

The Echoes

February 2012

“Trust in the Lord; and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.” Psalm 37:3

Texas On The Grow

Greetings from the FGCI Texas State Superintendent's office; which by the way is the extra room in our small apartment. I do a lot of things in here; study, prepare sermons, pay our bills, visit facebook, get and send e-mails or just sit and meditate. Sometimes I write letters to all the members of Texas FGCI or The Echoes!

A few days ago I was ask to write an article for The Echoes about the job I was appointed to do as State Superintendent; so you see it was not my idea. I do hope you like it and more than that, I pray you are inspired to do more in your own category regardless of what your job is. So here goes....

About September 2009 I received a call from the General Office notifying me that I had been appointed State Superintendent for Texas FGCI. Surprised does not quite explain my emotions as my reply was more like a question something like, "I am!" I had never been in such a position before and had very little idea of what I was supposed to do as superintendent.

Our State had 18 members at that time, so my first action was to inform all of them of my appointment and my intentions.

We had our first fellowship meeting in Cuero, Texas at God's Way Fellowship, Pastors Robert and Patsy Moore, in November with eleven members attending. I found myself preaching to people that could most likely preach better than me, but the love and fellowship was in our midst and the Lord blessed us all.

Cancer surgery in 2010 slowed down my activities so our next meeting was in Bastrop and End Tyme Fellowship (which I pastor), in March of 2011 with sixty two in attendance. While several of our members were not able to attend, eighteen were present.

Three were ordained, my first, and was I nervous. Not being experienced in this position I called for advice from Godly people. Then in November we went to Seagoville's First Century Church of Promise, Rev. Ricky Williams is the pastor.

Oh, by the way, if you want some good Southern Gospel music, call Pastor Ricky Williams for the Jubil-Heirs.

I've not done anything without Christ; and I must give credit to our Texas membership. They have put me in contact with several people who have the call of God on their lives and desire credentials with a good Fellowship. Our membership now stands at 29 with two more pending, which will bring our total to thirty-one.

I am humbled and it is an honor to serve, yet my greatest joy in being State Superintendent is that I am in a position where I have met some of the finest people on earth.

Thanks to all our Texas membership for your prayers and help to get Texas On The Grow!

Your servant in the Master's service,

Rev. Norman Fikes
Texas State Superintendent

Change Of Address!

Many of our members are on the go, traveling, ministering and moving their home locations. All too often, neither the General Office nor I receive the new address until a mail out is '**returned to sender.**' This makes it extremely difficult to keep our mailing list current and causes you not to receive the communications from either the General Office or your monthly copy of The Echoes!

Each time an item is returned it costs the Fellowship .44 cents. Anywhere from ten to twenty-five Echoes are returned each month, so that yearly, our costs are increased and you are not kept informed as to what's going on within the Fellowship.

In addition you may not receive your copy of the Echoes or necessary correspondence from the General Office for several months and eventually your name may be removed from our mailing list. I currently have a number of our members that I do not mail to, because we have no accurate current address!

I believe in the necessity of keeping all members of our Fellowship informed and strive hard to make each Echoes informative and interesting.

PLEASE! Help us out. When you move, send a note, e-mail or text us immediately to keep the correspondence current and help us keep our costs down. It may not seem like much, but every little bit helps. It's your responsibility, please take in seriously!

Editor

Marriage On The Rock

Lenox Community Fellowship in middle Missouri is co-sponsoring the Marriage on the Rock simulcast featuring Jimmy and Karen Evans from Marriage Today.

"We hope to reach married or engaged couples who could especially benefit from biblical wisdom and extra encouragement for their marriage. Together we can help strengthen marriages that need it," said Pastor Marcie Thomas.

The simulcast will take place at the Brick House Grill in Salem, Missouri on February 10–11. "We chose to host the simulcast in a restaurant to make sure everyone felt welcome regardless of religious affiliation and regardless of location," she said.

"In addition to the simulcast, we will be giving away two grand prizes. The first is a mini-vacation package to Big Cedar Lodge in Branson, Missouri. The other is a couple's massage and romantic dinner package compliments of Tara Day Spa in Rolla, at Sybill's Restaurant in St. James."

The event is free and made possible by generous donations of folks who wish to remain confidential. "Tickets are required because we only have room for 25–30 couples," she said.

For full details on this event, please visit their website at: <http://www.lenoxcommunity.org/events/marriage-on-the-rock-simulcast/>.

After being married for thirty years, a wife asked her husband to describe her. He looked at her for a while, then said, "you're A.B.C.D.E.F.G.H.I.J.K

"What does that mean," she asked? He said, "Adorable, Beautiful, Cute, Delightful, Elegant, Foxy, Gorgeous, Hot." She smiled happily and said, "that's so lovely. What about I.J.K.?" He said, "I'm Just Kidding!"

