

BRIDGING THE GAP



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FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS CHURCH OF GOD

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“From The Pastor’s Desk”

Surprise! An Untapped Miracle! Here’s Mud in Your Eye! John 9

It was late afternoon; a man came to the pool of Siloam. It was obvious that he was blind. But even more obvious was the mud that covered his eyes. Using his walking stick he prodded the ground. Step by step he descended to the water level and began to wash the mud away. Then he began to cry out, “I can see, I can see!”

What a great story! Here was a man born blind that encountered Jesus.

I am struck by the response of Jesus’ disciples. “Master, who sinned this man or his parents that he

was born blind?” Not such a strange question. The feeling is strong today. Some still feel that if something is negative in your life, you must have done something wrong somewhere; either that or you have no faith. So it was firmly in the mind of those disciples that somehow, somewhere, the man had sinned therefore he was blind. But Jesus said it was not so. The fact is that there are parts of life on this earth that are unfair, unpleasant, and impossible to fix. The fact is there are many things about living that make no sense at all. But the fact is Christ is all sufficient regardless of your circumstances. The longer this man experienced healing through Christ, the more confident he became in the one who healed him. He gained not only physical sight, but also spiritual sight as he recognized Jesus. When you turn to Christ, you begin to see Him differently. The longer you walk with Him the better you understand who He is. If you want to know more about Jesus, keep walking with Him. The Lord is still the light of the world, and all who come to him are promised that they will not walk in darkness. Jesus used methods that were despised in the eyes of the world, but he touched lives. The word *Siloam* means sent, the miracle was Siloam. It was obvious that he was blind. But even more obvious was the mud that covered his eyes. Using his walking stick he prodded the ground. Step by step he descended to the water level and began to wash the mud away. Then he began to cry out, “I can see, I can see!”

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I am struck by the response of Jesus' disciples. "Master, who sinned this man or his parents that he was born blind?" Not such a strange question. The feeling is still strong today. Some still feel that if something is negative in your life, you must have done something wrong somewhere; either that or you have no faith. So it was firmly in the mind of those disciples that somehow, somewhere, the man had sinned therefore he was blind. But Jesus said it was not so. The fact is that there are parts of life on this earth that are unfair, unpleasant, and impossible to fix. The fact is there are many things about living that make no sense at all. But the fact is Christ is all sufficient regardless of your circumstances. The longer this man experienced healing through Christ, the more confident he became in the one who healed him. He gained not only physical sight, but also spiritual sight as he recognized Jesus. When you turn to Christ, you begin to see Him differently. The longer you walk with Him the better you understand who He is. If you want to know more about Jesus, keep walking with Him. The Lord is still the light of the world, and all who come to him are promised that they will not walk in darkness. Jesus used methods that were despised in the eyes of the world, but he touched lives. The word *Siloam* means sent, the miracle was instantaneous, and the man was able to use his eyes immediately. What a surprise it must have been for him to look for the first time at the world he lived in. So when the former blind man left the pool able to see by the grace of God, the enemies of Jesus came at Him from every angle. Jesus is a sinner, a blasphemer; this healing should never have been done on the Sabbath. His answer is in verse 25
"Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know; one thing I know that though I was blind, now I see."
The very heart of everything must be Jesus! So take your eyes off the mud, quit

wondering about the spittle, stop looking for the pool of Siloam. Get your eyes on Christ! He is the Savior, the Healer, the King. Jesus is the "I Am" who will meet the deepest need of your soul. Just ask the former blind man of Jerusalem! Here is the greatest untapped miracle of all time: I know my name is written in the Book of Life, I know that my redeemer lives and makes intercession for me, I know that he is preparing a place for me, I know that I have peace and joy in my soul. I know that I love life, and that Christ has made everyday worth the living.

Just like the blind man, I was blind, but now I see! Surprise! Here's mud in your eye! What miracle do/you need in your next Life?

Enjoy The Journey,
Pastor Clayton

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Building Our Future

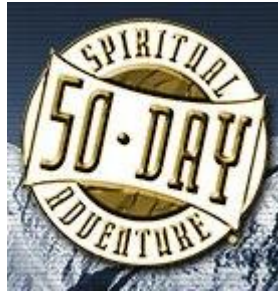
Faith Promise

God is faithful and so are you! We are so excited by the way God has answered your prayers regarding what He would have you give in a Faith Promise. Your total Faith Promise for the year came to \$31,692.00 which translates into \$2641.00 a month. Upon completion of your Faith Promise for 2007, we will have applied an extra \$10,588 to the principle, saving thousands in interest.

It is not too late to make a Faith Promise and be a part of God's plan for the future of Fairview Heights Church of God. If you don't have a Faith Promise form, simply place a weekly, monthly or yearly amount on a piece of paper with the words "Faith Promise" on it and place in the offering plate. You don't need to sign the paper or place your name on it. A Faith Promise is between you and God.

