

# BRIDGING THE GAP

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS CHURCH OF GOD  
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Volume X No. 8

March 2005

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## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

### THOROUGHNESS

Thoroughness means carried through to completion, careful about detail, and complete in all respects. Are you a person who likes to finish what you start? Like carrying out a responsibility to its completion. I'll name a few: A course at school, a project at home, your job and just the everyday duties of life. When you have accomplished or thoroughly fulfilled a task, there is a feeling of satisfaction that cannot be expressed in words. The key to thoroughness is to think like a winner.

Back in 1936 Jessie Owens came back from the Olympic Games as the World's Fastest Man. At the press conference he was asked, how he did that. He said I think it all began when I was

just a kid back in junior high school and my coach got us all together and made a speech. The main thing he said was that you can pretty well become whatever you make up your mind to be.

People become what they think about. We need to be careful what we think, because what we think becomes reality in our lives. Thoroughness requires us to think. It is not only what you think but how you think it. I call it the power of a precise goal. If you climb to the bridge of a ship and ask the ship's captain, what is your next port-of-call? He would name it. For 99 percent of the voyage, he wouldn't be able to see the port, but he would absolutely be certain that if he did the right thing day by day, he would ultimately get there. The chances that the ship would accidentally coast into the port-of-call are one in a billion.

The chances of ever accidentally getting anywhere in life are even less without thoroughness. It is important to set goals for our mental development. There is a phenomenon of faith, one that has a great deal to do with the way we view the world.

David looked at things differently than Goliath. The big giant depended on his own strength. David's trust was in God who would enable him to use his abilities, his youth and skill with the slingshot to perfection. David was different. He had an attitude of faith. He knew circumstances don't defeat, but that defeat or victory comes as a result of our inner perception of those circumstances. Our thoroughness makes all the difference.

There is unique power that flows toward those who believe God can do anything through them. When we get in line with this tremendous flow of God, great things can happen. When we are confronted with the living God it brings out of us that which we were meant to be. When we

come into vital relationship with Him, we begin to reflect Him. Christians are the most power-filled people on earth. Too many of us are operating on pennies when God intended that we should utilize millions from his bank of power.

I close with a simple reminder. The difference between something good and something great is attention to detail. That is true of a delicious meal, a musical production, a play, a new automobile, a well-kept home, a church, our attire, a business, garden, a sermon, a teacher, a well disciplined family.

We need to move out of the ranks of the mediocre and join the ranks of excellence. So many Christians today start like a flash of lightning but soon lose the gift of thoroughness to finish the course. We are off to a great start in the life of our church but it will take all of us to keep the fire burning. There must be thoroughness in all we do from the preaching, teaching, singing, outreach and in all our programs.

Lord help us finish what we start in the work of the church. As we walk through this new year may God help us to expect to win as we reach out to grow. God wants us to be thorough in all we do for Him. Don't be like so many people that sit in our churches today and just get by. Expect to win! Expect to look at the details. And get ready because God will do great things in your life and in the life of the church.

*Enjoy the Journey,  
Pastor Clayton*

## **SERMON OUTLINES FOR MARCH 2005**

### **THEME FOR THE MONTH:**

**“A PLACE WHERE EVERYBODY KNOWS  
YOUR NAME!”**

#### **MAR. 6**

AM SERVICE: PASTOR BRIAN POPE  
CHILDREN'S MOMENTS: HANDBELLS

PM SERVICE: PASTOR CLAYTON  
SPECIAL TIME OF PRAYER  
MERCY SEAT

#### **MAR. 13**

AM SERVICE: PASTOR CLAYTON  
“HAVE YOU BEEN GETTING TO  
GETHSEMANIE?”

TEXT: LUKE 22:39-46  
CHILDREN'S MOMENTS: CHILDREN'S CHOIR

PM SERVICE: VIDEO SERIES-  
“HOPE FOR THE HURTING” BY MAX LACADO  
WHEN YOUR WORLD TURNS AGAINST YOU!

#### **MAR. 20 PALM SUNDAY**

AM SERVICE: PASTOR CLAYTON  
“LORD REMEMBER ME!” LUKE 23:42  
CHILDREN'S MOMENTS: PASTOR BRIAN

PM SERVICE: PM SERVICE: VIDEO SERIES-  
“HOPE FOR THE HURTING” BY MAX LACADO  
“EVER GIVE UP!”

