

The Echoes

December 2011

“Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”

Matthew 1:23

Merry Christmas

It's hard to believe that yet another year has passed and we're head-long into the holiday season once again! We've been so busy all year long (getting older seems to make the time go by faster), but here we go again. I sincerely hope you and yours had a wonderful Thanksgiving, I know we did. There were twenty-six of us at our Thanksgiving dinner, the night before Thanksgiving, and many of them are enjoying a four day trail ride up on the Kentucky border, even as I'm writing this.

In the past two months our family has grown with the addition of three grandchildren (one boy and twin girls) and grandma Christie is in seventh heaven. She was even able to alter her work schedule so as to be able to watch three of our grandchildren one day a week and one night, with the help of great grandma Arleigh Barnett, of course. As for me, I've continued to wear the road out traveling to Phoenix, Scottsdale, Washington DC, Boston, Hollywood Florida, Salt Lake City, San Antonio, Texas, and by the time you're reading this report I'll be in DC once again and then Dallas, Texas all in just the last three months. Makes me tired just thinking of it!

As I travel I see and hear some amazing things. The mood of the people of America is confused and frustrated. While some continue to spend as if there is no tomorrow, others are worried about their future and what it may bring. Global troubles are causing much turmoil in the hearts and minds of people and of course the economic, political and world wide changes taking place leaves us all to wonder what will come next. Can we survive and continue as a nation, and be the leader of the world as has been the past? I simply don't know; but what I do know is nothing is out of control, but rather marching down the prophetic road to the end of time as revealed in scripture!

Think of it folks, we're experiencing the final stages of world history and all we've thought would happen, and so much more, is taking place right before our eyes. Wars, weather, genocide, persecution, social upheavals, national crises, even men's hearts beginning to fear the things that are coming to this world. The stage is being set, the players being arranged and soon a world wide leader will rise up with seemingly all the answers to all the problems and all hell will be loosened on the unsuspecting inhabitants of this earth, that are left behind.

This is not a message of gloom and doom! This is the message of hope and real change that our heavenly Father has given us. We've read the book, we know the end of the story and while it may be a ruff ride for some, our hope will soon be realized; our future is guaranteed! The birth we are about to celebrate is that of Jesus Christ the Son of the living God, who will return and take us out of here just as promised! We can 'look up' in the assurance that soon the heavens will open and all believers will be caught up to meet Him in the air, and so shall we ever be, with Him in a place He is personally preparing for us! How awesome is that?

Let this season be a true celebration and expectation of what's to come! Beyond the decorations, parties, gifts, family get-togethers and festivities, remember Him! Share Him and all the beauty of God's plan for His children. Rest in peaceful sleep knowing you're not alone.

Your future is secure in Christ Jesus! Your eternal hope is found in Him and Him alone! He is our peace, He is our hope, He is our eternal future! We, of all peoples, should be the most Thankful of all. We know, that we know, that we know, who holds us in the palm of His unfailing hand; who loves us and is "Emmanuel, God with us." Merry Christmas and the happiest of all New Years!

Revs. Blaine & Christie Allen, Jeffrey & Danya, Christoffer & Shana, Tyler & Leslie & all the grandchildren (11) great grandchildren (1)

FGCI TEXAS

Texas celebrated its 'Fall Fellowship' at Seagoville, Texas. The service began with the gospel hymn 'Send the light, the blessed gospel light' and the Holy Spirit fell upon us at the very first word.

A singing group called the Jubil-heirs, brought us some fine Southern Gospel Music as we carried on with the theme of General Convention (Love Never Fails). The love in that meeting was easy to feel.

Pastor Ricky Williams and the First Century Church of Promise were wonderful hosts and to them, a big thank you! If you're in the area of Seagoville, hunt up this church and get yourself a blessing.

Pray for the Texas FGCI as we continue to add new members and look forward to another wonderful year of serving the Lord.

A special word of thanks to all that worked so hard for this meeting.

