

# BRIDGING THE GAP

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## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Last Saturday night we had to set our clocks back one hour. Every time we mess around with the spring-up and fall-back routine I think of the story about the backwoods lady in Louisiana. She wrote the government one summer complaining about the new-fangled plan called daylight savings time.

She said, "That extra hour of sunshine done burnt up all my tomaters plants."

It is surprising how much one hour makes, even when you don't raise tomaters. Now when you look out the window in the late afternoon, expecting to see some daylight left all we see is darkness. The opposite occurs at dawn. It always takes me some time to adjust! Suddenly out of the blue we are a full hour into brighter mornings and darker evenings now that fall has fallen.

Have you ever noticed how uncooperative time is? When you want time to zip on by, it drags. Then when you want it to slow down to a

crawl, it is tomorrow already. Have you noticed how quickly deadlines arrive, even though you try to push them away?

I really like the way David puts it in Psalm 31:14-15a. "But as for me, I trust you, O Lord, I say you are my God. My times are in your hand." It is all a matter of trust as time marches along in our lives.

Here is a good list to think about: Is time dragging? TRUST! Are deadlines arriving? TRUST! Unwanted guests staying? TRUST! Beginning to look and feel older? TRUST! Unwanted answered? TRUST! Recovery taking longer? TRUST! Finances fading fast? TRUST! School less satisfying? TRUST! Feeling unappreciated? TRUST! Employment lacking? TRUST! Decisions getting complicated? TRUST! Dreading winter? TRUST!

Maybe it will help us all to read again the words of David: "I trust in you, O Lord, you are my God. My times are in your hand." What a great truth for all of us to remember.

We must all slow down! First of all life is brief. On every stone in a cemetery there is a dash, a horizontal line between the date of birth and the date of death. Second death is sure. It is coming and at that time the only thing that will live on in this life will be your personal contributions, your investments during your lifetime. What will you leave behind that will make a difference to your family, friends and your church. As we adjust to the new time change I pray that it will be also a moment of reflection on our life.

Great things are still happening in the life of our church and I hope that you will continue to be a part of every service, program and ministry as we reach this community for Christ. Trust him today, tomorrow and forever! Remember God is in control! He knows what is best for us. Again remember the words of David. "But as for me, I

trust in You, O Lord, I say You are my God. My times are in your hand."

Life is not fixed. Let it happen, don't rush it. "It is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. Do everything without complaining or arguing." Phil. 2:13-14. This is truly a time of reflection for all of us.

*Enjoy the Journey,  
Pastor Clayton*

## **NEW SUNDAY EVENING SERIES STARTING IN NOVEMBER**

Finding Rest in a Stressed-out World  
"Video series by Max Lucado"

Nov. 7 Session One  
"Don't Just Do Something, Stand There"

Nov. 14 Session Two  
"Uncluttered Christianity"

Nov. 21 Session Three  
"The End Will Come"

By following Christ's example we can learn to find peace in our troubled world!

You don't want to miss this study if you have stress in your life!

## **HOT TOPICS, SUNDAY MORNING PREACHING SERIES**

### Nov. 7 "IS MARRIAGE THAT IMPORTANT?"

Is marriage something that is so important that we ought to fight to preserve the traditional understanding of it, one man and one woman? Obviously depending on who you ask, you will get different answers. Come Sunday and hear the rest of the story!

### Nov. 21 "Homosexuality and the Church!"

What does God say about homosexuality and all other sins. The issue is not what feels right, what the government says, what science says or what preachers say. The only issue is what does the word of God say!

### Nov. 28 "Do we have to talk about money?"

Returning a tenth of our income to God is a part of our worship. We are to bring a tithe into his storehouse. Actually, all of life is a stewardship whether it is physical, mental, moral or spiritual.

It is a trust from God. There are three kinds of givers, the flint, the sponge and the honeycomb, come and see which one you can relate to!

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT**

A big thank-you to all of our Construction Engineers and Crew Members. We were able to build our wall in less than 52 days. Please continue to invite your family, friends, co-workers, and school friends to Sunday School and church, as we continue in the building of our faith and spiritual life. Jesus is the Chief Cornerstone of the church, is He the Chief Cornerstone of your life?

The Board of Christian Education met at church on October 24, 2004. Curriculum materials for December through February were ordered. We are still looking into other possible materials for some of the teachers who have expressed interest in this. At the end of each quarter, we will be having Attendance Recognition. In the next quarter, we will be promoting our giving in each class.

In compliance with our safety inspection of our building, we have posted in each classroom emergency evacuation plans. Periodically, review them with your class.

Don't forget there are two file boxes in the general church office with postcards/postage stamps. If you need them for visitors, absentees, special events and groups, feel free to use them.