Sincerely,

Board of Trustees



Adventure Week 3

March 4 "A Tale of Two Sisters" Text: Luke 10:38-42 Past or Clayton
Evening Service Small Group Study for the Adventure

Adventure Week 4

March 11 "Worship is Not A Spectator Sport" Text: Exodus 17:8-13 Past or Clayton
Past or Clayton
Evening Service Small Group Study for the Adventure

Adventure Week 5

March 18 "The Spiritual Energizer Fasting" Text: Esther 4:12-17 Past or Clayton
Evening Service Small Group Study for the Adventure

Adventure Week 6

March 25 "Would You Be A Storyteller?" Text: Joshua 1:1-9 Past or Clayton
Evening Service Small Group Study for the Adventure

Adventure Week 7

April 1 "Lifting Up Jesus Together" Text: 3 John 1-14 Past or Clayton
Evening Service Small Group Study for the Adventure

Adventure Week 8

April 8 "The Power of the Living Christ!" Text: 1 Cor. 15: 12-15 Past or Clayton

Invitation for Bid

Janitorial Services for April 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008

This is an invitation to bid on the job of custodian for the Fairview Heights Church of God. Please make your bid in the form of payment due weekly. Cleaning services are to be performed between Thursday and Saturday each week. The church will provide the cleaning supplies. Bids will be accepted from the congregation as well as outside. If a bid is received outside the congregation, a personal recommendation from within the congregation is required. The board reserves the right to reject any bid. Applicants should be aware that if they fill this position, they are self-employed. As such, you are responsible for your own income tax (Federal and State) and self-employment (FICA) tax.

Please see the posted Janitorial Manual for a detailed explanation of duties and expected frequency levels when considering your bid. Bids may be submitted to any Board of Trustee member and need to be turned in by March 14th to be considered at the next board meeting.

Sincerely,
Fairview Heights Board of Trustees

Gary Hamilton
Candy Niemeyer
Bill White
Debbie Pope
Floyd Whittom
Diane Taylor-Alternate
David Floyd-Alternate

Angel Food Ministries

Starting in April we have been approved to be an Angel Food host site. This will be a great outreach for our church. But we need everyone in the church to do his or her part to help this ministry succeed. One Saturday a month we will be asking you to help reach out and serve our community. There will be a job for everyone. The more people who help, the faster we can accomplish our work for that day. This is not about passing our food; it is about touching people's lives. We must think of this as a ministry. So check your calendar and come to the Fellowship Hall on March 31 beginning at 9:00 am. It will be a very important day for you to learn more about this outreach. Brenda Caito is our Host Site Director so let's get behind her to make the job easier. 'For every unit we sell one dollar comes back to the Church.

Churches that participate in Angel Food Ministries benefit in many ways:

- 1 Gives church members hands-on experience and training with rewarding service to others.
- 2 Provides discounted food not only for those that need it, but for any others who appreciate deep discounts on quality groceries.
- 3 Provides additional income to community outreach funds.
- 4 Gives churches an effective outreach to the community to meet real needs in a genuine way.

Distribution Day is where the rubber meets the road! People will be working together for common goals by meeting new people and by filling a need in their lives. Angel Food Ministries is a food ministry with a servant's heart. Will you be the One!

Pastor Clayton

After the christening of his baby brother in church,

Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong.

Finally, the boy replied, "The preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys."

IRS Tax Law Changes and Charitable Donations

Please be advised that starting January 1, 2007, the IRS has made some changes regarding charitable donations. These changes only apply to those individuals that can itemize their deductions on Schedule A. The following was taken directly from the IRS website article entitled

Recent Tax Law Changes May Affect People Giving to Charity: IRS Offers Tips for Year-End Donations

IR-2006-192, Dec. 14, 2006

“To deduct any charitable donation of money, a taxpayer must have a bank record or a written communication from the charity showing the name of the charity and the date and amount of the contribution. A bank record includes canceled checks, bank or credit union statements and credit card statements. Bank or credit union statements should show the name of the charity and the date and amount paid. Credit card statements should show the name of the charity and the transaction posting date.

Donations of money include those made in cash or by check, electronic funds transfer, credit card, and payroll deduction. For payroll deductions, the taxpayer should retain a pay stub, Form W-2 wage statement or other document furnished by the employer showing the total amount withheld for charity, along with the pledge card showing the name of the charity.

Prior law allowed taxpayers to back up their donations of money with personal bank registers, diaries or notes made around the time of the donation. Those types of records are no longer sufficient.” (Emphasis added)

Please be advised that if you want to take a deduction for a cash donation you will need to have a receipt from the church. The best way to do this is to use the Tithe and Offering Envelopes that we can provide so that your donation will be recorded and you will then receive a year-end receipt. You may also use a plan envelope just be sure to have your name on the envelope.

