and found this:

The Hebrew word most often translated "mercy" in the Old Testament is Strong's #7356. racham, and is defined by Strong's Hebrew Dictionary as compassion; by extension, it is the womb (as cherishing the foetus); by implication, it is a maiden. Brown Driver Briggs Hebrew Lexicon defines racham as: to love, to love deeply, to have mercy, to be compassionate, to have tender affection, to have compassion. It is from #7358. rechem, which is defined by the New American Standard Dictionary as: the womb.

Another word translated as "mercy" is Strong's #2603 chanan and is defined by Strong's Hebrew Dictionary as: to bend or stoop in kindness to an inferior; to favor, bestow; or to implore (that is, to move to favor by petition). It is defined by the New American Standard Dictionary as: to show favor or to be gracious.
Another word sometimes translated "mercy" but more often "lovingkindness" is Strong's #2617: chesed, which is defined as goodness or kindness. It is from #2616: chasad, to be good or kind.

In the New Testament, there are two words most often translated "mercy." The first is Strong's #1656: eleos, mercy, pity, or compassion. It is used as a noun and is the thing, itself. The other word has its source in eleos and is Strong's #1653: eleew, to have pity or mercy on, to show mercy. It is used as a verb and is the act of having or showing mercy.

According to Unger's Bible Dictionary, "mercy" is defined as: "a form of love determined by the state or condition of its objects. Their state is one of suffering and need, while they may be unworthy or ill-deserving. Mercy is, at once the disposition of love respecting such, and the kindly ministry of love for their relief."

More tomorrow at 11:00 a.m.
A Conversation With The Word in the Historic Sanctuary of Manhattan Church, 232 West 11th Street, NYC

"The Church as Womb"

A Conversation With The Word. - Pastor Tony Romeo
This Saturday, November 12 at 11:00 a.m.
in the Sanctuary of Historic Manhattan Church,
232 West 11th Street, NYC In the West Village.

I am fully appreciative and convinced that a well developed group of people coming together to grow and worship God whether in a small group or larger consistent gathering that makes up a living church, is the womb in which we can grow in Christ.

If each person in the womb or church is connected to the umbilical cord of life giving nutrients from our Creator, we can grow into the full measure of abundant life in Jesus Christ. As we grow in this living womb, our prejudice and judgement of others fades, if we are fed daily and moment by moment by God's love.

In an atmosphere of warmth and safety, we can move about in the world protected and grow in daily blessings from the source of all life.

In this loving womb or church, we look out for each other and seek to help each other for we know that we are all connected, each with our own personalities, needs and growth patterns.

When others enter this "womb", there is joy for there is now new life. New potential for the greater good.

Our eyes, skin and ancestry may look different to the casual observer, but we are one. We are all being born again in a womb that has not been made by human effort, but conceived by the Spirit of the living God.

This Saturday morning at 11:00 a.m. we will be taking a look at the concept of how the church can be a loving womb in which we can all grow together. It is no secret that in the book of John Christ meets with a very intelligent person by the name of Nicodemus a leader in the Jewish
The ruling council and Christ suggests that "no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

Nicodemus then inquires "How can a man be born again when he is old? Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" John 3:3-4

It seems to me that a healthy church is a healthy womb in which we can all grow. Our families, our children, our single adults, our young adults and our married couples. In that "womb" the elderly can find respect as they age and those who are younger can appreciate them. Each and every one of us can come together in a shared experience where our lives can find renewed opportunity to experience a new birth.

"Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good." - 1 Peter 2:1-3

There is a short piece that I read this morning that may give us a glimpse of the womb in which we can grow. It is from the book God Makes The Rivers Flow - An Anthology Of The World's Sacred Poetry & Prose, Eknath Easwaran.

"Silence"

I weave a silence onto my lips.
I weave a silence into my mind.
I weave a silence within my heart.
I close my eyes to distractions.
I close my eyes to attractions.
I close my heart to temptations.

Calm me, O Lord, as you stilled the storm.
Still me, O Lord, keep me from harm.
Let all tumult within me cease.
Enfold me, Lord, in peace.

"The Church as Womb." This Saturday morning, November 12 at 11:30 a.m. Manhattan Church, 232 West 11th Street, Greenwich Village, NYC.

Best regards -

Tony Romeo, Pastor / REACH-NYC

P.S. Below are a few gatherings you may want to join including a small group meeting we have on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. in an intimate room located at Manhattan Church, 232 West 11th Street, NYC. We study the Bible and share issues and concerns that are important to each of us. You are welcome to join us on Wednesday, November 9 at 7:00 p.m.

- Please scroll down for more study and worship opportunities -
TONIGHT

Do you think you have troubles? Can you relate to this song?
Hear this 1930’s Early Country Blues Hit, sung by Blind Boy Fuller.

"Walking My Troubles Away"

CAFE REACH
FRIDAY NIGHT, NOVEMBER 11 AT CAFE REACH / 7 P.M.
232 WEST 11th STREET, NYC

Join us for a discussion based on an old Jewish story
"The Tree of Sorrows."

Do you ever think that you would be happy if you could just live
the life of someone else?

Come to think, discuss and share!

- Please scroll down for more study and worship opportunities -
SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2011  
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
IN THE CHAPEL AT UNION SQUARE

AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY AT 1:00 P.M.  
IN THE MEZZANINE LIBRARY

Study will take place in an intimate chapel,  
just inside the lobby and to the right at  
Seafarers International House, 123 East 15th Street, NYC  
Between Third Ave. and Irving Place

There is nothing like studying the Word in a relaxed setting.

Join Tommy Lane and David Ephraim  
with Organist Eiichi

- Please scroll down for more study and worship opportunities -
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2011
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

ENJOY A MORE FORMAL SERVICE IN THE HISTORIC SANCTUARY OF MANHATTAN CHURCH IN THE WEST VILLAGE AT
232 WEST 11th STREET, NYC
- Just one and a half blocks west of Seventh Ave. -

Pastor Tony Romeo will be sharing the topic
"The Church as Womb."
In a Conversation with the Word.

Praise to God with music, prayer and a focused look at how the love of a caring God can bring joy and clarity to all of our lives. The morning service will provide a time for communal prayer for special needs in a community of shared reflection.

Families are invited to bring their children.

You are invited to stay for a healthy vegetarian lunch that will be served after the worship service.

Members of all faith traditions are welcome to attend.

Enjoy this New York City Landmark in one of the finest communities in NYC. A community dedicated to sharing the Word in Love.

Enjoy a Special Piano Recital by our Resident Musician Eiichi Shimada on Tuesday, November 22, 2011 / 8 P.M. at Saint Peter's Church, 619 Lexington Ave. at 54th St., NYC
"For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

2 Peter 1:5-8

Individual and group Bible study sessions are always available. Write to: reachnyc.contact@gmail.com.

Click on the link below to view the REACH-NYC website: reach-nyc.com

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*All donations are fully tax deductible.