



Saints Alive

April 2008

What It Is ALL About

Jim Burdick

I think I have written about fifty newsletter articles. The reason I mention fifty articles is that of all (more or less) fifty, this month may be the easiest one ever to decide what to say, how to say it, and what it means to me. This month's article almost writes itself!

Now if you listened real close at the Easter service, you will know part of the secret of this theme. But even for the Easter congregants, there is more. So let's consider the question - What it is all about?

This month's themes are: "See Jesus at Your Table," "Each Day Share, Each Day Grow," "Live Like Jesus," and "Love Like Jesus." The themes lay out a plan for helping us improve our Kingdom building skills.

Christ spent His life on earth totally fixed on the desire to bring humankind into a state of oneness with God's plan. And so often He described that state of oneness as the presence of God's Kingdom on Earth.

To build the Kingdom, we need to visualize Jesus Christ and anticipate His presence in everyday situations, like at our table, as normal as being part of our family.

To build the Kingdom, we must go into a continuous cycle of sharing and growing. We will forever grow in our spiritual state and in or relationship with Jesus. Being a Christian is not about arriving, it is about being perpetually underway. And as we grow in our relationship with God, we must share the knowledge of God's grace with everyone we come into contact with. Grow and share - critical principles.

The next two themes are really inseparable because you cannot do one without the other. We must live as Jesus lived (and lives still!) while we love as Jesus loved (and loves still!)

In many ways, the themes for April do spell out what it is all about to be a Christian. That is: live as though Jesus was part of your very family, even in simple activities like joining the family at the dinner table; each day, focus on growing in understanding and action while you share your witness of God's grace with everyone you meet; and finally as you journey through life live the way Jesus did and love all your brothers and sisters in God's creation.

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And, I would like to close on a special note. Last month, we lost a member of our church family, Dick Vorhes. So much could be said at a time of loss. We could reminisce about Dick's life or we could wax on about theological issues of eternal life, resurrection, and God's great plan for us. But I want to use this moment to wish all of you (no, all of us) would take time to bring the concepts of death into your family's discussions.

Get all family members united to understand each other's wishes and beliefs. Become as united in the end of the earthly path as we ought to be about the middle of that path. When the time comes, expected or not, the family can be united in love if these issues are discussed in advance.

God bless us all.



Graveside services for Richard Vorhes will be at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery on Tuesday 1 April 2008, at 11:30am. Memorial Service will follow at 1:00pm at the Community of Christ, 11910 Vance Jackson, SAT with food and fellowship to follow at the Vorhes home, 3131 Colony Drive.

Greeters for April

6th—Jim Burdick

13th—John & Kelly Patton

4/20—Doris Jackel

4/27—Marilyn McCrimmon

Sharing Financial Resources

by Patty Walker

“Share and share alike.” I believe all of us have heard this “saying” at one time or another. However, do you know the origin of this saying and what it really means?

Share and share alike is an expression that was first known as “share and share like” going clear back to 1566 when it was used in a comedy play. It first came to be used in its current verbiage in 1719 in Daniel De Foe’s “Robinson Crusoe”.

The meaning, of course, is to give equal shares to all.

The World Church has been encouraging us the last few years to consider the needs in all places of the world as well as the needs right here in San Antonio and the Coastal Bend Mission Center and to share equally. Consider this scripture from the Doctrine & Covenants 163:9:

“Faithful disciples respond to an increasing awareness of the abundant generosity of God by sharing according to the desires of their hearts; not by commandment or constraint. Break free of the shackles of conventional culture that mainly promote self-serving interests. Give generously according to your true capacity. Eternal joy and peace await those who grow in the grace of generosity that flows from compassionate hearts without thought of return. Could it be otherwise in the domain of God, who eternally gives all for the sake of creation?”

As your financial officer, I know how generous the Shenandoah Congregation is and every time there is a call for a special offering, you are there. Also, you may be very pleased to know that your leadership team and delegates at our mission center conferences have been hearing very positive comments about the generous giving from the Coastal Bend Mission Center (CBMC) and how all our congregations equalize their giving between local and world needs. In fact, both Rick Maupin, the Apostle for our area, and Mark Euritt, our Mission Center President, have told us that the CBMC’s model for giving is being illustrated to others throughout our world church community and Rick has asked Mark to write an article for The Herald regarding this good news.

