

The Faithful Word



March 2005

“Let Jesus Fix It For You”

Edition 29

Join Us For Service

Sunday Services

Sunday School: 9:45 A.M.
Morning Worship: 11:15 A.M.
Pastoral Teaching: 6:00 P.M.
Evening Worship: 7:00 P.M.

Tuesday Service

Prayer & Bible Band 10:00 A.M.

Wednesday Rehearsals

Youth Choir: 6:00 P.M.
Inspirational Choir: 7:30 P.M.

Thursday Services

Y.P.W.W.: 6:30 P.M.
Youth Service: 7:30 P.M.

Individual Highlights:

Education Connection	29a
History of Easter	29a
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Greater Victory C.O.G.I.C.

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www.greatervictoryonline.org



Pastor, George A. Martin

From the Pastor's Desk

“A Nation and Its Leaders”

Source: Prayers That Prevail: The Believer's Manual of Prayers
by Clift Richards and Lloyd Hildebrand

Key Thought: Blessed is the nation whose god is the Lord.

Key Scripture: “I exhort therefore, that supplications, prayers intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that re in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty” (I Timothy 2:1,2).

Prayer: Father, thank you for our leaders. I pray for all those in authority in this nation. Those in government, in school systems, in the legal system, in churches, in the media, and all other a positions of influence, that your people may live quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in your sight.

You have said that when the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked rule, the people mourn. Establish your justice and make the wrong things right in our nation and our leadership.

Give us righteous leadership, Lord. Open a door of the gospel to any leaders who are not save and born again. Let your Word come to them and pierce their hearts. Let it be like fire and like a hammer that breaks the rock into pieces. Let them joyfully receive Jesus as Lord and become children of God.

Father, the king's heart and the heart of every leader is in your hand. You turn them wherever you will. Turn all of our leaders' hearts in the way of your wisdom. Let their actions and words be in agreement with you r plans and purposes.

I pray, Lord, that your people, throughout this whole nation, who are called by your name, will humble themselves, and pray, and seek your face, and turn from their wicked ways. Then you will hear from heaven, and forgive their sin, and heal their land. Do it Lord. Heal our land. Pour your mercy and grace upon us. Let your kingdom come and your will be done in this nation, and in all the earth, as it is in heaven.

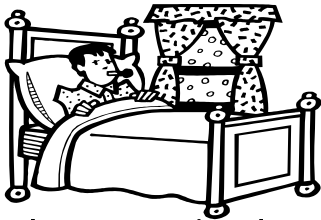
Reference Scriptures: I Timothy 2:2-3, Proverbs 29:2. Luke 11:13, Colossians 4:3, Hebrews 4:12, Jeremiah 23:29, I John 3:1, Proverbs 21:1, II Chronicles 7:14, Matthew 6:10.



March

Elder Jackson
 Sis. Regina Sanders
 Bro. Michael Sims
 Min. Dennis F. Martin
 Jr. Min. Malachi F. Martin
 Sis. DeAnna F. Martin

*****Sick and Shut-In*****



Please remember those who are sick and shut-in. Keep them in your prayers.

Sometimes a kind word, a phone call, or even a smile can make a world of difference.

Message From the Sunday School

*****If you know your Bible, the Sunday School needs you. If you don't know your Bible, you need to come to Sunday School each Sunday morning at 9:45am. Sis Stephanie Harris - Sunday School Supt.**

Education Connection:
Top Ten Ways to Improve Reading Skills

by Peggy Gisler, Ed.S. and Marge Eberts, Ed.S.
 Resource: www.familyeducation.com



Nothing is more important to academic achievement than being a good reader. Parents know their children best and can provide the one-on-one time and attention that will lead them to success in reading. Here is a list of ways to help your children become more effective readers.

