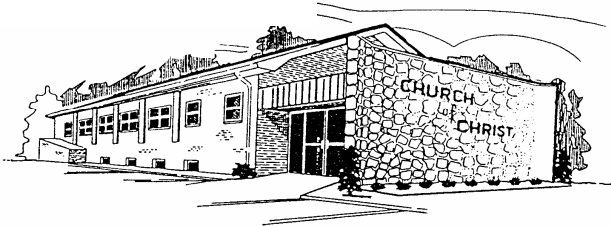


Teaching them to observe
all things...Matt. 28:20



The St. Joseph Observer

March 28, 2010

The St. Joseph Church of Christ

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Schedule of Services

Sunday School
9:45

Sunday Worship
10:45

Sunday PM
5:00

Tuesday Ladies' Class
9:00 AM

Wednesday Bible Study
6:00

Elders

Leo Conkin	925-7688
Clyde Daniel	428-2322
Charlie McGee	861-5811
Steve Parsons	465-7901

Deacons

Dave Hipskind	468-4735
Eric Ramsos	465-5965

Ladies' Prayer Chain

Kim Batson	428-7281
Barb Conkin	925-7688
Gayle Daniel	428-2322
Jan Mundy	473-1505

Partners with God

God calls us to serve others. Time and again we are taught in scripture to put others first (Mk 9:35); to consider others better than yourself (Phil 2:3); in short, to be a servant just as Jesus was (Mk 10:45).

But even though we may be willing servants, the task we're given to do sometimes appears to be overwhelming. I have had two recent events in which I felt overwhelmed and inadequate for the task.

Being in Haiti certainly helped me to appreciate living in the United States. While I was there, I saw so much pain. So many people were displaced from their homes; who needed medical attention, and who simply needed some food and clothes. The team I was with brought some relief. Being a part of that effort was no small blessing for me. Being around Godly men and women whose first priority was to serve God was nothing short of awe inspiring. These doctors and nurses and farmers and construction workers served the people of Haiti because they first served God. They offered so much more than medicine. They offered hope through Jesus.

But when hundreds of people are waiting to see a handful of doctors, the task can seem daunting. It can be overwhelming to think that for the hundreds of people you will treat, there are tens of thousands more who need treatment. It can be especially frustrating when the medical team doesn't have the "luxury" of basic medical equipment. They had no electricity. Therefore, all diagnosis had to be done through conversation and observation. I wonder how many times they said to themselves, "If I only had an x-ray machine."

The other event that left me feeling overwhelmed and inadequate was the tragic death of the daughter of a friend. Between Susan and I, neither of us could find the right words for that situation. We tried to offer some measure of comfort in a situation where comfort is impossible to obtain. The pain and suffering of this family at the loss of their loved one was overwhelming.

At times like these, I pray and search my mind for something... anything... to help. And too often I come up short. I sometimes wonder why God puts me in these situations where I feel so useless. Then I'm reminded of Moses. He also saw himself as being inadequate for the task at hand. He pleaded with God to use someone else. But God chose him. God chooses us by putting situations in front of us. Situations that we sometimes wish we didn't see or have to address.

The wife of our group leader in Haiti would pass out in inspirational thoughts each day. One of those thoughts was the following.

God uses what you have...to fill a need which you never could have filled.

God uses where you are...to take you where you never could have gone.

God uses what you can do...to accomplish what you never could have done.

God uses who you are...to let you become who you never could have been.

When we are overwhelmed and under-skilled and truly believe that we are faced with a job that is beyond our abilities, we'll find that is absolutely true. Kingdom work is hard and it is beyond our abilities. That's why we need God. That's why it's important to understand that it isn't about us and our abilities. It never was. It has always been about God and what He is able to accomplish through us. We are partners with God in His work.




Charlie

Please remember in prayer...

- Members with Health Issues Leo Conkin, Warren James, Virginia Kowalski, Vanessa Matthews, Jim Smith, Lee Wallis, Juanita Weatherford
- The Military Nick Hastings, Ian Matthews
- Our Church The Buildings & Grounds Committee, our Elders & Deacons, our members

Congregational Calendar

March – April

28 Full Nesters 12:30	29	30 <i>Ladies' Class</i>	31  Sara Gilmer	1	2	3
4	5  Eric Beltz	6	7  Andi & Dana Ives	8	9	10