Over the past four years the annual income from congregational giving in the Coastal Bend Mission Center has been approximately \$248,000. while the average Mission Center contribution per year for World Ministries is approximately 144,000.

The following figures illustrate the giving of the Shenandoah Congregation between Congregational and World Ministries for the same four years.

Calendar Year 2004 Cong. Ministries	\$30,956	59%
Calendar Year 2005	30,358	60%
Calendar Year 2006	35,938	68%
Calendar Year 2007	53,233	79%

Shenandoah’s giving to World Ministries in the period:

2004.....	21,705	41%
2005.....	20,372	40%
2006.....	16,918	32%
2007.....	13,781	21%

You can see that our local giving has exceeded that of World Ministries especially the last year, but this is due primarily to our building program and preparing for the renovation of our education building. All of you have been very supportive of the program and even though these building funds appear to go to local giving, in actuality they end up on the World Church financial books since any congregational buildings are assets of the World Church.

The World Church continues to educate us on being faithful financial disciples and has given us the six principles of A Disciples Generous Response to guide us in our daily living:

1. A disciple practices generosity as a spiritual discipline in response to God’s grace and love.
2. A disciple is faithful in response to Christ’s ministry.
3. A disciple’s financial response, while unique to individual circumstances, expresses love of God, neighbor, creation, and oneself.
4. A disciple shares generously through tithing so that others may experience God’s generosity.
5. A disciple saves wisely in order to create a better tomorrow for self, family, the church’s mission, and the world.
6. A disciple spends responsibly as a commitment to live in health and harmony with God and the world.

You have most likely read about these principles in The Herald and they are being printed on your offering envelopes every month. Also in each edition of The Herald is a block of information titled “World Ministries Contribution Update.” It keeps us up-to-date on how we are doing as a world church in contributions.(continued next page)

To keep us further informed, there are articles in The Herald about the great works being done around the world and in local areas due to your generous contributions to both World and Congregational Ministries. I hope you

are taking some time to read about these activities as it will help to reassure you that your generous giving is being transformed into blessings for others.

Last, have you noticed that in many of our offertories on Sunday mornings, stories are being related to you that illustrate again how World Ministries, Oblation, and World Hunger funds are being utilized to help our brothers and sisters around the globe? These funds are not sitting stagnant in a bank account – people are being helped so their basic needs of life and more are being met. This, in turn, helps them to be filled with happiness and most importantly, hope. The love of God is then allowed to flow through and within them and thus, kingdom building becomes a reality and not just something we talk about.

As you continue to grow in your financial discipleship and give in the future according to the needs of the local area, the mission center, and the world community, may you always be assured in the knowledge that God loves you, will continue to bless you and yours, and knows that you are indeed generous and have a compassionate heart that will continue to share and share alike between World and Congregational Ministries.

Multi Mission Center Gathering

- San Antonio, Texas
- San Antonio Airport Hilton
- May 23-25, 2008

Plan now to attend this weekend full of worship activities involving members of three mission centers: Coastal Bend, Heart of Texas and Mexico-Texas Mission Centers. Guest ministry includes Becky Savage, Counselor to the President and Member of the First Presidency; Rick Maupin, Apostle – Caribbean, Mexico and Texas; Ruben Landeros, President of Seventy. You can obtain a registration form from the foyer table in the sanctuary.