- 1. Set aside a regular time to read to your children every day.**
 Studies show that regularly reading out loud to children will produce significant gains in reading comprehension, vocabulary, and the decoding of words. Whether your children are preschoolers or preteens, it will increase their desire to read independently.
- 2. Surround your children with reading material.**
 Children with a large array of reading materials in their homes score higher on standardized tests. Tempt your kids to read by having a large supply of appealing books and magazines at their reading level. Put the reading materials in cars, bathrooms, bedrooms, family rooms, and even by the TV.
- 3. Have a family reading time.**
 Establish a daily 15 to 30 minute time when everyone in the family reads together silently. Seeing you read will inspire your children to read. Just 15 minutes of daily practice is sufficient to increase their reading fluency.
- 4. Encourage a wide variety of reading activities.**
 Make reading an integral part of your children's lives. Have them read menus, roadside signs, game directions, weather reports, movie time listings, and other practical everyday information. Also, make sure they always have something to read in their spare time when they could be waiting for appointments or riding in a car.
- 5. Develop the library habit.**
 Entice your children to read more by taking them to the library every few weeks to get new reading materials. The library also offers reading programs for children of all ages that may appeal to your children and further increase their interest in reading.
- 6. Be knowledgeable about your children's progress.** Find out what reading skills they are expected to have at each grade level. The school's curriculum will give you this information. Track their progress in acquiring basic reading skills on report cards and standardized tests.
- 7. Look for reading problems.**
 Teachers do not always detect children's reading problems until they've become serious. Find out if your children can sound out words, know sight words, use context to identify unknown words, and clearly understand what they read.
- 8. Get help promptly for reading problems.**
 Reading problems do not magically disappear with time. The earlier children receive help, the more likely they will become good readers. Make sure your children receive necessary help from teachers, tutors, or learning centers as soon as you discover a problem.
- 9. Use a variety of aids to help your children.**
 To help your children improve their reading, use textbooks, computer programs, books-on-tape, and other materials available in stores. Games are especially good choices because they let children have fun as they work on their skills.
- 10. Show enthusiasm for your children's reading.**
 Your reaction has a great influence on how hard they will try to become good readers. Be sure to give them genuine praise for their efforts.

The History of Easter

Easter is a time of springtime festivals. In Christian countries Easter is celebrated as the religious holiday commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the son of God. But the celebrations of Easter have many customs and legends that are pagan in origin and have nothing to do with Christianity. Scholars, accepting the derivation proposed by the 8th-century English scholar St. Bede, believe the name Easter is thought to come from the Scandinavian "Ostra" and the Teutonic "Ostern" or "Eastre," both Goddesses of mythology signifying spring and fertility whose festival was celebrated on the day of the vernal equinox. Traditions associated with the festival survive in the Easter rabbit, a symbol of fertility, and in colored easter eggs, originally painted with bright colors to represent the sunlight of spring, and used in Easter-egg rolling contests or given as gifts.

The Christian celebration of Easter embodies a number of converging traditions with emphasis on the relation of Easter to the Jewish festival of Passover, or Pesach, from which is derived Pasch, another name used by Europeans for Easter. Passover is an important feast in the Jewish calendar which is celebrated for 8 days and commemorates the flight and freedom of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

The early Christians, many of whom were of Jewish origin, were brought up in the Hebrew tradition and regarded Easter as a new feature of the Passover festival, a commemoration of the advent of the Messiah as foretold by the prophets. (For more information please visit our Passover celebration - [Passover on the Net](#))

Easter is observed by the churches of the West on the first Sunday following the full moon that occurs on or following the spring equinox (March 21). So Easter became a "movable" feast which can occur as early as March 22 or as late as April 25. Christian churches in the East which were closer to the birthplace of the new religion and in which old traditions were strong, observe Easter according to the date of the Passover festival.

Easter is at the end of the Lenten season, which covers a forty-six-day period that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends with Easter. The Lenten season itself comprises forty days, as the six Sundays in Lent are not actually a part of Lent. Sundays are considered a commemoration of Easter Sunday and have always been excluded from the Lenten fast. The Lenten season is a period of penitence in preparation for the highest festival of the church year, Easter.

Holy Week, the last week of Lent, begins its with the observance of Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday takes its name from Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem where the crowds laid palms at his feet. Holy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper, which was held the evening before the Crucifixion. Friday in Holy Week is the anniversary of the Crucifixion, the day that Christ was crucified and died on the cross. Holy week and the Lenten season end with Easter Sunday, the day of resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Laying Aside Every Weight

by Sis Savannah VanKummer

"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us..." Hebrews 12:1

Years ago, I went to lunch with some friends. I can't remember their names or where I knew them from. All I remember is this crazy prayer one girl prayed over our meal. She said, "Thank you Lord for this food...please don't let it make us gain any weight...absorb all the fat, calories and cholesterol, and make it nutritious for our bodies...in Jesus' name, Amen."

