

The Keavy Encourager

1 Thessalonians 5:14 (GW)-We encourage you, brothers and sisters, to instruct those who are not living right, cheer up those who are discouraged, help the weak, and be patient with everyone.

December 3, 2023

(For Any Corrections Or Updates To The Bulletin, Please Contact brother Mark Tabata
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WELCOME TO THE KEAVY CHURCH OF CHRIST!

- If you are visiting with us, you are our welcomed and honored guest. We are so thankful that you came to be with us today! PLEASE remember to pick up one of our “Visitor Packages” before you go! PLEASE also leave your name and address with us so that we can get you a “thank you” card in the mail. If we can help you in any way, PLEASE let us know!
- If you would like to participate in our Communion service, you will find Lord’s Supper packets in the Foyer (the area where you first enter the church building).
- Visit us online for Bible studies, live streaming, and other resources! Our website is: www.keavychurchofchrist.com, and our email address is keavychurchofchrist@outlook.com Please also share with your family, friends, and social media!

Something To Help Us Laugh

(Adapted From Paul Miller, World’s Greatest Collection Of Church Jokes)

FROM A CHILD’S HEART A daddy was listening to his child say her prayers. “Dear Harold ...” “Wait a minute, honey, how come you called God ‘Harold’?” The little girl looked up and said, “That’s what they call Him in church. You know the prayer we say, ‘Our Father, who art in heaven, Harold be Thy name.’” And then there was this particular four-year-old who prayed, “And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets.” And finally, the realist: “Dear God, please take care of my daddy and my mommy and my sister and my brother and my doggy and me. Oh, yes, please take care of yourself, God. If anything happens to You, we’re gonna be in a big mess.”

Timmy had been misbehaving in children's church and was isolated from the other children for time-out. After awhile he emerged and informed his teacher that he had thought it over and then prayed about it. "Fine," said his pleased teacher. "If you ask God to help you not to misbehave, He will help you." "Oh, I didn't ask Him that," said Timmy, "I asked Him to help you put up with me."

December Prayer List

Kurt And Joanne Martin, Sanders Family, Eddie Craft (Cancer), Jimmy Brooks (Tammy's cousin, cancer), Kathy Mingus (cancer), Anne Baker (Cancer), Larry and Sandi Tabata, Josh and Holly Baker, Violet (Ivy's sister), Bill and Mary Ruth Browning, James And LeAnne Day, Terry and Rita Wooten, Kandace Scalf, Robin McDonald, Gary And Vanessa Fleming, Theresa H And Family, Tim Williams, Leland Marsee, Lisa Creech Family, Herman Helton (Uncle of sister Kristina Helton), Larry Worley, Wesley and Sarah Henson, Bill Peterson, Lisa Rainwater, Dean Lisle, Kate Ray, David And Ivy Mosley, Jyce Smith And Family

The Restoration Movement (Eight)

(More Bible Studies Available At www.marktabata.com)

It is written:

DANIEL 2:44-AND IN THE DAYS OF THESE KINGS THE GOD OF HEAVEN WILL SET UP A KINGDOM WHICH SHALL NEVER BE DESTROYED; AND THE KINGDOM SHALL NOT BE LEFT TO OTHER PEOPLE; IT SHALL BREAK IN PIECES AND CONSUME ALL THESE KINGDOMS, AND IT SHALL STAND FOREVER.

As the Restoration Movement began to gain ground around the world, members of the churches that desired to return to New Testament Christianity were amazed to find much older churches around the world that embraced God's Word in the same way! This makes sense, since Daniel the Prophet had long ago prophesied that God's kingdom would never be destroyed from the Earth (Daniel 2:44). Even though the Great Falling Away had taken place as God's Word declared it would (1 Timothy 4:1-4; 2 Timothy 4:1-4; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-14), Roman Catholicism had not been able to totally destroy the church which Jesus built and purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:28).

