

THE SIZE OF A CHURCH

The size of a church is not always determined by numbers. Large numbers do not necessarily make a large church. Little numbers don't necessarily make a small church.

Any church is small if it loses its vision for evangelism. And that holds true for evangelizing the unsaved in other places too. The challenge Christ gave us includes taking the Gospel to our own community, as well as other parts of the world. It's a "big" church - regardless of its numbers - that seeks to reach the lost.

Any church is small whose members think of minimums in church prayer, service, or giving. If the attitude is "How little can I do and still get by?", the church is little. It's a "big" church - regardless of its numbers - that thinks in terms of giving its best.

Any church is small if it doesn't challenge its young people with fulltime Christian service. It's a small church whose mothers and fathers have to apologize if their children consider the ministry. It's a "big" church - regardless of its numbers - that sends its best into the service of the King.

Any church is small where giving is measured in minimums, not maximums. The church budget is not what a church is costing, it is what a church is doing! Small churches give grudgingly. It's a "big" church - regardless of numbers - that gives of its means with great joy.

Any church, regardless of its size, can become small, by thinking small.

-Walter Spratt

Church of Christ
R.R. 5, Box 13
LaGrange, Ind. 46761

WE INVITE YOU . . . TO STUDY AND WORSHIP WITH US

SUNDAY
Bible Classes 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY
Keenager Program 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Elders

Dean Hoggatt
463 3318
Norm Herron
463 3077

Evangelist

Norm Herron
463-3571

Deacons

Joe Hughes
Perry Miller
Fred Oakley
Joe Oakley

LaGrange CHURCH OF CHRIST



R.R. 5 • Box 13 • LaGrange, Indiana 46761

April 5, 1987

ROOTED TOGETHER

The huge redwood trees of California amaze mankind. They are the largest living things on earth and the tallest trees in the world. Some of them are 300 feet high and over 2,500 years old.

One would think that trees so large must have a tremendous root system that reaches down hundreds of feet into the earth. But not so! The redwoods have a very shallow root system. If one was to get down on his knees and examine the redwoods root system he would find that all the roots intertwine. They are locked to each other. When the storms come the winds blow, and the lightnings flash, the redwoods still stand. They are not alone for all the trees support and protect each other. Each tree is important to all the other trees in the grove.

The church is souls in fellowship. Without Christ the church is nothing, and without fellowship, the church is useless. By our love, we must show the world the difference Jesus makes! "If anyone says, 'I love God,' yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen." (I John 4:20) "Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other." (I Thes. 4:9)

THE LIVING WORD



FOR A DYING WORLD

GUEST SPEAKER: We wish to welcome Thayer Salisbury and his family (wife Cheryl and 3 children) into our midst today. Brother Salisbury, who is applicant for the work at LaGrange, will be teaching the combined adult Bible classes and speaking at both the morning and evening services. There will be a fellowship of light refreshments after the evening services so that all can get to meet and visit with the Salisburys.

SINGING: This Sunday afternoon we have a special opportunity to minister to the residents of the area nursing homes. All who can are encouraged to come and blend voices in song with those of the residents. This can bring a big lift to their spirits and yours as well. We will meet at Millers at 4:30 and LaGrange at 5:15.

MEETING: The monthly meeting of the elders and deacons along with their wives will be Monday, April 6, 7:00 P.M. at Joe and Lois Oakley's house.

FRIEND'S DAY: What is a friend? A friend is one who sticks by you no matter what? A true friend also seeks only what is in your best interest. And what could be better than helping your friend to know the "best friend" anyone could ever have - Jesus Christ.

Sunday, April 26 has been designated as "Friend's Day" at LaGrange. If you haven't invited your friend to church lately, why not give him/her a special invitation on April 26.

UPREACH: The LaGrange church personalized version of UpReach magazine will soon be arriving in homes that we have selected. This special issue will have information about our congregation. It will also offer free self-help booklets which we will send to people who ask for them.

We're very excited about this local evangelism program. We believe this outreach will raise our visibility in the community and help us reach souls for Christ. If you know anyone who is receiving this special edition of UpReach, ask them if they enjoy it -- and let them know how much we enjoy sending it to them.

FOR THE RECORD: March 29

Sunday Bible Classes	84	Wednesday Bible Study	84
Morning Service	105	Thursday Keenagers	35
Evening Service	86		
Contribution	\$1,506.73		

"You can always find excuses for not doing the things you do not want to do."

UPCOMING AREA EVENTS...

Apr	11	Ladies Day at East Allen Co. church in New Haven Theme: The Beauty of the Christian Woman Begins 10 A.M.
	26-30	Gospel Meeting at Lincoln Way church in Columbia City Speaker: Aleck Dickson Weekdays 7:00 P.M.
	26-5/1	Gospel Meeting at Waynedale church in Ft. Wayne Speaker: Bill Mead, Weekdays 7:30 P.M.
May	3-8	Gospel Meeting at Warsaw church Speaker G.P. Holt Weekdays 7:00 P.M.
	16	Ladies Day at Summit City church in Ft. Wayne Theme: The Wisdom of Woman, Begins 9:30 A.M.
	23	Ladies Inspiration Day at Reed Rd. church in Ft. Wayne Theme: "A New Life has Begun" Begins 9:30 A.M. Speaker: Sis. Pat Baker, Waurika, Oklahoma
June	17-20	Mid-America Enrichment Workshop in Indianapolis Offering 21 workshops for growing churches

MCC PARTNERSHIP DINNER: Have you thought about the influence you have on others when you give to Michigan Christian College? Many of our students would echo the words of one former student who said:
"If it had not been for MCC, I would not be where I am today. I became a Christian at MCC and that says it all!"
Be a part of MCC; it has everlasting results. Prayerfully consider your influence when approached by Dean regarding Partnership Dinner West on May 2 in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

CARE GROUPS:

Group 2 Meet after Sunday morning service in Rm. #13
Group 3 Meet at Joe & Lois Oakley's Saturday, April 11, at 2:00P.M.
Bring your favorite potato topping.

SICK: Mary Anne Wade has been transferred from LaGrange hospital to Millers Nursing home. She is in Northwest #9.

Thelma Morris continues to improve. She hopes to be back in services soon.

"ON PREACHERS AND PREACHING"

"The average sermon contains about 5,000 words. Most preachers deliver about 90 sermons per year, which means about 450,000 words. A full-length novel contains about 50,000 words, so this means a minister is expected to produce the equivalent of nine full-length novels each year. Everyone is entitled to a few dull chapters if he produces nine books each year."

HOW TO HAVE "NO EXCUSE" SUNDAY

Perhaps you have read in the past the following article. But, just in case you haven't, allow me to share it with you, especially if you have been using some excuses for not attending the assembling of the saints:

Cots will be placed in the rear of the church for those who say "Sunday is my day to sleep in."

Murine (Visine for those who wear contacts), will be available for those with tired eyes from watching TV too late on Saturday night.

Steel helmets will be provided for those who insist that the roof will fall in if they ever came to church.

Blankets will be provided for those who think the church is too cold, and fans for those who think it is too hot.

Score cards will be available for those who like to count the hypocrites.

A group of relatives will be present for those who like to go visiting on Sunday...instead of to church.

TV dinners will be available for those who simply can't go to church and cook too.

One section will be reserved with trees, flowers, etc., for those who feel they can "find" God in nature.

And, last but not least...the church will have both Christmas poinsettias and Easter lillies for those who have never seen the church without them.

FOR THE RECORD: April 5, 1987

Sunday Bible Classes	85		
Morning Service	117	Wednesday Bible Study	70
Evening Service	?	Thursday Keenagers	45
Contribution	\$1,345.57		

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Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study	7:00 p.m.
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THURSDAY

Keenager Program	10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
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LaGrange CHURCH OF CHRIST



R.R. 5 • Box 13 • LaGrange, Indiana 46761

April 12, 1987

GETTING ACCUSTOMED TO AN EASY LIFE

One spring, a wild duck and his mates were flying northward across Europe. Growing weary on the flight, he descended into a barnyard in Denmark where there were tame ducks. He stayed, enjoying their corn, first for an hour, then for a day, then for a week, then for a month. Finally, because he liked the fare, the safety of the barnyard, and the companionship, he stayed all summer.

The following autumn, his wild mates were winging their way southward, and they paused over the barnyard. When the indulgent duck heard their familiar cries overhead, he was stirred with a strange thrill, of joy and delight. Flapping his wings, he tried to lift himself into the air to join his old comrades in their flight to the land of summer. But, alas, he found that his good fare had made him so soft and heavy that he could rise no higher than the eaves of the barn.

What a parable this is of how the soul can forget its high ideals and standards and be content with earthly things (Ps.1; Phil. 4:8).

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things." (Phil. 4:8)

-Selected

THE LIVING WORD



FOR A DYING WORLD

THIS SUNDAY: We are again considering an applicant for the work here with the coming of brother Hugh Howard and his wife, Delores, and their three children, Brady, Ryan and Leah. They presently live in Indianola, Iowa and work with the church there.

Bro. Howard graduated from the Sunset School of Preaching in Lubbock, Texas (where Norm attended) and has been preaching since his graduation in 1981. Sister Howard also took ladies classes at the Sunset School and has been a constant help to her husband in areas of secretarial, typing and bookkeeping wherever he has been.

Bro. Howard will be teaching the combined adult classes and preaching for the morning and evening services today. We appreciate their coming and look forward to good fellowship with them this Lord's day.

FROM ALABAMA:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We really do miss all of you!

Bobby and I have been busy trying to get settled in. I started to work almost upon arriving, so between working and trying to get the house in order, we have been pushed. Everything isn't done yet but we have made progress.

Thank you again for the gift of money you gave us. It was put to good use.

We hear from you all thru Kevin and Sally. Bobby and I would love to have been there tonight to hear the services conducted by our young men. Kevin says they did a good job, just as I knew they would.

You are in our prayers. We love each and everyone. We thank you for the wonderful fellowship we enjoyed with you. You have been a great source of inspiration and encouragement to us. Thank you for being there whenever we needed you. Pray for us that we will always remain faithful.