I looked up with a smirk, expecting everyone else who heard this prayer to have the same look on their face. But to my surprise, everyone just dug into their cheese burgers, fries, apple pies and shakes as if God actually took that prayer seriously. It was at that time I think I finally understood James 4:3 when he talked about "asking amiss."

What was worse, everyone at the table (including myself) looked as if they needed to skip a few meals. Two of the girls were already morbidly obese minors, and the girl who prayed the prayer could barely fit into the booth we were sitting in. A few years later, I heard someone pray a similar prayer, and it disturbed my spirit even more. I couldn't help but reflect on the beginning of Hosea 4:6 which states, "My people are perishing from a lack of knowledge."

Like many people, I have struggled with weight practically my whole life, and it wasn't until about ten years ago that I specifically began fasting and praying over my excess pounds. In addition to prayer, I began exercising regularly, so I was at least making the effort...although you would never know it.

However, in His infinite wisdom, the Lord has been using my "thorn" of managing weight as an empowering tool towards understanding His Way a little better. As a result, I am encouraged by Paul's testimony in II Corinthians 12:7-10 when after asking the Lord 3 times to physically deliver him, the Lord said, "My grace is sufficient,

and my strength is made perfect in weakness."

Sometimes, we strong Christians have a tendency to lock away past hurts and experiences, thinking that this is what Paul meant when He talked about "forgetting what lies behind" in Philippians 3:13. But I have come to believe that some things must be dealt with before we continue to "press toward the mark." We can dance and shout the victory in advance all we want, but there is a thin line between forgetting what lies behind, and suppression.

Now if you are among the few who don't have a weight problem, I'm sure you can think of someone to prayerfully forward this to; and if you are one of those who just needs to get off the couch and start exercising, thank God and get moving. But if you are one of the millions of people who are addicted to food and/or are emotional eaters, ask the Lord to prepare the soil of your heart right now, that you might receive whatever it is you need to become whole, a better steward of your temple, and one who lives soberly.

See, it's not about getting skinny or caught up in the whole diet and exercise craze. Rather, the Lord has shown me that it is about stewardship. Many of us tend to limit the concept of stewardship to money and material things, but stewardship is about managing what God has blessed us with. Our bodies are vessels that the Holy Spirit resides in and uses to persuade others to come to Christ.

I am also a firm believer that our struggle is not against overweight flesh and high blood sugar, but against principalities that govern nutritional information, against powers that make fast food a culture, against the rulers of darkness that flood the media with dangerous diet pill advertisements, and against the spiritual hosts of wickedness that keep people misinformed and dying of heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, gluttony, anorexia and bulimia (Ephesians 6:12).

ATTENTION: ALL MEMBERS!!! WOULD YOU LIKE TO EXPRESS YOURSELF WITH YOUR OWN COLUMN? THE FAITHFUL WORD NEWSLETTER STAFF IS SEEKING TO EXPAND!



*All submissions must be submitted to Sis. Shields by the 20th of each month via email or in the Faithful Word Newsletter Drop Box (secretary's office). REMEMBER...



Catch the Vision and Stir Up Your Gifts... This is "Ministry: A Family Affair"

(Every Weight con't)

Sobriety is another term that we like to reserve just for alcoholics and the chemically-dependant. However, addiction is anything that masters you and keeps you out of control. If you are overweight, the bottom line is that you are out of control. Let's be real - - what's the difference between an alcoholic who says, "I can stop drinking anytime I want to," and a food-aholic who says, "I'll lose this weight when I'm ready?"

How many of you know someone with emphysema, yet they continue to smoke? How is this different from people with borderline diabetes still eating junk food, or those with high blood pressure still eating bacon? When an alcoholic goes to the bar, we are quick to shake a finger...so why do we turn the other way when people with obvious weight problems go to buffets?

