

Celebrating Our Family Tree

October 22, 2017

A family tree is a chart often used to display generations of family. It resembles a tree in that with each subsequent generation the tree grows taller and the branches grow fuller. The genealogies in the Bible have often been illustrated as family trees.

Today is a special day for us to celebrate our family tree. Let us fondly remember those of past and present who have been branches of life-giving nutrients. Let us think warmly of those former members who have gone on to their reward, as well as those who have been carried to other places in Christ's far-reaching kingdom. All of these have placed crucial roles in fashioning our tree into what it is today.

Today we have much to celebrate, for the generations of our spiritual family go much farther back than when this congregation that meets in Cordova began. Paul wrote, "And if you are Christ's, then **you are Abraham's seed**, and heirs according to the promise" (Gal. 3:29). Indeed even farther than that, "For you are all **sons of God** through Christ Jesus" (3:26). What a family tree we have!

Today, we also celebrate the visitors we have invited: our family, friends, coworkers, neighbors, and those who just dropped in. If you are visiting with us today, you have showed an interest in us by being here. We appreciate your interest. We hope you will find us a strong tree with deep roots, a tree with many helpful branches, branches that are connected to the True Vine (which is Christ; Jn. 15:1-10). We would be delighted if you would consider "growing with us," for our tree's purpose is to bear much fruit for our Lord (Jn. 15:5).