Love in Christ,

Bobby & Kizzie

CARE GROUPS:

- Group 2 Meet at church building on Saturday, April 18 for a work session from 9A.M. - 2P.M. Carry-in dinner and fellowship at noon.
- Group 4 Meet at Chris & Jill Deisl's house on Saturday, April 25 at 5P.M. for Mexican food.

What have you done for your Secret Sister?????

SPECIAL DATES FOR APRIL:

Birthdays

Jim Pieratt	1
Sharon Simpson	5
Joe Hughes	9
Ginny Porter	11
Austin Copeland	13
B. J. Gensic	18
Ryan DePriest	22
Laura Dorris	22

Delphia Rice	22
David Hall	24
Paul Morr	29

Anniversaries

Wes & Sharon Simpson	7
Perry & Hazel Miller	28

*Thelma Morris
Mary Anne Wolf
Margaret Tucker
Jane Hays
Chris Hays*

*Norm's family
4/10
2/8
Mrs. M.H.*

ANNIVERSARY: The "Keenagers" will celebrate it's 9th anniversary this Thursday, April 16. The program consists of group singing, a "big meal", honoring April birthdays and anniversaries, and Bible study. Each year's anniversary has brought a record attendance. We are looking toward a big turn out for this special meeting.

THANKS MOM: The St. Joseph County Right of Life invites you to participate in it's Annual Mother's Day Sale of Roses. Each year, hundreds of live, long-stemmed roses are flown in from California and tagged with the message. "Thanks Mom for Life". The price is \$1.00 per rose. The profit from these sales enables the Right of Life Chapter to educate people concerning the "life issue" involved with abortion. Your purchase of a rose would not only say "thanks mom" but also help in the fight against abortion. If you would like to participate in this worthwhile project, let Norm know how many roses you wish to reserve.

MCC PARTNERSHIP DINNER: Christian homes bless MCC by sending their children as students. MCC can strengthen Christian homes now and in the future. Show your support for this effort...make a pledge to the Partnership Dinner West Campaign in Kalamazoo, Michigan. See Dean for complete details.

ONLY TWO WEEKS: Friend Day, Sunday April 26 is only two weeks away. Printed invitations were given to the leaders of the Care Groups for distribution by each member. Just think, if each member only gave out two invitations each day for the next two weeks, there would be over 2,000 invited to Friends Day. If only .05% of these came, we would have over 200 in attendance. If you need more invitations, they will be available in the foyer.

MENS MEETING: The regular monthly Men's Meeting is scheduled for this Sunday at 5 P.M. All men are encouraged to attend.

*Hugh
Delores
Brady
Ryan
Leah*

WHAT KIND OF COMPANY DO YOU KEEP?

Do you like the kind of people you normally associate with? There is an old adage that says that a person is judged by the company he keeps.

If you find that you would like to make some changes in the company you keep, there is not much use in the long run to look around and make some new selections. You will first have to make a change in the kind of company you keep in your mind.

When we continually harbor thoughts of anger, fear, resentment, jealousy, criticism, and so forth, we eventually bring these things into manifestation in one form or another.

That means that you will find that you will have surrounded yourself with people who reflect your state of mind.

If you want to improve the kind of company you keep, see to it that you are keeping mental company with love, joy, peace, and harmony, and above all, that you are constantly seeing the Christ in the other fellow.

You will be surprised to find that the people you meet will be living up to the new standard you have set in yourself.

"Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Gal. 6:7).

CARE GROUP #2: Another Care Group met at the building yesterday and tackled many jobs that needed to be done around the building: general clean-up, raking leaves, grading driveway, trimming shrubs, etc. Thanks to Care Group #2 who have expressed their care!

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LaGrange CHURCH OF CHRIST



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April 19, 1987

FRIENDS VISIT!

A building can be a wonderful tool or a terrible tomb. Buildings do not have legs. They cannot visit! Where did we ever get the idea about church buildings that all you have to do is open the doors and the people will flock in.

Churches need buildings in communities. They not only provide a place to assemble, they represent stability and permanence. Buildings should be built to serve the needs of the church and town.

However, buildings cannot fill buildings. The ten largest and fastest growing churches in the USA have dynamic visitation. GO and they will COME! People choose churches for the following reasons:

1. 9% because of the beauty of the building.
2. 3% because the preacher visited them.
3. 18% because of prior religion ties.
4. 22% were influenced by certain members.
5. 34% because they were visited and invited by friends and neighbors.

NOTE: 22% + 34% = 56% came because invited.

Our building can be filled on "Friend Day". But only if we go, visit, invite, bring! People are flocking to churches these days. They are not looking for a friendly church -- they are looking for a friend! Friends visit!

-adapted

THE LIVING WORD



FOR A DYING WORLD

ON TAP TODAY: Today, Norm, Marilyn and Heidi are visiting the Horton Road church in Jackson, Michigan where Norm is speaking at both services. In his place here, brother Terry Burgess and his family are visiting from the Willowdale congregation in Elkhart and Terry will be speaking for the morning service. They are not "try outs" for the work here, but rather just filling in for this Sunday morning. Brother Terry attended Michigan Christian College in 1974 and is employed by Automotive Sound & Accessories Company in Elkhart. We welcome them and appreciate their willingness to come our way today.

This evening brother Kevin May will be bringing the lesson and we look forward to another good message from him.

IN MEMORY: We were sorrowed last Tuesday morning to learn of the passing of sister Marilyn's father, Lynn Kikhoefel. Brother and sister Kikhoefel were frequent visitors to the Herron's home and occasionally attended services here. The funeral service was held Thursday evening in the Detroit area. We express to Marilyn and the family our sincere sympathy but can rejoice greatly that he was a Christian, which is a great consolation at this time. A memorial gift was sent to the Shults-Lewis Childrens Home from the church here. However the address is here given for those who would like to write:

Mrs. Mildred Kikhoefel
18355 Loveland
Livonia, MI 48152

VISITOR'S DAY: Next Sunday is a special day, not only another Lord's day, but one which will bring to fruition the efforts of each of us in inviting our friends for this special day. There are still some "hand out invitations" on the table in the south foyer, and if more are needed, see the elders.

Remember, there will be a pot-luck dinner following the morning services, so let's plan to stay and urge all our visitors to stay for that also.

KEENAGERS 9TH ANNIVERSARY: It was a memorable occasion last Thursday when the Keenagers celebrated their 9th anniversary. Approximately 75 people enjoyed the program with some having never missed a single past anniversary program. A special thanks to Norm who has led the program since it's beginning in April 1978 and the many ladies who have given untold hours in support of the program in the preparation of meals. It has truly been a fellowship of good work.

ELDERS - DEACONS: A meeting is scheduled this evening at 5 o'clock in room 10 at the building.

FOR THE MEN: A retreat at Camp Indogan on Fri. evening and Sat. morning May 15 & 16. Keep these dates open, brothers, for another profitable time together.

UP-DATE: To date brother Dean reports approximately 25 squares have been purchased for the new bath house at Camp Indogan (each square representing 1 square foot @ \$20.00 per square foot) and this along with the efforts of other Christians in other places has allowed the construction of the bath house to begin. Hopefully the new facility will be ready for use this summer for the camping sessions. Thanks to all who have had or will yet have a part in this effort.

KEEP IN MIND: Thelma Morris is gaining in strength daily.

Mary Anne Wade is also gaining (taking therapy daily for better mobility).

Francis Sprunger has the flu.

Joy Miller remains about the same.

Margaret Tucker is feeling better and has gone back to work.

Ryan Kimpel will be having ear surgery on Thursday at 7:30 A.M. in Fort Wayne at Parkview Hospital.

LETTERS WANTED: Jim and Pat Lee are again in Florida and send their love to the church here. Bro. Jim has had recent back surgery and with therapy is slowly recovering. Sister Pat was quite active with the Keenage program and misses not being here and having their home on the lake. They always appreciate letters from "home" and asked that the members would write. Their address is:

Jim & Pat Lee
603 Arabia
Bradenton, FL 33507

Last week, also, a letter was placed in the bulletin from Bob & Kizzie May from their new address in Alabama. We miss them also and wish God's richest blessings on them in their new home, and their work in the Lord's church. Their address is:

Bob & Kizzie May
Rt. 1 Box 950
Union Springs, AL 36089

DRAWING CLOSE: The time of the Michigan Christian College Partnership Dinner is drawing near. We do not hesitate to say that of all the influences that help determine a Christian's future, the first and foremost (in this day and age) would be the Christian College. An education is without question increasingly important. A Christian education is imperative.

If you would like an enjoyable evening of fellowship, a good dinner and a feeling of sharing in this good work, go with the ones who will be traveling to Kalamazoo on the evening of May 2.

ALTAR YOUR DIRECTION

A newly commissioned navy captain took great pride in his first assignment to be in command of a battleship. One stormy night the captain saw a light moving steadily in their direction. He ordered the signalman to send the following message: "Change your course ten degrees to the south." The reply came back: "Change your course ten degrees to the north."

The captain was determined not to give way to another vessel, and so he sent a counter message. "Altar you direction ten degrees. I am the captain." The answer flashed back promptly: "Alter your direction. I am the lighthouse."

There are times when all of us have to identify with the captain; times when we allow self-will to set us off on a collision course.

"I have my rights," we say, determined to have our own way. But God whose Word is like a lighthouse with a penetrating and unchangeable beacon, reveals a rocky shore ahead and finally we do as the captain surely did. We obey.

Our prayer for ourselves, and for the Church should be as Jesus prayed, "Not my will, but thine be done."

Guidepost

Elders

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Norm Herron
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Evangelist

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LaGrange CHURCH OF CHRIST



R.R. 5 • Box 13 • LaGrange, Indiana 46761

April 26, 1987

WHAT TO EXPECT

You have honored us with your visit today. This may be your first visit with Churches of Christ. If so, you may be wondering what to expect during your visit with the LaGrange church of Christ.