One author, describing how traces of Christ's kingdom could be found throughout the world even long before the Restoration Movement, tells us:

“It has often been asked whether churches of Christ existed prior to the nineteenth century American Restoration Movement of Barton W. Stone and Alexander Campbell. If churches of Christ, built on Biblical foundations, ceased to exist after the great apostasy of the second and third centuries, are we to say there were no Christians and no salvation until the early 1800s? This study will attempt to answer these questions and show that autonomous congregations, with a like understanding of the Holy Scriptures, have existed through the last millennia, continuing in the pattern set by the congregation that met in Jerusalem on the first Pentecost after the Resurrection. Some recent teaching is that the churches of Christ are a development of the Reformation. This teaching states that the Reformation came first and from that came the churches of Christ. This study will prove this view to be erroneous. The restorers would have many vestiges to learn from the churches of Christ that predated the Restoration, such as believers' baptism and congregational autonomy, as practised in some denominations, who in turn had learned of such from the churches of Christ in bygone times.” (Keith Sisman, *Traces of the Kingdom Part 1: One thousand years of the churches of Christ in England, evidenced by British Library documents*, 9 (Kindle Edition); Huntington, United Kingdom; Forbidden Books)

Another document tells a similarity intriguing story!

Many years ago, brother Otis Gatewood went to preach God's Word in Germany. He was amazed to find churches of Christ already in existence, many of which predated the American Restoration Movement and had an extremely ancient history! One of the men from there tells us:

“1800-1955. The seed of the blood of the martyred churches had not been sowed in vain; God's Word did not return again void. In all the Occident the survivors of the centuries of persecutions, without knowing it gave the decisive impulse to mighty movements of awakening. In England the remnants of the Leollard Christian churches, the Seekers, exerted a decisive influence upon the Puritans and Quakers; in Holland fugitive English Puritans found their way through the influence of Mennonite and Old Evangelic groups to the Congregational and Baptist movements. In Central Europe much of the essence of the old churches trickled into the fundamental teaching and constitutional systems of the Moravian Herrnhuters. Nevertheless, only in a few churches and numerically very small churches, was shown more evidently the survival of the New Testament pre-reformation wealth of thought: among the Sandimanians of Scotland for example; or the Kollegianten in Holland; or the Dunkards of Northwestern Germany, who later were to establish

flourishing churches on the other side of the Atlantic. But in that very epoch when seemingly among these few struggling groups left in Europe and Asia the flame of apostolic faith was about to be put out, there arose on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean, wholly independent of the churches of Europe and without the Europeans knowing about it, the great "Restoration Movement" calling for a return to the apostolic faith and practice. Their efforts were not directed to a continuation or even remaking of old customs and traditions but a finding of the purity of the New Testament church and a restoration of that. Coming to their own decisions quite independently of each other, the Methodist O'Kelly, the Baptist Abner Jones, the Presbyterian Barton Stone, and the two free church theologians, the Campbells father and son, just immigrated from Ireland, who were to put aside all humanly devised creeds, dogmas and catechisms, and to build the church of the New Covenant on the Cornerstone, which is Christ. Their message found far and wide a responsive echo in the hearts of thousands. God added to the churches not only countless individuals, but also hundreds of young preachers, yes, entire congregations abandoned the prisons of their separate churches and joined themselves to the movement of New Testament Christianity. In a few years there were hundreds of these churches on the American continent. May I speak of myself as a connecting link of the Central European churches of Christ and the brethren and sisters of the English-speaking restoration movement? Hitler's henchmen in World War II tried to terminate the destruction of the Lord's little flock. In 1933 all bishops and deacons of the churches of Christ on German soil were imprisoned in *Konzentrationslager*. In 1939 the adult members in East Prussia followed their shepherds into the prisons and hard-labor convoys, where they perished in 1944, and in 1942 the 11 Alsatian families were deported to Poland. There they were massacred by the advancing Red tankists in January, 1945. All died with the same heroism for their Lord as their ancestors did. I was born in 1899 at Sablon-les-Metz as a scion of one of the oldest Christian families between the Mosele and the Alps. My dear father was one of the last three bishops of the church of Christ in Strassburg, and I was immersed by my uncle in the icy waters of the Hanauer Weiher March 18, 1916. Trained in Strassburg, Konigsberg, and Hamburg Universities, I obtained a license in comparative history of religions. Imprisoned in 1933 by the Nazis for preaching the gospel in the face of a blasphemous government, I had to suffer almost two years in the concentration camps of Hammerstein and Lichtenburg hunger, thirst, and the uninterrupted thrashing of arms, shinbones, and head like all other political, religious or non-Aryan prisoners. Released, deaf in one ear and with crushed kidneys, I continued preaching like my ancestors in woods, hills, and swamps or in hiding places in the large cities. I had to sell my special library and furniture to manage to live. When World War II began I was commissioned as an interpreter with the army. Back in Leipzig on Christmas, 1945, I learned of my dear father's death, from some survivors, the extermination of our churches in East Europe. I immediately took up the task of rebuilding the destroyed brotherhood, and I had to work hard as a proofreader,

