



Saints Alive

May 1 2008

Waiting Faithfully

How well do you wait? Our culture doesn't exactly encourage waiting, we are a "get-r-done" kinda society. But "Waiting Faithfully" is the first theme of the month of May. I wonder in our industrious need to get started, establish goals and milestones, expecting a final product at the end, have we indeed done the right thing? If we had waited more faithfully would our goals and then the outcome been different?

The recent Word of God through our prophet, Steven Veazy, suggests that maybe we should wait? There are many issues that could easily consume the time and energy of the church. However, the challenge before a prophetic people is to discern and pursue what matters most for the journey ahead. —Doctrine and Covenants 163:11b.

The thoughts developed by the world church worship resources department tells us Acts 1:6–14 is a text of waiting. It begins with Jesus "giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen." He is preparing them (and therefore us) to continue his ministry on earth after he is no longer physically present. Will they be able to do what Jesus does when they can no longer see and hear him? The gift of the Holy Spirit is the one and only way they can do so. It plays such a prominent role here that the book is sometimes called "The Acts of the Holy Spirit" instead of "The Acts of the Apostles."

These disciples had been waiting expectantly for the restoration of Israel as a political kingdom and have consistently seen Jesus as the Messiah who would bring about that restoration. Now the resurrected Christ has told them to wait in Jerusalem "for the promise of the Father" and to expect to be "baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." They ask, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" They have been waiting for too little, because the kingdom Jesus sees extends "to the ends of the earth."

Jesus ascends to heaven, and the disciples stand looking up after him, just as you and I would. One can almost see the thought-bubble form—"What do we do now?" The angelic figures that interrupt their "upwards waiting" by asking, "Why do you stand looking up toward heaven?" speak for the point of view in Acts that "discipleship is defined in terms of an active witness to the risen Jesus" (The New Interpreter's Bible on CD-ROM, Abingdon Press, 2002). When Jesus says (v. 8) that "you will be my witnesses," the emphasis is on what they will speak, as much as what they have seen. The New Interpreter's Bible reminds us that "the biblical interpreter must take care to bring together the 'task discipleship' of Acts with teaching of a more contemplative pattern of discipleship from, for example, John's Gospel (John 14–17), where God's Spirit is given to cultivate an intimate relationship with the living

Jesus." The final act of waiting in this text takes place in the upper room where the apostles and others who have been drawn to Jesus "devote themselves to prayer."

All of these disciplined pauses—waiting for the Holy Spirit, waiting with questions, waiting for the kingdom to be restored, waiting for the opportunity to do what Jesus would do, waiting in prayer—connect well with the sacrament of Communion. How often do we come to the table expectantly, waiting to remember that it is not our work that brings about the kingdom of God, but the work of the Holy Spirit in, on, and through us?

Waiting is one of the more difficult tasks to which the church is called. We want to be in action, but always have to resist the temptation to act as if our will is primary. In this text, waiting is an act of discipline. The Holy is a dependable force with as much power to direct, assist, encourage, and support as the living Jesus himself possesses. In this text, emphasis for doing ministry shifts from Jesus to the disciples. They are named as individuals and called to witness to the whole world of what they have experienced in their journey with Jesus.

My hope and prayer for us is to wait more faithfully and prayerfully so that we may be able to speak clearly in our witness of Jesus Christ for



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those needing and also waiting to hear.

Be a VOICE, not an ECHO

Be sure to check over the "Gathering" to be held in San Antonio May 23-25 at the Airport Hilton on Loop 410. It will be a wonderful opportunity to get better acquainted with our brothers and sisters across the Texas Mission Centers. You are asked to register early. All of the particulars are listed in the "Be a VOICE, not an ECHO" publication. Pre-registration forms are available in the church foyer.

Lift a Glad Song

The Shenandoah Choir is recruiting singers to join its ranks. Whether you have singing experience or not, you are invited to join the group. Practice is scheduled each Sunday following worship. So have a "late lunch" and help enhance our worship experience with your singing.



Help Wanted

The Sionito Campgrounds invites interested persons to apply for summer help positions. Young persons (age 16 and older) may want to serve Sionito in this special way. Cindy Meir says there is still a need for female counselors, minimum age 22, for the Senior High Camp.

Many of our Adult leaders began their camping experiences working on the grounds.

If you are interested in working at the Campgrounds contact the Campground Manager John Werchan (830-796-3510)

Please remember each staff member must be a Registered Youth Worker prior to Camp dates. This process is most effective when completed through your local congregation.

Remember to send the forms to your jurisdictional officers and not directly to Community of Christ International Headquarters. Don't wait until the last minute to attempt to process applications.

The registration process and forms are available on the Legal Services website at

<http://www.cofchrist.org/legal/youth-worker.asp>.

