A Preacher’s Perspective

The Atlantic Ocean is pretty impressive. As I stood on the beach last week (sorry to rub it in) and looked east, I was facing about 4,020 miles of ocean between me and Casablanca. And, as someone pointed out, the Atlantic is the “little” ocean. The Pacific is over 12,000 miles wide, covering more of the earth than all the landmass combined.

So I like Habakkuk’s figure of speech: “The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.” How wonderful to think that the time will come when all the nations will own Him as sovereign Lord and His glory will be the joy of every human heart.

But we’re not there yet. Our world is largely indifferent to and even ignorant of the glory of its Creator. We live among a population which knows little of God or of His word.

The clear challenge for us is to find new ways to share the glory of God with our fellow citizens of planet earth.

Much of our world is tuned out to the appeals and arguments of “church” as they think of it. The quarrels and competition among believers and the sad corruption of many who profess to be leaders has left a world disillusioned with what it thinks of as the Christian faith.

Further, in our day of pluralism, it just doesn’t seem nice to think that our little take on time, history, philosophy and things metaphysical could be the last word on the subject. We should accept the other perspectives, it seems, to be sensitive and gracious. We need to include the eastern religious philosophies and the humanism of the completely secular if we are to be proper citizens of this more and more crowded planet.

Not true. We must become very determined to show the sweet love of God in and for His church and to have a demonstration of the working among us of the Holy Spirit which will convince and compel those who encounter it to see the validity of and to feel the power of the community of those who find their purpose and identity in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

“Christ in you, the hope of glory” is Paul’s expression to the Colossians. It is Christ in us, His church, which is the great demonstration of the glory of God. The church, Paul also teaches, is demonstrating the “manifold” wisdom of God to those in the heavenly realms. In other words, in spite of our lack of confidence in it, and certainly in spite of our lack of flawless perfection as members of it, God’s church is demonstrating the glory of God to the angels who serve it and to the demons who oppose it.

Whether the final days of the age are upon us, or whether there are aeons yet to come, the certainty remains: The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord!

Chuck Miller
Welcome to the West Chicago Church of Christ

If you are visiting with us, we especially want to welcome you. We pray our time together worshiping our Father in heaven will be uplifting and encouraging.

Bible classes are available for all ages. Babies can be taken to the nursery located at the back of the auditorium. All other children meet in classrooms downstairs. Teens meet in the teen room, which is also located at the back of the auditorium. Adult classes meet in the auditorium and in the fellowship room downstairs.

Our Small Group Fellowship program takes place during the fall, winter and spring months and is on the first and third Sundays of each month and is in lieu of the Sunday evening worship. The Small Group Fellowship schedule does change occasionally due to holidays.

You are an honored guest and we want to thank you for being a part of our worship this morning!

Sunday Morning Bible Class ................. 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship .....................1 0:30 a.m.
(Sunday Morning Worship is interpreted for the deaf.)
Sunday Evening Worship ..................... 6:00 p.m.
(No evening worship on Small Group Fellowship Sundays)
Wednesday Evening Bible Class .......... 7:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of our elders.

Elders:
Don Brewster Bob Jett
Chuck Miller Bob Voigts

Deacons:
Justin Avey: Benevolence, Fellowship, Stewardship & Leadership
Jay Hearn: Worship & Pulpit, Communications, Outreach, Education, Benevolence
Cliff Plummer: Fellowship, Benevolence, Education
Curt Robinson: Education, Stewardship & Leadership
Rick Root: Communications, Education, Stewardship & Leadership
Paul Stirrup: Stewardship & Leadership, Benevolence

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This Morning...

Please take a moment this morning to fill out an attendance card, especially if you are a guest. Please pass them to the aisle to be picked up before the sermon. Prayer cards are also available in the pew rack. You may choose to have prayers by the elders, a prayer warrior or by the whole church family. If you choose “whole church family” it will be announced following the sermon.

Order of Worship
Welcome
Singing – Jay Hearn
Announcements – Steve Link
Singing
Prayer – Scott Drumheller
Singing
Lord’s Supper
Contribution and Prayer Card Collection
Sermon – J.J. Chavez
Singing
Prayer Card Responses and Prayer – Bob Voigts
Announcements
Singing
Closing Prayer – Kenn Watson

Birthdays & Anniversaries
January 11 ............... Jim & Julie Chavez (ann)
January 13 ............................ John Day
January 14 ....................... Frances Shearer

Dates to Remember
January 11 ....................... Chili Luncheon Fellowship
January 18 ....................... Small Groups
January 21 ............................ Seniors Breakfast
January 24 ....................... NIFB Volunteer Day/Teens
January 25 ....................... Connection Point/Teens
February 19-22 .................. Winterfest/Teens

Records You Helped Make
Sunday Morning Bible Class .................. 63
Sunday Morning Worship ..................... 113
Contribution ................................... $4,482.50

Nursery Workers
Bev Day, Carrie Drumheller

Collection Counters
Paul Mullins, Paul Stirrup
Joe Engler, the son of the Hearn’s friends, continues to recuperate after his fall from scaffolding a couple months ago. He will be able to put weight on his feet soon and is able to use his hand. He is still in a rehab center.

Dennis Jentsch, a friend of the Chavez family, passed away unexpectedly while on vacation with his family.