reporter, and lecturer to earn a living not only for me, but also for the old and sick brethren and sisters in Communist-ruled, famine-stricken and ravaged East Germany. I could say with the apostle: "These hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me" (Acts 20:34). Just at the beginning of a remarkable revival of young people in Leipzig, and three months after my wedding, I was arrested October 9, 1948, by the Communists and for four years imprisoned in the ill-famed jails of Leipzig, Waldheim and Graefentonna. The pretended reason: conspiracy against the Red government in religious circles. Released in the fall of 1952, I joined my dear wife in Western Germany. In March 1955, the protestant State Church of Kurhessen-Waldeck invited me to take over the office of president of the Evangelical Academy for Social Ethics in Kassel. I declined; I could not subscribe to the promise not to attack the teaching of the Confession of Augsburg. But in the same month I met for the first time in my life a member of the restored churches of Christ of America. What he had to tell me was not other than the faith of my ancestors which I had taught and practiced all my life. My grandfather had had contacts with Scottish (Haldane) Baptists and Sandemanians, yea, even with Christadelphians in Birmingham, but the American Restoration Movement had been totally unknown to us. And now the fact that the Lord had built up his church beyond the Atlantic, just in time, when his last followers in Europe dwindled, hit me like a thunderclap. The torch did not die out. God had kindled it again and put it on a lamp-stand and it gives light for everybody in the house. This was the fulfillment of Christ's promise: *I am going to build my church, and the powers of death will never prevail against it.*" (Dr. Hans Grimm (Translated by Dr. H. L. Schug and originally published by Firm Foundation Publishing House) (P. O. Box 610, Austin, Texas 78767), Tradition and History of the Early Churches of Christ In Central Europe, available for download from: http://www.netbiblestudy.net/history/new_page_9.htm)

As we learn more of the great Restoration Movement, let us remember that these efforts did not create the church of Christ. Christ's church has been here since Pentecost of Acts 2! Yet the Restoration Movement was very important in helping to encourage friends and family from denominationalism to renounce sectarianism and return to the pattern of God's Word.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen.

Announcements

- Backpacks For The Homeless: Thank you to everyone who helped with the backpacks for the homeless! We will distribute them this week.

- Foundations Bible Class: Join us after morning service for a new class on first principles of the Bible. We will go through the Old and New Testaments, learn a basic timeline of the more important historical events of the Word, memorize the Books of the Bible, and focus especially on the centrality of Jesus. We will also have special lessons on the books of the Apocrypha, miracles, and the gift of tongues. Questions and discussions encouraged. Workbooks have been ordered and will be provided. Refreshments will be available. Hope everyone can attend!
- We have started a Keavy church chat on two different free apps: Discord and WhatsApp. If you would like to join, please let Mark Tabata know.

Sunday Lessons

Adult Bible Class: Through The Gospels

Teenage Bible Class: Taking A Look At Christian Evidences

Middle School Class: Heroes Of The Bible

A.M. Sermon: A Call To Worship (Psalm 100)

P.M. Sermon: The End Of The World (2 Peter 3:1-10)

Bible Class And Sermon Notes