

BRIDGING THE GAP

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS CHURCH OF GOD
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IN THIS ISSUE

From The Pastor's Desk	1
Sermons and Services for February... 2	2
Five Finger Prayer	2
January Sermon Notes	3
New Address for Jason	4
Food Pantry 2007 Report.....	4
Ten Top Predictions for 2008.....	4
Stupid Remarks.....	4
Men 4 Him	4
Grand Prix Race	4

From The Pastor's Desk Spiritually Hungry

It was December 13 1877, when a spiritually hungry Christian man took a walk in the woods to talk to God. His name was Daniel Warner. He recalled the words of the prophet Jeremiah "They shall be my people." And his response was, "Lord, I am forever yours!" Soon this event led to a fresh wave of evangelist sharing and publishing of the Gospel Trumpet. The call was to a fresh commitment to God. But things are different today. Even these holiness pioneers of past generations had their limitations and excesses. They still had a vision of the true church. They had a sacred covenant with God. Maybe it is time to take another walk in the woods joining Warner in order to commune with God and enter into a covenant of holiness that can lead to unity and mission. We are to be holy even as God

is holy! Sometimes we are too busy with playing church while many people lie along the Jericho roads waiting for compassion and attention. God expects a radically committed church that is not playing games, but that has a vision for the work. We are nothing without the Holy Spirit working in the church. First we must be emptied of self. As a pastor, I can study the sermon, illustrate, explain and enforce the truth, but it will not become God's message until the Holy Spirit brings the anointing. We are nothing without the moving of the Spirit. Next we must give ourselves to prayer in our work. If any of us is working without prayer, our work will be in vain. We must also be men and women who can be used by the Spirit. If any of us become vain, boastful, or lazy, we cannot expect the Spirit to work in us. God is jealous; He watches His church looking for what is unholy. We must value every movement of His power. If we want the Spirit of God to bless us, we must be on the watch to notice everything He does.

Ezekiel 37:3-4 says: "And He said to me, 'Son of man can these bones live?' So I answered, 'O Lord God you know.' Again He said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones and say to them, O dry bones hear the word of the Lord!' " The Holy Spirit set the prophet down in the midst of the valley of dead, dry bones. He started preaching and the bones came together and became a mighty army.

We need more of the power of the Spirit working in our churches today. After all, it is not my plan that God is going to work out, it is His. Not my power, not my work, His. The bottom line is God blesses a Spirit

Filled Church. So as we keep moving into this new year, my prayer is that we all will listen to the Spirit of God and grow together in Unity and Holiness for Him. I believe 2008 will be great as we allow God to work in our lives and the life of the Fairview Heights Church of God.

**Never Give Up! Never Back Down!
Never Lose Faith!**

Enjoy the Journey,

Pastor Clayton

Sermon and Service Outline for February 2008

February 5 "Five Star Award Sunday"

**AM Service "Sanctification, Why we
need it!" Pastor Clayton**
Text John 17:17

**PM Service Fresh Service led by
Pastor Brian**

February 10

**AM Service "Building Blocks of
Marriage" Pastor Clayton**
Text Matt. 19:4-6

**PM Service Men-4-Him
Valentine's All Church Dinner at 5 PM**

February 17

**AM Service The Ephesians Factor:
"What God Thinks of Me Now!"**
Text Eph. 1:3 Pastor Clayton

**PM Service Pastor Clayton
sharing in the evening service**

February 24

**AM Service The Ephesians Factor:
"Living Up To Your Reputation!"**

Text Eph. 4:1-3 Pastor Clayton

**PM Service Food, Fun and Fellowship,
"Car Racing" Starting at 5 PM**

Five Finger Prayer

1. Your thumb is nearest you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C. S. Lewis once said, a "sweet duty."

2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.

3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.

4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger, as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them

5. And lastly is our little finger - the smallest finger of all which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "The least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.

Sermon Notes from January

January 6th

"The State of the Church"

Ephesians 1:18-23

We have certain responsibilities:

1. Obedience to God
2. Dedication to mission of preaching, teaching and outreaching
3. Willingness to grow in Christ
4. Give of your time, talents and resources

The Christians in Ephesians:

1. They were anchored in relationships
2. They were renewed by a relationship
3. They were compelled by a passion
4. They were committed to the mission

What it takes to be a team member:

1. Tolerance of each other's weaknesses
2. Encouragement towards each other's successes
3. Acknowledgement that each of us has something to offer
4. Mindful that we need each other.

The state of this church is good, but it can always be better!

January 13th

"What is in your Wallet?"

2 Corinthians 9: 6-8

What attitude should we have towards giving?

How well are you sowing?

New Testament gives us four guidelines to giving:

1. We are to give freely.
2. We are to give generously.
3. We are to give regularly.
4. We are to give cheerfully.

You have been blessed so be a blessing to others.

What are you sowing?

Are you satisfied with the harvest?