By the Way----

Did you know everyone who attends Pot Luck dinner the month of their birthday receives a gift of 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.

May Birthdays

- 7—Aurora Runcik
- 10-Dominic (Niko) Farrell
- 12-Marilyn McCrimmon
- 14-Lisa Talcott
- 17-Samantha Callier
- 18-Eric Higginson
- 22-Naomi Heckman
- 28-Victoria Smeltzer
- 29-Mary Fryer

Summer Camping Schedule

2008 REUNIONS

June 6-8 Young Adult Retreat (age 19-30)
June 21-28 Sionito Reunion # 1
July 5-11 Sionito Reunion #2

2008 YOUTH CAMPS

June 15-21 Senior High Camp
June 29-July 5 Junior High Camp
July 13-19 Junior Camp
July 19-26 Graceland SPEC



Fundraising Event

Join the Crafty Ladies and the Youth of the Church for a bake sale to be held before and after worship on May 5th. All proceeds will help underwrite summer camperships for our youngsters.

For more information and to arrange for assistance in camp expenses, see Finance Officer Patty Walker.

Worship Changes

Wednesday night services are being suspended for May, June, July and August. Think about what kind of Wednesday services you would be able to support—there will be more information gathering on this subject later before decisions are made about the fall.

News From the Pews

Wayne and **Lisa Talcott** visited their son and his family in Las Vegas for a long weekend last month. **Matt** has been traveling with his job as a defense attorney with the Air Force—he actually came to San Antonio on AF business! **Marcella** has had numerous ups and downs in her first year as a special education teacher. Grandson **Lafe** is still getting sick way too much—he'll have tubes put in his ears on June 5th to see if that will help.

Jon Higginson just returned from 4 days in New York City. As a member of the Judson High School Band, they played concerts at the Statue of Liberty and Carnegie Hall. He has finished his baseball season and with his broken nose healing will be ready to start practice again for next season.

Jay Higginson was recently elected President of the San Antonio Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and has been busy with events that include the Pilgrimage to the Alamo, the Frank Tejada Middle School History Fair, and the Dixie Flag Company 50th Anniversary Celebration.

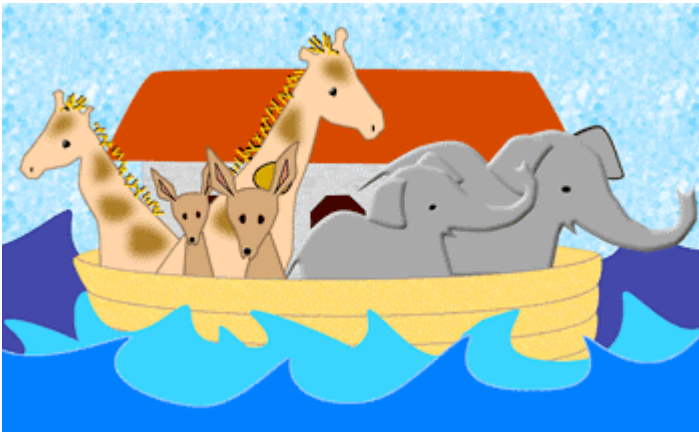
MORE—

News From the Pews

The Walkers are off to Florida on April 29th to watch **Tommy** participate with his drill team in the National High School Drill Team competition. The kids compete May 3rd and 4th. Wish them luck!

Katie Rose Spiekermann and 85 other kids from the Latin club at Health Careers High School recently attended the Texas Junior Classical League convention in Houston. Katie Rose got first place in the state for her research paper (how the personification of Roman gods changed the religion of ancient Rome), and the school won first place overall. Yeah, Katie!

Andy: "Grandpa, were you on Noah's ark?"
Grandpa: "Oh no, I wasn't."
Andy: "Then how did you survive the flood?"



What did Noah say after he had loaded all the animals into the ark?
"Now I've herded everything."

Offertory Service

Many times different members are asked to help in the service by bringing the offertory message. Here are some guidelines from the World Church:

An effective offertory....

- *contains an integrated message with the rest of the worship service reflecting the ministry of Jesus Christ supported by Community of Christ members, friends, and/or affiliates, through contributions to Local and World Mission Tithes;*
- *helps contributors recognize the sacred purpose of their contributions to Mission Tithes;*
- *connects persons of all ages to the message, nurturing disciples to be ready and eager to respond;*
- *is presented by a prepared and engaging worship participant (priesthood or non-priesthood) who believes in and is a contributor; and*
- *has elements of a joyful celebration of thanksgiving.*

Preparation

- *Consider the use of visuals, illustrations, or object lessons.*
- *If you need help, seek assistance from someone with more experience.*
- *Make the message challenging; everyone can give something regularly (according to means and capacity).*
- *Talk to the people; make eye contact.*
- *Focus on the contributor as much or more than the contribution.*
- *Be honest, objective, and positive*