

# BRIDGING THE GAP

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS CHURCH OF GOD

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## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

### Be An Encourager!

Henry Drummond once said "How many prodigals are kept out of the kingdom of God by the unlovely characters of those who profess to be inside?" Wow! What a statement! I firmly believe that an individual is never more Christlike than when they are full of compassion for those who are down, needy, discouraged or forgotten. It is essential that we have a commitment to encouragement as a church.

In the beginning of the book of Acts is the quiet life of a man called Barnabas. What a person of encouragement. In fact his name means "Son of Encouragement" according to Acts 4:36. In chapter 11 he finds Saul of Tarsus who was an outcast because of his former life. So not afraid to stick his neck out for a new Christian who was suspect in the eyes of the public, Barnabas took him by the hand and brought him to Antioch. Before the entire assembly the "Son of encouragement" gave his new friend a push into a priority position. In fact it was into the very place where Barnabas

himself had been experiencing remarkable blessings as a church leader. So without a thought of jealousy, he later allowed Saul to take the leadership and set the place for the first missionary journey in Acts 13. It is interesting to note the names were soon switched from Barnabas and Saul to Paul and Barnabas in Acts chapter 13. This is a supreme test. It takes a great person to recognize that a man younger than he has God-given abilities and to encourage him to move ahead with full support. Later on in Acts 15 he and Paul discuss the possibility of taking John Mark, a young man who earlier had chosen not to go on the first missionary journey. Can you imagine that discussion? Paul would say no because John Mark failed once he will fail again. But Barnabas said yes, he can and will succeed with encouragement. Paul would not withdraw his no vote. Barnabas stood his ground, believing in the young man's life, in spite of what happened before. You know the outcome in Acts 13. Barnabas demonstrated encouragement in spite of failure.

There is a great need for the ministry of encouragement in our world, our church, and our families today? Do you know of someone who you can encourage today, to come along side of with companionship and confidence? Go to bat for them. You will be amazed at the blessings God will pour out in your life. In Bible times there were the failures, the Lots, the Samsons, the Jonahs, the John Marks and there are many today. Look around! Are you ready to extend a hand of encouragement and genuine love? Are you ready to lift up the failures with encouragement? Here are some thoughts to help us all be more like Barnabas. Next time you are in church, sit by someone you don't know and ask God for an opportunity to speak an encouraging word, or invite them to a meal. Look

for someone at work, or a family, or a friend who has failed and encourage them by believing in them and helping them. While everyone else finds fault in someone, you be different. Find something good to say to or about the person. So celebrate Christ's resurrection this Easter season! Everyday make an effort to brighten someone's life, maybe even your own.

*Enjoy the Journey,  
Pastor Clayton*

## **SERMON OUTLINES FOR APRIL 2006 CELEBRATE JESUS!**

### **April 2      50-day Spiritual Adventure Week 7**

MORNING SERVICE: Pastor Clayton  
"Jesus Courageously Completed  
His Assigned Mission"  
Text: Mark 11:1-19

EVENING SERVICE:  
Small Groups Meeting at 6:00 P.M.

### **April 9      50-day Spiritual Adventure Week 8**

MORNING SERVICE: Pastor Clayton  
"Jesus Broke the Power of Darkness  
So All Can Live in the Light"  
Text: Mark 11:1-19

EVENING SERVICE:  
Youth will be sharing  
about the State Youth Convention  
at 6:00 P.M.

### **April 16      Easter Sunday!**

MORNING SERVICE : Pastor Clayton  
"Because He Lives"  
Text: Matthew 28:5-6  
Children's Moments: Handbells

EVENING SERVICE:  
NO EVENING SERVICE

### **April 23      Sunday Services**

MORNING SERVICE : Pastor Brian will be  
Sharing

EVENING SERVICE:  
WCG will be sharing  
about their State Convention  
at 6:00 P.M

### **April 30      Sunday Services**

MORNING SERVICE : Pastor Clayton  
"The Symbols of the Cross!"  
Text: Numbers 21  
Children's Moments: Handbells

EVENING SERVICE:  
"ALL CHURCH SINGING!"  
at 6:00 P.M

## **EASTER SERVICES APRIL 16, 2006**

### **200 FOR EASTER**

This year the men of our church will serve breakfast for the whole church as part of our Easter Celebration. We will have a sunrise service at 7:00 a.m. outside if the weather permits. Breakfast will then be served at 7:30 a.m. That will give us time to get ready for Sunday school and our morning worship. LET'S ALL WORK HARD TO INVITE AND BRING OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO REACH OUR GOAL OF 200 IN THESE SERVICES THIS EASTER SEASON. EACH ONE REACH ONE! MAKE A FRIEND AND BRING A FRIEND!

## **NEWS AND VIEWS-SENIOR ADULT CLASS**

Glad to have Larry and Gwen back with us from their winter stay in the great State of Florida. Speaking of winter, we can't complain about the winter we had in the Metro Area. It was rather mild. They said they had a great time in Florida visiting with family and friends. They got to hear some good Old Time Gospel Preaching including some Hell Fire and Brimstone. We just might need some of that in our churches today, what think ye?

We're having three members from our class (Stella, Gwen and Agnes) attend the annual WCG meeting to be held this year in Fairview Heights. I'm sure they will have much to tell us when they return. Lets all pray for a great outpouring of God's Holy Spirit.

Stella was able to visit with her sister Ruby in Indiana. We need to pray for Ruby, she suffers with high blood pressure.

Gene and Verla are doing quite well, now living at Charles Gardens in Fairview Heights. She said they feed you very well--sometimes too much.

Glad to have Norma back from her knee replacement surgery. Thanks to the prayers of the church family, she went through it with a minimum amount of pain. She has graduated to a cane, leaving the walker behind.

