

The Echoes

January 2011

"I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth"
Genesis 9:13

Happy New Year!

Can you believe it? Eleven years ago we were worried about the turn of the century with all of its ramifications and now, eleven years later a flood of water has flowed under the preverbal bridge and yes, we're still here!

Once again the ball has dropped, millions of people around the globe stopped what they were doing long enough to set off fireworks and party, party, party, and here we go again, yet another year of new beginnings has begun!

Could this be the year of our Lord's return to catch His bride away? How much more stuff can take place before His return? How many more earthquakes, famines, floods, wars and rumors of wars and how much more violence will we see before we see Him? Of course heaven only knows, but surely it can't be too much longer!

Whatever the time frame, however long it may take, we have a responsibility to be about the Father's business. Countless souls eternal future hang in the balance and only you can reach some of them. Working together we hopefully can bring in many more (the harvest is truly plenteous) before our work time has ended.

We must work as though He'll be back before you can read this, but plan as though He'll not be back for a long time to come; that way we're ready and working right up to the end and we won't be caught by surprise, sleeping or lethargic!

May you be richly blessed in the coming year as you continue to faithfully serve Him! Editor

Oklahoma State Convention Report

(better late than never)

The October 2010 Oklahoma State convention was awesome!

On Friday night, Rev. Mark Lavine brought a mighty message from God. He reminded us that we still need to fear and respect God.

Saturday morning there was a testimony service and everyone participated in giving praise to God for the things He has done.

The morning message was brought by Sis Beverly Sprague. The message was her testimony of healing from blindness and muscular dystrophy. If anyone doubts God's ability to heal them they should hear her testimony. We hung on her every word. God truly is amazing.



Elections were held and Rev. Terry Vines was elected as the new State Superintendent. Rev. Joey Dotson is our new State Presbyter.

Rev. Mark Lavine, we would like you to know how much we love you. Your years of service as State Superintendent of Oklahoma are much appreciated.

On behalf of the State we would like to thank Pastor Larry Convirs and the congregation of Set Free Ministries for all their hard work in making this convention a success. May God richly bless you all! Ginger Vines

Iowa State Convention

(report misplaced)

We give all the praise to our Lord and Savior. What a convention we had. The Holy Spirit moved on us from the very beginning.

It all started with music from the Kevin Ingram Family from Texas. This young family, along with mom and dad brought down the Glory of God, throughout the Convention. (May the Lord bless this family).

Our theme for this years Convention was "Lets Get Back To Our First Love."

From the beginning every minister present, along with their wives, shared powerful messages, along with some great testimonies. We just sat back and let the Holy Spirit have His way, and He did, in a mighty way.

Our turnout was not as large as we expected but we did have one of the best Conventions ever. Several were healed, hearts were enlightened and we became united again. This Convention brought Iowa together in a bond of His first Love!

The Friday evening service began with Rev. Larry Belt (Pastor, The Solid Rock Church in Council Bluffs Iowa) bringing forth the message!

The Saturday morning service started out with more music from the Kevin Ingram Family, and again it was awesome.

Then came our business meeting. Rev. Dan Lopez from Des Moines became our new State Superintendent: (Continued page 2)

(Iowa State Convention Report Continued)

Rev. Steven McKinny (pastor of The Christian Fellowship Church of Shenandoah Iowa) became our new Sec/Treasurer:

Rev. James Sheesley (pastor of Osceola Full Gospel Church of Osceola Iowa) became our new State Presbyter:

Rev. Richard Lacey, District Presbyter of Western Iowa:

Rev. Larry Belt, District Pressbyter of Central Iowa:

Rev. Gary Keller, District Presbyter of Central Iowa.

Rev. Henrietta Henderson, from Council Bluffs, Iowa brought forth the Word with an altar call at the end, and what a powerful message it was!

Everyone went away feeling that God truly had given us His First Love. Rev. Gary Keller

Editors Apology

In the course of human events, sometimes things get misplaced. I just plain missed Iowa's report, and Oklahoma floated off into the internet never never land.

