

Christian Church of God Newsletter



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From the PASTOR'S DESK

Hello My Friends,

How saddened we are by the tragedy that struck the coal town of Tallmansville, West Virginia. Joy gave way to grief and anger last Wednesday when the coal miners' families learned that 12 of 13 miners trapped in a mine explosion had died three hours after friends and family were mistakenly told that all but one had survived. How we hurt for the families who rode that emotional roller coaster going from despair to joy and then to the horror of devastating reality—12 corpses—their graves a shaft of Saga Coal Mine over 200 feet below the surface. We all have lost loved ones, some tragic, untimely and unexpectedly. We pray that the God of peace will grant those who lost loved ones peace, strength & comfort.

~

Now, as we chuck our 2005 calendars into the "circular file" and

"An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves"

— Bill Vaughn

adorn our walls, desks & refrigerators with our choice of 2006 calendars that we'll have to look at for the next 12 months, perhaps we should pause & reflect upon the past year. Disappointed? Grateful? Angry? Pleased? Which best describes your mood? On our refrigerator is a reminder of our last Rotary Exchange student, Signe the Dane. It is a mood indicator with facial expressions depicting every imaginable emotion. You can move the daily indicator that says, "Today I Feel" to a facial caricature of your choice—from exhausted to ecstatic, angry to anxious, enraged to depressed, overwhelmed to bored, ashamed to smug . . . well, you get the idea. And don't our moods fluctuate, our feelings ebbing & flowing like the surf along a sandy beach? Do we have to be prisoners of our emotions?

How often we find ourselves

Special points of interest:

- *Paul better than Dr. Phil*
- *A Spiritual Fix in 2006*
- *Tidbits from near and far*
- *Our sermons broadcast on KGRO Radio 9:05 AM Sunday. www.pan-tex.net*

Our Home Page:
www.christianchurchofgod.org

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G I hear by the Grape

Is there a doctor in the house? The McClenagans are proud to announce that there is one in theirs: Dr. J. Donald McClenagan, who has recently been awarded his doctorate in geology.

Good to hear from Candace and Glynn Mitchell, Shreveport, LA. : "We are all doing well. . . . After Katrina, . . . things here were incredibly hectic, as we opened three shelters. Glynn was the supervising captain over the security for them, and I was the Infectious Diseases consultant to the medical director of Red Cross. It was a rough three weeks. / Maddie is doing well in first grade. / We went to Newport for FOT [2005] . . . and enjoyed the foggy, but cool weather. / I hope you are all well . . . Give our love to The Gang."

If you want to catch a glimpse of a few of your editor's writings, check out SPIRIT LIFT at la-encouragers-webzine.com.

Hymns for Him Hymns for Him

Sing songs from your heart to Christ. Sing praises over everything, any excuse for a song to God the Father in the name of our Master, Jesus Christ. ~ Ephesians 5:19-20, Msg.

In 1912, Ina Duley Ogdon received an invitation to be a Chautauqua Circuit speaker. This circuit had become an extensive summer camp training venture for churches that used performers, musicians, lecturers, and motivational speakers. But it was not to be for Ina; her father was seriously injured in a wreck and she had to turn down the offer to take care of him. Though bitterly disappointed, she decided to serve God as best she could in her circumstances, making up her mind to be a blessing wherever she was. She determined that if she couldn't minister to thousands, she would be a light to those few contacts she had. She wrote: **"Do not wait until some deed of greatness you may do, / Do not wait to shed your light afar; / To the many duties ever near you now be true, / Brighten the corner where you are."** After Charles H. Gabriel set the poem to music, it was discovered by Homer Rodeheaver, the song director for Billy Sunday's evangelistic campaigns. He made it the theme song; it remained so for twenty-two years. Instead of speaking to thousands, Ina Duley Ogdon has ministered to millions with her song, **"Brighten the Corner Where You Are."**

Who Built the Fire?

The lighthouse is but
the holder of the
flame
placed by the hand of
man —
a light upon peril, a
warning of shoals,



PRAYER REQUESTS: “. . . The prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up: . . . Pray for one another that you may be healed.” — James 5:15-16.



Angela Bailes: Severe heart problems & is pregnant. Doctors want to take the baby early.
Sandy Booth: Sister-in-law of Jeff Booth, ovarian, cancer; condition is greatly improved.
Amber & Dylan Clark: Grandchildren of Betty Clark, cerebral palsy.
Vickie Crevoi: Sister of Linda Booth, Chronic Progressive MS.
Dan Copenhaver: Brother of Betty Clark, disabled & prostate cancer.
Leah Cryer: Underwent surgery for removal of malignant colon tumor.
Velvet Green: Gary’s wife, schizophrenia.
Randy Gnessett: Friend of Candace Seller, pulmonary hypertension, improved but still awaiting a lung transplant.
Sheri Bartlett: Julia McKinney’s daughter, having serious health problems.
Dollie Meil: Cerebral palsy.
Ruby Moyer: Infection & pneumonia following knee replacement.
Tovayah Nelms: Pray for mothers carrying babies with anencephaly.
Patton Pugh: Grandson of Bonnie Cryer, lungs & bones not fully developed; suspect hormone problem.
Glenda Rankin: Niece of Rudolph, Hodgkins Lymphoma, scheduled for bone marrow transplant in January.
Ted Rankin: Had surgery for herniated disks, slow recovery.
Kathryn Scott: Friend of the Baileys; severe MS, losing use of arms and swallowing ability.
Audrey Strahl: Jeff’s mother, congestive heart failure.
Beverly Wertz: Juvenile arthritis (and hip replacement) in remission for years, now reoccurring in knees, hips, wrist and shoulders. Sometimes happens after giving birth.
Bob Wertz: Achalasia, a disorder of the esophagus.

Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn

CELEBRATIONS		
<u>Birthdays:</u>		
Helen Kennedy		01-01
Virginia Sellers		01-02
Francis Carlson		01-04
Rudolph Rankin		01-15
Norma Hamilton		01-25
Roy Carlson		01-31
<u>Anniversaries:</u>		
Linda & Darrell		
Sehorn		01-06

We cannot all

argue [as scholars], but we can pray; we cannot all be leaders, but we can all be pleaders; we cannot all be mighty in rhetoric; but we can all be prevalent in prayer. I would sooner see you eloquent with God than with men.”

—Charles Haddon Spurgeon

Christian Church of God

PRAISE THE
LORD. PRAISE
GOD IN HIS SANCTUARY;



PRAISE HIM IN HIS
MIGHTY HEAVENS.
PSALM 150:1

"The church is not a gallery for the exhibition of eminent Christians, but a school for the education of imperfect ones." —Henry Ward Beecher
"For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."
—Jesus, Matthew 18:20
"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."
—Hebrews 10:25

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CHART YOUR
COURSE



WITH VISION



chuckles

A CHEERFUL DISPOSITION IS GOOD
FOR YOUR HEALTH;
GLOOM AND DOOM LEAVE YOU
BONE-TIRED.
—PROVERBS 17:22, *THE MESSAGE*

A recent "B. C." cartoon defined "sermon" as: "An inspired message directed mainly at those who are not in attendance." [Let's hope not!]

Ronald Reagan: "The most terrifying words in the English language are: 'I'm from the government and I'm here to help.'"

Analogies & Metaphors from High School essays:

- Her vocabulary was as bad as, like, whatever.
- His thoughts tumbled in his head, making and breaking alliances like underpants in a dryer without Cling Free.
- Her face was a perfect oval, like a circle that had its two sides gently compressed by a Thigh Master.
- The hailstones leaped from the pavement, just like maggots when you fry them in hot grease.

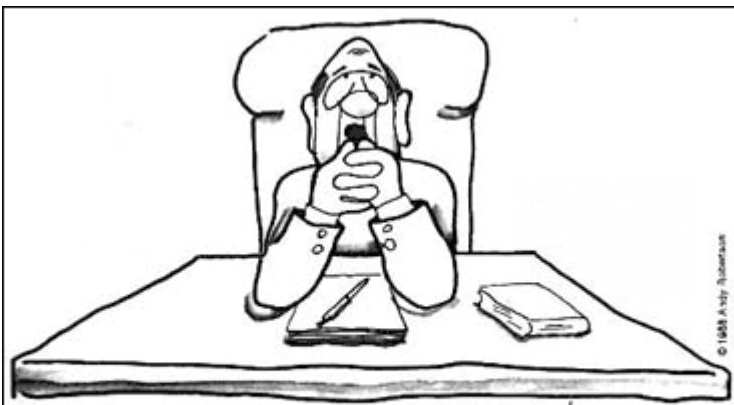
[ENOUGH ALREADY!]

"Brain Cramps" of the Rich and Famous:

- Question to Miss Alabama, '94 Miss USA contest: "If you could live forever, would you and why?"
Answer: "I would not live forever, because we should not live forever, because if we were supposed to live forever, then we would live forever, but we cannot live forever, which is why I would not live forever."

[No, this was not overheard as one of our comments in C.E.P. class.]

- Brooke Shields, during an interview to become Spokesperson for federal anti-smoking campaign: "Smoking kills. If you're killed, you've lost a very important part of your life."
- "Outside of the killings, Washington has one of the lowest crime rates in the country." —Mayor Marion Barry, Washington, DC.
- Philadelphia Phillies manager, Danny Ozark: "Half this game is ninety percent mental."



A LITTLE BOY opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages. "Mama, look what I found," the boy called out. "What have you got there, dear?" With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!" —Stichin' Heaven.

"And, Father, I ask thee now for a good text
to accompany this fantastic joke."

From the PASTOR'S DESK

affected by circumstances, situations, events, victims of happenstance, an all to common human affliction. The Apostle Paul provides helpful insight in how to deal with life's disappointments, how to stand against fate's blows and Satan's wiles. Paul, I find, is a darn sight more helpful than any Dr. Phil could ever be.

"Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you. But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Phil. 4:4-13, NKJV)

Isn't it curious that the moment may dictate our attitude, and anxiety about tomorrow may cloud our perspective, but usually as we remember, we remember the good things, the happy memories? It does seem that hindsight sees more clearly than today's vision. By sadness we learn what joy that happiness is, by pain we learn what a blessing comfort is, by failure we learn the exaltation of success, and by mortality we learn the blessed eternity of immortality.

As we move forward, let us think on the good things... see the best things...and do the right things!

God Bless You,
Jeff Booth

Peanuts for Life Peanuts for Life

What's new? The Year, that's what! But perhaps what really needs to be new is our perspective of God's purpose for our lives. Joshua, successor of Moses, stood on Jordan River's bank, waiting for a new era to begin. Two things are obvious as you read the first chapter of Joshua:



- 1) God's Promises: "I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you."
- 2) God's Charge: "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go."

Think about what God has done in your life in 2005 and use that to help you make spiritual progress this year. Perhaps a slogan is appropriate:

GET YOUR SPIRITUAL FIX
IN TWO THOUSAND AND SIX!