

BRIDGING THE GAP

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS CHURCH OF GOD
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From the Pastor's Desk

“Live in the Faith Zone, Not the Safe Zone”

There is so much to admire about the life of Moses. We can learn some great leadership insights from him. Like how he led two million constantly complaining people. First of all, Moses had to overcome the experiences of his past. He was born into uncertainty, but after his mother put him into God's hands and he was taken in by Pharaoh's daughter, he lived a life of comfort. He grew up in the safe zone, the palace of the king of Egypt, and he wanted for nothing. Then when he was forty, he took a risk. He left the safe zone and tried to do something big on his own for his people. He spent the next forty years of exile in the desert. If you really think about it, we do not naturally leave the safe zone. Real growth begins when we leave the safe zone. I believe that as a church we are now leaving the safe zone. We are stepping out of the boat to walk on water. Many people are so afraid of risk that they spend their entire lives in Egypt, the land of not enough. A few are willing to get out of their safe zone. Thank the Lord for a body of believers who are willing to move from the safe zone to the faith zone. We have a lot of work to do in the coming months, and it will take all of us working as a team to get the job done. As we move closer to the Re-Grand Opening of our Church on September 13th,

there will be some great things happening. Thank the Lord for the vision and direction He has given us; we have been in the wilderness too long. It is time to cross over into the Faith Zone! I know change is not easy, but nothing stays the same so we will all be challenged to move out of our Safe Zone to allow God to work in and through us to reach our community for Him. Each person's life story is written in risks, the ones taken and the ones avoided. I am so thankful God is helped me as your pastor to move out of the Safe Zone and into the Faith Zone! So as we begin this journey, we paint areas of the church, change rooms, change times, change signs, and change our name. Remember, the purpose is to reach more people for Christ. It is not about me as your Pastor, and it is not about you. It is all about the Lord and what He wants us to do for Him as we all move from the Safe Zone to the Faith Zone!! The Grand-Reopening will be here sooner than we think. We will celebrate as **The Gathering Place Church of God**. Will you be on the Team? God needs you!

Enjoy The Journey,
Pastor Clayton

May 13th Parent/Youth Planning Meeting

May Service and Sermon Outline

May 3

AM Service: "The Choices We Make"
2 Kings 7:3-9 Pastor Clayton

PM Service: Walking Through The
Scriptures
"What is the Secret of Great Faith?"
Pastor Clayton

May 10 Mother's Day 2009

AM Service: "Breaking up is Hard to Do!"
1 Samuel 2:1-11 Pastor Clayton

NO EVENING SERVICE TO SPEND TIME WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

May 17

AM Service: "I am so Lonely I could Die"
Psalm 42 Pastor Clayton

PM Service: Silver Ring Thing
Special Service led by our Youth

May 24

AM Service: "Joy In The Lord"
Psalm 63 Pastor Clayton

NO EVENING SERVICE: Memorial Weekend

May 31

AM Service : "It's Time To Renew! "
1Chronicles 4:9-10
State of the Church Address
Pastor Clayton

PM Service: 5PM DONATION DINNER FOR CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Mother

Search the world over, there would be no
other.

She was the one and only; she was my
mother.

She was the one and only on this earth.
She was the one who gave me birth.

She was the one who gave me life.

She was Dad's darling wife.

She was always there right from the start
To hold and keep me next to her heart.

Her arms were always open wide
To hold and protect me by her side.
If I were to get in trouble or get hurt,
She would wipe my tears with her skirt.

As I grew older, she would give advice:

Always be good, always be nice.

She loved all her children, not just one.

She loved every daughter and every son.

So love your Mother while she is here.

For the day of death grow ever near.

She is the only Mother you'll ever get;

She is the Mother I'll never forget.

Written by a church member

SUNDAY EVENING OUTLINE OF EVENTS

All services at 6:00 pm unless otherwise stated

- May 3 Pastor will be preaching
- May 10 No evening service because of Mother's Day
- May 17 Silver Ring Thing: Special service led by our Youth
- May 24 No evening service because of Memorial weekend
- May 31 5pm Church Dinner for donations to our children's program
- June 7 5 pm All Church Soft Ball game, fellowship, snacks
- June 14 Pastor will be preaching
- June 21 No evening service because of Father's Day
- June 28 5 pm Family Night, film (The Burning) and Fellowship
- July 5 No evening service because of 4th of July weekend
- July 12 Family Night, Trivia and Fellowship
- July 19 Pastor will be preaching
- July 26 5 pm Family Night, film (Win-Dixie) and Fellowship
- Aug. 2 No Evening Service because of Rock The River
- Aug. 9 Pastor will be preaching

Aug. 16 5pm Grand Pix Car Race, Fellowship

Aug. 23 5pm Family Night, film (Fire Proof) and Fellowship

Aug. 30 5pm Church Dinner for donations to our Children's Program

Jesus Hugs

Have you ever had a "Jesus hug",
Do you know what one feels like?
If you've never had a "Jesus hug",
I pray one day you might.

A "Jesus hug" is different,
As far as hugging goes;
It's a little taste of Heaven,
Here on earth below.

Only those who love the Lord,
Can give a "Jesus hug";
It conveys God's grace and mercy,
And unconditional love.

Those who give out "Jesus hugs"
Always seem to somehow know
Just when you're in need of one
To make your spirit glow.

And if you ever need one
I hope that I will see,
So I can give you a "Jesus hug";
Just like someone did for me.

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Youth Group

Things are really busy with youth group these days. We are finishing our Silver Ring Thing Study and getting ready for youth convention all in the last week of April. We have 11 youth going to convention and 5 adults. We also just designed our own youth t-shirt which we will debut at youth convention. We will be sharing our convention experience with the congregation during the am service on May 10th and there will be a special evening service on May 17th to celebrate our youth completing the Silver Ring Thing study. Please plan on being at both services in support of our teens.

We would like to meet with all the youth and their parents on Wed. May 13th at 7:00 for a planning meeting. We want to discuss summer plans, youth camps, and fundraising ideas. We need everyone there so please save the date on your calendars.

Please be sure to see the Annual Reports for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 for a review of the past year's youth program--God has blessed our group with many new opportunities and we look forward to what He has planned for us this next year.

Jim and Candy Niemeyer, Youth Leaders

In Nicaragua

Today is another day we do work for the Lord.

It is Tuesday; we have a big warehouse in Highland, IL

Where we gather to make gifts for the poor. We make layettes for the mother who just had a beautiful baby.

They consists of a blanket, cloth diaper, diaper pins, an outfit (size up to 12 months), Socks, and a rattle or stuffed animal toy.

And yes, we do run out of these items. Please donate!!! They don't have to be new. And we do need your help.

We make hygiene kits consisting of toothpaste, toothbrush, comb, little bars of soap, shampoo and conditioner.

If you are on an out of town trip, a vacation, or business trip and stay at a hotel, and don't use the items, please donate they for use in the kits.

If anyone knows a teacher where their children or grandchildren attend school, please ask for any end of year school supplies that otherwise might be thrown away.

We put together a school supply kit for children who don't have anything. It consists of crayons, pencils, glue, a tablet or notebook, rulers and a color book.

Just think of these things we give our children that these children don't have!

Ladies, come and help! Transportation to Highland is provided. Meet at The Church of God parking lot. We will have lunch at the warehouse. We leave at 9:00 am and return by 2:30 pm.

Let us end with a prayer:

*Lord, how does it happen that there are
So many people who area poor and homeless?
Help us to a greater understanding of the poor.
Lord let the poor and homeless develop
A greater faith in You.*

Written by a church member