I know what I'm saying here is not politically correct, but anyone who has been a long time reader of the DES knows that the DES is not bound by societal political correctness. It is however bound by truth and love. The truth is that being overweight is not okay, and love starts within.

For me, this journey to successful weight loss has been a long path to wholeness. It is a constant task to slow down, take every stressful thought into captivity according to II Corinthians 10:5, and put things into perspective by lining it up with the Word of God instead of standing in line at the Baskin Robins.

Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of Christ according to scripture includes dealing with past hurts, mistakes and current stressors that have a way of distorting our perception as well as our prayers. Before you know it, you too will be asking God to bless fattening foods to the nourishment of your body before diving into a bucket of chicken.

Somewhere the devil and his angels are having a good laugh at how many cults practice better nutrition than the Body of Christ. We preach righteousness, but don't eat righteous portions. We speak healing, but won't maintain the good health that we have. We teach holiness, but ignore our own hypocrisy when we stuff ourselves to the point of aching and barely being able to walk out of a restaurant. Newsflash: this is gluttony.

If you are one of many who suffer from being overweight, I invite you to join me in making 2005 the last year you make weight loss part of your New Year's resolution.

If you know what to do, do it. If you need some help, I have enclosed a link to some information that has brought me great success these past few weeks in controlling hunger, and are congruent with Biblical principles. It includes dieting myths, credible sources, and programs that (in my opinion) are real and work if you work them. Through Christ who strengthens me, I pray that the weeks will become years. Won't you join me?

Inspirational Thought:



"We believe the Word of God; therefore we do the Word of God."

– Frederick K.C. Price

Reference Scripture: *"...I will show you my faith by what I do."*

(James 2:18b *NIV*)

*****Newsletter Staff*****

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Savannah VanKummer

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Sis. Mary Flagg-Martin

Jr. Min. Malachi Flagg-Martin



Recipe of the Month:

1-2-3-4 Cake

Submitted by Mo. Jordan

- 1 cup butter or margarine
- 2 cups sugar
- 3 cups sifted cake flour
- ½ tsp. salt
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- ½ tsp. almond extract

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cream butter gradually. Add sugar, creaming until light and fluffy. (Beat 10 minutes on electronic mixer or longer by hand). Sift flour with baking powder and salt. Add eggs, one at the time to cream mixture, beating well after each addition. Add flour mixture, alternating with milk and flavorings, beating after each addition until smooth.

Pour batter into three greased and floured 9 inch layer pans. Bake 25 to 30 minutes. Let cool for 10 minutes. Remove from pans and finish cooking on racks. (Tip: I mostly bake mine in my tub pan, a large pan.)



Health Wise:
Tips for Eating Smart and Watching Calories

www.checkyourhealth.org



Ask Questions

- Ask about preparation methods
- Ask if sauces or gravies are served on the side
- Ask if baked and broiled items are basted while they cook
- Ask if vegetables are cooked in butter or margarine
- Ask about substituting a high-fat, high-calorie item with something that is lower in fat and calories

Entrees and Side Dishes

- When ordering pasta dishes, look for tomato-based sauces rather than cream-based sauces. Tomato-based sauces are much lower in fat and calories. In addition, the tomato sauce (or marinara sauce) can count as a vegetable!
- Ask for salsa with a baked potato instead of sour cream, butter, cheese, or bacon. Salsa is very low in calories and a healthy alternative with a lot of spice.
- Order sandwiches with mustard rather than mayonnaise or "special sauce." Mustard adds flavor with virtually no calories.
- Look for items on the menu that are baked, grilled, dry-sautéed, broiled, poached, or steamed. These cooking techniques use less fat in the food preparation and are generally lower in calories.
- Choose entrees with fruits and vegetables as key ingredients. Fruits and vegetables are a good source of dietary fiber as well as of many vitamins and minerals.
- Enjoy foods that are flavored with fresh herbs rather than fats such as oil and butter. Herbs add a unique flavor to any dish!
- Choose foods made with whole grains. Examples include whole-wheat bread and dishes made with brown rice.
- Order steamed vegetables as a side dish.
- If you have a choice of side dishes, opt for baked potato or steamed vegetables rather than french fries. Even if choices are not listed, ask your server to substitute vegetables or a baked potato for french fries.