Our Sunday School classes will be working with the youth group for a few weeks helping provide food for the Fairview Heights Food Pantry. The classes have been divided into three groups and challenged to see which group can bring in the most. Group 1-the Nursery, God's Little Lambs, and King' Kids, J.A.C., Duck, SWAT classes. Group 2-Joy Class. Group 3-Voices, Senior Adult Bible Class and Single Adult Classes.

*"Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the Chief Cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in Him you too, are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives in His Spirit. Ephesians 2:22*

*Your Sunday School Leaders,  
Jayn, Phyllis and Marshall*

## SENIOR ADULT BIBLE CLASS – NEWS AND VIEWS

Our congratulations to Gene and Verla Logsdon on their 58th wedding anniversary. They enjoyed a very fine dinner with their family.

Agnes Spinney enjoyed two nice visits with her granddaughter and her family in Wichita, KS, during the month.

Larry and Gwen Campbell enjoyed a nice visit with Jeff on October 10th. Jeff lives in Springfield, IL. By the way, Jeff has the authority to give out a traffic ticket to someone who parks in a handicap zone without proper authorization. Be careful where you park if you're ever in Springfield.

Stella Sims has visited quite often with her ailing mother-in-law, in Cape Girardeau, MO. She lives in a nursing home and needs much prayer. She is a Christian and ready to meet her Lord.

A big thank you to the class, in appreciation for cooperating so well in the Sunday School program, "Building the Sunday School Brick by Brick". We were able to add many, many bricks for perfect attendance and bringing our Bibles to class. The ladies did a great job in decorating our class room.

We appreciated having Viola White and Edna Mae Earl, in our class as their teacher. Grover Johnson was away working in a live week end program in Princeton, IN. They added much to our class discussion.

Larry Campbell is no Arnold Palmer but he is no amateur either. He scored a hole-in-one on a miniature golf course. He did it one other time too. Although he didn't win a large sum of money, he did win an ice cream malt and a free ticket to another round of golf. How about them apples.....They were playing with Larry's sons, Glenn and Roger.

Our Unit II Sunday School lessons, just finished, God tried to woo the people back into a loving and obedient relationship. They resisted and eventually had to face the consequences of disobedience and sin. A new covenant was made by which all people could have a personal relationship with God. It was a great time for all to review our covenant relationship with the Lord.

Unit III entitled "A New Creation" begins with the words of Jesus and then looks at some of the writings of Paul. We will be discussing new ways, as new creatures in Christ, behaviors in

attitudes and actions and a hope that extends into eternal life. Come join us.

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*It's easy for people to make monkeys of themselves, just by carrying tales.  
T. Harry Thompson*

*Ivan Dehart, Teacher*

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

We will be finishing up our study in the Fall Quarterly the end of November. We will then begin a new study of the Secrets of the Vine written by Bruce Wilkinson which takes us on a journey through John 15. This course will be a Video and Workbook study for 8-12 weeks. Our class has previously done a study of the Prayer of Jabez by the same author and we are looking forward to this study.

Many of us met at the Niemeyer's house for a fall evening of fellowship, homemade chili, hot apple cider, s'mores and a fire pit in their backyard. Darla and Pastor Terry even told us a "BEDTIME" story that reminded me of Goldilocks trying to find a bed that "was just right". If you haven't heard the story, I am sure Darla or Pastor would be happy to tell it again.

Just a reminder to all our class members: please bring your non-perishable food items to be donated to the Food Pantry. This is a service project that the Youth Group is doing but our class has been pitted against the other 3 adult classes and the entire children/youth division as a contest of who can bring more. So far we are trailing the other adult classes by a substantial amount. Let's give them a run for it!!!

See you on Sunday Morning in the Fellowship Hall!!!

*Candy Niemeyer,  
Teacher*

## MEN4HIM

We are busy. Men4Him met Saturday, Oct. 2 for breakfast, fellowship and planning. Ten men were in attendance.

Oct. 30, discuss plans for purchasing and delivering Christmas gifts to Rosewood and Caseyville Nursing Homes.

Nov. 28, List will be posted for signing up to purchase Christmas gifts for Nursing Home residents.

Dec. 1, Men4Him will be providing pizza, salad and soda for the Wednesday evening meal.

Dec. 18, Men4Him will meet for coffee and then distribute the Christmas gifts to the Nursing Homes.

Jan. 22, a Grand Prix race for everyone

Feb. 13, the Valentines Banquet

March 12, Men's Appreciation Breakfast

April 16, Meet for Coffee and planning

May 21, Men4Him auction

We encourage all men to come out and join us for a great time of fellowship and worthwhile projects.

*"Reaching Men, Strengthening Families"*

*Bill White*

## FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

I guess all I can say is, "If you are not in a Fellowship Group you are really missing a lot of fun!" We have heard stories of ferry rides, hay rides, bowling, and miniature golf. Now we have also heard stories about people eating way to much, gerbal roundups, Peggy breaking 100 in bowling and Bro. Larry making a hole in one at golf! You might want to ask him for some pointers before making your next trip to play. So, the next time "your group" calls try and make every effort to be a part and go have some fun and just enjoy the journey!