Another donation change concerns donations of clothing and household items. While these changes don't pertain to the church, you may find this information helpful. From the same article cited above the IRS states:

“To be deductible, clothing and household items donated to charity after Aug. 17, 2006, **must be in good used condition or better.** (Emphasis added) However, a taxpayer may claim a deduction of more than \$500 for any single item, regardless of its condition, if the taxpayer includes a qualified appraisal of the item with the return. Household items include furniture, furnishings, electronics, appliances, and linens.”

Please consult your tax advisor or www.irs.gov for more information.

Sincerely,

Candy Niemeyer, Treasurer

Women of the Church of God

Ladies! Ladies! Ladies! If you have the fourth Tuesday night at 7pm of each month available, then we want to encourage you to join us (WCG) for a night full of fun and fellowship. Every time a group of ladies gather together something special occurs. Please come and see what you are missing. At our last meeting on the 27th of February we discussed our plans for the WCG Convention. It is that time of year again. So ladies we invite you to come and stay the weekend of April 13 - 15 at the Four Points Sheraton in Fairview Heights, IL. Yes, that's right, I said Fairview Heights. But does that mean we can stay home and attend the conferences and then go back home to laundry, cleaning, taking care of hubby and kids? I should say not! We want you to experience all the blessings without anyone or thing hindering the Spirit's direction.

Our theme is "Women Charged by the Spirit." Our main speaker is Laura Shallenberger, National President of the WCG. There is a ton of information in full detail on the WCG bulletin board so take a look and see what's coming your way soon. Grab a pen and sign up then pay the registration fee to Phyllis Field or Kim Brooks by Sunday, March 11th. You may direct all questions to Kim Brooks.

After we finished with our planning session, we moved on to crafts. Each lady was enjoying herself while we assembled the hand made bells from Nicaragua. Bill and Shirley donated these bells so we could give them away at the State Convention. I almost felt like Henry Ford with the Model T. You should have seen they way our ladies pushed out these bells. Like I said earlier, lots of fun and fellowship was shared that night. Gwen and Agnes offered us a small snack to enjoy. Thanks for all the efforts to make this a very good night. God bless you all.

Kim Brooks WCG President

ONE MINUTE EACH NIGHT

In WWII there was an advisor to Churchill who organized a group of people who dropped what they were doing every night at a prescribed hour for one minute to collectively pray for the safety of England, its people and peace.

There is now a group of people organizing the same thing here in America. If you would like to participate: Each evening at 9:00 PM Eastern Time (8:00 PM Central) stop whatever you are doing and spend one minute praying for the safety of the United States, our troops, our citizens, and our global world.

If you know anyone who would like to participate, please pass this along.

Someone said if Christians really understood the full extent of the power we have available through prayer, we might be speechless. Our prayers are the most powerful asset we have.

A Soldier's Dream

"Who is that man in the picture Mommy? a boy would ask.

"That is a soldier. He has helped us to be free the mother said.

"What is he thinking about? He would say.

"He is thinking about his family, God, peace, and other things." She replied.

The dove shows peace, the peace that is destined for the world. The scratches on the Dove show that we are still alive and standing. The tear expresses the soldier's feelings. He missed his family.

His family together displays that they miss him, but they aren't letting that get them down. His wife is holding a Bible which means that they are praying for him. They are smiling and happy, not depressed or gloomy because he is gone.

The Bible shows that he believes in God. He is sure that God will protect him. "He will have his way with me. He would say.

He knows that he is in a very dangerous situation.

“Does that answer your question?” the mother asked the child.

Her child was sound asleep and so no answer came, but there were quiet ZZzzzzs. Then she smiles and walked awayl.

By Heather Hamilton, age 10

difference in you Christian walk. Let him or them

Direction

We all like to give direction to others; usually we don't like getting direction too much. I know I don't always appreciate or ask for direction. Jesus, on the other hand, was constantly giving direction to the disciples to strengthen them and guide them in their quest to live as Christians and attain the heavenly goal. The disciples keep asking questions seeking Jesus' advice before He left them.

The question I ask of you is simple: Who gave you direction in your walk for Christ? Did someone special give you advice, strengthen you, and let you know he or she was always praying for you? How did that feel to know someone was always there for you to lift you up? How would you feel if someone told you how important you were in his Christian walk?

How about telling that 'someone' how wonderful he or she is? I know, face to face can be tough for anyone to do. I challenge you to write a note, a letter, or email to that person or persons and tell him or them how much you appreciate and love him or them, and how much he or they made a feel your joy now. You never . You never know, you might uplift them like him or them like he or they lifted you up for so long!

Don't wait until it's too late; swallow that lump in your throat and tell him or them how much you love him or them!

Pastor Brian

