

BRIDGING THE GAP

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS CHURCH OF GOD
5500 Old Collinsville Road Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208
(618) 632-1438

Rev. Terry L. Clayton, Pastor

www.fhcog.org

Volume XII No10.

October 2008

From the Pastor's Desk

Why the Church of God Reformation Movement?

There are times it is good to look at our history and remember from where we came. So this next few months I want to give you some information about the Church of God and how and why we got started. D.S. Warner writes these words from *The Evening Light*: "And in that morning of the new dispensation, the Church of God shone out with the following glorious attributes. She was wholly a divine institution, founded, built, owned and governed by God, and the same God worked all things in all the members. (1 Cor. 12:6) She was built up a spiritual house, and holy nation. (1 Peter 2:5,9) She was one body, and her members one as Christ and the Father are one. (John 17) She had also the various spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12) and bore the name given by the mouth of the Lord, "Church of God."

But then came the darkness and the night. Even in the early church the Apostles had to fight against false teaching and heresies. Paul wrote about many of these in his letters to the church. By the third century there had been a great departure from the early church. Even before the reformation of the 16th Century there were many who felt the church was becoming worldly so they withdrew from society and lived as hermits to preserve their holiness. In the 12th century

several antichurch groups developed that emphasized personal salvation by faith and sought to live holy lives. Most of these groups were persecuted and annihilated. Here is a list of some key reformers:

1. Martin Luther.....justification by faith rather than sacraments
2. Roger Williams.....declared Christ the head of the church and water baptism by immersion the true form of that ordinance.
3. John and Charles Wesley.....taught repentance, justification, sanctification and holiness.
4. George Fox.....urged that men heed the leadings of the Holy Spirit in a society of peace, friendliness and love.
5. William Otterbein and Martin Boehm.....emphasized spiritual birth and foot washing.

The problem was that each taught only some Biblical truths, and many did not feel that the reformation went far enough. In 1865 a man named D. S. Warner was converted and affiliated himself with the General Eldership of the Churches of God in North America founded by John Winebrenner. He came to believe in and preach sanctification and holiness which got him into trouble with the Winebrennerian group. In 1881 he officially broke away from the General Eldership at a meeting of the group in Beaver Dam, Indiana. Five people went with him as he walked out of the meeting that day. He then became the editor of "The Gospel Trumpet"

(known today as Warner Press) through which he began to publish his beliefs. He formed an evangelistic team of singer and traveled with them for five years. This new movement, known as The Church of God Reformation began emphasizing the unity of God's people and holy living. They sought to lay aside denominationalism and creeds and trust solely in the Holy Spirit as their overseer and the Bible as their statement of belief. The purpose was not to start another denomination, but to promote primary allegiance to Jesus Christ. Thus was born the Reformation! I will share more with you next month about the history of the Church of God

Enjoy the Journey,
Pastor Clayton

October Sermon and Service Outline

FIREPROOF

“Never Leave Your Partner Behind!”

Preaching Series on the Family, Marriage, and Relationships

Beginning October 5th, Pastor Clayton will be presenting a series on the family and marriage that will be based on the film *FIRE PROOF*. This will be a 6 week study. The topics will be as follows:

Oct. 5 AM Service He said/She said! The burning Question: How can you better fulfill your God given role in marriage?

Oct. 12 AM Service The train is coming! The burning Question: Will you rescue people from Spiritual Danger?

Oct. 19 AM Service Salt and Pepper Shakers! The burning Question: Do you understand the covenant nature of the marriage vows?

Oct. 26 AM Service The Cross! The burning Question: Have you experienced God's unconditional love as shown through the sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus?

Nov. 2 AM Service Breaking Free! The burning Question: Do you give up and give in to temptation or do you stand strong?

Nov. 9 AM Service Caleb's Apology! The burning Question: Is the act of forgiving missing from your relationship with God and/or someone else?

We will continue with our Sunday Evening Small Groups.

ASK ANYTHING!

To better serve the needs of our church family I will be asking you to fill out a survey this month. You can ask about topics or questions you would like to discuss on everyday life, doctrine, church life, or something you always wanted to know but never had the opportunity to ask. I am also asking for a top ten list of subjects you would like to hear a message about in our morning service. Please begin thinking about what you would want to write on the form that will be soon passed out.

Pastor Clayton

JOY SS CLASS

"Life isn't measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away."