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We have one more lesson on "The Glory of God's Creation entitled "A Hymn of Praise to the Creator" from Psalm 145. Some of the subject matter will be God is great and worthy of praise: God is powerful and Good; God is Compassionate: and God's Kingdom is Everlasting.

Come--Be part of our study of God's word. You wont be disappointed.

Remember: God—and only God—is worthy of worship and praise.

Thought: The measure of your usefulness is determined by the measure of your consecration

*Ivan DeHart, Teacher*

## **THANK YOU FROM THE YOUTH**

The FHCOG Youth wish to extend their thanks to the church for their attendance at the Spaghetti Supper a few weeks ago. We were overwhelmed with the large response of people who came on a Sunday evening. The dinner provided an opportunity for the youth to "serve" their church family and later entertain them with their developing talents.

In addition, over \$600 was given towards the cost of the True Love Waits Conference and the Youth Convention. Thanks again!

*Richard Ryan Knowles, Youth Leader*

## **GETTING TO KNOW YOU...**

### **FEATURED FAMILY--THE KNIGHT FAMILY**

If you haven't met Jason and Heather Knight, here is your opportunity to introduce yourself. Jason works on computers for the Air Force. Heather is a stay at home mother. They live on Scott Air Force Base, so if you were thinking of stopping in for a quick visit, think again. You need permission just to get on base.

I found the story of how they found our church quite interesting. They were actually lost, when they came upon the Fairview Heights Church of God and they considered it a sign that the marquis said something like "If you are lost, you should come inside." They had been looking for a Church of God, but hadn't found one until the day they were looking for something else. Isn't it amazing how the Lord works! And we're so glad they found us!

Heather has a snow white kind of beauty, with dark hair and green eyes. Together with her blond haired husband, they were bound to make beautiful babies. Luke is an energetic and rambunctious two year old, as they often are. You will find him and his brother Jake, a happy, smiling five month old doll, in the nursery. Dylan, Elijah, and Tyler are so happy to have new playmates.

The nursery is becoming quite full! What a blessing! If you would like to volunteer to give a helping hand a time or two, I'm sure Diane would greatly appreciate it.

Jason, Heather, Luke, and Jake we are so happy to welcome you into our church. We look forward to getting to know you better.

If you haven't met this beautiful family, please be sure to go up an introduce yourself sometime soon!

By: Shannon Peiffer

## **THOUGHTS TO PONDER**

IT IS POSSIBLE TO BE TOO BIG  
FOR GOD TO USE YOU  
BUT NEVER TOO SMALL  
FOR GOD TO USE YOU.

*A man's pride brings him low, but a man of lowly spirit gains honor.  
Proverbs 29:23*

GOD HAS A HISTORY OF USING THE INSIGNIFICANT  
TO ACCOMPLISH THE IMPOSSIBLE.

*And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it  
is impossible, but not with God; for with God all  
things are possible.  
Mark 10:27*

### **The Biggest Mathematical Miracle in the World!**

Moses and his people were in the desert,  
but what was he going to do with them? They  
had to be fed, and fed is what he did, according  
to the Quartermaster General in the Army. It is  
reported that Moses would have to have had  
1500 tons of food each day.

Do you know that to bring that much food  
each day, two freight trains, each a mile long,  
would be required! Besides you must remember,  
they were out in the desert, so they would have  
to have firewood to use in cooking the food. This  
would take 4000 tons of wood and a few more  
freight trains, each a mile long, just for one day.  
And just think, they were forty years in transit.  
And oh yes! They would have to have water. If  
they only had enough to drink and wash a few  
dishes, it would take 11,000,000 gallons each  
day, and a freight train with tank cars, 1800 miles  
long, just to bring water!

And then another thing! They had to get  
across the Red Sea at night. (They did?) Now, if  
they went on a narrow path, double file, the line  
would be 800 miles long and would require 35  
days and nights to get through. So, there had to  
be a space in the Red Sea, 3 miles wide so that  
they could walk 5000 abreast to get over in one  
night.

But then, there is another problem. Each  
time they camped at the end of the day, a  
campground two-thirds the size of the state of  
Rhode Island was required, or a total of 750  
square miles long...think of it! This was the  
minimum space needed just for nightly camping.

Do you think Moses figured all this out  
before he left Egypt? I think not!

You see, Moses believed in God. God  
took care of these things for him. Now do you  
think God has any problem taking care of all your  
needs?

### **Precious Lord, Take My Hand**

By Thomas Dorsey

Precious Lord, take my hand,  
Lead me on, help me stand,  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
Thru the storm, thru the night,  
Lead me on to the light,  
Take my hand, precious Lord,  
Lead me home.

When my way grows drear,  
Precious Lord, linger near;  
When my life is almost gone,  
Hear my cry, hear my call,  
Hold my hand lest I fall;  
Take my hand, precious Lord,  
Lead me home.

*"For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of  
your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I  
will help you." Isaiah 41:13*

### **NEW EDITOR INTRODUCTION**

I want to thank each of you for your  
contribution of articles, confidence, reading  
of the newsletter and encouragement over  
the past 10 and a half years that I have been  
editor for this newsletter.

And now...I am happy to introduce  
**Debbie Porter** as your new editor for  
Bridging the Gap. Debbie is a retired high  
school teacher who has been worshipping  
with us for a little over two years. Last fall  
she moved from Centralia and is enjoying  
her new home in Shiloh.

Please support her by submitting  
articles by the third Sunday of the month.  
You may put them in the pocket on the  
bulletin board in the narthex, in her mailbox  
or email them to her at [dshp50@yahoo.com](mailto:dshp50@yahoo.com).

Thank you! Your cooperation and  
support has been greatly appreciated.

Karen White