FRIENDLINESS

A natural response of a Christian is friendliness. One of the basic foundation principles of Christianity is love and friendship toward our fellowman (Mr. 22:36-40). Jesus is our example in friendliness in that he was compassionate toward all, regardless of their status in life.

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Jesus taught that worship is to be in spirit and in truth (Jn. 4:24). Therefore our worship is directed towards God from the inner man and is based on the teachings of the New Testament. We do not try to improve on God's divine plan and simplicity by our innovations. Our worship to God includes: singing in which all in the assembly blend their voices together in singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs; prayer is offered at various times in our worship by different men. We are led by one who speaks publicly while the rest follow silently as he prays; Lord's supper is partaken of by Christians every first day of the week. As the communion is passed, each individual is to examine himself in order to partake in a worthy manner (I Cor. 11:27-29); giving is a free-will offering by Christians on the first day of the week, as God has prospered them (I Cor. 16:1-2). As our guests, it is entirely your choice whether you give an offering or not; teaching is Christ-centered. We accept the

(cont'd inside)

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THURSDAY

Keenager Program	10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
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THE LIVING WORD



FOR A DYING WORLD

(Cont'd from front)

Bible as the inspired, authoritative word of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

At the close of each service, you can expect an invitation to encourage anyone in the assembly to respond in regard to whatever need they may have.

Thank you for visiting with us today.

A RETURN VISIT: An update was given to the church last Sunday evening regarding the selection of a minister for the LaGrange work. Of the 3 applicants that came, brother Hugh Howard and his family seemed to be a favorite among most members. The 3 areas of consideration; the resume concerning his schooling and experience, the recommendations from references where they have been plus their personal impression among the members here, were, generally speaking, all good. A few members, however, did not have the opportunity to visit with the Howard family.

The Howarr's are returning to this area on the 25th of April where brother Hugh will be "trying out" at a congregation in Kalamazoo, MI. They have agreed to swing down into our area again on Monday the 27th if perhaps any would like to meet with them. They will be at the building at 7:00 P.M. Monday. We would like for any who have not visited with the Howards to take this opportunity to do so.

MCC PARTNERSHIP DINNER: This Saturday evening May 2nd the Partnership Dinner is scheduled at the Fitzer Development Center on the Western Michigan College campus in Kalamazoo, MI. Those going are to meet at 3:30 P.M. at the church building. Since Michigan is an hour ahead of Indiana and the dinner and program will be over by 8:30 (7:30 In. time) our group should be home by 9:00 P.M. or shortly after. Please let Dean know by Sunday evening about your going so arrangements can be made for transportation.

COMMODITIES: Shults-Lewis Childrens Home has assigned NOODLES as this year's commodity for LaGrange. They suggest that a total of \$6.00 per family be spent - \$3.00 in cash and \$3.00 for commodity. The cash is needed to buy perishable foods, such as milk, eggs, meat, fresh fruits and vegetables. If you are unable to contribute the amount suggested, any amount is appreciated. There will be a box in the foyer for this collection. The items will be picked up on Saturday, June 13. If you have any questions, please see Bob Sowles or Norm Herron.

FOR THE RECORD: 4/19/87

Sunday Bible Classes	102
Morning Service	123
Evening Service	?
Contribution	\$1223.95
Wednesday Bible Study	68
Thursday Keenagers	47

"Most troubles stem from too much time on the hands and not enough time on the knees."

AREA HAPPENINGS...

- 4/26-30 Gospel meeting at Lincoln Way church in Columbia City
Speaker: Aleck Dickson, Evenings at 7:00 P.M.
- 4/26-29 Gospel Meeting at Goshen church. Speaker: Steve Hale of Scottsville, Ky. Evenings at 7:30 P.M.
- 4/26-5/1 Gospel Meeting at Waynedale church in Ft. Wayne
Speaker: Bill Mead. Evenings at 7:30 P.M.
- 5/2 Teacher's Swapshop at the Yorktown Rd. church in Logansport.
Program to start at 9:00 A.M.
- 5/3-8 Gospel Meeting at Warsaw church. Speaker G. P. Holt of Indianapolis. Evenings at 7:00 P.M.
- 5/16 Gospel Sing at Steuben Co. church in Angola. Featuring: The Gloryland Quartet and The Expressions. 7-9:00 P.M.
- 5/16 Annual Ladies Day at Summit City church in Ft. Wayne
Theme: "The Wisdom of Woman" 9:30-3:00P.M. Lunch 12:00.
- 5/23 Ladies Inspiration Day at Reed Rd. church in Ft. Wayne
Theme: "A New Life has Begun. 9:30A.M. Speaker: Pat Baker

ATTENTION TEENS: There is a trip to the University Park Mall planned this Sunday immediately following the Pot Luck Dinner. We will be attending evening services at South Bend. Please contact Chris if you can volunteer the use of a car.

CONGRATULATIONS: Jenell Miller graduated from International Business School of Ft. Wayne on Thursday, April 23, 1987. Way to go Jenell!!

PLAY IT SAFE: A Georgia farmer, ragged and barefooted, was standing on the steps of his tumbledown shack. A stranger stopped for a drink of water. "How is your cotton coming along?" he asked. "Ain't got none," replied the farmer. "Did you plant any?" asked the stranger. "Nope," was the reply, "afraid of bollweevils."

"Well," continued the stranger, "how is your corn?" "Didn't plant none," came the answer, "'fraid there weren't going to be no rain."

The visitor persevered: "Well, how are your potatoes?" "Ain't got none. Scairt of potato bugs."

"Really, what did you plant?" pressed the stranger. "Nothin'," was the calm reply, "I jest played safe."

"MY POSSESSIONS!"

A fly landed on a nice strip of gooey-sweet smelling flypaper. Not seeing a challenger in sight he happily announced, "my flypaper". Sinking his nose in the syrupy stuff, he dined sumptuously. Then deciding to leave, he began hopelessly beating his wings against the air... and the paper announced, "My fly".

That is often the way it is with a man and his possessions. Surveying his accumulations he proudly says, "My possessions!" The possessions knowingly announce, "My man!"

Francis de Sales, reputed to have heard more confessions than any other Catholic priest, said that the sin of covetousness was never one time confessed to him. We wonder how often it is confessed to God. This is the problem with covetousness...it is seldom recognized by the victim.

Covetousness is easily camouflaged. Most of those who are guilty refuse to face it. Jesus preached about it. "And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things and they derided Him" (Luke 16:14). Lovers of money scoff at (or at least "shut out") the preacher who warns them of their sin.

Covetousness is Satan's "home field". In this park he has won his most stunning victories. Covetousness is to the soul what cancer is to the body. No wonder Jesus said, "Take heed, and beware of covetousness." (Luke 12:15).

-Joe Barnett

Elders

Dean Hoggatt
463 3318
Norm Herron
463 3077

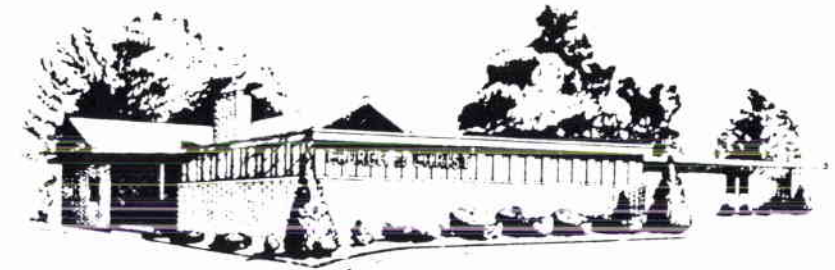
Evangelist

Norm Herron
463-3571

Deacons

Joe Hughes
Perry Miller
Fred Oakley
Joe Oakley

LaGrange CHURCH OF CHRIST



R.R. 5 • Box 13 • LaGrange, Indiana 46761

May 3, 1987

THEY--THEY--THEY!

It seems that "they" have been saying things ever since I can remember, but nobody knows who "they" are. People who have taken time to trace down some things have found that it is impossible to find "they".

Usually "they" happens to be the person who says it! I once knew a fellow who was always saying, concerning things the church desired to do--"they" objected to it. It was found the "they" was his wife and none other. So it is not always known whether "they" is singular or plural, but the impression is always left that "they" constitute a great majority!

I have never known any report that came from "they" to amount to very much. It is the coward's way of trying to block something without it being revealed who is doing the blocking. It is trying to hide behind some imaginary person to protect the identity of the real objector. It is dishonest!

-Selected

WE INVITE YOU... TO STUDY AND WORSHIP WITH US

Church of Christ
R R 5, Box 13
LaGrange, Ind. 46761

SUNDAY

Bible Classes	9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study	7:00 p.m.
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THURSDAY

Keenager Program	10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
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THE LIVING WORD



FOR A DYING WORLD

MEN'S RETREAT: There will be a Men's Retreat, May 15-16 at scenic Camp Indogan on Silver Lake. The theme for this year's retreat will be "Planning for Growth". Those attending are to bring a bedroll, toiletries, Bible, notepad, and favorite game. The cost will be \$3.00 per person to cover overnight lodging and food. There will be a pot-luck dinner on Friday evening that the women will provide. Those desiring to attend are to meet at the building at 5:30 P.M. The retreat will end at 2:30 P.M. on Saturday. All men and youths are encouraged to attend this very important time of planning for the future of the work at LaGrange. For more information see Bill Pepito.

SINGING: Once again this Sunday, we have the privilege of ministering in song to the residents at the local nursing homes. We are thankful for the increase in singers which not only improves our singing, but more importantly shows our love and concern for these people. We begin singing at Millers at 4:30 P.M. and then travel to LaGrange at 5:10 P.M.

COMMODITIES: For the past several years we have been involved in the Shults-Lewis Childrens Home commodities program. This year we have been assigned "noodles" as our commodity. Along with the commodity a \$3.00 cash contribution is suggested. This money is used to purchase persshable foods. Let's fill a box(s) to overflowing for the home. Pick up date is June 14th.

CARD OF THANKS: Thank you for honoring dad with the gift to Shults-Lewis and for the visits and concern and cards during this time.