January 20th

"Why I Tithe"

(Subtitle "Why I serve the Lord")

Malachi 3:8-10

The Bible contains more than 2,350 verses dealing with money and possessions. Jesus said more about money than almost any other subject.

Why you should tithe:

1. Because God's word says so!
2. Because I don't want to rob God!
3. Because I trust the Lord!
4. Because I realize that there is more after this life!
5. Because I want to keep my focus on Christ!

Matthew 6:19-20

Earthly treasurers are insecure.

Heavenly treasurers are secure.

Lamentations 3:22-26

Have you been faithful in your:

1. life
2. family
3. friends
4. prayer
5. witness
6. church
7. work
8. money

Life presents us many opportunities. How we respond depends on what we love and what we look for in life.

January 27th

"Open the Windows of Heaven"

Malachi 3:10

STEWARDSHIP IS THE TESTIMONY OF MY CONFIDENT TRUST IN WHO GOD IS AND WHAT HE WILL DO IN MY LIFE!

Stewardship:

1. Trusting, not tithing
2. Deals with the person, not the purse
3. It is a Spiritual issue, not a financial issue
4. It covers our total life

Why God needs to be in charge of our life:

1. God is the creator; He made all things.
2. He is the supplier; He has all things.
3. God is the provider; He gives all things.
4. He is the owner; He owns all things.

You are in good hands with God:

1. God's hands are a place of majesty and peace.
2. God's hands are a place of love.
3. God's hands are a place of discipline and love.

Stewardship is where you send a message to: Satan (leave me alone!)

Do you want God to raise the windows of Heaven and pour out His blessings in your life?

Trust and obey for there is no other way!

New Address

Jason West
881 Kwanpyeong-dong #302
Yuseong-gu
Daejeon 305-509 Rep of Korea

Fairview Heights Area Food Pantry

To: Church of God

We wish to thank you for supporting our efforts at the Food Pantry. During 2007 our records show you donated meat and 47 bags of pantry items and monies of \$100. (Our volunteers try to keep records, but at times these vary from the actual count.)

We ask for your continued support with God's Blessing.

Our mailing address is PO Box 4657, Fairview Heights, IL 62208 and our location is 412 St Clair Road (the old fire station).

Sincerely,
The Pantry Board

THE TOP TEN PREDICTIONS FOR 2008

1. The Bible will still have all the answers.
2. Prayer will still work.
3. The Holy Spirit will still move.
4. God will still inhabit the praises of His people.
5. There will still be God-anointed preaching.
6. There will still be singing of praise to God.
7. God will still pour out blessings upon His people.
8. There will still be room at the Cross.
9. Jesus will still love you.
10. Jesus will still save the lost.

God whispers in your soul and speaks to your mind. Sometimes when you don't have time to listen, He has to throw a brick at you.

It's your choice: Listen to the whisper, or wait for the brick.

Editor's Note: David Floyd thinks this is a fiction story being passed around the internet. He suggests we check stories we aren't sure of at the websites *snopes.com* or *truthorfiction.com* I didn't check it out, but I like the idea behind the story anyway and hope it could possibly happen some day! So here it is.

If you don't know GOD, don't make stupid remarks!!!!!!

A United States Marine was attending some college courses between assignments. He had completed missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

One of the courses had a professor who was an avowed atheist and a member of the ACLU. One day the professor shocked the class when he came in. He looked to the ceiling and flatly stated "God, if you are real, then I want you to knock me off this platform. I'll give you exactly 15 minutes." The lecture room fell silent. You could hear a pin drop.

Ten minutes went by and the professor proclaimed, "Here I am God. I'm still waiting"

It got down to the last couple of minutes when the Marine got out of his chair, went up to the professor, and cold-cocked him; knocking him off the platform. The professor was out cold. The Marine went back to his seat and sat there, silently. The other students were shocked and stunned and sat there looking on in silence.

The professor eventually came to, noticeably shaken, looked at the Marine and asked, 'What the heck is the matter with you? Why did you do that?'

The Marine calmly replied, "God was too busy today protecting America's soldiers who are protecting your right to say stupid stuff and act like an idiot. So, He sent me."

God bless the Marines – as well as the rest of the military!!!

Men 4 Him

Excitement is in the air! February 10th is our annual dinner for the church family "Magnifico" is what the evening will be if you attend. An Italian dinner will be prepared and served by the men. Come out and enjoy a dinner with us February 10th at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Annual Car Race

February 24, 2008

Calling all women, men, boys and girls! It is time to build that car out of a block of wood. Be sure to sign up so we can put you on the entry list. We will be having a car race on Sunday, February 24th starting at 5:00 pm. Bring your favorite snack and the church will furnish the hot dogs

This is a great time to invite family and friends for a night of fellowship and fun. Awards will be given in different events. Be sure and pick up your kit and begin working on your favorite design. A work day on Saturday, Feb. 16th will be a good time to work together on creating the best of the best. There will be helpers to assist in any area you need help.

**GENTLEMAN (LADIES AND KIDS TOO)
START YOUR ENGINES!**