

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER

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Newsletter of the Washington Christian Church

AUGUST 2006

2006 - YEAR OF CONSTRUCTION

Garden Partner

by Margaret Rorke

I own a garden.
I plant and I hoe,
But I've a partner
I think you might know.
He mixes seasons
And ripens my seeds.
For His own reasons
He adds a few weeds.
He give me sunshine
And showers and soil,
Sparks my ambition
And ardor to toil,
Nods at my pride in
The things I have grown,
And smiles when I speak
Of the garden "I" own.

August Is a Copper Kettle

by John C Bonser

August is a copper kettle
Filled to brim with molten sun,
Pouring golden batter slowly
Till it's griddlecakes are done.
August is a desert nomad
Traveling through an arid land,
Searching for some small oasis
In an endless stretch of sand.
August is a dreamer's knapsack
Packed with lazy, leisure days,
Strapped to Summer's sturdy shoulders
With the chords time's piper plays.
August, stay a little longer,
Let your heat becalm us all;
There are duties waiting for us
In the workplace of the fall!

VBS Fiesta 2006 !!

Where Kids are On Fire for Jesus!

July 30th ~ August 4th, 6:00-8:45 p.m.

IT'S HERE !!! So let's get fired up about Jesus! If you haven't already, be sure to invite all your friends and neighbors to this year's WCC ~VBS.

Each Crew member will learn Jesus is our friend, our life, our leader, our Savior and our helper! There will be daily challenges in Chadder's Desert Drive-in Theater, Cactus Crafts, Grande Games, Hot Bible Adventures, Maraca Munchies and lots of awesome music in Sing & Play Ole! Our mission for the week will be Mission Mexico 2006.

This year the ages for kids to attend will be 4 year olds through 5th grade. We will take 3 year olds but only if you are a helper for VBS. Also, a Nursery will be available for worker's children.

Again this year we will offer a simple, fairly inexpensive meal before VBS starts each night, (except for Sunday evening) for those who are helping and their children that are attending. The menu and a sign-up sheet will be posted shortly before VBS starts. This allows those helpers who need to be here early or are coming directly from work to be able to eat and not have to worry about fixing supper.

VBS Closing Program: After the VBS Program is over, the kids are always excited to let the adults know just what they have learned during the week. Each year we have a closing program which gives the kids a chance to perform their songs and memory verses, see videos of themselves, and give one more cheer for the most successful team at bringing in donations for our mission project.

This year we will hold the program on Sunday, August 6th during the Church Worship Service. We will be changing the Worship/Sunday School schedule a bit to accommodate this program. Sunday School will be held at 9 AM with Worship service at 10 AM. (Only one service that day.) Please join us as we support our VBS staff as they help the kids end this year's VBS with a grand Fiesta for Jesus!

Thank you for your prayers and support! If you have any questions or want to help out, please contact either Jess Bochart (444-8531) or Jess Pittman (444-5868).

REFLECTIONS FROM THE MINISTERS

Well, as you may know, a few weeks ago our high schoolers and a few adult leaders spent a week in Monclova, Mexico. While there, we helped a sister church, La Aviación, do some construction work during the day, and helped with their VBS in the evenings. I was really encouraged by how hard our kids worked, and I know that we helped the church out quite a bit, but I am certain that our blessing to them pales in comparison to their blessing to us.

It's easy to get caught thinking "our world" is "the world," and forget how much we've been given as Americans. By our standards, the people we worked with in Mexico make no money, literally a fraction of what most of us make here. If anyone has an excuse to be cynical and pessimistic about life, it's them. The truth is, I've never met anyone in my life with more joy. To just look at how they view people and life, you would think they had everything in the world. Maybe they do.

Jos, is about fourteen years old. He doesn't say much at all, but you can tell by looking at him that he is the type to let his character speak for him. Isidro, the pastor of La Aviación, spoke very highly of him to me. Jos, comes to the church by himself. It's a big thing for a fourteen-year-old kid to go to church out of his own free will. Like I said, this kid's got character. Well, on Tuesday or Wednesday of the week we were there, Isidro tells me that Jos, is here to see me. This was surprising because I couldn't recall talking to him much. But when I met him, he pulls this backpack off his shoulder, sets it down, and pulls out an old purple and gold basketball. He hands it to me, and I ask him if he wants to go play, and he says, "no." Slightly confused, I ask him if this is for our kids to play with while they're here, and he says, "no." So, I ask him if he wants the church to have it, and he says, "no, it's a gift for you." I ask, "You don't like basketball?" He says, "Yeah, I like basketball." So I ask, "You don't want this basketball anymore?" And he says, "I want you to have it; it's a gift." I ask, "Why?" And he says, "Because I like you." And as I look down at the ball I see his name written in black magic marker, Jos, Alejandro Morales Sifuentes. Now, you might be saying, "Wow, an old worn out