Lovingly,
Mildred Kikhoefel, Merilyn, Norm
and family

Shults-Lewis Children's Home gratefully acknowledges your Memorial Gift on behalf of Lynn Kikhoefel. Your Memorial is an investment in the lives of our boys and girls as they prepare for life. God bless you.

PRAYER REQUESTED: Kathy Sowles brother, B.J. Carpenter and his fiance were involved in an accident Thursday resulting in her death. They are asking for prayers for him as he plans to raise the children.

MAEW: Families from all across Mid-America are studying maps and making preparations to converge on Indianapolis, June 17-20. The Mid-America Enrichment Workshop is going to be a supercharged event filled with practical, powerful, ideas which we can put into practice to help us do a better job for our Lord. Registration and sponsorship forms are available in the church office. Get a copy of the MAEW program today.

SPECIAL DAYS IN MAY:

BIRTHDAYS				
May	3	Bob Sowles	26	Erin Kimpel
	11	Angie DePriest	26	Kimberly Sowles
	18	Ryan Kimpel		
	23	Rick Green		
			27	
			28	

ANNIVERSARIES	
	Terri & Cinda Simpson
	Phil & Dianne Hostetler

BIBLE CLASSES: It's time for the monthly rotation of the adult and teenage Sunday Bible school classes. The teachers for the month of May are: Bob Sowles - Senior Adults; Kevin May - Junior Adults; Dave Kimpel - Senior High; and Craig Hostetler - Junior High. We appreciate the co-operation of the teachers and the Bible classes for making this rotation plan so successful.

CAMP CANS: Please return all the Camp Indogan Coin-for- Campers cans. The monies from these cans will go towards paying for the recent renovations of the camp bathhouse. The contractor will be finished in the next week so it's important that the cans be given to Dean.

ON THE ROAD: The Herrons will be away for the next two Sundays as Norm tries out for another preaching place. They will be in Grand Rapids, Mich. on May 10, and Hastings, Mich. on May 17. Please remember them in your prayers while traveling and that the Lord will lead them to the right place.

SICK:

It was good to see sister Mary Anne Wade out for service last Sunday. She is convalescing at Millers Nursing Home from her recent illness and fall at home.

Joey Oakley is recovering nicely from his recent injuries suffered in a motorcycle accident while at OCC.

MY LUCKY DAY

"...This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalms 118:24).

Garland Chapman, principal of Robert E. Lee High School in Midland, Texas, relates an experience during his days as a grade school principal. A little second grade boy started out the morning by falling from the school bus and hitting his head on the concrete--required three stitches to close the gash! Recess proved a little unfortunate as he and another boy ran together--result: two of his teeth were loosened and a lip busted. During the afternoon he fell and broke an arm. Mr. Chapman decided to take the boy home immediately before anything else could happen. They were riding together on the country road toward the boy's home when the principal noticed the little guy clutching something in his hand. "What do you have?" the principal asked. "A quarter," answered the boy. "Where did you get it?" Mr. Chapman asked. "I found it on the playground today," explained the little man. Then he smiled and with an excited voice exclaimed, "You know, Mr. Chapman, I have never found a quarter before. This is my lucky day!"

So much is dependent not on how the day looks at us--but on how we look at the day. Some people miss seeing the roses behind a broken fence. Every day has its problems, but faith can turn them into blessings. Each beautiful butterfly looks rather uneventful at its beginning--but what a change the day makes.

-Don Williams

Elders

Dean Hoggatt
463 3318
Norm Herron
463 3077

Evangelist

Norm Herron
463-3571

Deacons

Joe Hughes
Perry Miller
Fred Oakley
Joe Oakley

LaGrange CHURCH OF CHRIST



R.R. 5 • Box 13 • LaGrange, Indiana 46761

May 10, 1987

DON'T CHAIN JESUS TO THE PULPIT

An almost endless line of people crowded before a small church building. As a passerby, I was curious about the unusual sight. After making several inquiries, I discovered that no one really knew why the great crowd was seeking to get into the small building.

To answer my question, I joined the crowd and waited in line to get inside. Eventually I made my way up the steps and down the aisle to the front of the building. The most amazing spectacle captured my attention. There, chained to the pulpit, was the Lord Jesus Christ! In astonishment I asked, "Lord, what is the meaning of this? Why are You chained to this pulpit?" The Lord replied, "My people have done this to Me. Instead of following My command to go tell the world the Good News of salvation, they have chained Me to this pulpit and only those who are interested enough to come inside the building ever hear about Me."

Abruptly, I awoke. It was only a dream! But my conscious thought was - indeed, how true are His words!

"Oh, Lord, give each of us a great compassion for souls of men, and help us to bring the wonderful story of Christ's saving grace and love to people around us - and to the whole world" as my prayer.

-Selected

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Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY

Keenager Program 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

THE LIVING WORD



FOR A DYING WORLD

CHURCH CALENDAR: The church calendars for the month of May are available in the foyer. Take one home and display it in some obvious place so that you will be reminded of all the upcoming happenings.

LEADER WORKSHOP: The Ninth Annual Church Leader Workshop will be conducted at Michigan Christian College on Friday and Saturday, June 5-6. The theme is "Teaching to the Needs of People". The cost is \$15.00 per participant plus \$5.00 for housing. If you plan to attend or desire more information, see Dean or Norm.

MEN'S RETREAT: The committee is working hard to insure that this years retreat will be both profitable and enjoyable to all who attend. The theme: "Planning for Growth" is crucial to the future of this church. You won't want to miss out on this years outing.

KEENAGERS: This weeks meeting of Keenagers will take to the road as we travel to the Thurston Wood Retirement Village in Sturgis, Mich. We will meet at the building at the regular time for the Bible study portion of the program. Then, leave by cars at 10:30 for Sturgis where we will take a tour of the village and later be treated to lunch in the dining hall. We should be back in LaGrange around 12:30 P.M.

SICK: Sister Ruth Engle is suffering from a sore back and muscle spasms in her leg. She is to stay off her feet last week and rest her back.

HONOR: The Lakeland High School will be honoring Sister Luella Oakley this Friday with a Retirement Diner. Luella has been head of the kitchen almost since its beginning. We are glad to see her get this recognition which she so much deserves.

FOR THE RECORD: May 3, 1987

Sunday Bible Classes	80
Morning Worship	105
Contribution	\$1637.98
Wednesday Bible Study	69
Thursday Keenagers	42

WELCOME THE MCKEE FAMILY : Today we have David, Barbara and daughter Merrissa Lee visiting with us. They live in Battle Creek, Michigan, however David has practically lived at Flint, Michigan (from Tuesdays through Fridays each week) for the past two years while attending the Bristol Road School of Biblical Studies. He will be graduating in June. Today while Norm is ~~preach~~ preaching for the Grand Rapids congregation brother David will teach our morning class and preach at both services. We welcome them to our fellowship today.

RESPONSE: Sister Sandra White came forward last Sunday to ask for prayers and become a member of the Lords' body in LaGrange. Sandra and her husband Scott with their two little children, Amanda and Christopher or "CJ", have recently moved to the area following their discharge from the Navy. Be sure to meet Sandra and let her know how glad we are to have her with us.

CAMP WORK: The camp bathhouse renovation project is near completion as far as the contractors work is concerned. The remaining work: painting, grading, side walks, landscape, etc. must be done by us. It is important that this work be done before the June Rally dates. The next four Saturdays will be scheduled for this completion work. See Dean if you can give some time on Saturdays.

CAMP COMMODITY: It's time to be thinking about our young people at Camp Indogan. Last year with your help and the wise use of food by the kitchen staff the camp was able to feed the campers for about .35¢ a meal. Your support of the commodities program has enabled the camper fee to remain the same.

This years commodity for LaGrange is pre-sweetened koolaid or Hi C drinks. The larger size containers are preferred but smaller ones will be accepted. Please bring items to building by June 6.

CAMP CALENDAR:

Spring Rallies

6/5-6	Senior Camp Rally - Dir. Andy Williams
6/12-13	Intermediate Rally - Dir. Jeff Presley
6/19-20	Junior Rally - Dir. Ron Winfree

Summer Camp Sessions

7/12-17	Junior Camp - 9-11 yrs.
19-24	Intermediate Camp - 12-14 yrs.
26-31	Junior Camp - 9-11 yrs
8/2-7	Intermediate Camp - 12-14 yrs.
9-14	Senior Camp - 15-19 yrs.

Fall Rallies

9/18-19	Pre-teen Rally
25-26	Teen Rally
10/3	Appreciation Banquet

MEN'S MEETING: The monthly Men's Meeting will be this Sunday, 5:00P.M. at the building. All men are encouraged to attend.

WHAT CAUSES A CHURCH TO GROW?

A church growth consultant has just released some revealing facts about church growth. He has surveyed Christian and non-Christian people for two years on what factors attracted unsaved people to churches and what factors are keeping unsaved people from churches.

FACTORS THAT ATTRACT UNSAVED PEOPLE TO CHURCHES:

1. The joy of the people at church, home, work, and in every area of their lives.
2. The love of the people for each other.
3. The strength they manifest in the face of trials and tragedies.
4. The assurance of their personal relationship with Christ.
5. the reality of their lives and their church services.

FACTORS THAT REPEL LOST PEOPLE FROM CHURCHES:

1. Extravagance...Spending too much money on non-essential things.
2. Exclusiveness and egotism...The "We are better than you" philosophy. To put it simply, pride and selfishness among church members turn the unsaved person from Christ and the church.
3. Phoney boloney! People in church that are not real...not genuine...They are full of fakery and falsehood.
4. Lack of love...The people at church don't really love God...each other...and they surely don't love us as outsiders. They never tell us or show us that they care for us.
5. Poor reputation and record of the church...The track record of the church is one of division...disgruntled members...and deadness.

Think on these things. They can teach us invaluable lessons if we are teachable.

-Selected

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Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
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THURSDAY
Keenager Program 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

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Elders

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LaGrange CHURCH OF CHRIST



R.R. 5 • Box 13 • LaGrange, Indiana 46761

May 17, 1987

"TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP"

Do any of the following stories sound familiar?