Please accept my sincere apology and I hope it won't happen again?

Editor

NOTICE!

The following website has been deleted from the links page on our national website.

<http://www.olivetreemissionaries.com>

I go through the list, every so often, to make sure they are still active. This one appears to no longer be an active website.

If you are the owner of this site, and it becomes active again, please put in a request for it to be placed on the links page again.

May God bless you all in this New Year. Ginger Vines

Reminder Again

Our Sec/treas tells me she will be sending ministerial renewals and church charters out February 10th–15th. Watch for yours and lets make her job easier this year. **Get-er-done, early!**

Healing Balm Church

Just wanted to share with you how we are coming along. Our little church in Crawley is in a small building. This is my fourth building to bring up to city codes.

Two of them were in Ft. Worth, Texas, one in Alvarado, Texas and now in Crawley.

We've now been in ministry twenty-two years since Jesus appeared to me and called me into the ministry.

Our first mission was in an alcohol and drug recovery center where approximately 72 men were in recovery. There are books that should be written about all the miracles and wonders Jesus has performed through these years.



Now at the age of 79 (December 16th) there are so many struggles and as I look back at all the rent and lease money that has been spent, plus all the money to bring old buildings up to city codes and I wonder how was this all done?

Once I put my hat and boots on, after He called me, as well as long dresses (ha ha), he sent me into a rehab (all men) and it was something else.

I became an evangelist, pastor, friend, sister to all the men and eight or so began giving their lives to Jesus every Sunday morning. All praise to God!

One was healed of cancer and one of aides. Through the church years there were many miracles; and they are still happening!

I want to thank FGCI for holding my license. I'm sorry I cannot type nor do I have a

computer, no e-mail address etc... so I must write by hand as I've always done.

I do wish all of you would pray that I will be financially able to keep this present building. The location is super good, just off main Street.

Our occupancy load is approximately 47, the smallest little group I've had in a long time, but they are wonderful and I have a new convert recently who is growing fast and such a delight!

They mostly are of very low income and our rent is \$700 a month plus electric and water. Our electric is \$185 or more a month and I'm having to pay the rent out of my Social Security check each month, and this is very hard.

My husband Jeffrey is working for GM as a security guard. His pay is small so we are having a rough time now and I need the members of the Fellowship to pray for us!



The Lord tells me I have much more work to do in His Kingdom so I really do not believe I'll ever retire. I can't imagine that. When you see one soul get saved it's worth all the physical labor and money sacrificed, and that's what keeps me going! I love it!

I do wish I could come to some of the gatherings, but very seldom do I get to break away for even a meeting in Ft. Worth, but I watch the good preachers and teachers on TV when I can.

I love you all, even though I haven't met you in person. In Jesus Love, Pastor Maggie

A Special Thanks

On December 13, 2010 my daughter, Kimberlee Sue Ast went to be with the Lord. She was only forty-two.

Like most of our children, she had her problems; two marriages, three children and a number of health issues from too much living her way.

She was raised to serve the Lord and always had a tender heart towards the things of the Lord, but life took its toll. Drugs and alcohol got a firm hold on her and too many relationships ate away at her confidence until she finally admitted, just a few weeks before her untimely death, that she was an alcoholic.

This was, of course, the first step on her way out and during the final few weeks she came to grips with her relationship with the Lord and began to read her bible and pray. She was comfortable and excited that her life was changing.

She was making plans to move to Nashville, in March of this year, to be close to Christie and I, and her newly born grandson who lives in Gallatin, Tennessee.

All that changed when she apparently blacked out and fell into the Columbia river on her way to pay her rent. It was two hours later when her landlord found her, but it was too late.

The shock was great. I still can hardly believe she's gone; us old folks are not supposed to outlive our children, but dying is part of living and I believe her heart was right with the Lord and He allowed her to go home peacefully.

Perhaps this account will help someone who reads this. I know I'll see her again and be reunited in Glory some day soon.

Thanks for all your condolences prayers and the beautiful plant.