Magic Johnson basketball. Whoopee. Big deal." And if you're like me, you had 3-5 basketballs lying around at home when you were a kid. I'm pretty sure Jos, doesn't have any extra basketballs lying around at home. And I know if I ever wrote my name on anything, it was my declaration that "nobody better take this thing, 'cause it's mine." It was probably the most generous thing anyone's ever done for me. I wouldn't even let our kids play with it because I didn't want anything to happen to it. It was the best gift I've ever received.

It's a sobering feeling receiving something from someone who has a tiny fraction of what you have. And so many people from our trip have similar stories. My wife, Jessica, made friends with a nineteen-year-old mother that week. One night, Jessica told her in passing that her pants were pretty, and the next day she gave them to Jessica. Who does that? Nobody I know. And certainly not me. Sure, I gave Jos, something at the end of the week, but let's be honest, it's easy to give when someone has given something to you first. That's not the type of person I want to be. I want to be like Jos,. I want to be generous. I think Jesus wants me to take notes from Jos,.

There are a lot of things I'll take away from this trip. But the thing I'll remember most is the fact that I saw Jesus, and he was the size and shape of a fourteen-year-old Mexican boy.

Jon Pittman

LIFEGROUPS

Meeting Places and Times

Sunday @

6:00 p.m. ~ LIFEGROUP @ Gillespie's, 1506 Kern Rd. (Jon-678-0645; Laurel- 678-0749)

6:00 p.m. ~ Men's Bible Study @ Groff's 1338 Hickory Hills Dr., Metamora, every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. (383-4327)

6:00 p.m. ~ LIFEGROUP @ Heller's, 109 North Pine, (444-7700)

Monday @

6:30 p.m. ~ LIFEGROUP @ Taylor's, 208 W. Holland

6:30 p.m. ~ LIFEGROUP @ location varies each week, check bulletin for weekly meeting place.

Contact person: Bochart's. (444-8531)

7:00 p.m. ~ LIFEGROUP @ location varies each week, check bulletin for weekly meeting place.
Contact person: Peterson's.(444-5174)

Wednesday @

6:00 a.m. ~ Men's Early Morning LIFEGROUP @ Cummin's Family Restaurant Contact person: Frank Douglas. (444-5548)

6:30 p.m. ~ LIFEGROUP @ location varies each week, check bulletin for weekly meeting place.
Contact person: McClintock's. (444-1751)

Questions about LIFEGROUPS? Contact Ed Taylor: 444-2550 or 712-6495.

MissioNews

by Joyce Nordhielm

Church Genealogy - North American Christian Convention Contends with Historical Break in Restoration Movement

It was 1807 - almost 200 years ago. when Thomas Campbell, a member of the Old Light, Anti-Burgher, Seceder Presbyterian sect in Northern Ireland reacted negatively toward the religious divisions he experienced there. What had caused the church, God's chosen vessel to bring all men together under one central truth, to divide into contentious factions which crippled the effectiveness of her outreach, and demoralized those who had given their all to see that it succeed? His plan to leave it all behind by coming to America seemed to fail as he soon discovered that the American Frontier had partisan divisions about as rife as those back home. His desire was to restore the church to one that simply promoted evangelical Christianity free from human inventions and opinions.

He left the Presbyterian group and in 1809 he formed a group called the Christian Association of Washington. Twenty in number, they formulated a motto of "Union in Truth" to indicate that they were devoted to the union of all Christian believers as well as the truth of the Scriptures as God's authoritative voice. Thomas' son, Alexander Campbell suggested that they use the label of Disciples of Christ.