A wife and mother looks for employment in order to help pay for the family's second car - a car purchased so that she has good transportation to and from her new job.

A man works double shifts and weekends so that his overtime income will cover the payments on his new camper and boat. But when vacation time comes, he's too exhausted to drive to the lake.

A successful executive tells how, as a young man, he recklessly spent his health to make his fortune - and now later in life he finds himself spending the fortune he earned to regain the health he lost.

Each of these stories illustrates the subtle effects of materialism - a sickness characterized by an overwhelming desire to own "things" which all too often turn around and begin to "own" you!

The deed to your house, your car, your boat, your (whatever), may read "owned by me", but never forget it is also "loaned by God"! If something is beginning to possess you, wouldn't right now be a good time to consider a "transfer of ownership"?

-Adapted

THE LIVING WORD



FOR A DYING WORLD

MEN'S RETREAT: The 1987 Men's Retreat held May 15 & 16 at Camp Indogan was a big success and all present had a great time. Roy Noble was the special guest for the retreat.

The theme "Planning for Growth" and the survey that was taken were discussed. The men were divided into two groups and each tabulated the results of the survey. From the results the groups were to formulate a mission statement, theme, goals, and necessary work actions to accomplish these objectives. A lot was learned from this time together.

There was also a work party on Saturday where they put up clothes line poles for the boys and girls cabins, and poured a cement sidewalk for the bathhouse.

A special thanks to the committee - Dean Hoggatt, Dave Sowles, Dave Kimpel, Kevin May and Bill Pepito for planning the retreat and also to all the wives for letting their hubbies go and providing the food for them.

MAEW: "Strategy for Tomorrow" is the theme for the MID-AMERICA ENRICHMENT WORKSHOP in INDIANAPOLIS, JUNE 17-20. Most every church has seen difficult times, but if we all pull together we can make tomorrow a victory for Jesus. This year's workshop will equip everyone to be more effective at home and at our home congregation.

Plan to attend Mid-America Enrichment Workshop in Indianapolis!

WELCOME BROTHER ROY NOBLE

The men who attended the Retreat at Camp Indogan over the week-end had the opportunity to visit with brother Noble. He arrived last Wednesday and was here for the Wednesday evening services and the Thursday Keenager program, as well as the Men's Retreat.

He comes to us from Little Rock, Arkansas. Even though he wanted to look into this particular work here as well as another in this area, he comes to us alone - his wife is expecting their second child any day and could not accompany him. Bro. Roy is desirous of full time evangelistic work and has prepared himself through the Harding School of Biblical Studies and varied experience since his graduation in 1985. Today he will be teaching the adult classes as well as preaching for both services. Welcome brother Roy to our fellowship today.

MOVED: The Deisler's moved last Thursday to a cottage on Adams Lake. The house they were renting in Howe was sold so they had to move. Chris and Jill's new address and phone number will be in the bulletin when it's available. Thanks to those who helped with the move.

YARD WORK: A sign-up sheet has been posted in the foyer for all those willing to take their turn at mowing the lawn around the church building. It was decided to buy two hand mowers so those who volunteer will have the necessary equipment to do the job. However, those who want may bring their own riding mower or hand mower if they like. It requires several hours to mow the whole yard each week so if the work is distributed among a good number it won't be a burden for just a few. A big thanks to Joe Hughes and his kids for mowing the yard the last two weeks.

VISITATION: The visitation program is being reactivated under the leadership of Joe Hughes. Volunteers are being sought who will make assigned calls on the sick, shut-in, and visitors to the services. Cards will be given out each week to those willing to participate. To help with the program, a few training sessions will be offered on some of the "How to's" of making a visit.

MEETINGS: The regular monthly meeting of the elders and deacons will be this Sunday, 5:00 P.M. at the church building.

AWAY: Vada Powell is in Milwaukee, Wis. where her son Bill Powell is receiving a doctorate in social welfare.

The Herron's will be in Hastings, Mich. where Norm is trying out for the work there.

FOR THE RECORD: May 10, 1987

Sunday Bible Classes	93	Wednesday Bible Study	72
Morning Worship	107	Thursday "Keenagers"	36
Evening Worship	NA		
Contribution	\$581.15		

SICK: Mary Anne Wade called to report that she had suffered a severe reaction from her insulin and probably wouldn't be able to attend services.

COMMODITY: The Hoggatt's found a source for pre-sweetened Kool Aide in cans for about $\frac{1}{2}$ price in case lots (24 cans). Any individuals or Care Groups who would like to help towards this purchase see Dean.

MILESTONE: Congratulations to Terry Hostetler who received a Masters Degree in Microbiology - Immunology on May 16 from Arkansas University.

SHULTS-LEWIS: The commodity box for Shults-Lewis is rapidly filling up with "noodles". Let's fill it to overflowing for the children.

ONE TICK AT A TIME

In his sermon entitled "How to Worry" Ralph Phelps tells about the clock that had a nervous breakdown. This new clock was ticking away on the shelf two ticks to the second as any good, self-respecting clock should tick when it began to think about how many times it was going to have to tick. "Two ticks to the second means 120 ticks per minute," it mused. "That's 7200 ticks per hour, 172,800 ticks per day, 1,209,600 per week for 52 weeks, and a total of 62,899,200 per year." Horrors! Straightway the clock had a nervous breakdown.

The clock was taken to a psychiatrist who patched up the mainspring as well as he could then asked, "Clock, what's your trouble?"

"Oh, doctor," wailed the clock, "I have to tick so much. I have to tick two ticks to the second and 120 ticks per minute and 7200 ticks per hour, and..." "Hold it," the psychiatrist cut in, "How many ticks do you have to tick at a time?"

"Oh, I just have to tick one tick at a time," was the reply.

"Then let me make a suggestion," replied the doctor. "You go home and try ticking one tick at a time. Don't even think about the next tick until it's time. Just tick one tick at a time. That you can do."

Faith is ticking one tick at a time. Knowing that God will give us strength for the next tick. According to I Peter 1:8 we can have a "Joy inexpressible." Yet just like those oppressed and persecuted Christians to whom Peter was writing, we need to remember that this joy will never come through external stimuli, only through our internal mindset - one of faith - one of ticking one tick at a time, knowing that God will give us strength for the next tick.

-Selected

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LaGrange CHURCH OF CHRIST



R.R. 5 • Box 13 • LaGrange, Indiana 46761

May 24, 1987

"UNLEASH GOD"!

There are many good and exciting things that are happening at LaGrange. All those contributing to these efforts are to be commended. But, the fact still remains that there is still much room for growth.

It seems there is still a very significant difference between what we are accomplishing and what we could accomplish if we, so to speak, "Unleashed God in our lives". God wants to accomplish His good work through us but we so often obstruct His plans by our - lack of faith, apathy, partial commitment, selfishness, stubbornness and worldliness.

God is among us! He wants to do in and through us far more than we can even ask or think (Eph. 3:20). Brethren, let's "Unleash God" in our lives here at LaGrange and then praise Him for His mighty works. Here are a few suggestions as to what you individually can do to make this a fantastic year in Gods Kingdom'.

- Ask God to work in your life and show you open doors for service.
- Pray that God will help our elders, deacons and teachers to be leaders that challenge us.
- Determine that this year you will make a serious effort to evangelistically reproduce yourself.
- Prayerfully set spiritual goals for yourself and your family in areas of Bible reading, giving, spirituality and righteousness.

Just think of the collective good which would be possible if every member allowed God's unthinkable power full access in their lives! It is my prayer that this year we will "Unleash God" at LaGrange!

THE LIVING WORD



FOR A DYING WORLD

ADDED TO THE FELLOWSHIP: Frances Springer has indicated her desire to become a member of the Lord's family at LaGrange. Frances was baptized on Oct. 14, 1956 in Lowell, Indiana. She has attended the "Keenagers" regularly for several months. We welcome her into the fellowship of the saints here. Please add her address to your directory: 215 W. South St. Apt. # 24, LaGrange, IN 46761 (ph. 463-2205)

CARD OF THANKS: Dear Brothers and Sisters at LaGrange, We here at the Millersburg church want to express our thanks and deepest appreciation for all that you have done. By supplying us with hymn books and many other things you really made the difference when we were first getting our feet on the ground. Many of us who attended LaGrange when we really had no place to go locally, will never forget the fellowship that was poured out on us by the beautiful saints at LaGrange. Keep us in your prayers and bless us with a visit any time. God's richest blessings in Christ Jesus.
The Millersburg Church of Christ

MID-AMERICA WORKSHOP: Attention! All men, women, teens, and children. There is something for each of you at the Ninth Annual Mid-America Enrichment Workshop. Become a better person, parent, teen, church leader. Strengthen your spirituality. Improve your marriage and family life. Discover effective ways to improve the Bible school program. Learn new ideas in communication skills.

All this and more will be presented at the MID-AMERICA ENRICHMENT WORKSHOP. June 17-20 at the Convention Center in Indianapolis, In. ...Don't miss it!

CAMP CLEAN-UP: There will be a clean-up day at Camp Indogan on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25. Help is needed in getting the camp ready for the first activity which is scheduled for June 5 & 6. Please bring your push mowers, weed eaters, lawn & leaf rakes paint brushes & rollers, and cleaning supplies & rags - and your pot-luck dinner. Let's again enjoy a day of fellowship and working together at our Christian youth camp.
Dean for the Building & Grounds Committee

RELOCATING: The Herrons are being considered for the work in Grand Rapids and also in Hastings, Michigan. The two places present a study in contrasts. Grand Rapids is the second largest city in Michigan with a congregation of 150. While Hastings is a town a little larger than LaGrange and a congregation of about 40. Please keep Norm and Marilyn in your prayers that the Lord will direct them to the right place.

CARE GROUPS:

Group 1 & 4 will combine for an outing at Pokagon State Park on Saturday, May 30. They will leave from the building at 2 P.M.

Group 3 will meet at Joe & Jane Gensics house for a cookout on Saturday, June 13 at 4 P.M. Bring meat to grill and a side dish. Drinks will be provided. Invite your friends.

