

Christian



March 2006 Volume 16, Issue 3

Contact the Editor at
jerrydalemc@sbcglobal.net
or P. O. Box 33134,
Amarillo, TX 79120



From the PASTOR'S DESK

“Nothing splendid has ever been achieved except by those who dared believe that something inside them was superior to circumstances.”

—Bruce Barton

Peace & Joy To You All,

As March rolls in and the Spring Holy Days peer around the corner, I find myself in a contemplative state of self-assessment. One thing that bothers me is how the peddlers of fear & doom chip away at our armor, sucking joy from our lives and filling the vacuum with dread and foreboding. I suppose the effects of our 24/7 news bombarding us all day, every day, plus the anger and frustration of talk radio, also adds to the corrosion of our happiness and the deterioration of our attitudes. The Apostle Paul, knowing this destructive tendency of human nature, wisely advised us as to the proper outlook for life; it is in his second letter to Timothy

“For God has not given us

a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” (2 Tim 1:7 NKJV)

It was fear that compelled the unprofitable servant to bury his talent instead of trading with it (Matt. 25;25). It was fear that compelled Pilate to condemn an innocent Jesus. By contrast, it is a courageous spirit that God offers us, one embodied with power, love and a sound mind. Purveyors of fear, like the infamous “Chicken Little” who proclaimed the sky was falling when the raindrops fell, paralyze and debilitate, imposing a bondage of doom and gloom upon us. I find no attraction to the Gospel in the dour and sour faces of the fearful pessimists. To expect miracles, to confound enemies, to lift us up in our trials

Special points of interest:

- *Resist the Fear Mongers*
- *Let the Lower Lights Burn*
- *Guarding against “Chicken Little”*
- *Our sermons broadcast on KGRO Radio 9:05 AM Sunday. www.pan-tex.net*

Our Home Page:
www.christianchurchofgod.org

Inside this issue:

<i>Spirit of Fear or Courage</i>	1
<i>Chuckles & Chortles</i>	Int. Pg.
<i>Prayer Requests</i>	3
<i>Pastor Appreciation</i>	2
<i>Christian Duty</i>	Int. Pg.
<i>Celebrations</i>	3
<i>Pastor's Desk</i>	1

"OUR PASTOR" - ANYONE CAN DO IT !

DEAR ABBY: One of the toughest tasks a church faces is choosing a good minister. Mr. James, chairman of an official board, undergoing this painful process finally lost patience. He'd watched the Pastoral Relations Committee reject *applicant after applicant* for some fault, alleged or otherwise. It was time for a bit of "soul-searching" on the part of the *committee*. So Mr. James stood up and **read a letter** purporting to be from another applicant.

"**Gentlemen:** Understanding your pulpit is vacant, I should like to apply for the position. I have many qualifications. I've been a **preacher** with much success. I've had some success as a **writer**. I'm also known for being a **good organizer**. I've been a **leader** in the places I've been. I'm over 50 years of age. However, I have *never preached in one place for more than three years*. In some places, it has been necessary for me to leave town after my work caused some **riots** and **disturbances**. **I must admit**, I have been in **jail** three or four times. But, actually, it was *not because of any real wrongdoing*. My health is *not exceptionally* good; but, I still **get a great deal done**. The **churches** I have preached in have been **small**, but they have been located in several large cities. I must tell you that I've **not gotten along well with religious leaders** in towns where I have preached. In fact, some have **threatened me**. Some have even **attacked me** physically. I am *not too good at record keeping*. I have been known to **forget** some whom I've baptized. However, **if you think you can use me**, I shall do my BEST for you."

The Chairman looked at the committee. "Well, what do you think? Shall we call him?" The church folks were aghast! "Call an *unhealthy, trouble-making, absent-minded, ex-jailbird?* **Was the chairman crazy? Who signed this application?** Who had such **bold nerve?**" Mr. James, the chairman, eyed them all keenly and hesitated before he answered. "My fellow board members, it is signed - *the Apostle Paul.*"

Contributed by Duane Adair

PASTOR

A Pastor has got to be a **special man** -
Called of God to lead the flock.
 A man of prayer, love and **faith** -
Trusting Christ, the Solid Rock!

A **teacher**, a **confident**,
 A **helper**, a **friend**;

A **guide** to *lead the lost* to **Christ**
 In a darkened land.

His **guidebook** is the **Bible**,
 To be **studied day and night**;
 To **prepare** for his sermon -
 To be **blessed** in Jesus' sight.

Remember to pray

For this **special man of God**,
 Be certain to let him know

You are thankful he is your Pastor,
Tell him you APPRECIATE him so!



Pastor Appreciation

*"We ask you to
 honor those
 leaders who work
 so hard for
 you . . .
 Overwhelm them
 with appreciation
 and love!"*

I Thessalonians 5:12,13

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.



