

## News & Notes

Sunday, August 20, 2006

**Remember in Prayer:** Sandra Alberson; Melvin Bennett; Carrol Cherry; Vikie Cobb; Diane Cox; Sally Etta Crawford; Flora Estes; Marie Hall; Carolyn Jordan; Dot Ketchum; James Luna; John and Deliah Mann; Diane Mize; Howard Moody; Lillie Mae Shelby; Jayme and Trucilla Spence; Calvin Ursery; James Williams; Chandler West; Alvie Williford;

**Sympathy** is extended to the family Nancy Johnson.

**Pantry item** for the month of August is dryer sheets.

**Carrol and Annette Street** responded the Lord's invitation requesting forgiveness and prayers.

There will be a **men's breakfast** Saturday @ 9:00 AM in the dining hall.

**Area events:** Area wide youth devotional at Chapman tonight @ 6:00 PM.

### Sermon In Preview:

AM: Against All Odds (Judges 6-8)

PM: Division and Worldly Wisdom (1Corinthians 1)

### For the Record (August 13, 2005):

Attendance: 62    Contribution: \$1455.00    Budget: \$1352.00

### *The Ashland Church of Christ*

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#### Sunday:

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

Worship 6:00 PM

#### Wednesday:

Bible Study 7:00 PM

#### Shepherds:

Barney King

Carrol Street



# ASHLAND ANNOUNCER

"I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14)

## Are You in the Zone?

Tim Childs

"Are you in the zone?" was a question frequently heard during the week of June while we were at Maywood Christian Camp outside Hamilton, Alabama. It was sort of a way of rallying the "troops" to make sure we were keeping our spirits up and our attitudes in check as the fatigue factor set in due to the heat and lack of rest. Amazingly, it's not too hard to stay "in the zone" with all the wonderful things taking place and as we together sought to draw nearer to God away from all the everyday distractions we experience.

Christians, however, do not need to be concerned about "being in the zone" one week of the year. We can, and must be "in the zone" 52 weeks of the year. Are you "In the Zone?"

First of all, to be "in the zone" you must be "in the kingdom of heaven." The kingdom of heaven is an expression that is used synonymously with "the church" that Jesus promised to build (Matthew 16:18) and which promise was kept as his church was established through the plan and power of God (Acts 2). So, Jesus is Lord and King in the lives of those who have "obeyed the gospel of the kingdom" and are daily surrendering their lives to the fulfilling of his will. Those who are yet held by "the power of darkness" (Colossians 1:13) are not as yet "in the zone" of which we speak. But there is hope for you. You can be delivered through the power of the gospel when you are "born of water and of the Spirit" (John 3:3-5).

To be "in the zone" you and I must be walking with Jesus in the light of righteousness. What a glorious path wherein God has

provided for us to walk whereby we may experience joy and peace as well as the security of our souls. Our relationship with God grows stronger and our love for him grows deeper as we keep the weeds of sin rooted out. “This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin” (1 John 1:5-7). Let us walk daily with Jesus in the light.

Are you in the zone? If we are truly in the zone, we are “walking in love” as Jesus walked while here in the flesh. The Bible is given to bless our lives in teaching us how to “walk” the Christian walk. “Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour” (Ephesians 5:1-2). Jesus has definite expectations for all of his disciples: “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another” (John 13:34-35). What a great standard he has challenged us with in the expression: “as I have loved you.” It must be evident to all of us that we are not given the freedom to “pick and choose” just which of the brethren we will love. Jesus does not condone the practice of some who would claim to love one group on the one hand, while having feelings of hatred, despise and murderous thoughts on the other (1 John 4:20-21). Many noble traits of love are described in 1 Corinthians 13. However, never forget that when we have the love of Jesus in our hearts it will be marked by kindness in all that we say and do (verse 4).

The Christian faces trials every day and if we are not careful it is easy to allow fatigue to set in. We become worn down and then become spiritually vulnerable, and can even become a tool of Satan. However, we need to rally together behind the cross of our Lord, keeping our attitudes and lives in check, as he leads us forth to victory over all of the foes of righteousness. Friend, are you “in the zone?”

## Calling on the Name of the Lord

Preston Silcox

What does it mean to “call on the name of the Lord?” Legion are they who teach that this means to approach Christ in prayer, asking him to forgive one’s own sins and come into one’s heart for the purpose of being his or her “personal Savior.” Usually, Romans 10:13 is quoted as a proof text for this teaching: “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” However, this phrase is used in other places in the Bible and to understand its meaning in Romans, the phrase should be studied in the other contexts as well.

In Romans 10, Paul is quoting Joel 2:32 emphasizing the universal nature of the gospel. Another New Testament spokesman who quoted Joel was Peter on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:21). Peter was preaching to those who were guilty of shedding the innocent blood of Jesus. Upon realizing the severity of their crime, the convicted crowd cried out, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” They knew they were guilty, and they knew they needed forgiveness. In addition, they had heard Peter quote Joel, saying, “Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” So, what was Peter’s response to their question? Did he tell them to pray to Jesus for forgiveness? Did he command them to ask Christ to come into their hearts as their personal Savior? No! He told them to “Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38). Here is an inspired commentary on the phrase, “call on the name of the Lord.” According to Peter, who was speaking by inspiration, calling on the name of the Lord is obeying the gospel.

What about you? Are you one who calls on the name of the Lord (1Corinthians 1:2)? That is, are you one who obeys the Christ? If not, why not determine to follow the example of those 3,000 on the day of Pentecost, and call on His name today and continue to do so all the days of your life.