AWARDS: The Lakeland High School held its Academic Awards Night on Monday, May 18. We are proud that the following young people received recognition for being on the honor roll: Lisa Shears, Katie Oakley, Heidi Herron, Tim Hughes and Steve Miller. Lisa was also recognized for perfect attendance.

CONGRATULATIONS: We have two young people receiving their diplomas on Sunday, May 31. April Mauney finished in January and Lee McGuiggan has commuted to school from Millersburg since moving in January.

LAWN MOWING: There is a need for someone to sign-up for mowing the church yard this week. There are 2 mowers & gas at the building.

CAMPER FORMS: Camper registration forms are available in the office for all those who want to attend camp this summer.

FOR THE RECORD: May 17, 1987

Sunday Bible Classes	73	Wednesday Bible Study	78
Morning Worship	102	Thursday "Keenagers"	48
Evening Worship	NA		
Contribution	\$1226.60		

FELLOWSHIP: Don't forget the monthly fourth Sunday fellowship after the evening service. Bring finger foods and desserts for a good time of food and fellowship.

NEWS UPDATE: Roy and Barbara Noble are the proud parents of a baby boy. The baby was delivered by caesarean on Thursday evening and weighed 9 lbs. 4 oz. The church is negotiating with Roy about the work and the details of a contract.

MOVED: The Deislars are moved into their new rental house on Adams Lake. Their address is: RR 1, Box 43, Wolcottville, IN 46795, ph. 854-4520.

SICK: Thelma Hoggatt is undergoing therapy for her shoulder which she injured in a fall last winter.

TWELVE BEATITUDES FOR PARENTS

1. Blessed are the parents who spend adequate time caring for their children during infancy and childhood, for they shall be spared many problems with their teenagers.
2. Blessed are the parents who teach their children to understand and love each other, for there will be less sibling rivalry and jealousy.
3. Blessed are the parents who teach their children the relationship between effort and earnings, for they will not have to support their grandchildren.
4. Blessed are the parents who may be called "old fashioned" or "stodgy" for children have persecuted parents for generations and their opinions will change by the time they are old enough to pay taxes.
5. Blessed are the parents who hunger and thirst after learning, for their children will probably do likewise.
6. Blessed are the parents who encourage and allow discussion with their children, but remember it's the parents who must know when to say "No".
7. Blessed are the parents who do not expect more of their children than is appropriate for their level of maturity, for they will not be disappointed.
8. Blessed are the parents who let their children do the things they are capable of doing for themselves, for they shall not be unpaid servants.
9. Blessed are the parents who listen to their children for they in turn will be heard.
10. Blessed are the parents who throw out all rules they are unwilling to enforce and occasionally change rules that are unreasonable, for they will be respected.
11. Blessed are the parents who look at the world with the freshness and excitement of a small child, for it will keep them young in heart.
12. Blessed are the parents who love and enjoy their children, for they will find a new dimension of love and reward for all their efforts.

(By June C. Laudeman, Retired Teacher)

WE INVITE YOU ... TO STUDY AND WORSHIP WITH US

Church of Christ
R.R. 5, Box 13
LaGrange, Ind. 46761

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Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY	
Bible Study	7:00 p.m.
THURSDAY	
Keenager Program	10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Elders

Dean Hoggatt
463 3318
Norm Herron
463 3077

Evangelist

Norm Herron
463-3571

Deacons

Joe Hughes
Perry Miller
Fred Oakley
Joe Oakley

LaGrange CHURCH OF CHRIST



R.R. 5 • Box 13 • LaGrange, Indiana 46761

May 31, 1987

ON CHURCH "ROLLS"

Many persons habitually miss the worship service and when visited make no promise of becoming faithful, but are very anxious that their name stay on the church roll. There are many such people who do not wish to be completely removed from the church, but their attitude needs serious study.

The church roll is a list of the members. This roll is kept in order that the elders will know where people live so they can get in touch with them as the need arises. It is also kept for the purpose of mailing various pieces of literature into each home. It is necessary if an efficient work is to be done.

But there is no value to the church nor to the individual in carrying their name on the roll if that person does not even attend services. Taking his name off the church roll does not remove him from the church. God may have already removed his name from the roll that is kept in heaven.

If your name is on the church roll, but you are not attending services, you are no better off than you would be if your name should be removed. Your name on the church roll is not nearly as important as your presence when the saints meet to worship.

If you have been neglecting the worship services, for your own salvation, we urge you to come back to the place where you belong, and revive your souls so that you will be saved.

-Selected

THE LIVING WORD



FOR A DYING WORLD

MEETING: The regular monthly meeting of the elders and deacons along with their wives will be Monday, June 1, 7:00 P.M. at the home of Joe and Kathy Hughes. There are a number of important items to be discussed regarding the moving of the new preacher to LaGrange.

TEACHER ROTATION: Next Sunday, another rotation of teachers will take effect. For the most part, the rotation of teachers among the adult and teenage Bible classes has proven successful. However, the following article points up a common problem that affects most Sunday Bible classes.

WHO'S MISSING?

In the typical, average congregation of the church, on a typical, average Sunday, only about 70-80% of those attending the worship assembly will also attend a Bible class. Who are the 20-30% who do not go to a Bible class? It's adults! Very few children, very few families with children will come at 10:30 and not 9:30. Why is it that adults don't do likewise? Here are some possible reasons.

1. They don't see the need to gain more Bible knowledge. But it's when our Bible knowledge ceases to grow that we grow weaker in our faith and become easy prey for Satan's attacks. We never outgrow our need to feed on God's word.

2. There is a lack of commitment that was once there. In the book of Revelation the church at Ephesus is praised for many good works but they are also warned, "But I have this against you, that you have left your first love." (Rev. 2:4). Don't let your love of God or His word fade.

3. We let other things take precedent. Many choose sleeping late, hobbies, sports, recreation, family, friends, and other things and activities to keep us from Bible class. Please don't let anything be more important to you than your commitment to the one who gave His very life for you. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Remember, Bible classes are for all, not just children. See you in class next Sunday!

CALENDARS: The church calendars for the month of June are available on the table in the foyer. The calendars are to help keep you informed on what's happening at LaGrange and area churches. Be sure to get one and keep it posted in a handy place for a reminder.

UPCOMING AREA EVENTS:

June 5-6	Senior Camp Rally	Dir. Andy Williams
7-12	Campaign for Christ, Logansport	Speaker Tony Lalli
12-13	Intermediate Camp Rally	Dir. Jeff Presley
14-21	Gospel Meeting Three Rivers, MI	Speaker Charles Cochran
19-20	Junior Camp Rally	Dir. Ron Winfree
21-24	Gospel Meeting Auburn,	Speaker James Barnes

NEW PREACHER: The church has been talking with bro. Roy Noble and his wife the past two weeks about the work at LaGrange. A contract regarding his salary and other benefits has been sent to him for his signature. Bro. Noble has already agreed in principle to the contract so his signing is just a formality. It has been some what of a trying experience in finding a new preacher and we wish to express our appreciation for your co-operation in this endeavor.

PARSONAGE: The family that was renting the parsonage on a temporary basis has moved. There are a number of projects that need to be done in the next two weeks before the new preacher and his family arrives. Some of these projects are installing new carpet, painting, wallpapering, washing walls & cupboards, and general cleaning. If you can help in any of these areas, see Dean or Perry.

AWARDS: Several of our young people have received awards in various areas of excellence. Bobby Sowles received a trophy for "Best Alto" in the 7th grade choir. Mike Pepito received a silver medal for "All County" in track and qualified for state in the 800 meter race. He also received a honor achievement certificate in Math. Heidi Herron received a scholarship to attend a two week summer art school at Indiana State in Terre Haute. Way to go young people!

SPECIAL DAYS IN JUNE:

Birthdays

1	Amber & Jason Turpin	11	Freddie Oakley
2	Chris Hughes	12	Ruth Engle
3	Enos Miller	17	Mary Anne Wade
4	Joey Oakley	18	Lisa Shears
	Thelma Morris	26	Kathy Sowles
	Mark Craig	30	Norm Herron

Anniversaries

8	Austin & Patti Copeland (13 yrs.)
10	Norm & Marilyn Herron (32 yrs.)
11	Joe & Lois Oakley (20 yrs.)

MID-AMERICA ENRICHMENT WORKSHOP JUNE 17-20:

TREAT your family and yourself to a super, refreshing event.

JOIN in with scores of friends, old and new, in learning new skills to improve all facets of your spiritual life.

LEARN to be the best you can be...because of Him
Convention Center, Indianapolis, Indiana

THANKS: The church wishes to thank Howard Boyd of Ontario for donating the planted flowers around the sign on US 20.

DON'T FORGET the commodities for Shults-Lewis NOODLES and Camp Indogan
HI-C & KOOL AID!

"LOSING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE!"

The Boulevard Church of Christ in Baton Rouge recently engaged in a study of the problem question, "Why are we losing our young people?" They made a very thorough study using that congregation and a cross-section of congregations throughout the brotherhood. The study produced some rather interesting and, to some, startling statistics. Over the years, they found that they had been losing about 38% of their young people. The loss figure one year was as high as 73%.

They found that where both parents were faithful and active in attendance, work, and support, 93% of their children remained faithful and became active in the work of the church. Where only one parent was faithful and active, 74% of the children continued faithful in the Christian life. Where parents were reasonably faithful in attendance in Bible study and worship, but inactive in work, 54% of the children continued their relationship with Christ and His church. Where parents only attended occasionally, the children remained faithful in only 6% of the cases!

Why are we losing so many of our young people? To answer this question, parents should examine their own lives first. It is all too easy to blame the world in which we live, or the preacher, or the elders, or the church as a whole. But parental delinquency is the real and underlying cause of juvenile delinquency in the nation and the church.

Parents, if your children are lost to Christ, it may well be because of your indifference and neglect in the matter of regular Bible study, attendance in Bible classes, worship, and your failure to obey Matthew 6:33, to "put the kingdom first."