- Sheri Bartlett:** Julia McKinney's daughter, having serious health problems.
- Laurie Borggreve:** Daughter of Sharon & Terry Anderson, delivered a baby girl 3 months premature. The baby will be in ICU for 3 months; please pray for healthy development.
- Amber & Dylan Clark:** Grandchildren of Betty Clark, cerebral palsy.
- Vickie Crevoi:** Sister of Linda Booth, Chronic Progressive MS.
- Leah Cryer:** Underwent surgery for removal of malignant colon tumor.
- DeAnne DeLuna:** Larry Lyles' stepdaughter, breast cancer.
- Velvet Green:** Gary's wife, schizophrenia.
- Randy Gnessett:** Friend of Candace Seller, pulmonary hypertension; condition worsening. He has been activated for a lung transplant.
- Jeffrey Hertz:** Brother of Ruth Wertz, bladder cancer.
- Dollie Meil:** Cerebral palsy. She is growing weaker.
- Patton Pugh:** Grandson of Bonnie Cryer, lungs & bones not fully developed; suspect hormone problem.
- Glenda Rankin:** Niece of Rudolph, Hodgkins Lymphoma, undergoing more chemo so she might be strong enough for stem cell transplant.
- Ted Rankin:** Had surgery for herniated disks. He is undergoing physical therapy. He is still in pain and having problems with his eye sight.
- Kathryn Scott:** Friend of the Baileys; severe MS, losing use of arms and swallowing ability.
- Beverly Wertz:** Juvenile arthritis (and hip replacement) in remission for years, now reoccurring in knees, hips, wrist and shoulders. Sometimes happens after giving birth.

CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays:

Linda Booth	03-11
Dollie Meil	03-12
Anita Sosa	03-12
Jerry McClenagan	03-23
Cindy Lujan	03-25
Maria Salazar	03-25
Weldon McAlister	03-27
Martha McClenagan	03-31

Anniversaries:

Manual & Maria Salazar 03-17

CONGRATULATIONS to Ron and Mary Vorheis on the birth of their Granddaughter, born 2/21 , at 8 lb. 10 oz. / 19" to Ben & Brooke Vorheis, Aujana, Italy.

We kneel, how weak!
We rise, how full of power.

" The Holy Spirit within is the secret, the center, and the

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

Christian
Church of

CHART YOUR COURSE



WITH COURAGE



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

chuckles

Where Preachers Get Illustrations



The main business of a Christian soul



LET YOUR LOWER LIGHTS BE BURNING

Brightly beams our Father's mercy
From His lighthouse evermore;
But to us He gives the keeping
Of the lights along the shore.

Dark the night of sin has settled,
Loud the angry billows roar;
Eager eyes are watching, longing
For the lights along the shore.

Trim your feeble lamp, my brother!
Some poor sailor, tempest tossed,
Trying now to make the harbor
In the darkness may be lost.

Let the lower lights be burning,
Send the gleam across the wave!
Some poor fainting, struggling seaman
You may rescue, you may save.

From the PASTOR'S DESK

is power. To hear, believe, hope and endure all things is love. Clear understanding, sound judgment, thoughts attuned to the mind of God—now that's the sound mind that allows us to think, speak, and act rightly.

We are told that global warming will shortly destroy the planet, and man is to blame—a bit arrogant to me that we could think we have such power over the earth, that we can control the climate. The sum of man's "environmental faux pas" can't even hold a candle to the environmental effects of just one volcanic explosion. We're told that the ice caps are melting, whole peninsulas breaking off, and soon we'll have rising oceans and flooding. What I see in the fear mongers is selective use of data. They start with a premise and then look for data to support it. For instance, while some ice is melting and breaking off the polar ice caps, they neglect to tell us the rest of the story... which is that overall the ice caps are actually thickening. Isolated phenomena are exaggerated to convince us all that we're doomed. We no longer have challenges and problems, now everything is a "crisis," a "catastrophe," an imminent "disaster." Growing up, I still remember the environmental alarmists warning that we were about to enter another ice age; now it's global warming and it's all our fault. Models and projections that are nothing more than speculation, impossible to prove, are presented as facts to be bowed down to on the altar of fear. Scientists who disagree with the concept of global warming and scientists who believe that global warming is beneficial, not detrimental, are ignored and muted. The earth historically moves through warming and cooling periods; it's the nature of things. The ozone hole was going to doom man's existence. Remember the specter of nuclear winter? Rachel Carson's dire predictions in Silent Spring scared us but didn't come to pass. Businesses have been wiped out through scare tactics proclaiming dire consequences and terminal illnesses resulting from the use of their products, only to find out too late that the claims were exaggerated and unfounded. Remember the Alar scare and its im-

pact on the apple growers? Owens Corning filed for bankruptcy because of lawsuits for claims that now we know were false. It reminds me of why God chose to make bearing false witness one of the Big 10. Y2K was to be the death of modern civilization. Thousands would die from Hurricane Katrina. Crime is worse than ever, when in reality it has been declining for a decade.

Why all the exaggeration of fear? Why only publicize the histrionic? Like people slowing down to gawk at a bloody car wreck, we are drawn to and fascinated by that which scares us. Terror sells and is profit for the prophets of doom, be they of the religious, environmental, medical or moral variety. A veritable panoply of causes prey upon our deepest fears knowing that our wallets will open and the cash spring forth when we are made to tremble. These "causes" and "movements" would go silently into the night if they could not terrorize and intimidate us. But then, we are fascinated by the macabre.

While we most certainly must watch and pray always, and while we certainly must be environmentally and socially responsible, let us not fall prey to these thought terrorists. Somewhere I read that joy is the flag that flies over the castle where the king resides. We as Christians need not reach for the duct tape to keep our heads from exploding. God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind, so let us fear no evil and let joy and happiness fill our hearts and let good works spring up from the seeds of joy.

May His Joy Be Yours,

Jeff Booth

PRAYER

God, give me sympathy and sense

**And help me keep my courage
high,**

**God, give me calm and confi-
dence—**

And, please—a twinkle in my eye.