



Family

West Chicago Church of Christ

Volume 40, Issue 5 • February 3, 2008

A Preacher's Perspective

The State of the Union. Our Commander in Chief reports concerning the status of the Kingdom:

About the War. All of the Commander's plans and initiatives are on course and according to His sovereign will. No army or coalition of nations nor all the imaginations of men's hearts are able to alter or influence in the least His purposes or the works of His outstretched hand.

His mighty angels continue to blanket the world of man with the authority and resources to defeat any and all works of Satan. His Holy Spirit resides in each and every redeemed saint and empowers them to do more than they can ask or think. If only they would ask and think.

Satan is able, with only lies and deception, to hold back the power of many of the army of God. He accuses them, he persuades them they are condemned (though they are saved) and that they have little power. Prayer remains largely unused and the enormous combined power of that one arsenal alone could yield greater results than are imagined by the typical church.

As a result, the communications infrastructure has been severely weakened and many soldiers in the field are exhausted because of reliance on their own strength instead of calling in artillery from the heavenly realms to defeat the attacks they face daily.

So far as the economy is concerned, there is, unfortunately, widespread hoarding of the Master's wealth by those who lack faith in His daily provision and who are deluded and deceived to think that material wealth and luxurious trips and travel are the keys to human joy and happiness. Thanks to those

godly saints who, like the Macedonians, have given themselves to God, mighty works and soul-saving enterprises continue to flourish, blessed for success by the One who fed thousands with only a few fish and a little bread.

In regard to the overall strategy for ultimate world domination, all is on course. In the heavenly realms, all is becoming clearer as, day by day, the manifold

wisdom of God is being demonstrated by the Church to all the hosts and inhabitants of the heavenly realm. Most powerfully, as the gospel is preached, sin is still being devastated by this irresistible force. And the supreme demonstration of its power, God's love in the hearts of His church—for one another and for the lost world—bring daily joy to the heart of the Father.

The Lord Jesus is preparing His army for the invasion some believe will happen very soon. Though the date is not certain, the certainty is undeniable. He continues to recruit for those willing to die to themselves and to trust in Him without reservation. The Lord is reported to look with sadness on fields white to the harvest but with few laborers signed on for the task of reaping. Of course, the harvesting angels are

definitely prepared for the day of reaping, but how He longs for men to join in the ingathering.

Satan is working feverishly to divide and discourage, but the day of his being cast into the lake of fire is hastening to fulfillment. God's call is to rescue all whose names are not written in the Book of Life so that they will not suffer the same fate. Soon, every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

The State of the Union is sound.



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 worshipping 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 10:30 a.m.
(The 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 to fill out an attendance card, especially if you are a guest this morning. 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 - *Tim Boyd*
- Announcements - *Scott Fordyce*
- Singing
- Prayer - *Kyle Wheeler*
- Singing
- Lord's Supper
- Contribution and Prayer Card Collection
- Sermon - *Chuck Miller*
- Singing
- Prayer Card Responses and Prayer - *Bob Voigts*
- Announcements
- Singing
- Closing Prayer - *Curt Robinson*

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- February 4. Kelly Ieler, Marilyn Smith
- February 6. Logan Ieler, Alyssa Milam

Dates to Remember

- February 3 Small Groups
- February 7 Food Pantry Delivery
- February 7 VBS Presentation/John's Christian Store
- February 10. Missions Committee at 4:30
- February 10 Valentine's Dinner
- February 10 Sunday Night Light/Teens
- February 14-17 Winterfest/Teens
- February 17 Small Groups
- February 20. Seniors Breakfast
- February 22 Friday Fun Night
- February 24 Sunday Night Light/Teens
- February 28-March 2. Teens visit OCU

Records You Helped Make

- Sunday Morning Bible Class 84
- Wednesday Evening Bible Class 32
- Contribution \$14,435.35

Items Left at the Building

Please check the table by the restrooms for items that have been left at the building. Except for Bibles, items that are left after next Sunday will be given away.

In Our Prayers...

Herman Aultman, Bobbie Whitman's brother, is home from the hospital and doing much better.

Kevin and Christi Bowman were in Swaziland, Africa this week. Check his "blog" at www.kevinjbowman.com.

Al Dorsey's sister passed away last week.

Don Lemley is taking some medications which will hopefully provide some benefit to his recent problems. They hope to avoid surgery.