-Selected

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LaGrange CHURCH OF CHRIST



R.R. 5 • Box 13 • LaGrange, Indiana 46761

June 7, 1987

WANTING TO

* A man can get out of bed at three o'clock in the morning to go fishing, but when you talk to him about coming to Sunday morning Bible class, he just can't get up that early. Why the difference

IT'S JUST A MATTER OF WANTING TO

* A man can drive a hundred miles on Friday night to a ball game, but is always too tired to attend Bible study on Wednesday night. Why the difference??

IT'S JUST A MATTER OF WANTING TO!

* A man has plenty of money for recreation, pleasure and the luxuries of life, but can't afford to give more than a dollar to the Lord. Why the difference???

IT'S JUST A MATTER OF WANTING TO!!

* A man can be on the membership committee at the civic club and canvass the neighborhood for prospective members, but can't make the right approach when asked to do personal work for the Lord. Why the difference????

IT'S JUST A MATTER OF WANTING TO!!!

* A man can take an aspirin and go to work despite an annoying headache, but a similar headache is considered a good excuse for missing worship. Why the difference???

YES, IT'S JUST A MATTER OF WANTING TO!!!

-Selected

THE LIVING WORD



FOR A DYING WORLD

NEW WORK: The Herrons have accepted the work in Hastings, Michigan.

The church in Hastings was started 12 years ago and is still considered a mission field. The attendance is about 40 but there is good potential for more growth.

Norm, Marilyn and Heidi will be going to Detroit on Sunday June 21, where Norm will speak at the Northeast church and meet with its elders. The Northeast church began the work in Hastings and help support the preacher. The Herrons will be moving there around the first of July.

GONE HOME: After a two year battle with cancer and later complications from a stroke Joy Miller, Marilyn's sister, has gone to be with her Lord. Saturday morning, Ray informed Marilyn that Joy's condition was deteriorating rapidly. Later that afternoon he called to say that she has passed away at 1:15 P.M. Norm, Marilyn and Heidi left for Detroit Saturday evening to be with the family. Funeral arrangements are still indefinite at this time. Marilyn wishes to thank all those who prayed and sent cards to Joy during her illness. We ask your prayers for the family who have suffered the loss of another loved one.

SINGING: We are privileged to once again visit and present a program of singing at the area nursing homes. The better the turn out - the better the singing. We meet at Millers at 4:30 P.M. and then proceed to LaGrange at 5:15 P.M.

BIBLE SCHOOL: This Sunday begins another teacher rotation that will take us through September of this year. The teachers for the month of June will be: Senior Adults - Bill Pepito; Junior Adults - Joe Hughes; Senior High - Jim Pieratt; and Junior High - Dean Hoggatt. Let's all support these teachers by attending Bible class, bringing our Bibles, class books and being on time!

SURGERY: After an attack of gall stones on Wednesday, Eddie McGuiggan underwent surgery on Thursday by Dr. Warren Turney. The surgery was successful and Eddie has two large stones for his collection. Ann and husband Keith flew in from Pennsylvania to be with the rest of the family. Eddie should be in the LaGrange hospital for one week to 10 days. A (wee) visit or card would be greatly appreciated.

GUEST SPEAKER: Brother Ray Newkirk will be the morning speaker in Norm's absence. Ray and his wife Violet serve as custodians for Camp Indogan. Although retired from preaching, Ray is still able to present a strong and doctrinal lesson from the pulpit. We welcome the Newkirks into our midst today.

SECRET SISTERS: The Secret Sisters will have their banquet and unveiling at a restaurant in the area on Saturday, June 27. More details will follow. Watch for them!

WHO IS SITTING IN YOUR SEAT?

A preacher met one of the lukewarm members on the street early Monday morning.

The man knew he was in for it, for the preacher had often spoken to him before about failing to attend services. So, he thought he would beat the preacher to the punch and take the sting out of the rebuke this time, so he decided to make a frank confession.

"well, my seat was empty again yesterday," said he.

"Oh no, " replied the preacher quickly. "It wasn't empty yesterday."

"What," said the absentee, "Who was there?"

The preacher said, "Satan was there in your seat leering up at me saying, "I have him again, preacher."

The careless member was in his seat next Sunday.

-Selected

IT'S OFFICIAL - NEW PREACHER COMING SOON!: Bro. Roy Noble and his family have accepted the offer from the church here to come work with us as the evangelist of the church at LaGrange. Tentative plans call for his coming to Anderson on the 18th to prepare for a U-Hall to move his furniture on the 19th and 20th. His wife and children will be coming a few days later (with a new baby just a few days old, hopefully her father or mother will be accompanying them). Work is being done on the preachers house (so far by Sharon Pepito and Jane Gensic) to get it ready. We, as well as they, are looking forward to their coming with anticipation.

ACTION IN SOUTH FOYER: A good publication to keep us abreast of the work of the Lord being done in various areas of the world, is "Action". Several copies are in the foyer. Be sure to get one.

REMINDER: - -

Commodities for Camp Indogan - Hi C and Kool Aide

Commodity for Shults-Lewis - Noodles (pick up date is Saturday, June 13 in Ft. Wayne. Commodities must be in by Thursday the 11th)

FOR THE RECORD: May 31, 1987

Sunday Bible Classes	98	Wednesday Bible Study	76
Morning Worship	112	Thursday "Keenagers"	36
Evening	NA		
Contribution	\$1262.17		

UPDATE: The funeral arrangements for Joy Miller are: viewing Sun. 3-9 P.M. Mon. 1 - 5P.M. at Howe-Peterson Funeral Home, Michigan Ave. at Outer Dr. in Dearborn. Service Mon. 7:30P.M. at Parkside church building.

WHICH DO YOU SEE FIRST?

Whether we like admitting it or not, each of us has good and bad in us! "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23) But when it comes to looking at others and yes, even ourselves, what is it we usually see first? We see what we want to see!

Whenever Jesus travelled and taught He saw people as persons and we ask 'what did He see first?' Was this person an adulterer? a thief? a murderer? a liar? a homosexual? a failure? In seeing people as persons He saw them as sheep without a shepherd! (Mk.6:34) Without a shepherd sheep have no guide for their lives! No security or confidence. No plans for tomorrow and no place to go. Confusion, depression and that downtrodden feeling takes over our minds.

I find it so refreshing the great difference between God's looking and ours. We often see kinds of sinners instead of the good in a person which is the very thing that can be used to help them become! The picture below illustrates the fact that it is what we choose to see is in fact what we do see and that in order to see what we want to see that it takes desire and concentrated effort.



WHICH DO YOU SEE FIRST?

This picture is actually two pictures in one. Which did you see first? One is an image of an old woman turned slightly toward you. The other is a young woman looking away. When one is seen, the other does not exist. But you can see the one you want to see. Likewise, in every person there is good and bad. Which do you see first?

CONDESCENSION

We can never be an uplifting influence on those to whom we insist on talking down. LET HIS WAY OF SEEING BE OURS!

---Selected

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LaGrange CHURCH OF CHRIST



R.R. 5 • Box 13 • LaGrange, Indiana 46761

June 14, 1987

KINGDOM PRINCIPLES !

Jesus used nature to illustrate and explain the "working principles" of his kingdom. "The kingdom of heaven is like...", with these words He would introduce His parables and then use some universally understood principle of life to illustrate and explain how His kingdom on earth should function and grow. Sowing and reaping were common illustrations. In explaining the parable of the Sower (Luke 8:4-15), Jesus said, "Now the parable is this: THE SEED IS THE WORD OF GOD." (verse 11)

The seed -the germ of life- in the kingdom of God is the Word of God. We don't have to be farmers to understand that if seed is not planted no crops will grow. Planting is an essential prerequisite to growth and harvest on the farm and in the kingdom! The seed of the kingdom must be planted in the hearts of men if that kingdom is to exist and grow. If the seed is not sown the kingdom will be unfruitful and the plan of God for building and spreading His kingdom among men will go unrealized. Paul wrote in Romans 10:13-14: " 'Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.' How then shall they believe in Him who they have NOT HEARD?" Good questions! The word must be heard to be productive.

Every Sunday we gather to listen to and feed upon God's word. Others need to be hearing what we are hearing! Right?! Let's give them that opportunity. INVITE SOMEBODY TO COME AND HEAR THE WORD NEXT SUNDAY!

-Selected

THE LIVING WORD



FOR A DYING WORLD

SATISFACTION FROM SACRIFICE

Do you ever look at your friends and neighbors and question how they can afford nicer clothes, a bigger car, a finer house, take an expensive vacation every year? And yet, they make about the same salary? Then you think of the great difference. They don't give a dime to advance the cause of Christ. After all, \$150 to \$250 per month would buy a lot of "stuff". But it will also preach a lot of Gospel, and there's great satisfaction in that! That's the satisfaction you get for being a Christian.

-Dub McClish

UPDATE ON PREACHER'S COMING: The Noble family, including Barbara and the children, will be coming to Anderson this week to get their things ready for moving to LaGrange this Saturday.

A U-Haul truck will be rented from Sturgis for their move. We need a couple of men and volunteers to help Friday evening (to take the truck to Anderson) and Saturday (to drive it back) as well as others to help at this end to unload it.

The preacher's house is being readied (cleaning, painting, carpeting, etc.) and hopefully this can be done by this Saturday. The carpeting is being installed but all other jobs need to be done by the congregation.

Please see Dean if you can help with any of these ways.

WITH THE SICK:

Kathy Hughes' mother, Virginia Howard was in the hospital Saturday for tests concerning her illness. Mrs. Howard had surgery several months ago for cancer.

Geneva Holm is in the LaGrange hospital and would appreciate visits from the members here. She is from Ligonier and has attended services here a few times.

Elizabeth Swartzentruber, Mary Ann Johnston's mother, is in the Sturgis hospital recovering from surgery.

Eddie McGuiggan was discharged from the hospital last Wednesday. He is busy keeping everyone in "stitches" from his experiences while in the hospital.

YOUTH: The young people will meet at the Deisler's house for supper this afternoon. They will be going to the Reed Rd. church in Ft. Wayne for the special service to honor all the graduates. The service will begin at 5:30 P.M. with a singing group and also a fellowship after the evening service.