Are you a roller coaster rider? We learned last Sunday that there seems to be no in-between for the thrill of riding a roller coaster. Either you really get a thrill out of riding one and never miss an opportunity to do so OR you don't want any part of it! We had both in class. Do you see your life more as a safe ride or a trip on a roller coaster? What areas of your life are safer than others? For example, maybe you take huge risks to advance in your career, but you overly protect your heart and risk little in relationships. We also had discussion on the "*Someday Syndrome*." Someday I'm going to go for all that life has to offer...Someday I'm really going to live for God and get my act together. All this comes from chapter 2 in our new study **ONE MONTH TO LIVE**.

Kids of class members have settled into school. We have some going to college - Matt, Jennifer and Tyler, and we pray for them as they are continuing their education.

Something to think about.... "***I don't want to get to the end of my life and find that I have just lived the length of it. I want to have lived the width of it as well.***" Quote from Diane Ackerman

You're always welcome in the Joy SS Class.

Ruth Pope, teacher

WCG NEWS...

Gwen, Agnes, Kim and Ruth attended the IL WCG Prayer Retreat September 19 & 20. The theme for the Retreat was "**Women**

Designed by God to Be Prayer Warriors."

Special speaker was Jewel Williams from the Langley Avenue Church of God in Chicago. Her first session was titled "**Five Key Purposes of Prayer**"

1. Praise in Prayer
2. Practice of Prayer
3. Provisions through Prayer
4. Promises in Prayer
5. Power of Prayer

In Saturday morning's session we were reminded that prayer is not one-sided, self-seeking or a laundry list of things to-do for God. Prayer is a covenant promise and provision. She encouraged us to try the postures of prayer: Bowing, Kneeling and On Our Face. The Retreat closed with a time of anointing and prayer and communion.

Another special guest was Agnes Clark, Great Lakes Regional Director for Women of the Church of God. She is from Michigan. She shared happenings from the National WCG Office with us - upcoming National WCG Convention in Michigan; upcoming Christ Birthday Observance theme; reports about good things we have helped support such as buy bicycles for women in Rwanda; helping to buy livestock in Rwanda; Dorm in Tanzania and sewing supplies for them.

An area of concern she brought to us was about the **Linen Chest** (located at our national office in Anderson, IN). For the first time in so many of our memories it is broke! The Linen Chest is for our missionaries. Some of the benefits offered by the Linen Chest include clothing allowances for missionaries on furlough, appliances, college scholarships for missionary kids, house wares, linens, baby gifts and the list goes on. The Linen Chest has always been a part of our local budget. At our meeting Tuesday

evening, we discussed how we might be able to help more.

Most of us have heard missionaries share how much the Linen Chest has meant to them when they were leaving to go overseas for their assignment and when they came home. If you would like to contribute to this, see Kim Brooks or Ruth Pope.

The state prayer retreats are usually held in September at Camp Warren. We hope that more will be able to attend next year.

Gwen, Agnes, Kim and Ruth
Retreat attendees

Jr/Sr High Youth

Well, we had a great time at our house this past Sunday when the youth group and their families joined us for a cookout and an afternoon of fishing. What a great time of fellowship and enjoying God's creation. I believe a record total of 18 fish were caught, and Kein Bartlett seem to have a special gift of catching fish that day---I lost count after the fifth or sixth one.

We are looking forward to ***Acquire the Fire*** in St. Louis Oct 10-11th. We covet your prayers for this event as around 2000 Christian young people come together to worship Jesus and to grow in their faith. My prayer is that the Holy Spirit will touch all those who attend in a deep and personal way so that each one of us will come away changed and empowered to be a better witness for Jesus Christ.

This month (Sept) we have started to look at what it means to be a Christian and how that should look to our friends and family. We are currently looking at what the Bible has to say

about modesty and how should that translate in today's culture. We are looking at current fashion trends and what the culture says is "hot" versus God's perspective of what is "hot". We will be discussing the differences of how males and females have been wired by God and what kind of responsibility does each of us hold towards each other.

There is a great website that we are using to gain some insight into what teenage boys think about the dress and fashion of teenage girls. The website is www.therebelution.com This is a blog website started by 2 Christian brothers—Alex and Brett Harris—just a couple of years ago and now it is one of the most popular Christian teen websites. (Alex and Brett are Josh Harris' younger brothers—Josh has written several books including "I Kissed Dating Goodbye") Last year they conducted what is now called "The Modesty Survey" that came about as a result of conversations (blogs) being held between the teen girls and guys who care about modesty. Hundreds of Christian girls contributed to the 148 question survey and over 1600 Christian guys responded over a 20 day period in Jan. 2007. There was so much information and data to go thru it took them a year to publish the results!

The questions posed by the girls where actually put in the form of statements and then the guys answered based on a 5 point scale with 1 being strongly disagree and 5 being strongly agree.