Leftovers

- Don't hesitate to take leftovers home. It is often wise to divide large portions before you start eating. Eat one half and take the other half home. Splitting food before you start eating makes it easier to avoid overeating.
- Take half of your meal home. The second half can serve as a second meal. (Two meals for the price of one: What a deal!)

*****Message Board*****

A Message From the YPWW President:

Come and be blessed. Study to show thyself approved unto God.

Every Thursday Night at 6:30pm

.....
 Congratulations to the **Tribe of Ephraim** for raising the most money in February's Tribe Rally Day. Thank you to all tribes for your contributions toward the Building Fund project. Everyone's a winner in Christ.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SEMINAR

Place: Greater Victory Church

When: Sat., March 19th (9a-12 noon)

Who Should Attend: All members

*This seminar is for the growth and enhancement of our Sunday School

.....
 The **Sunday School Store** will be open every 3rd Sunday after morning service (Bring your Sunday School bucks to shop – Item donations are always accepted)

Calendar Events

March Events:

- 10th-13th Women's Retreat (Santa Ana)
- 18th- Singles' Mtg. 6:30p
- 19th - Sunday School Seminar 9a-12p
- 19th - Couples Mtg. 7p
- 20th - PALM SUNDAY
- 25th - GOOD FRIDAY Service 7p
- 26th - Women's Dept Mtg. 9a
- 26th - YWCC 10a
- 27th - EASTER

April Events:

- 2nd - Daylight Savings
- 2nd - Transport. Dept. Fish Fry 10a
- 15th - Singles' Mtg. 6:30p
- 16th - Sunshine Band Fashion Show & Luncheon 11a
- 16th - Couples Mtg. 7p
- 24th - PASSOVER
- 29th - Shut-In 10p

Money-Saving Utilities Tips

Source: In Charge Debt Solutions

It's a fact that seniors often spend more time at home than the rest of the population-after all, it's our turn to relax after working hard all of our lives. And we all want to be comfortable in our homes, whether that means staying cooling the summer or warm in the winter. Unfortunately, convincing "Mother Nature" to help regulate temperatures is an uphill battle-meaning we often are forced to spend more than we'd like on our utility bills. This can be especially tough for those on fixed or limited incomes, who don't have the funds to pay for an unexpected spike in the power bill. That's why this month, we're exploring ways to save on heating and cooling all year round. Try these helpful tips and we think you'll find a welcome surprise in your energy consumption and your utility bills.

- Health permitting, keep the thermostat at 78 degrees in the summer, and at 68 in the winter.
- Turn off or raise air conditioning to a warmer temperature when away.
- Close curtains, draperies, or shades when possible to block the sun's rays.
- Use room fans to circulate air and increase comfort.
- Avoid cooking, baking, and other indoor heat-producing activities on hot days.
- Run appliances or back earlier in the morning when it is cooler.
- Ventilate the house in the evenings or early morning when it is cooler.
- Consider using fluorescent lighting and bulbs; they costs less and create less heat.
- Try using surge protectors or power strips in the home. These affordable devices can be purchased at most electronic stores to supplement wall outlets and to guard against electricity fluctuations. Plus, seniors who need in-home medical care can use powerstrips to help ensure the reliability of their home health care devices. Look for the UL 1449 rating, or better.

Every month, be sure to:

- Change or clean air conditioning unit filters (get help if you need it.)
- Clear weeds and other debris away from the outside condensing unit (again, get help if this is beyond your capabilities.)

Am I My Brother's Keeper?

by Malachi Flagg-Martin

Reference Scripture: Genesis 4:9

Sometimes, we as children of God, are like Cain. We know we did something wrong to someone and we act as if we did not do it or we act like we didn't remember but that isn't how the Lord wants us to act. He wants us to admit that we did something wrong and to repent to the Lord and to the person we did the wrong thing to. We need to do that if we want to let our light shine, to have a good name, and to be well spoken of. The devil will try to tempt us but with the power of God, we can make it through temptation.