Neal Ronzheimer, Pat's husband, has been placed on hospice care. Pat has been an outstanding example to us in her unflinching devotion to Neal. We continue to pray for her and for Neal.

Fintan Schiltz, the infant son of Jay & Sally's neighbor, had a heart transplant several weeks ago. He is having problems with his lungs and they are concerned about his kidneys. They are trying to keep from doing more surgery.

Bob Voigts had another treatment this week. He is doing very well.

Jeremy McGill, A teacher in China where Scott and Bridgett worked was seriously gored by an elephant. His condition is critical. There is a fund to help with expenses.

Remember the **adults and teens** who will be going to Winterfest in Gatlinburg, TN, February 14 - 17.

Those suffering with long-term issues:

Andrea Bailey - a former member from California

Irene Barnes - Lynette Root's aunt

Paul & Judy Bertrand - Lynette Root's parents

Lisa Beverly - Sandy Boyd's sister who has MS

Bonnie Bingham

Jim Brannon - Pat Brewster's brother-in-law

Mary Brent - Joe Kirts' sister

Nancy Brewster

Jim & Julie Chavez

Bob Czernik - Chris's husband

John Day

Lisa DeVaney - Marie Hayes' daughter

Al Dorsey

Chad Englebach - Marie Hayes' grandson

Amy Ferguson - a former member from Montana

Jean Gray - Linda Vantreese's sister

Elizabeth Griffin

Sarah Hayden & family - Maria Zeisler's relative

Mary Henkel - Mike's mother

Kathy Huml - John Pedersen's sister

Kelly Ieler

Amy Kalupski - sister-in-law of Julie Chavez's friend

Joe and Star Kuhnle - Chuck & Bobby's foster son

Sue Lake - Marion's sister-in-law

Debbie Lawrence - Bobbie Whitman's niece

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

Laura Mahan - Shirley Rucker's daughter

Steve & Melissa Massie family

Danielle Nichols - Alyssa Milam's niece

Tim Miller

Josh Otte - Chris Czernik's nephew and the son of Marion Lake's cousin

Doug Peterson

Melinda Poff - the sister of Jason Willis

Kay Schrader

Chester & Phyllis Sittler

Margo Smetana - infant daughter of Steve Link's friend

Bruce Snyder - Bob Voigts' cousin

Cindy Stewart - Bob Voigts' cousin

Ollie Taylor - the niece of Lynette Root's friend

Linda Vantreese

Eudie Voigts - Bob's mother

Jim & Jamie Winner

Jeremy & Jim Whitman

Rick & Gina Zamora

Mothers-to-be:

Renell Johnston - former member

Erin Livermore - Craig & Bev's daughter-in-law

Armed forces overseas:

Greg Billings - Justin Avey's employee

Dustin Meritt - Justin Avey's employee

Chris & Jennifer Roberts - Cathleen Longfellow's sister & brother-in-law are going to Iraq for 16 months, they have a 1-year-old daughter

Shane - the son of LeAnn Sexton, a friend of Lori Plummer's

David Teel - Justin Avey's employee

Missionaries:

Jarrold, Allison, Soledad & Levi Brown - Honduras (especially for their adoption process of Soledad)

Obadiah Doka & Family - Nigeria

Dry Bones Ministry - homeless teens in Denver, CO

Juan & Roxanna Flores - Honduras

Leonardo Ken & family - Honduras

Keith, Kim, Candace, Laura & John Mark Lango - Brazil

Makinde Olufemi - Nigeria

Shults-Lewis - the teens, their families, the workers

Joe Voigts - China

Nursery Workers

Becky Pedersen, Marianne Stirrup



Collection Counters

Justin Avey, Mike Henkel



A Note of Encouragement

Cathleen Longfellow's sister and brother-in-law, Chris & Jennifer Roberts, are in Iraq. Jennifer is having a difficult time and Cathleen thought notes of encouragement would help. Her address is:

SPC Roberts, Jennifer

HHC 2 BSTB, FOB Liberty

2 BCT 101st ABN DIV (AASLT)

Unit #43490

APO AE 09344-3490

Obadiah Doka Report

Alex Bales from the Rogersville, AL, Church of Christ visited Doka in Nigeria the end of last year and sent the following report.

Greetings in the Lord to all supporters,

Well, I have much to tell you since I have returned from Nigeria. I will be attaching Doka's newsletter to my report, so be sure to read all of it to get the full report.