*Darla Clayton, Coordinator*

## THANK YOU

Darla and I would once again like to say "Thanks" for your love to us. We continue to be overwhelmed by it. We thank you for every beautiful card, notes that were written, gifts of money and gift cards. We appreciate each and everyone of you. It feels good to know that you are exactly where God wants you to be and then to be blessed by your love.

*Pastor Terry and Darla*

## NEWS FROM MYANMAR AND THAILAND- OCTOBER 2004

Dear Friends and Sponsors,

Greetings again from Asia! We wanted to share a bit about our trip to Myanmar (Burma) and our travels in Thailand. Our director in Myanmar was a bit concerned about our coming because the government had just ousted the prime minister. She was worried that there would be trouble. But we were able to get into and out of the country with no problems.

We were able to see nearly every sponsored child in Myanmar. We recognized many of them from last year; they had grown! They were very happy to see us and showed their very graceful courtesy. We were a bit concerned that the children are small for their age. We spoke with the director about that. We are going to add some additional food items which we hope will help increase the nutrition of the children even further. The new rate of \$25 will make this possible. We are so grateful. Thank you so much, sponsors! The poverty is widespread and devastating. Yet the sponsored children are so blessed because they get food and schooling. We are more determined than ever to help as many children as possible.

In Thailand, we have been traveling to the different sites around the country. The country is gorgeous! One constant reminder that we are here are the immense Buddhist temples in every town. Last night a huge Buddha was on the mountain outside our little cabin. One sponsored boy is from a Buddhist family. Every Sunday he goes home and preaches the sermon to his parents! Over the last year, his mother has even come to church a few times! Praise the Lord! This little eleven-year-old boy refuses to participate in the daily Buddhist devotions at his school. "I am a Christian!" he states! He is making a big difference in his community!

Thank you for your prayers. We are constantly amazed at what your love and care is doing for these children and their families! God bless you!

For His Children,

Drs. Paul and Brenda Maxfield,

Coordinators Children of Promise

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"Change a Life . . Sponsor a Child"

*"And He took the children in His arms,  
put His hands on them, and blessed them."  
Mark 10:16*

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES TREASURE REPORT**

As of Sept. 31, we have completed one half of our fiscal year so I wanted to give you some highlights from the last 6 months. We have been able to remodel the old kitchen into a new Sunday School classroom and several SS classrooms received new lighting. From donations and Memorial Contributions, we have placed a new Cross on the front of the church and the Audio/Media Fund has been started to purchase equipment needed for projection during worship services. Due to a recent building inspection we had to install 4 new emergency/exit lights in the original part of the church.

The church was also able to help 15 kids attend youth camp this past summer as part of camp assistance funding. We were also able to provide the Youth Group with a Summer Youth Intern, Mathew Kennedy. Through a special love offering that was collected we were able to give Mathew an additional \$1289 before he left us and returned to Mid-America. The congregation was also very generous to the N.I.C.E. foundation with a recent special love offering of \$1180.00 (Oct 2004). We also sent a check to World Service for \$1180 for the special Easter Offering and Illinois State Day received \$483.00

When the AWANA program ended, we were able to sell our remaining supplies to another church for \$1055 and the AWANA program also turned over \$448 from their fund-raising account to the church. These monies have and will continue to fund the Faithweaver's Children's Program on Wed. nights. Because the Faithweaver's program is already well funded, the Board of Trustees has voted to apply any profits received from the Wed. Dinner program to the Audio/Media Fund for the purchasing of equipment in the future.

Just like your home, we have bills to pay that include the mortgage, power, telephone, security service, insurance, water, sewer, trash, grounds care and custodial service. We also had to put a new roof and gutters on the parsonage for \$2896.00. We also have continued our tradition of tithing 10% to World Service which

includes support for our missionaries and 3% to the General State Budget as well as an additional \$50.00 a month to the Lebanon Church of God.

Some up coming events include the Thanksgiving and Christ Birthday Offerings, landscaping the west side (curb side) of the Church, and the purchasing of equipment needed to run the projection system. We may also need to replace one of the air conditioners next year as we suspect one is having a problem. We also need to continue funding the many programs of the church including Sunday School, Youth Group, Music, Junior Church, Nursery, and Bible Quizzing to name a few.

You, the congregation, are to be congratulated on your stewardship and giving. We have accomplished many things in the last six months, but we are falling behind in our Tithes and Offerings (-\$6899 as of 9/30) and in the Building Loan Reduction Fund (-\$1201 as of 9/30). Both of these accounts are what I use to pay the bills for the church. Without these monies, Evangelism and Outreach is on hold (budgeted to spend \$5000.00), and many of the programs may not be able to spend their budgeted amounts. I know the Lord has met and will meet our needs, but as your Treasurer, I want to keep you up to date. If you have any questions, please see me and/or check the posted Financial Statement on the bulletin board.