Thomas was not the only one disenchanted with the divisions in the church. Barton W. Stone had started a group in Kentucky whose name was Christian Church, or Church of Christ a few years earlier. 15

years earlier, James O'Kelly left the Methodists and started a group called simply, the Christians. They took the Bible as their only rule and guide and allowed complete autonomy to each congregation. William Guirey, a Methodist who was disgusted with episcopacy, the form of church government used by both the Anglicans and Methodists, left the Methodists and simply studied his Bible to determine correct biblical doctrine and organization. He eventually joined the O'Kelly movement.

In 1801, Abner Jones, a Baptist, read himself into the position that the name Baptist and the doctrine of pre-destination had no scriptural warrant. He started a new church called the Christian Church. There were others who, seeking unity through the scriptures, started groups dedicated to that end.

Chester Bullard, John Wright, Joseph Hostetler and Absalom Littell each from different areas of the New World began to feel the need to separate themselves and those who followed them, from the mandates and rules laid down by each of the denominations they represented. This was also happening in England. A cry for New Testament Christianity, free from denominational sectarianism, was being heard.

The Restoration Movement was born and by the late 1830's was growing like wildfire throughout the new world. Believers came together to form congregations established by the example of the New Testament churches found in the scriptures. No denominational names - just Christian or Church of Christ. There were no man written or compiled creeds. 'Where the Bible speaks, we speak. Where it is silent, we are silent.' It was an honest effort to strip all sectarianism from the church. There was no hierarchy to direct or control local congregations-only the elected elders.

In 1906, there began to be a problem in some areas of the movement. It was more complicated than can be discussed here, but it seemed to hinge on the motto 'Where the Bible speaks__' There were those who began to believe that if the Bible didn't condone a practice, it prohibited it. One of the things that came into contention was the use of a musical instrument, such as a piano in the worship service. Another was the creation of a Sunday School. Neither was mentioned in the scriptures and were therefore rejected in some areas. It was at the 1906 Census that the Church of Christ and the

Christian Churches became two separate groups. That has remained until this day.

However, in the early 1980's there were people from each side of the division who were interested in reconciliation. They started having forums with an attempt to reestablish fellowship between the two. Because neither have a hierarchy to make decisions for all congregations in each camp, this was to be at grass root levels.

The 100 year anniversary of that break came this year and was addressed at the North American Christian Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana in July. This is an annual convention held by the Christian Churches (Instrumental) and an invitation was extended to all those in the Churches of Christ (Acappella). They came from both camps. The sermons and workshop leaders were from both camps. It was truly heart-warming and hopefully fruitful. At the last evening service, each attendee was challenged to go with open arms to the congregation on the other side of the split in their cities and to extend a sincere invitation of reconciliation.

The Restoration Movement was born in an attempt to unify believers under one banner, Christ and Him Crucified. This split has been a blotch on our history for 100 years. The time has come to break down the wall.

Youth Page

Kid's Stuff

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5, and Ryan, 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson.

"If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait."

Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

Update on C.O.R. (Church of Rock)

C.O.R. is a Christian band consisting of WCC 7th - 9th graders. They have been together for a little over a year. They have played for a few of our Youth Sundays and other gigs around the area.

Lucas Doremus has been helping out since December by directing them musically. He will be going back to college this month. The kids would like to keep their group going, but it would be helpful if they could find a musically inclined director.

If you have music talent, please pray for God's guidance to have you help this group keep going. They have all the music talent! They just need someone to help manage them. If you could help out or want to know more about them, contact Lucas Doremus -635-2177 or any of the kids or parents.

Youth Team Meeting for August

Since VBS falls the first week of August and Jon will be on vacation the 2nd week August's Youth Team Meeting will be held Wednesday, August 16th at 7:00 PM. Please see Cory Hynek if unable to attend.

Aluminum Can Drive

If you are saving cans for our Youth fundraiser you may bring them in plastic bags to the South Parsonage (Jon & Jessica's) garage. Please, we can only take aluminum cans. No other aluminum will be accepted. Please do not leave the cans in or by the new storage building.

PRIME TIMERS PERSPECTIVE

Prime Timers Calendar of Events for August

Prime Timer Prayer Breakfast in August: Sat., August 5th -9AM

WCV Volunteer Day ~ Tuesday, August 29th @ 9 AM.

Upcoming September Event: Prime Timer's Fall Cookout at the Clang's. Watch for Details!

Prime Timer Prayer Breakfast

Attention All Those 55 and older!!! Join us for donuts and coffee on Saturday, August 5th, at 9 AM in the Fellowship Hall for our monthly Prime Timers Prayer Breakfast.