Let me first thank all those involved in making my trip a success. I am grateful to all of you for your prayers on my behalf, as I traveled to Nigeria. The Lord was with me and with my family during my absence, and I am thankful for that. His protection was with me so that I was able to go and return without any complications. Thank you and thank the Lord for this.

I would also like to thank the West President church of Christ, in Greenwood MS (the overseeing congregation and the congregation I worked with for 7 years) for funding all of my travel expenses. They truly have a heart for mission work, and I am grateful to them for their faith in me and their confidence in this work.



I should also mention Clarence and Patty Wilson. These wonderful people prepared me, in every way possible, for what I needed to expect when I arrived in Nigeria. I was able to leave the U.S. with greater confidence based upon all the information they shared with me, and I believe that my trip was more successful as a result of their patient willingness to educate me as to the Nigerian way.

I thank God for his protection, providence, and provision during my time in Africa. I am more aware of his presence in my life for having gone on this trip.

Let me tell you that the work that you are supporting is a great work. I thought that I knew this before I went, but having been, I am more convinced than ever that this work must continue to grow because it is producing fruit and making an impact upon the lives of real people who need the Lord.

During my time in Nigeria, Doka conducted a graduation ceremony for those students who had completed their education. There were 100 who had finished in the last little while, but only 60-65 came to the graduation (due to travel expenses to Abuja, most not having personal vehicles). Of the list of 100 names submitted for graduation, 25 had become New Testament Christians. This program is working and producing results.

I had the privilege of studying the Bible with one of the instructors at the Steward Modern School, and she put Christ on in baptism. It was a great day!

Not only does she serve as an instructor at the school for the
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Youth & Family News

TEENS: All of our teens are expected to help prepare, serve, and clean-up after the Valentine's dinner for our Seniors and families next Sunday, February 10. See Cliff if you'll not be able to help.

We also have a **Sunday Night, Light**, next Sunday following evening services. Joey Chavez is leading our devotional, but we need a guy or two to lead singing. Guys please bring pop, girls bring veggies or a dessert.

WINTERFEST: Be sure to pick-up your Info Sheet and Medical Consent Form from Cliff. We'll meet at the building at 1:00 on Thursday, February 14. You must have the Medical Consent form or you can't go!

COLLEGE VISIT: Cliff needs a final count today of who plans to go. We'll leave early Thursday morning, February 28th, and return Sunday night, March 2. Cost will be \$40, plus meals on the road. (This trip is limited to high school juniors and seniors.)

VBS

You may feel like it's a little early to start thinking about Vacation Bible School, but we need to start planning now for this summer's event. John's Christian Store is hosting a VBS Presentation this Thursday, February 7th, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m., which will include themes from several different companies. **If you'd like to attend this event, or if you'd like to be involved in planning our VBS program this year, please contact Cliff.**

Food Pantry Delivery

The Northern Illinois Food Bank will be delivering food for our pantry this **Thursday, February 7**. We will begin working at 10:00 a.m. to carry the boxes down to the pantry and stocking the shelves. Volunteers are welcome!

Seniors & Families of Our Teens



*You are invited to a special
Valentines Dinner
on Sunday, February 10,
following morning services.*

*Enjoy fellowship, a wonderful meal,
and entertainment
provided by our Teens.*

children, but she is also an instructor in the adult literacy program (ACF).



I cannot begin to tell all the things in this letter, but one of the things that I wish to explain, of which I was unaware until I took my trip, is how the culture views women. Although “the times are a changing” in Nigeria, women are still not viewed in the highest esteem. Men tend to “dominate” the women, and one of the ways they do this is by keeping their women uneducated. It is fine for an illiterate man to be married to an illiterate woman, but never an illiterate man to a literate woman. This simply will not, as a rule, lead to a harmonious union. So because Doka has started this program, offering free adult education to all, including women, he has come under much criticism by those who are determined to keep women uneducated. This has placed Doka in the middle of controversy many times. He is really putting himself in the position of making himself a “sore-thumb” to the society and culture. Now, obviously, not everybody feels this way because the adult literacy program consists primarily of women, but there is still a strong element that feels that this adult education offered to women is not a good thing for the community or culture.

The fact that Doka has stuck his neck out had never really occurred to me. I knew some problems might exist with respect to Islam, but I never imagined that, simply from a cultural perspective, he would be placing himself in a position to receive further criticism. This program must continue for the good of those students who are enrolling in the program. It is helping to bring the level of the society up to a standard that treats all people with respect and dignity.