For example:

- Modesty is important for all girls, regardless of height, weight, build, etc.
 - 69.8% strongly agreed and 26.4% agreed with this statement while less than 4% strongly disagreed, disagreed or neutral.

- You have less respect for an immodest girl than for a modest one
 - 75.6% strongly agreed or agreed with this statement

The questions we are going to ask are:

- Who are we dressing for? Our friends, for ourselves, for guys, for God?
- Does what a girl wear cause us to be a stumbling block for the guys around us? And if so, why?
- Does God care how we dress?
- What does God mean when God calls us to be holy?

We have had some recent visitors to our youth group. We are glad to have Vinnie, Megan, and Brittany join us and special kudos to the youth that invited them!

If you are in the 7-12th grade you are invited to join us Sunday evenings from 5:45-7:1 and Wednesday's from 7-8:00.

Wednesday's have no formal structure but offer our youth a chance to visit, play games, and listen to Christian music. We will be taking about 15 minutes each Wednesday for a short devotion that will be lead by our youth and a time of prayer.

Never Give Up, Never Back Down, Never Loose Faith

Jim and Candy Niemeyer, Youth Leaders

Address Update!

Denise Droege
PO Box 411
Washington, Iowa 52353
618-420-3055 cell phone

Denisedroege1@yahoo.com

618-420-3055 cell phone

PHOTO CONTEST

Presented by WCG

The Women of the Church of God is hosting a photo contest. Here is how it works. Everyone can enter! Just bring in a photo by October 5th. Your photo can be in color, black & white, new, old, big, small, as long as it is in a stand up frame. The photos will then be displayed on tables with jars next to them. Everyone in the church (even you) will vote by casting money into the jars, and the jar with the most money at the end of October wins. The winner will be announced Nov. 2nd. Once again **Anyone can enter** all photo must be in a stand up frame. Examples of pictures can range from nature, family, humorous, to serious. You choose the best photo you have, frame it and submit it to Kim Brooks or Carol Hamilton by October 5th.

All proceeds are given toward missions.
Thank you very much.

Kim Brooks

Tunes 4 The Troops

The youth group is doing another drive to collect new or used CD's or DVD's with music, movies and audio books to send to our troops overseas. (No VHS or Cassettes) This past spring we were able to send 3 boxes with about 100 CD's and DVD's in each box to 3 different units in the Middle East. Our church and youth group is an official satellite location for Tunes 4 the Troops and we need your help! Please check with neighbors, friends, co-workers and families and ask them to donate their CD's and DVD's to this worthy cause. We can provide fliers and other information for any of you that might need it.

We want to send out whatever we collect before Thanksgiving so that the troops can receive the boxes in time for Christmas. The national goal is to have sent 500,000 CD's and DVD's by Christmas 2008. As of Sept 1, there have been over 350,000 sent overseas thanks to over 400 satellite locations across the country and our youth group is a part of that.

Please bring in your donations by November 9th so that we can sort and pack and mail by November 20th. You can also help by donating cash to pay for the cost of shipping and handling which runs about 15.00 a box. For more information about this effort you can go to www.tunes4thetroops.com or talk to a youth member.

Jim and Candy Niemeyer, Youth Leaders

fhcogy@wisperhome.com

FHCOG YOUTH GROUP WEB PAGE

First, I want to thank David Floyd for the work he is doing not only for the church website and also for the youth group page. Youth and parents please be sure to visit this site for information. I am working with David to have the monthly *Parent Link Newsletter* and the youth calendar on the web so that you can always find it.

We will also be putting photo albums of the various youth activities and events as well as information and links about Tunes 4 the Troops, Acquire the Fire, and IL State Youth Convention. I am looking for feedback on what could make the youth page serve not only the needs of the youth, but also their parents.

Jim and Candy Niemeyer, Youth Leaders



Acquire the Fire— St. Louis Oct 10th and 11th

Jr and Sr High Youth

If you signed up to go, be sure to pay your \$10.00 as soon as possible. If you want to go, extra tickets may be available. See Candy or Jim.



Bring in new or used CD's/DVD's of music movies, or audio books by Nov. 9th. We want to ship in time for Christmas. Help the youth group reach the national goal of 500,000 by Christmas 2008.

WCG News

WCG will be having a bake sale at the Walgreens located in Fairview Heights on Oct 25th from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Come out and support our ladies as we raise money for missions.

Our Walk-a-Thon walking for missions is Sat. Oct. 11th at Longacre Park in Fairview Heights from 7am - 1pm. Walkers and supporters are needed!

Kim Brooks