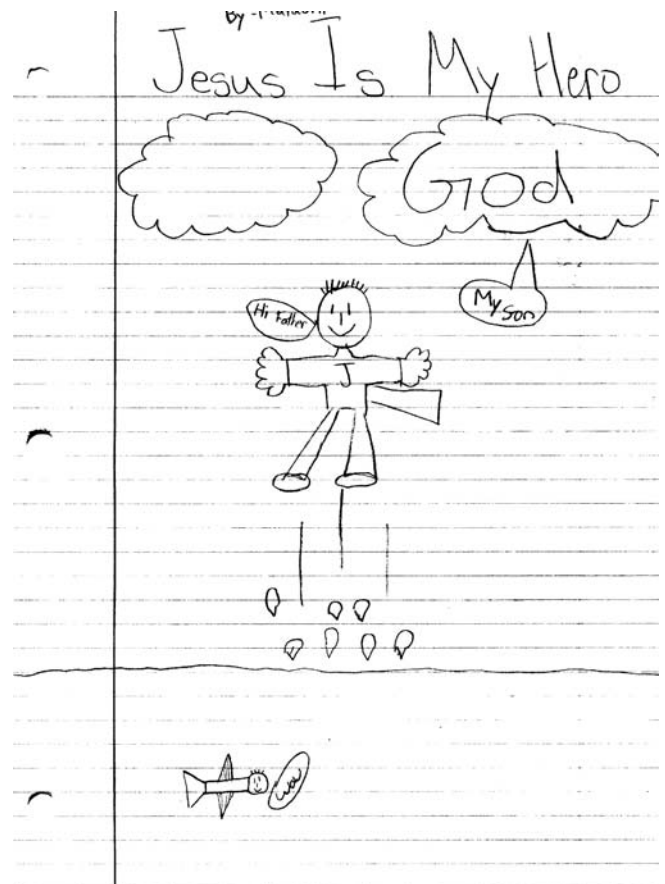
In the story, Cain was jealous of Abel because God accepted Abel's offerings instead of Cain's. God accepted Abel's offering because Able gave God his best. Therefore, Cain went out in the fields and killed his brother. Cain should have loved his brother but he killed him because he wanted God to think of him greater than his brother Able. Once he did that, the Lord asked him where was his brother and he responded by asking, "Am I my brother's keeper?" God was very disappointed.

We need to remember to love God and love one another. We want to be Christ-like because God is love. "Beloved, let us love one another for love is of God and everyone that loveth is born of God and knoweth God . He that loveth not knoweth not God for God is love" (I John 4:7-8).

ART GALLERY

Title: Jesus Is My Hero

Created by Malachi Flagg-Martin



Kids Korner

Candy

Find and circle all of the Candy treats that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell a secret message.

S J E L M S E S S I K Y E H S R E H S Y L Y
 B E E L L U M S O L S Y J E C L U L T Y B S
 E A N N S A G H L P O M T R W B E T O S R L
 E A F S R G H A A L U P A W B A A V H D O L
 N R I T E E U C K Y A C O A I P C S D U P O
 T E I E N N E M E O K B B K T X A P E D O R
 C E C R A L B L M E O U R N E S N O R K P E
 S J Y C T E B U R I B Z I U D S D R N L R I
 D A S T O B L J T B B M A E O Y Y D L I O S
 O W O R U W A B A T R E E B A S N N O M C T
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- | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| ALMOND JOY | CRACKER JACK | LIFESAVERS | RED HOTS |
| BABY RUTH | DUBBLE BUBBLE | LOLLIPOPS | SEN-SEN |
| BAZOOKA GUM | GOOBERS | MILK DUDS | SLO-POKES |
| BOTTLECAPS | GUMMI BEARS | MILKY WAY | SMARTIES |
| BUBBLE YUM | HERSHEY KISSES | MOUNDS | SOUR BALLS |
| BUTTERFINGERS | HUBBA BUBBA GUM | NECCO WAFERS | SPEARMINT LEAVES |
| CANDY NECKLACE | JAW BREAKERS | OH HENRY | SWEETARTS |
| CHICLETS | JUJUBES | PEPPERMINT PATTY | TOOTSIE ROLLS |
| CHUCKLES | KIT KAT | PEZ | TWIX |
| CLARK BAR | LEMON DROPS | POP ROCKS | TWIZZLERS |
| COFFEE CRISP | LICORICE PIPE | PUMPKIN SEEDS | WAX LIPS |

Marriage: A Proclamation to the Church of God in Christ Worldwide

Source: <http://www.cogic.org/marriageproclamation.htm>

“Let it be known by men everywhere, that the General Assembly of the Church of God in Christ, Inc., has adopted this thirteenth day of April, year of our Lord, two-thousand and four, in Memphis, Tennessee, this Proclamation on Marriage.”