#### **MAR. 27 EASTER SUNDAY**

AM SERVICE: PASTOR CLAYTON  
“HE'S GONE!” MATT. 28:1-10  
CHILDREN'S MOMENTS: HANDBELLS

PM SERVICE: **NO EVENING SERVICE**

**MARCH 19:** PASSION OF CHRIST FILM  
STARTING AT 5:00 P.M.

**MARCH 24:** MAUNDAY THURSDAY  
SERVICE AT 7:00 P.M.

**MARCH 25:** TENEBRAE SERVICE  
AT 7:00 P.M.

**MARCH 26:** EASTER EGG HUNT  
AT 10:00 A.M.

#### **TENEBRAE WORSHIP SERVICE**

We are planning a very special service on Good Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. The service of worship that night is taken from an early Christian service called Tenebrae. The name Tenebrae is the Latin word for darkness” or “shadows”. We will experience only a small portion of Christ's pain and suffering the day of His crucifixion. This service can be a life changing service for you and your family. Please, plan now to attend.

*Director, Darla Clayton*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

The Board of Christian Education reviewed sample packets of Sunday School material from a few different companies and some may be used in the future.

We are excited about the plans for the changes in the Nursery and Toddler rooms. Marshall and Phyllis have already started working on this. We would ask that only age appropriate children be in these classrooms. Jr. Church has also taken on a new look, as they are learning about Missions/Missionaries and the Countries they are in. Thank you, Sunday School Teachers and Jr. Church for making your rooms fun and inviting.

We were able to recognize 11 for Perfect Attendance last quarter with a certificate: Morgan Brown-JAC, Larry Campbell-SABC, Ivan DeHart-SABC, Norma DeHart-SABC, David Floyd-JOY, Mikalah Johnson-KK, Grover Johnson-SNGLS, Verla Logsdon-SABC, Debbie Pope-BP, Diane Taylor-JOY, Jayn Willeford-JOY. We will recognize Perfect Attendance after each quarter. We would like to encourage Sunday School Offering giving in each class, as this has been down recently. Keep inviting family, friends, neighbors, co-workers to Sunday School and Church!

*But Grow in Grace and Knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...2 Peter 2:18*

*Jayn Willeford, Phyllis and Marshall Field,  
Sunday School Leaders*

## DUCK (DON'T UNDERESTIMATE CHRISTIAN KIDS) CLASS HELPS TSUNAMI VICTIMS

The DUCKS class has been giving money to the Tsunami Relief. We collected \$27.12 and we are donating the money to Samaritan's Purse, a foundation Franklin Graham, Billy Graham's son, sponsors.

*Andrew Pollard, Victoria Pope, Page Ball,  
Kenny Fitzmaurice, Andria Bowlsby,  
Brittany Craver, Kierra Wicks, Cameron Weakley*

## J.O.Y. CLASS (JUST OLDER YOUTH-ADULT I)

We have finished viewing the video series on **Secrets of The Vine**. We will be finishing the

study with 2-3 weeks of round table discussion reviewing the material and hopefully developing an action plan for our class based on what we have learned. We welcomed Richard and Sarah Sorrell to our class this past month as well as Jim's son John who paid us a visit when Denise was home from college.

Our next study will move into another study from Bruce Wilkinson entitled "The Dream Giver" which we will begin sometime in April after Pastor finishes his New Members class. This study will expand on the principles we have learned in "The Secrets of the Vine" study. John 15:16 states "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you." God has given each of us a "fruit" or "dream" that we are to accomplish in His Kingdom. But, sadly most of us never fulfill that "dream" God has given each of us because of people, circumstances, fear, trials, or giants that come along and turn us back to "The Land of Familiar". Come learn how to fulfill the dream that God has given you. This study will help you recognize the process that we all go through to dream fulfillment and teach you how to overcome fear, bullies, the wasteland, and the giants that come along the path. Moses' dream was to lead his people out of Egypt and he ran into all of these obstacles but God was there every step of the way. See you in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings!!!

*Candy Niemeyer  
Teacher*

## SENIOR ADULT BIBLE CLASS NEWS AND VIEWS

DeHart's attended a Bach Society concert at Powell Symphony Hall in St. Louis, MO. The Bach Society is composed of 70 singers and is conducted by A. Dennis Sparger, retired director of music at SWIC. The DeHart's daughter Susan sings with the group as a first soprano.