Freedom Is Never Free

As we head into yet another election year perhaps we should take a look at what happened to our founding fathers!

Of the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence: Five were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died.

Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned.

Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army; another had two sons captured.

Nine fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.

They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. What kind of men were they?

Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners; men of means, well educated, but they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags.

Thomas McKeam was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters.

He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying.

Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished.

I had never taken time to look at these brave and selfless men who were lead to make such sacrifices. I wonder what they would say if they could return and see the nation they sacrificed for today?
Editor

Maiden⁴Christ Ministries

We're reviewing our schedule for this spring and summer and would love to come to your church, banquet etc., to minister the good news.

I am fully recovered from having number five, eleven months ago, Abigail Jane. She 's a curly top and adorable. I've been in a waiting pattern for the Lord this school year and ministering to the family by homeschooling our seven year old.

I know the Lord has big plans for us this year. I can feel a fire growing into a mighty beacon to share the good news through song, word, and testimony.

He's preparing us for a harvest in His timing. My husband is saving right now for a sound system to take to small churches (that is a miracle to have Harold prepare).

David has joined our singing group so that we now have three

part harmony and a stronger anointing to see fire be spread throughout our lives. David is called to young people to wake them up!

Please prayerfully consider us in anyway we could be a blessing to your church, your ministry, and you personally.

Rev Melissa Thomas
Sisters&Brothers-n-Christ
Maiden4Christ Ministries
(618) 288-4481 or (618) 334-7995

Praise Report

The following e-mails were received in January from Rev. Jerry McDowell of Decatur, Illinois.

1/4/12 I have been having a sore toe. Sunday my foot was swollen and I decided to go to the Doctor, but Monday was a holiday. That evening I was at work and it wasn't bothering me much, but after I returned home it seemed to get worse and by the middle of the night I was having shooting pains in my toe and leg.

When I looked my toe was red, swollen and the skin was peeling off the bottom. At the V.A. clinic the nurse took one look and called for a doctor. I was sent to Danville to a specialist. I had a severe infection which meant if they couldn't get it stopped, off with the toe.

I know my God can take care of this, and I appreciate your prayers.

1/12/12 For all those who were praying for my foot, thank you! The doctor gave me an OK yesterday. I will still wait another week to go back to work, but the infection is gone. Praise the Lord! This was a big concern, I'm a diabetic. (God still answers prayers!)

Doctor to patient: "What fits your busy schedule better, exercising one hour a day or being dead 24 hours a day?"

If you put a crouton on your sundae instead of a cherry, it counts as a salad!

New Members, Reinstatements, Advancements & New Churches

Colorado:

Rev. Yadira Mayo Laos, Ord.
Rev. Jose Lois Andel, Ord.
Aposento Alto

Kansas:

Rev. Sheila Jane Curtis, Ord.

Missouri:

Rev. Saul Antonio Paiz, Lic.
Cristo Es Mi Refugio

Texas:

Rev. Martin K. Williams, Ord.

Bits and Pieces

In the year 63 B.C. Pompey, the Roman general, captured Jerusalem, and from this time the provinces of Palestine were tributary to Rome.

The local government was entrusted part of the time to princes who had political influence at Rome, and at other periods to procurators appointed by the emperors.

B.C. 37-4 Herod the Great was king of Judaea. At the time of Christ's birth he was the ruler of all Palestine. He probably died the same year that Christ was born, and his province was divided between his sons.

F.G.C.I. General Office

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Send all inquires to:

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2012 RENEWALS

I'll be sending out the Minister's and Church Renewals February 15th. If you don't get yours by the end of the month call me and I'll send you another, or get on www.fgci.net and print another one. My phone number is (417) 845-7089.

Please! Return them back ASAP, it will help the workload in the office. Some folks have lost theirs as many as three times and that gets expensive and takes a lot of time to resend. The only time you will receive anything back on the Church Charters is when I send the Charter out the first time.

If you have been a member for five years or more, and are 70, please send me your Renewal form filled out to keep updated records, but you will not have to pay the yearly renewal fee.

It's \$40.00 for Ministers Credentials and \$50.00 for the Church Charters.

Have a wonderful, blessed year!

Sis. Donna Ross

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

The Names Of God Reveal The Nature Of God

Jehovah El Shaddai - *God our Supplier*

Jehovah-Nissi - *God my Banner*

Elohim - *God our Creator*

Jehovah-Tsidkenu - *God my Righteousness*

Jehovah-Rapha - *God my Healer*

Jehovah-Jireh - *God my Provider*

Jehovah-Rohi - *God my Shepherd*

Jehovah - *Our Eternal God*

Jehovah-Shalom - *God my Peace*

Adonai - *Master, Lord*

Jehovah-M'kadesh - *God my Sanctifier*

*" Delight thyself also in the Lord: and He shall give thee the
desires of thine heart." Psalm 37:4*

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moving? Please notify us of
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