*Rev. Norman Fikes,
State Superintendent*

Goodman, Missouri

We want to give God all the glory. We have done a little and He has done a lot. Those of us at Trinity Worship Center, Goodman, Missouri, have been praying for God to send an outpouring of the Holy Ghost on our church and that it would flood our little town. Our prayers are working.

We had one soul saved Sunday night 11-13-11. When the weather turns a little more predictable we are going to go on a series of 'Power Walks, praying each step of the way that the Convicting Power of the Holy Ghost will rest upon each person in each house and place of business.

We're excited about what God is doing now, but also because we know that God has great things in store for us!!!

Pastor David Swift

BOOK REVIEW

Hello Friends, greetings in the name of Jesus! I'm an ordained Assembly of God minister and have written a new book titled 'From Victims to Victors.' It has a strong Spirit-filled emphasis and deals with the subject of child and spousal abuse, and it includes several people's stories. The names have been changed for obvious reasons.

If you, a friend, or family member have been affected by abuse, you could find this book inspiring and helpful.

You can find all you want to know about the book by going to Amazon and looking it up. They have the prices there, including the Kindle, the paperback, and hard cover copies, they also provide the chance to read portions of the text, giving you a look inside. It's also available on Barnes & Noble.

If you are involved in women's ministry, youth ministry, or children's ministry, this may prove to be a valuable resource to you. If you are a Pastor, and would like to give a copy to various members in your congregation, this could bless your church.

After checking it out you might want to consider sending this information to people in your e-mail address book who might be interested.

Thank you, and may God bless you as we reach out to hurting people and build the Kingdom of God! God's Grace to you.

Rev Mark Jones

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Matthew

Suffered martyrdom in Ethiopia.
Killed by a sword wound

Mark

Died in Alexandria, Egypt after being dragged by horses through the streets until he was dead.

Luke

Was hanged in Greece as a result of his tremendous preaching to the lost.

John

Faced martyrdom when he was boiled in a huge basin of boiling oil during a wave of persecution in

Rome. However, he was miraculously delivered from death.

Sentenced to the mines on the prison Island of Patmos he wrote his prophetic Book of Revelation. He was later freed and returned to serve as Bishop of Edessa in modern Turkey. He died an old man, the only apostle to die peacefully.

Peter

He was crucified upside down on an x-shaped cross. According to church tradition it was because he told his tormentors that he felt unworthy to die in the same way that Jesus Christ had died.

James

The leader of the church in Jerusalem, was thrown over a hundred feet down from the southeast pinnacle of the Temple when he refused to deny his faith in Christ. When they discovered that he survived the fall, his enemies beat him to death with a fuller's club. This was the same pinnacle where Satan had taken Jesus during the Temptation.

James the Great

Son of Zebedee, was a fisherman by trade when Jesus called him to a lifetime of ministry. As a strong leader of the church, James was ultimately beheaded at Jerusalem. The Roman officer who guarded him, watched amazed as James defended his faith at his trial.

Later, the officer walked beside

(continued page 3, column 1)

(continued from page 2, column 3)

James to the place of execution.

Overcome by conviction, he declared his new faith to the judge and knelt beside James to accept beheading as a Christian.

Bartholomew

Also known as Nathaniel was a missionary to Asia. He witnessed for our Lord in present day Turkey. He was martyred for his preaching in Armenia where he was flayed to death by a whip.

Andrew

Was crucified on an x-shaped cross in Patras, Greece. After being whipped severely by seven soldiers, they tied his body to the cross with cords to prolong his agony. As he was led toward the cross he saluted it in these words: "I have long desired and expected this happy hour." He continued to preach to his tormentors, from the cross, for two days until he expired.

Thomas

Was stabbed with a spear in India during one of his missionary trips to establish the church in the sub-continent.

Jude

Was killed with arrows when he refused to deny his faith in Christ.

Matthias

The apostle chosen to replace the traitor Judas Iscariot, was stoned and then beheaded.