This month we will be entertained by the Roberts Family as Robin and Erin play their bagpipes and Kelsey & Egan perform their latest dances.

Also, Ken Rutledge, Little Galilee Christian Assembly Camp Manager, will be here to talk about the latest happenings at Little Galilee.

You won't want to miss this meeting!

The Summer Kitchen

Minnie Klemme

I remember the summer-kitchen
With a calendar four-feet long,
Where the coal-oil lamp made shadows
And the range was iron strong.

I remember yeast-loaves baking,
The canning of berries and jell,
Stone jars of dills and cabbage--
The kraut we liked so well.

I remember the smell of kettles,
Of bacon and ham in brine,
The old, black sausage stuffer,
The sausages so fine.

I remember the summer-kitchen
That cooked for harvest hands,
For threshing crews and shellers--
The many farm demands.

I remember the food, the largess
That came from it's mighty store:
The ever-ready handout--
And always the promise for more.

When I come one day to God's heaven
And can choose a mansion, my own,
Build mine with a summer- kitchen,
Make the sidewalks of native stone.

Then let me stand in it's doorway
To welcome the sinner and saint,
In a circle of kerosene lamp light
With never a sigh of complaint.

I remember the summer-kitchen,
The blueprints are stored in my heart--
As warm as the range and the kettles,
As bright as it's calendar art.

'Just for Laughs'

A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't

find a space with a meter. Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read:

"Have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses."

When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note.

"I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket, I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."

Prime Timers Fall Cookout

Don't forget to put the Cookout at the Clang's home on your calendar for the Prime Timer get together September 9. (Note: we will not be having a Prime Timers Prayer Breakfast on the 2nd. This cookout will replace that.)

We had a great time last year with singing around the campfire and enjoying all the different dishes people brought. Kathy's great specialty was her grape pie which she shared with others.

You don't have to be "old" to be a Prime Timer, just admit your age and come join our Prime Timer meetings and get together; relax and have a good time. Watch for more details and a sign-up sheet in the foyer closer to the date.

FYI

For Your Information

Vacation Plans?

Schools has been out for a little while now and many of us still have vacation plans before it starts back up again in September. But, do your plans include visiting a place of worship while gone?

Please attend a Worship Service during that time. God doesn't take a vacation from you, so don't you take a vacation from God.

Need help finding a Christian Church in the area where you will be staying? Call the church office. We have a directory of

Christian Churches throughout the country.

Attention All Ladies

Friday and Saturday, September 22-23 will be our Annual Women's Retreat at Camp Griesheim. Mark your calendars now. Plan to learn "Grow Where You're Planted."

Guest speakers are Deletta Payne and daughter, TyLinda Blackstock. Cost remains \$15 covering room and meals. There will be a love offering for crafts and speakers. Watch for sign-up sheet. Questions??? See Rose Bankes, Betty Hoyt or Robbie Weise.

Little Galilee Family Camp!

September 1-4, 2006

A Lasting Legacy -- 2 Timothy

That is this year's theme for Little Galilee's Fall Family Camp. The Special Guests this year are Mark Scott from Ozark Christian College-main speaker, Greg & Deb Hafer from Ozark Christian College-main speakers and workshop leaders, Wayne Shaw from Lincoln Christian Seminary-workshop leader, Nathan Soice-worship band, and The King Family-a Blue Grass Band.

Family Building is this week's workshop and main sessions theme as they are geared to help you build your family legacy. Electives are: Creative Family Time Ideas, Developing Family Devotions, and Creative Ways Your Family Can Support Missions.

Family fun activities are planned such as: Treasure Hunts, fishing competitions, boat races, water games, scrap-booking, hiking, relaxation, swimming, family game shows, concerts, horse shoes, ladder golf, sports, and much more! You won't regret going!!!

Register today at www.littlegalilee.com or get a form in the foyer and send a \$10 pre-registration fee to Genevieve Farnsworth, 505 South Quincy, Clinton, IL 61727. Cost is \$35 per person with \$100 maximum fee per family.

Peoria Charter Bus to National Missionary Convention

On Friday, Nov. 17, 2006, a 55 passenger bus will leave the WCC parking lot for Indianapolis, IN and the National Missionary Convention. It will arrive in time for the second workshop of the day.