We are in need of teachers and activity coordinators for the children and youth. The times of the classes and activities are:

- Saturday - 10:00 - 11:45 AM and 1:30-5:00 PM
- Friday & Saturday - 9-10 PM - special activity for the Jr/Sr High Class
- Saturday - 7:30-8:30 PM - evening activity
- Sunday - Children's Worship from 9-10 AM

The classes will be divided up in the following manner : Primary Class, Jr Class and Jr/Sr High Class

Please consider providing this very needed ministry for our children and youth. You may get in touch with Joanne Chapman - earthangelccm@aol.com - 979-220-0206 or Belva Koreth - belva@shpc.org 512-441-1496

WHERE TO FIND **STUFF!!**

Websites:

Mission Center – www.coastalbendmc.org

World Church – www.cofchrist.org

Camp Sionito – www.campsionito.org

Congregational Life Workshop – Reviving and Equipping Faithful Communities

The Congregational Life Workshop is schedule for July 28 – August 1, 2008 at Graceland College in Lamoni, IA. Registration information, course descriptions and instructor/facilitator information can be found on the Community of Christ web page at <http://www.cofchrist.org/clw/>. Make plans now to attend this important event that models congregational life and explores topics of interest dealing with life together in congregations.

Generosity and Camp Sionito

Two wonderful expressions of growing a grateful generous heart were seen at the Coastal Bend MC Congregational Leaders Retreat, February 23-24, 2008. The first expression took root at our mission center conference in October 2007. The offerings from this conference far exceeded our needs. In consultation with the Sionito Board, the mission center leadership team agreed to purchase a new electronic keyboard for the campgrounds. This keyboard was installed during this retreat. It was a wonderful addition to the ministry of music for worship on the grounds. The second gift came because the leaders attending this retreat generously shared through their offerings. The funds received once again surpassed the needs of the retreat. The leaders attending the retreat unanimously agreed to donate the excess funds to Camp Sionito.

Summer Camps and Reunions

The Sionito Camping Program is a wonderful place to fellowship, to nurture your spiritual development, and to grow in your discipleship. There are camps for all ages. Please plan to attend one or more of these events. The Mission Center and Camping Committee have worked hard to make the program affordable for all. If you would like to attend and are having difficulty finding the necessary resources please visit with your congregational leadership and the Camp Directors. Registration forms for all camps and reunions maybe download from the Coastal Bend web page.

Young Adult Retreat (ages 19-30) – June 6 - 8

Senior High Camp – June 15 - 21

Reunion 1 – June 21 - 28

Junior High Camp – June 29 – July 5

Reunion 2 – July 5 - 11

Junior Camp – July 13 - 19

SPEC – July 19 - 26

Pot Luck

Did you know everyone who attends Pot Luck dinner the month of their birthday receives an *AUTHENTIC* Community of Christ mug. Wouldn't you like one of these handsome mugs to hold your favorite beverage? Plan now to join us each month of 2008 and enjoy tasty food and wonderful fellowship.

Fairbanks Congregation Workshop

On April 12th there will be a Missionary Workshop at the Fairbanks Congregation in Houston. The time will be from 9 AM - 5 PM. The Coastal Bend Missionary Team will be leading this Workshop.

While we are encouraging all the Congregational Missionary Coordinators from the CBMC to be present we realize that Missionary Ministry is given by everyone. Therefore we are inviting anyone who is interested in seeing their congregations grow, ministry given and people brought to Christ and the Church to please attend this workshop!

The noon meal will be provided for a free will offering. We will look forward to learning together. We want to hear your ideas on outreach! We are in this together!

(Registration forms are on the bulletin board in the Shenandoah Fellowship Hall.

Joanne Chapman, Carol White, Leo Purcell and Francisco Trevino

Welcome Back (for one Sunday!)

On March 9, Bob and Marvel Riley of the Bandera, TX congregation worshiped with the Shenandoah Community. Bob spoke at the 11:00 Worship Service and he shared a very personal message of life being for the living as he spoke on the theme, "Morning Follows Mourning." The Rileys "broke bread" with us at the Pot Luck meal following the service

Marsha, Brad and Hannah Torkelson welcomed brother **Lane** into their home and hearts on February 10th at 1:11 a.m. Lane, weighing 7 lbs. 6.oz. and measuring 20 ½ inches long, arrived with strong, healthy lungs. The Torkelson family recently relocated from Canyon Lake to Helotes and reside at 9306 Tyler Oaks.

April Birthdays

1—Sarah Talcott 13-Stratton Callier

9—Makani Marquez 18-Patricia Clark

10-Jim Walker 22-Jerry Higginson

12-Nancy Sixt 23-Joe Passante