From Senior Adult Bible Class:

Larry and Gwen Campbell are in Florida becoming part of the snow birds that venture south for the winter. They have let us know they met with Edna May for a time of fellowship. They will be returning on March 2. We miss them and

pray they will have a safe journey home.

During the months of January and February the following members had birthdays: Agnes Spinney 1-13-05, Kinney Knowles 2-11-05, Norma DeHart 2-17-05. All agreed it was time to start the other way.

Our class member, Stella Sims has been teaching the class of Ruth Pope during Ruth's absence. Ruth and Warren are also snow birds visiting in Florida for the winter. Stella is doing a great job with the class and we pray for her at each class session.

We encourage everyone to pray for Kenny. He is undergoing a series of tests and we can all understand how trying that can be. Jane needs our prayers too.

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UNIT III of our class session that began on Feb. 6, 2005 addresses issues that all human beings are confronted with. We studied about Naomi and Ruth that speaks of upheaval, loss, grief and hope. The unit moves to the subject of pride with the story of Naaman and what it took to heal him. Pride is a sore spot with many people. Nicodemus shows us how uncertainty can provide a path to greater understanding and faith. The unit closes with an examination of the seemingly intractable problem of prejudice.

This unit underscores the good news that it matters not what malady grips us: there is an open invitation to whosoever will? COME.

*Ivan DeHart, Teacher*

## FAITH WEAVERS

### I Do

Who will follow Jesus? Who loves Jesus? Who wants to be closer to the Lord? I DO is what the children of the FaithWeavers friends will say. The wonderful leaders of this program have brought each lesson forth with love and energy. This program with the excitement and small groups bring the children not only closer to God but each other. They are turning into little witnesses for God. They will tell you about what they learned, just ask them. We have 23 signed up and are at least 19 every week. Praise the Lord. He said "let the children come" (Matt. 19:14) and I say AMEN to that we always have room for more.

From a personal level: before FWF I came on Wednesday nights for my mid-week filling, to keep "me" though the week. Now with the FWF I have so much more to share with others. I feel

the need to tell others about this program and the Church. It's so much more than a "me" experience now. These kids bring it out of me. Each child and leader is a special blessing to me.

The Lord works though each of us. My prayer is for all of us to know him personally. I Do!

*Carmen Hamilton, Director*

## YOUTH UPDATE

The youth had a great time at the Dare2shareBlaze Feb. 18, 19. It was a great time of worship and learning for all 8000 in attendance. We had 12 youth attend. The youth learned to have a burden for their friends and letting them know about Christ. They were given the tolls to talk to their friends about Christ and to invite them to Church. Each youth has at least one person on their mind as someone important to them that needs God in their lives. Please pray for the youth as they go out and make a difference in our community and our Church.

Watch for the youth next month with the 30 hour Famine. Each youth is raising money for world hunger. They will be fasting for 30 hours and trying to raise \$2500 for World Vision. Please look at [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org) at [30hourfamine.org](http://30hourfamine.org) for more information.

Thanks for your support.

*Pastor Brian*

## WOMEN OF THE CHURCH OF GOD (WCG)

The Illinois WCG Annual Convention will be Friday, April 8 through Sunday, April 10, 2005.

Theme:

"Celebrate The Journey With Joy"

Psalm 126:1-6

Guest Speaker:

Rev. Arnetta McNeese Bailey

Ministry Coordinator

WCG Anderson, Indiana

Ramada Inn

Peoria, Illinois

Registration deadline is March 1, 2005. The fee is \$50.00. The WCG will pay ½ the fee (\$25) for members.

Each church is to bring a Banner with something to present during the Banquet—a skit, a poem, a song, or just explain a project, etc,

which depicts "Celebrating a Journey." Each local group is being asked to decorate a table. We are being asked to light up our banquet room! We can have fun, get creative, and let us together honor our Savior with our talents.

Please let me know if you would like to work on these projects. Sign up sheets are on the WCG Bulletin Board and this year you can sign up for the rooms, too.

Be sure your registration fees are given to Phyllis Field and let's make sure we do this by March 1.

Thank you to all the ladies who agreed to be officers for the next two years. The nominating committee will present the new slate at our next meeting.