We, the Presiding Bishop, the General Board and the Board of Bishops of the Church of God in Christ, solemnly proclaim that the institution of marriage was established and ordained by God (Genesis 2:24). Therefore "God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him, male and female created he them" (Genesis 1:27). He created "the woman for the man" (I Corinthians 11:9). Therefore, "marriage is honorable" (Hebrews 13:4).

We believe that since the beginning of recorded history, in most cultures of the world; marriage has been defined as the lawful union of one man and one woman. The traditional form of marriage is one of the bedrock institutions of most societies. We, therefore, affirm the preservation of the present definition of marriage as being the legal union of one man and one woman as husband and wife.

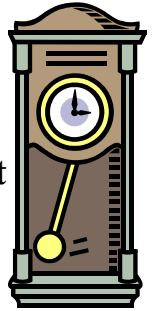
We believe that, "Children are a heritage of the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is his reward." (Psalms 127:3). In order to provide for continuation of the species, God created within male and female the potential for bearing children. The first commandment given to Adam and Eve was to "be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth." (Genesis 1:28). Marriage between male and female provide the structure for conceiving and raising children. Compliance with this command of God is a physical and biological impossibility in same-sex unions. We, therefore, believe that only marriages between male and female, as ordained by God, is essential for the procreation of mankind.



We believe that the homosexual practices of same-sex couples are in violation of religious and social norms and are aberrant and deviant behavior. We believe that these unions are sinful and in direct violation of the law of God in that they are a deviation from the natural use and purpose of the body. "For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which is due." (Romans 1:26-27 NKJV). We believe that to legalize such unions will signal ecclesiastical and social approval of homosexuality and sexual deviancy as legitimate lifestyles.

Therefore, in spite of the progressive normalization of alternative lifestyles and the growing legal acceptance of same-sex unions; we declare our opposition to any deviation from traditional marriages of male and female. Notwithstanding the rulings of the court systems of the land in support of same-sex unions; we resolve that the Church of God in Christ stand resolutely firm and never allow the sanctioning of same-sex marriages by its clergy nor recognize the legitimacy of such unions.

**Inspirational Message:
The Time Is Right**
by Jr. Minister Malachi
Flagg-Martin



Sometimes, we as people of Christ do not listen to what the Lord says, but now the Lord is saying the time is right. He wants us to start telling people about Him. God also wants us not to be afraid to tell others about Him. Deuteronomy 31:6 says, “Be strong and of good courage, fear not, not afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, He is the One that doeth go with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.” You know the devil isn’t going to like it so he is going to try to stop you, but how many of you know that you are a child of God and as long as you are doing the right thing, the devil cannot hinder you. But as soon as you get from under the blood of Jesus Christ, you are going to be in trouble. The only way you are going to get back under the blood is if you ask the Lord for forgiveness and ask Him to save you. To the people that don’t want to ask for forgiveness, the Lord is saying the time is right. I want to leave this question on your mind, “Are you listening to the Lord or ignoring Him?”

Recipe of the Month: 1-2-3-4 Cake

Submitted by Mo. Jordan

- 1 cup butter or margarine
- 2 cups sugar
- 3 cups sifted cake flour
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1 graham cracker pie crust
- 1 cup sliced almonds
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- ½ tsp. almond extract

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cream butter gradually. Add sugar, creaming until light and fluffy. (Beat 10 minutes on electronic mixer or longer by hand). Sift flour with baking powder and salt. Add eggs, one at the time to cream mixture, beating well after each addition. Add flour mixture, alternating with milk and flavorings, beating after each addition until smooth. Pour batter into three greased and floured 9 inch layer pans. Bake 25 to 30 minutes. Let cool for 10 minutes. Remove from pans and finish cooking on racks. (Tip: I mostly bake mine in my tub pan, a large pan.)