Bev Johnston, Sally Hearn’s aunt, is very ill from cancer and chemotherapy treatments. She is under hospice care.

A friend of the Root’s has a nine-year-old niece who was diagnosed with leukemia recently. She was taken to the doctor for flu-like symptoms and after ten days she didn’t improve. They took her back to the doctor and she was admitted to the hospital immediately and given two chemotherapy treatments within 24 hours.

Betty Whitman, Bobbie’s sister-in-law, fell down the stairs and broke a vertebrae. She had surgery last week.

Those suffering with long-term issues:
- Herman Aultman – Bobbie Whitman’s brother
- Justin Avey
- Paul & Judy Bertrand – Lynette Root’s parents
- Lisa Beverly – Sandy Boyd’s sister who has MS
- Bonnie Bingham
- Leona Boston – Lynette Root’s aunt
- Jim Brannon – Pat Brewster’s brother-in-law
- Don & Pat Brewster
- Nancy Brewster
- Jim & Julie Chavez
- Gail Cole – Lori Plummer’s mother
- John Day
- Lisa DeVaney – Marie Hayes’s daughter
- Al Dorsey and his son Doug
- Joyce Eakins
- Chad Englebach – Marie Hayes’ grandson
- Amy Ferguson – a former member from Montana
- Sarah Hayden & family – Maria Zeisler’s relative
- Marie Hayes
- Mary Henkel – Mike’s mother
- Kathy Huml – John Pedersen’s sister
- Sandy Jones – Marie Hayes’s daughter
- Amy Kalupski – sister-in-law of Julie Chavez’s friend
- Rich Kern – Jackie Robinson’s father has leukemia
- Joe, Star and Sky Kuhnle – Chuck & Bobbye’s foster son
- Debbie Lawrence – Bobbie Whitman’s niece
- Don Lemley
- Anne Librande – Joanne Johnson’s mother
- Steve Link
- Jack Lockett– the father of Charlie, Mike, Shelley, Julie Chavez, Missy Kissane, & Becky Pedersen
- Mike Lockett – Joan’s son
- Danielle Nichols – Alyssa Milam’s niece
- Josh Otte – Chris Czernik’s nephew and the son of Marion Lake’s cousin
- Doug Peterson
- Pat Ronzheimer
- Stacey Schnaitman – daughter of Bev Scalone, the Johnson’s neighbor

In Our Prayers...

Heaven Alcorn – Chris Czernik’s daughter
Caitlyn Czernik – Chris’s daughter-in-law
Jamie Holtin – Joe & Terrie’s daughter
Jenn Kirts – Joe & Terrie’s daughter-in-law
Shannon (Pedersen) Manny
Cathy Miller
Jamie Miller
Jennifer (Doggett) Piehl
Shelley Prosser – Joan Lockett’s daughter

Kay Schrader
Chester & Phyllis Sitler
Bruce Snyder and Cindy Stewart – Bob Voigts cousin

Mothers-to-be:

Missionaries:

The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles.
Chili & Soup Potluck Luncheon

Today is our Chili & Soup Potluck Luncheon! Join us in the fellowship room immediately following morning worship. Beware of Dan’s HOT chili!

Gift for Scott & Bridgette

There is a Bible in the foyer that will be sent to Scott & Bridgette Fordyce. Find your favorite verses, highlight them with the colored pencils and write your name in the margin. We will send the Bible to Scott & Bridgette in a few weeks.

Small Group Fellowships

The next Small Group Fellowship is next Sunday, January 18! Remember there is NO evening worship on Small Group Sundays. A small group meets at the building Sunday evenings at 5:30.

Directories

New directories will be published in January. We would like to include e-mails in this edition. A directory and a separate e-mail list are posted in the foyer. Check your phone and addresses to make sure they are correct. If correct, place your initial by your information. If it is incorrect, please indicate the changes on the directory.

Children’s Library

We are looking for elementary Christian books to create a library for the children. If parents want to donate their used books that their kids have outgrown, they can give the books to either Joan Avey or Cindy Drumheller.

Ladies Class

Following is a list of topics for the Wednesday evening Ladies Bible Class. Barb Voigts is leading the discussion in January on refreshing and rejuvenation for weary women.

Winterfest “Sponsors”

Many of our teens who are going to Winterfest will be earning their own money to pay their way. If you have odd jobs around the house that need to be done, you can “hire” one of our teens to do it for you!

Also, if you’d like to help “sponsor” one of the kids, you can make a special contribution to the youth account. See Cliff if you’re interested.

Youth & Family News

TEENS: Next Saturday, January 24, we are invited to help sort donated cans, boxes and packages of food at the Northern Illinois Food Bank in St. Charles. Everyone meet at the church building at 8:30 a.m. Sign up on the sheet in the foyer if you plan to attend. The food bank has a huge warehouse that collects food from various sources and distributes it to agencies, like our food pantry, throughout northern Illinois.

Connection Point is next Sunday, January 25th, at Cardinal Drive!

Winterfest is Thursday, February 19, through Sunday, February 22. The cost will be around $100, so start earning and saving your money! A $25 deposit is due Sunday, January 18th. Additional information will be available in a couple of weeks. Sign-up on the sheet in the foyer.

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17