*Sincerely,  
Candy Niemeyer*

## **TO THINK ABOUT**

### **The Mayonnaise Jar and 2 cups of coffee...**

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar...and the 2 cups of coffee...

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it

was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous "yes."

The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

"Now," said the professor, as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things—your God, family, your children, your health, your friends, and your favorite passions -- things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house, and your car.

The sand is everything else -- the small stuff. "If you put the sand into the jar first," he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you.

Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness.

### **How to Forgive**

One day a while back, a man, his heart heavy with grief, was walking in the woods. As he thought about his life this day, he knew many things were not right. He thought about those who had lied about him back when he had a job.

His thoughts turned to those who had stolen things and cheated him.

He remembered family that had passed on. His mind turned to the illness he had that no one could cure. His very soul was filled with anger, resentment and frustration.

Standing there this day, searching for answers he could not find, knowing all else had failed him, he knelt at the base of an old oak tree to seek the one he knew would always be there. And with tears in his eyes he prayed:

"Lord, You have done wonderful things for me in this life. You! Have told me to do many things for you, and I happily obeyed. Today, you have told me to forgive. I am sad, Lord, because I cannot. I don't know how to forgive. My anger

is so deep Lord, I fear I may not hear you, but I pray that you teach me to do this one thing I cannot do – Teach me to Forgive."

As he knelt there in the quiet shade of that old oak tree, he felt something fall onto his shoulder. He opened his eyes. Out of the corner of one eye, he saw something red on his shirt.

He could not turn to see what it was because where the oak tree had been was a large square piece of wood in the ground. He raised his head and saw two feet held to the wood with a large spike through them!

He raised his head more, and tears came to his eyes as he saw Jesus hanging on a cross. He saw spikes in His hands, a gash in His side, a torn and battered body, deep thorns sunk into His head. Finally he saw the suffering and pain in His precious face. As their eyes met, the man's tear turned to sobbing, and Jesus began to speak.

"Have you ever told a lie?" He asked. The man answered, "Yes, Lord."

"Have you ever been given too much change and kept it?" The man answered – "yes Lord." And the man sobbed more and more.

"Have you ever taken something from work that wasn't yours?" Jesus asked? And the man answered "Yes, Lord."

"Have you ever sworn, using my Father's name in vain?" The man, crying now, answered – "Yes, Lord."

Then Jesus turned His head from one side to the other, and the man felt something fall on his other shoulder. He looked and saw that it was the blood of Jesus. When he looked back up, his eyes met those of Jesus, and there was a look of love the man had never seen or known before.

Jesus said, "I didn't deserve this either, but I forgive you."

It may be hard to see how you're going to get through something, but when you look back in life, you realize how true this statement is. Read the following line slowly and let it sink in.

If God brings you to it –  
He will bring you through it.



# Women of the Church of God

NOVEMBER 2004



## WCG ANNUAL FALL CRAFT FAIR & BAKE SALE

Was a Success! - Over \$1,000

Praise the Lord!

Thanks to a lot of work and combined efforts our craft fair and bake sale was a success. Also the lunch served on both days was successful.

The past few weeks several of us were busy sawing, painting, sewing and baking for this event. Thanks also to those who furnished soup for our lunches.

We also want to thank those that worked on Thursday helping us set up and price the items and those who worked Friday and Saturday.

We appreciate all those who had lunch with us and those who came and bought our craft items.

**A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL and to Carol Hamilton who organized some work nights for us.**

At our regular meeting on Tuesday evening before the Craft Fair, we made "No-Sew Fleece Blankets." This was demonstrated by Ruth. This is a project we might want to make for gifts for the holidays.



*hear live & tell*

### **THE STORY....**

***Advent theme for this year. Advent begins the last Sunday in November and continues thru December. You will be seeing posters, bulletin inserts and receiving a meditation journal for December.***

***Our Christ Birthday Offering goal is \$2000.***

***Project Prayer a 25-day prayer vigil begins December 1. Illinois Day of Prayer is December 23.***

An affiliation form was signed at our last meeting which was forwarded to our State President. This in essence says that as long as we use the name "Women of the Church of God" that we will support the organization on the state and national levels.



### ***Dresses were a hit!***

Shirley and Bill tell us the dresses we made and sent to Nicaragua with them are being worn proudly to church. (This dress was made by Gwen.) \*\*\*\*\*

You won't want to miss our next meeting:

Tuesday

November 23 at 7 pm

Special emphasis on preparing our hearts for the Holidays!

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**CHANGE THE WORLD! By saving your change!**