The church in Nigeria is doing great. Though still much in its infancy, I found the church to be strong in character and love. They still have much to learn, and because illiteracy is such a problem, growth tends to be slow, but things are stable and there appears to be good relationships between brethren. Of the preachers I met, the majority of them are younger men. This was encouraging to see that young men

are committing themselves to the cause of Christ, but they still need some growth and maturity. This will happen if we will continue to support them with our prayers and letters of encouragement. They all seemed to be mutually concerned about each other and had an attitude of willingness to work together to reach the lost.

Doka is still in need of your financial support, as well as your constant prayers on his behalf. He sends all of his greetings to you, and is thankful for each one of you who help to make his work a success. I am thankful for each one of you as well. Your contributions to this work are not being wasted, but are being put to full use to better serve the Lord. While I was with Doka, he spoke, constantly, about reaching more people.

He has ideas for the future of this work and is working, along side of government officials, to get this program

started in other regions. Doka was appointed by the government, as the head of a group, put together by Doka himself, to give further attention to the issue of adult illiteracy in Nigeria. His ties with the government are making roads, not only for the adult literacy, but also for the gospel to be preached to those governing officials.

This work needs to be continued. I had seen, first hand, how well things are going to be so “young.” I am convinced that God has blessed Doka, and those who are working with him, in this effort. All of us share in the blessings of this work. You are to be commended for this.

I have just now received the newsletter from Doka, due to computer and power problems that have had the internet down and the power off. When I gave my presentation here at Rogersville, we were able to video the report. We have a man here with a five disc, DVD recorder. He has agreed to make the copies, and I will be sending them out to all of you, but he has not learned how to use the machine yet, and had problems copying the test disc. As we are working to get these problems resolved, I decided to go ahead and mail out the report. I will be mailing the DVD as soon as I get them.

One final thing I need to mention. There is the possibility that the church here at Rogersville will be taking on the oversight of this work. Just be aware that we may have to change addresses on where you send your checks. The elders at the West President church have asked the elders here at Rogersville to consider the work, and they are doing that. I anticipate, although this is not certain yet that they will accept this request. I will confirm this when I know more, but I wanted all of you to be aware of that possible change, and to be praying about it.

God bless you as you continue to serve the Lord.

**Serving the Master,
Alex**

SMALL GROUPS

West Chicago Church of Christ

Boyd's Group

The families of:

Justin & Joan Avey
Bonnie Bingham
* Tim & Sandy Boyd
Mike & Lisa Henkel
Don & Theresa Lemley
Steve & Melissa Massie
Jon & Paul Mercer
Chuck & Bobbye Miller (4 wks)
Chester & Kim Sitler
Dewayne & Marilyn Smith
**denotes leader*

Fordyce's Group

The families of:

John & Bev Day
Peter Drumheller
* Scott & Bridgette Fordyce
Ryan Heather
Dana Howard
John & Joanne Johnson
Mike Kinder
Joe & Terrie Kirts
Marion & Nana Lake
Cathleen Longfellow
Bob & Barb Voigts (1st 4 weeks)
**denotes leader*

Robinson's Group

The families of:

Don & Pat Brewster (1st 4 wks)
Joan & Charlie Lockett
Mike Mathews
John & Eileen Miles
Paul & Molly Mullins
John & Becky Pedersen
* Curt & Jackie Robinson
Frances Schearer
**denotes leader*

Stirrup's Group

The families of:

Mary Barton
Tom & Nancy Doggett
Josephine Haggerton
Marie Hayes
Jay & Sally Hearn
Bob & Betsy Jett (1st 4 weeks)
Nadine McCormick
Pat Ronzheimer
Rick & Lynette Root
Shirley Rucker
* Paul & Marianne Stirrup
Rhonda Triplett
Kyle & Kelie Wheeler
**denotes leader*

Plummer's Group

The families of:

Doris Biancalana
Cindy Drumheller
Scott & Carrie Drumheller
Cary & Emily Gray
Jeff & Kelly Ieler
Steve & Theresa Link
Jon & Jamie Miller
Sarah Miller
Cyndi & Julian Perez
* Cliff & Lori Plummer
**denotes leader*

Small Group Dates:

January 20 (TODAY)

February 3 April 6

February 17 April 20

March 2 May 4 (Potluck)

March 16

If you have any questions or would like to participate in the Small Group Fellowships, please contact Don Brewster, Cliff Plummer or Bob Voigts.

Remember, there is no Sunday evening worship services on Small Group Sundays.