Paul

Was tortured and then beheaded by the evil Emperor Nero at Rome in A.D. 67. He endured a lengthy imprisonment, which allowed him to write his many epistles to the churches he had formed throughout the Roman Empire. These letters, which taught many of the foundational doctrines of Christianity, form a large portion of the New Testament.

Perhaps this is a reminder to us that our sufferings here are minor compared to the intense persecution and cold cruelty faced by the apostles and disciples during their lives, for the sake of the Faith!

New Members, Reinstatements, Advancements & New Churches

Alabama:

Rev. Joseph K. VanDee, Exh.
Rev. Virginia D. VanDee, Exh.

Mississippi:

Rev. Ryan P. Adams, Exh.
Rev. Moses Tipton, Ord.

Tennessee:

Rev. Richard L. Cox, Jr. Ord.
Life House Gatherings

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." II Timothy 3:16-17

"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." Romans 15:4

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Graduation To Glory

Rev. Daniel Cummings,
long time FGCI member
recently passed into his eternal
reward, reaching for Jesus!
*"Cares all passed, home at last,
ever to rejoice."*

Seven Editions of Divine Law

The divine method of the gradual revelation and publication of the law:

It was first written upon **nature**:

Psalms 19:1

Next upon man's **conscience**:

Romans 2:15

Then the fundamental principles upon the **tables of stone**:

Exodus 24:12

Later the **entire Scriptures** contained a larger and more complete edition: Romans 15:4

In due time **Jesus Christ** appeared as the perfect embodiment of the truth which he illustrated in his own sinless life:

John 1:14

It was the divine purpose that the law, at last, should be **written in the hearts of men**: Hebrews 8:10

The final publication of its precepts are found in the **outward life**: II Corinthians 3:2-3

The Echoes

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**All submissions must be received
no later than the 20th of the
preceding month.**

The 57 Cent Church

A little girl stood near a small church from which she had been turned away because it was 'too crowded.' "I can't go to Sunday School," she sobbed to the pastor as he walked by. Seeing her shabby, unkempt appearance, the pastor guessed the reason and, taking her by the hand, took her inside and found a place for her in the Sunday School class. The child was so happy that they found room for her, and she went to bed that night thinking of the children who have no place to worship Jesus.

Some two years later, this child lay dead in one of the poor tenement buildings. Her parents called for the kindhearted pastor who had befriended their daughter to handle the final arrangements. As her poor little body was being moved, a worn and crumpled red purse was found which seemed to have been rummaged from some trash dump. Inside was found 57 cents and a note, scribbled in childish handwriting, which read: "This is to help build the little church bigger so more children can go to Sunday School." For two years she had saved for this offering of love.

When the pastor tearfully read that note, he knew instantly what he would do. Carrying this note and the cracked, red pocketbook to the pulpit, he told the story of her unselfish love and devotion. He challenged his deacons to get busy and raise enough money for the larger building. But the story does not end there.....

A newspaper learned of the story and published it. It was read by a wealthy realtor who offered them a parcel of land worth many thousands of dollars. When told that the church could not pay so much, he offered to sell it to the little church for 57 cents. Church members made large donations. Checks came from far and wide. Within five years the little girl's gift had increased to \$250,000, a huge sum for that time (near the turn of the century). Her unselfish love had paid large dividends.

When you are in the city of Philadelphia, look up Temple Baptist Church, with a seating capacity of 3,300. And be sure to visit Temple University, where thousands of students are educated. Have a look, too, at the Good Samaritan Hospital and at a Sunday School building which houses hundreds of beautiful children, built so that no child in the area will ever need to be left outside during Sunday School time.

In one of the rooms of this building may be seen the picture of the sweet face of the little girl whose 57 cents, so sacrificially saved, made such remarkable history. Alongside of it is a portrait of her kind pastor, Dr. Russell H. Conwell, author of the book, 'Acres of Diamonds.' Amazing what God can do with 57 cents!

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. John 1:14

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