We are missing our President Ruth Pope, and it will be so good to have her back with us in April.

Plans are going forward for the Mother and Daughter Banquet in May. Kim Brooks, Kelly Craver and Shannon Peiffer are doing the planning this year.

Have you noticed the makeover in the bathrooms? And the Nursery/Toddler rooms? They look fantastic thanks to Carol Hamilton, Darla Clayton, Lillian Milburn, Terri Hamilton and Pastor Clayton, Marshall Field and Phyllis field for their time and using their talents to make our church more attractive in these areas.

*Stella Simms, Vice President*

## **MEN4HIM**

We thank all who attended and helped make the Valentine Banquet a success. Positive feed back came from many.

We will be hosting an Appreciation Breakfast on Saturday, March 12 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. for the O'Fallon Police and Fire Departments. Any assistance in making this event a success is appreciated. We can use your help.

*Bill White*

## **FELLOWSHIP GROUP UPDATING**

We have had the month of February to sign up for our "new" Fellowship Groups. The sign up sheet had been posted on the bulletin board for the month. We didn't have near the number I thought we would have but the ones

that signed their names sure are going to have fun. Now, if you just didn't get around to signing up and you would still like to be in a group, you need to let me know before the 10th of March.

Again, this is such a good way to get to know your brothers and sisters in this congregation better! I have heard that comment many times in the past several months SO don't get left out of the fun and excitement of YOUR Fellowship Group!

*Darla Clayton*

## **OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS**

**Seminar by Liz Curtis Higgs  
"Loved by God"  
St. Matthew United Methodist Church  
Belleville, ILL.**

**Friday, April 22, 2005  
7:30 p.m. "A Desperate Heart"  
8:30 p.m. Dessert Reception**

**Saturday, April 23, 2005  
9:00 a.m. "A Seeking Heart"  
10:00 a.m. Brunch  
11:00 a.m. "A Devoted Heart"**

**Ticket Cost \$20.00**

*(The cost of the live speaker, reception and brunch are included in the ticket price.)*

*Liz Curtis Higgs is the author of twenty-two books. Her fiction books include Thorn In My Heart, Bookends, Missed Signals. Her most recent nonfiction include: Unveiling Mary Magdalene, Bad Girls of the Bible, Really Bad Girls of the Bible, Rise and Shine. She has also written five books for young children: The Pumpkin Patch Parable, The Parable of the Lily, The Sunflower Parable, The Pine Tree Parable, and Go Away, Dark Night.*

*For more information talk to Phyllis Field or Darla Clayton. Tickets should be ordered as soon as possible to insure availability.*

## **EXTREME MAKE OVER SPECIAL OFFERING**

A special offering will be taken Sunday, March 7, to help give our church an extreme

make over. Some projects are already complete and others are in the process. Have you noticed the nursery and the bathrooms lately. We are building a new sound booth to help protect our sound equipment. We still need to paint several areas of our church building. We also need some landscape work, like fill dirt, flowers, shrubs, mulch etc. As we all work together with our gifts, talents and time we can give our church an extreme make over. As new people come into our church they need to see a 5 star church building.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

We want to thank all those that have been involved in the redecorating of the Nursery/Toddler area and all of the church restrooms. Many people have spent numerous hours on these projects and the Men's Group has helped to finance a major portion of the costs. A future project involves a new sound/audio/video booth in the Sanctuary as well as a Landscaping project for the front of the church. God has truly blessed our congregation with talented people and we say THANK-YOU!

*Candy Niemeyer, Treasurer*

## TO THINK ABOUT

### THINGS YOU MAY NOT HAVE KNOWN ABOUT IRAQ

1. The Garden of Eden was in Iraq.
2. Mesopotamia, which is now Iraq, was the cradle of civilization!
3. Noah built the ark in Iraq.
4. The Tower of Babel was in Iraq.
5. Abraham was from Ur, which is in Southern Iraq.
6. Isaac's wife Rebekah is from Nahor, which is in Iraq.
7. Jacob met Rachel in Iraq.
8. Jonah preached in Nineveh-which is in Iraq.
9. Assyria, which is in Iraq, conquered the ten tribes of Israel.
10. Babylon, which is in Iraq, destroyed Jerusalem.
11. Daniel was in the lion's den in Iraq.
12. The three Hebrew children were in the fire in Iraq (Jesus had been in Iraq also as the fourth person in the fiery furnace!)

13. Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, carried the Jews captive in Iraq.
14. Ezekiel preached in Iraq.
15. The wise men were from Iraq.
16. Peter preached in Iraq.
17. The "Empire of Man" described in Revelation is called Babylon, which was a city in Iraq!

## The Tea Cup

There was a couple who used to go to England to shop in a beautiful antique store. This trip was to celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They both liked antiques and pottery, and especially tea cups. Spotting an exceptional cup, they asked "May we see that? We've never seen a cup quite so beautiful."

As the lady handed it to them, suddenly the tea-cup spoke. "You don't understand." It said, "I have not always been a tea-cup. There was a time when I was just a lump of clay. My master took me and rolled me pounded and patted me over and over and I yelled out, 'Don't do that. I don't like it! Let me alone'", but he only smiled and gently said; "Not yet!"

Then... WHAM! I was placed on a spinning wheel and suddenly I was spun around and around and around. 'Stop it! I'm getting so dizzy! I'm going to be sick!', I screamed. But the master only nodded and said quietly; 'Not yet.' He spun me and poked and prodded and bent me out of shape to suit himself and then...

Then he put me in the oven. I never felt such heat. I yelled and knocked and pounded at the door. "Let me out of here!" I could see him through the opening and I could read his lips as he shook his head from side to side, 'Not yet'.

When I thought I couldn't bear it another minute, the door opened. He carefully took me out and put me on the shelf, and I began to cool. Oh, that felt so good! "Ah, this is much better," I thought.

But, after I cooled he picked me up and he brushed and painted me all over. The fumes were horrible. I thought I would gag. 'Oh please; Stop it!' I cried. He only shook his head and said, 'Not yet'.

Then suddenly he put me back in the oven. Only it was not like the first one. This was twice as hot and I just knew I would suffocate. I begged. I pleaded. I screamed. I cried. I was convinced I would never make it. I was ready to give up. Just then the door opened and he took me out and again placed me on the shelf, where I

cooled and waited—and waited, wondering what he was going to do to me next.

An hour later he handed me a mirror and said ‘Look at yourself.’ And I did.

Quietly he spoke: “I want you to remember, then”, he said, “I know it hurt to be rolled and pounded and patted, but had I just left you alone, you’d have dried up.

I know it made you dizzy to spin around on the wheel, but if I had stopped you would have crumbled.

I know it hurt and it was hot and disagreeable in the oven, but if I hadn’t put you there, you would have cracked.

I know the fumes were bad when I brushed and painted you all over, but if I hadn’t done that, you would never have hardened. You would not have had any color in your life. If I hadn’t put you back in the second oven, you wouldn’t have survived for long because the harness would not have held. Now you are a finished product. Now you are what I had in mind when I first began with you.”

The moral of this story is this:

God knows what He’s doing (for each of us). He is the potter, and we are His clay. He will mold us and make us, and expose us to just enough pressures of just the right kinds that we may be a flawless piece of work to fulfill His good, pleasing and perfect will.

So when life seems hard, and you are being pounded and patted and pushed almost beyond endurance; when your world seems to be spinning out of control; when you feel like you are in a fiery furnace of trials; when life seems to “stink”, try this...Brew a cup of your favorite tea in your prettiest tea cup, sit down and think on this story and then, have a little talk with the Potter.

Father God, send forth laborers into your harvest, and let me be the first one.

*“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”  
Matthew 4:19*

### **If Today**

If you planted hope today  
In any hopeless heart  
If someone’s burden was lighter  
Because you did your part,  
If you cased a laugh  
That chased some tears away

If tonight your name is named  
When someone kneels to pray  
Then your day has been well spent.

*And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him,  
because we keep his commandments, and do  
those things that are pleasing in his sight.  
I John 3:22*

*“And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I  
will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I  
will hear.”  
Isaiah 65:24*

### **Editor’s Note**

Articles and comments may be emailed to [billandkaren@mail.com](mailto:billandkaren@mail.com) or placed in the envelope on the bulletin board, near the stairs to the Children’s Church room.

New deadline for submission of articles is the third Sunday of the month in hopes that we can inform before the beginning of the new month. Your cooperation is appreciated.

*Thank You, Karen White*