PHONE CAMPAIGN: This year's Shults-Lewis Phone Campaign was a greater success than dreamed possible. The final total raised was \$95,000.00. The only thing that kept the campaign from going over \$100,000.00 was that the callers ran out of people to call. It was also noted that of the 13,000 phone calls made, less than a dozen negative complaints were registered. This is to the credit of the volunteer callers and the overall positive reception of the entire program. Thank you to all who helped in this year's campaign.

CHANGE CAMPAIGN: The Shults-Lewis Change-for Children cans were mailed out of individuals this year rather than to the churches for distribution. If you failed to get yours, extra cans will be available at the church office. Remember to keep your Shults-Lewis cans visible so you will be reminded to fill them. As usual, the cans will be collected at the building and taken to the Annual Day in September.

MEN'S MEETING: The regular monthly men's meeting is this Sunday, 5:00 P.M. at the church building. Attendance at the last couple of meetings has been down. With the upcoming change of preachers, there are a number of important matters that need to be discussed. The presence of each man is vital if all are to be kept informed and involved in the Lord's work at LaGrange.

KEENAGERS: The Keenager program will be taking their annual trip to the scenic surroundings of Camp Indogan. The bus will not be running so we will be needing several volunteer drivers. We will meet at the church building at 10:00 A.M. and divide up into the cars for the drive to the camp.

LAST SUNDAY: Today will be the last Sunday for Norm to speak at LaGrange. The Herrons will be taking the last two weeks of June as vacation to pack and get ready for their move to Hastings, Michigan. Next Sunday, June 21, they will be in Detroit where Norm will speak at the Northeast church who will support the work in Hastings.

LAWN MOWING: We need some volunteers to sign up for mowing the lawn for the next three weeks of June. The church has purchased two new lawn mowers which are stored in the back shed. If you haven't taken your turn yet, why not sign up for one of these weeks?

TIMELY ADVICE: "If you had a bank that credited your account each morning with \$86,400, and every evening cancelled the amount you had failed to use, what would you do? Draw out every cent, of course! Well, Time is just such a bank. Every morning it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off as lost what you have failed to invest. It carries no balance. It allows no over-drafts. If you fail to use the day's deposit, the loss is yours. There is no going back. There is no drawing against the future; you must live in the present, on today's deposit. Invest it so as to get the utmost in health, happiness and service."

-Norman Gipson

GUEST SPEAKER: Again we welcome Wray and Violet Newkirk to our services. It's a pleasure to have bro. Wray speak to us from God's Word. Having had several years experience in pulpit preaching in Minnesota, he is able to deliver good lessons wherever he has the opportunity to preach. We are fortunate to have them close by as caretakers on the grounds of Camp Indogan, and take advantage of their services whenever we can.

4TH SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP-HONOR THE HERRONS: Remember to bring some finger foods and desserts for the get-to-gether following evening services. We honor the Herrons, which will be their last occasion to be with us before their leaving this week.

YOUNG MEN IN CHARGE OF EVENING SERVICES: This evening our young men will be presenting talks on an important subject. We appreciate the effort they have put into this and encourage them as they develop themselves in this public aspect of the church work.

NOBLE FAMILY GETTING SETTLED: Roy and Barbara and Jerrod can walk through their house almost unimpaired now that the boxes have been unpacked and discarded. We look forward to their getting settled as they begin officially their work here starting July 1.

SICK: Kathy Hughes mother is back home from the hospital, also Ruby Leguire has been released since her surgery. Mary Ann Johnston's mother is staying with her for a few days while she recovers from her surgery.

VISITING WITH US: We were happy to hear the voice of brother Darrell O'Rourke again and that he and his wife, Jean, would be visiting with us at services this evening. We appreciate their continued good work with the "Fishers Of Men" outreach.

Church of Christ
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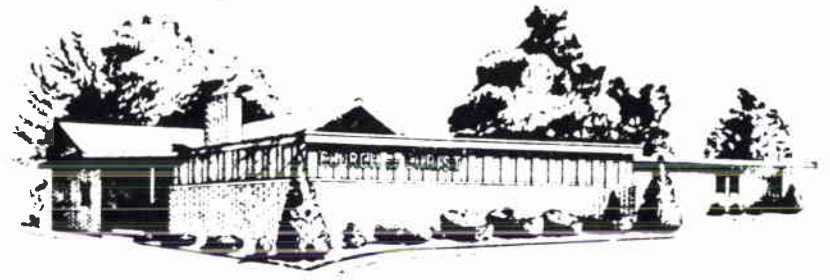
Evangelist

Norm Herron
463-3571

Deacons

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Perry Miller
Fred Oakley
Joe Oakley

LaGrange CHURCH OF CHRIST



R.R. 5 • Box 13 • LaGrange, Indiana 46761

June 28, 1987

GOOD BYE

Few things are more difficult than saying good bye to those you love. We have been a part of this family for almost 15 years. The ties that we have developed during those years are strong and will continue. We have shared many things together during that time - some laughs, some tears, some successes and some failures, some victories and some defeats. But that's what the Lord's church is all about.

We now look forward to the challenges of a new work in Hastings, Michigan. Much that we have learned and experienced here will go with us. We know that we are better servants of the Lord because of our association with you. A part of us will always be with the work here.

We ask for your continued prayers on our behalf and for the work that lies before us. Our prayer for you is that you will continue to put your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and love each other fervently from your hearts. Good bye and God bless you all.

In Christian love,
Norm, Merilyn and Heidi

Our new address:
1925 Boulder
Hastings, MI 49058

THE LIVING WORD



FOR A DYING WORLD

ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE, JULY 1: There is a scriptural pattern to be observed in regard to the organization of the church which precludes any one man serving alone as elder. Brother Norms leaving (and him being one of the two elders at LaGrange) places the church in that kind of position. For this reason, as of July 1, the present elder-deacon organization in the church at LaGrange will terminate.

We want to be true to the teaching in this regard. In a study of New Testament teaching and pattern, one is immediately struck with the fact that in all the churches (each one individually) there were always a plurality of elders. One elder could not serve in the office of elder alone. Also where there were no elders to oversee the work there were no deacons (in an official capacity, as an office). Bro. Norms leaving will at least temporarily leave us without the elder-deacon organization.

It is possible, however, to be scripturally unorganized. Such was the case regarding the New Testament churches that were established in various cities previous to the appointment of elders (Titus 1:5) and such will be the case at LaGrange. The church here met for worship for nearly 18 years before brothers Devon Hostetler and Dean Hoggatt were appointed elders in Nov. 1971. In an attempt to follow the New Testament pattern we worked toward a more complete organizational body by soon appointing deacons to assist the elders. In Jan. 1978 brother Norm Herron was also appointed an elder. Additional deacons were appointed also. Time has taken its toll, however, as one of our first deacons, brother Jerry Pace, moved because of his job. Also, brother Devon Hostetler, one of our elders, moved in the fall of 1985 because of his job. This left us with 2 elders, one of which, now will be moving. So, until such time that men among us may qualify and be appointed to the eldership, the church here will remain scripturally unorganized.

It is with some tinge of regret that accompanies my resignation. A regret that I have not fulfilled the office as good as I should have; perhaps not been the best kind of a leader to the church as well as to our deacons, brothers Joe Hughes, Fred Oakley, Joe Oakley and Perry Miller. I deeply appreciate, however, the support you have given me over the years and I trust will continue to give to the church because of your love for the Lord. I will continue to be active (with less responsibility) and make myself available to anyone who seeks counsel and help in any way.

In many respects nothing has changed. The desire we all have for the growth of the church, our evangelistic spirit, our love for the Lord and to each other will continue and with the encouragement of our new preacher, Bro. Noble, our look to the future should be very positive. A final message I would give as an elder would be that which was given by the apostle Paul in Acts 20:32, "And now I command you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you the inheritance among all them that are sanctified".

Dean Hoggatt

GOD-SPEED TO THE HERRONS

It was in the summer of 1972 that Norm and Marilyn and their five children, Jeff, Steve, Kim, Melissa and Heidi moved to LaGrange straight from the mission field. It was through a preacher friend in Coldwater, Michigan, and then personal correspondence that we learned about these seasoned missionaries who had been in Oslo, Norway for six years and were returning to the states ready to take up evangelistic employment where the Lord might lead them (as they quipped later, even to a "one horse town" if it was not far from Detroit, where they previously had lived. They were sure when they met a horse and buggy coming into town that they had found the right place).

And indeed it was the right place. Over the years they have put their roots pretty deep in LaGrange. They have seen all their children "grow up" in LaGrange and all obey the gospel (Steve and Kim in Oct. '72, Jeff in April '73, Melissa in April '77 and Heidi in Nov. '83) Three of their children, Jeff, Kim and Melissa were married here.

Norm and Marilyn have given themselves untirelessly to the work here, involving themselves in every good work with much patience, kindness and dedication. We appreciate Norms leadership in the areas of the pulpit, as an elder of the congregation for 9½ years, as the director of the Keenager program which began 9 years ago, his work with foster care, Shults-Lewis Children's Home, Camp Indogan and many other good works. And Marilyn worked right along with him in much of this as well as offering her home in the spirit of benevolence. We commend Heidi for her scholastic achievements and friendly attitude. For these reasons they have endeared themselves not only to the church here but to the community as well.

Their spirit of giving in so many areas of the work here will never be forgotten and we express our deepest love and appreciation to them. It is "hard" to see them leave, but their family at LaGrange wishes them the very best and bids them God-speed in their new work at Hastings, Michigan.

P.S. You're welcome to come back to any of our services and activities but don't be late!

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS: The fact that the elders and deacons will not be meeting regularly as in the past, now demands a method to carry on the decision making matters of the church. At the last men's meeting on June 14, some suggestions were given how best to do this. It was decided that that a monthly meeting of the men should be held the second Sunday of each month and that from these meetings, more particular needs could be addressed. The next meeting then is scheduled for the 12th of July at 5 o'clock at the church building.