Rev. Blaine H. Allen, Editor

A Hymn For Ordinary Christians

The story behind "Great is Thy Faithfulness" should encourage every Christian who thinks of their life as ordinary. There is no tragic story associated with this hymn. It's just the fruit of a faithful man with a simple faith in a faithful God.

Thomas Chisholm, who sometimes described himself as "just an old shoe," was born in a Kentucky log cabin in 1866. He was converted when he was 27, became a pastor at 36, but had to retire one year later due to poor health.

He spent the majority of the rest of his life as a life insurance agent in New Jersey. He died in 1960 at the age of 93. During his life he wrote over 1200 poems, most of which no one will ever hear.

In 1923, at the age of 57, he sent a few of his poems to William Runyan at the Hope Publishing Company. One of them was "Great is Thy Faithfulness." Runyan was particularly moved by the lyric and sought to set it to a melody that would reflect the response of wonder and gratefulness to God's faithfulness conveyed in the lyrics. Apparently, he succeeded.

The song quickly became a favorite at Moody Bible Institute, and later George Beverly Shea sang it at Billy Graham crusades. Now it's known all over the world and has been used to encourage millions of Christians to trust in a faithful God.

Pretty impressive spiritual fruit from a life insurance agent.

God doesn't need incredibly gifted or wildly famous people to proclaim those truths from His Word. Just faithful ones.

New Members, Advancements & New Churches

Mississippi:

Rev. Angela Lynette Nash, Exh.

Missouri:

Rev. Steven E. Macey, Lic.

Rev. Anthony Gibson Web-sites

<http://www.parentlearningclub.com>

<http://www.cafepress.com/WordOfLifeChurchGiftstore>

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**Editor: Rev. Blaine H. Allen
P.O. Box 2061**

Mt. Juliet, Tennessee 37121-2061

E-mail:

**theechoesfgci@yahoo.com
615 335-4242**

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F.G.C.I. General Office

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Rev. Donna C. Ross

General Secretary/Treasurer

P.O. Box 515

Anderson, MO 64831

E-mail rossfgci@olemac.net

417-845-7089 (Office)

417-437-0825 (FGCI Mobile)

417-845-0223 (Fax)

WWW.FGCI.US

Living A Life of Grace & Truth For The Audience of One

(Excerpts from an article by Randy Alcorn, Eternal Perspective)

What distinguished the first Christians from the world around them? It certainly wasn't their buildings — they had none. It wasn't their programs — they had none. It wasn't their political power — they had none.

Two ingredients combined to make this impact on the world: truth and grace. The truth, the teachings and doctrines of the church, was the ethical foundation of right and wrong. And the grace of God, which granted them forgiveness and empowered them to forgive others, enabled them to embrace what was good and turn away from what was bad. That is the heart of ethics — discerning and living out what is good while rejecting what is bad.

God's essence, His shekinah glory, was visibly manifested in two things: grace and truth. To be Christlike is to be full of what He was full of: grace and truth. If we are vessels of His glory, we

have a very short biblical checklist of what we should be full of: grace and truth.

Truth is not complete without grace and grace is not complete without truth. Grace without truth deceives people. Truth without grace crushes people.

Martin Luther said the devil doesn't care which side of the horse we fall off of as long as we don't stay in the saddle. A saddle has two stirrups. To stay in the saddle, the church needs to mount the horse with one foot solidly in the stirrup of truth and the other solidly in the stirrup of grace.

Now, finding this balance isn't easy. When you stand for truth you get picketed by some non-Christians, and when you try to demonstrate grace you get picketed by some Christians. With some you may be way too radical, with others not nearly radical enough.

So you have to decide you're not going to live for the applause of one particular group, but live out your life before the Audience of One, your only final and ultimate Judge!

"As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain ... this was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord." Ezekiel 1:28

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FULL GOSPEL CHURCHES INTERNATIONAL
Rev. Blaine H. Allen, Editor
P.O. Box 2061
Mt. Juliet, Tennessee 37121-2061