Lunch can be found in walking distance of the convention center or in the center itself. You may

attend two more workshops chosen from the pages of available subjects in the afternoon. You will also have a time to visit the hundreds of exhibits in the exhibit hall. The evening service will begin at 6:45 and end about 8:30. The bus will pick you up at the door and return you to the WCC parking lot.

The cost is \$29.00 per ticket and it is first come, first served. Letters have been sent to all area churches inviting their members to come join the fun.

There is a poster on the bulletin board. Make checks payable to WCC and pre-date them November 10. They will be returned if we fail to fill the bus, or if you have to cancel BEFORE November 3. Joyce Nordhielm will take your reservation.

Library News

Thanks to Joyce Nordhielm, Pati Heller, and Jim Fisher for setting up a new library computer program. There are still a few glitches to work out, but the program is up and running.

Pat Connaughton, Carol Worthington, and Norma Sinn have been putting new book entries into the computer. Amy Sinn is working on a shelf list organized around the Dewey Decimal System. (This will substitute for a card catalog file.)

We have a few videos and cassettes, but most of that type of item is down in the Sunday School Office. Check with Tracy or Mary to see what's available.

Thank you for all the items you donate. Right now we have an excess of Bibles. Some of these are on a shelf in the hall just outside of the Library door. Please help yourself if you need an extra Bible, or if you would like a different version. Edna Neal

The Breaking Point

by Karen Ball

This is about a couple who believed they knew God. So why is their marriage so difficult?

After a harrowing experience in the rugged Oregon wilderness where they are forced to fight for survival, will it make a difference in their relationship? Read this page turner to find out.

*This would be a good book to use in a study as it has discussion questions at the end of the book. Appropriate for any married couple or those contemplating marriage. Liz Chaney

Optimism

Philippians 1: 12-20

When it comes to pessimism versus optimism, the Bible doesn't leave us many options. If we believe in God (and believe the Bible) we can't help but be optimistic about the future -because, regardless of what happens in the interim, we know that ultimately every thing will work out for our good and God's glory.

Paul was an optimist. Even as he sat in a Roman jail, he could see the benefits of his imprisonment. He had no promised release date to look forward to, and the prison conditions were less than idea, and yet he remained optimistic about the future. Listen to his words ...

Everything that has happened to me here has helped spread the Good News. (v.12)

Because of my imprisonment, many of the Christians here have gained confidence and become more bold. (v.14)

I will continue to rejoice. For I know that as you pray for me and as the Spirit of Jesus Christ helps me, this will all turn out for my deliverance. (v.19)

For to me, living is for Christ, and dying is even better. (v.21)

These aren't the words of a doomed man. Paul clearly believed the best about the future, because he believed in a God that is good, and powerful, and merciful, and loving.

Pessimism might come quite naturally to you, but the excuse "It's just my nature," doesn't work -- any more that we can excuse off sins such as lust, laziness, or greed. The bottom line is that pessimism is a sin. It reveals a lack of faith in God, and anything that is not from faith is sin. (Romans 14:23)

Optimism is a choice. I don't believe it comes naturally to anyone. Those who seem to have a

perpetually positive outlook on life have learned to make that choice.

If Paul can be optimistic in a Roman dungeon, then we shouldn't let a few disgruntled people ruin our day. We can be optimistic, too. We can make the same choice he made: we can choose to believe the best about tomorrow, in spite of what is happening today, because we know that God is good.

Red Cross Apheresis Blood Drive

The Red Cross will be conducting an Apheresis Drive here at WCC in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, August 29th running from 10:30 a.m. until around 8:30 p.m. If interested in donating to the Red Cross please call 674-7171 to set up an appointment.

~ F.I.S.H. ~

Fellowship, Involvement, Servanthood, and Holiness . . .

This is what F.I.S.H. is all about.

F.I.S.H. is an important time for everyone. We learn from God's Word through our Bible Study and Youth Groups, we pray and fellowship together and we eat together. Our time to begin again for this year is fast approaching. We need your help to make this all work together for everyone's enlightenment.

Right now we have 5 Cooking Teams but could use another and a few more helpers. If you would be willing to be on a Cooking Team (that will cook about once every other month) see Norma Sinn (361-0096) ASAP. We need you to sign up now, so we can prepare the menus and dates.

If you are new and would like to know more about our F.I.S.H. Program and would like to be involved in a great opportunity of

fellowship and service, please call Norma.
