

Restoration!

Don Hatch

Shortly after the turn of the nineteenth century various forces were at work in American religious circles, guiding individuals to seek a restoration of apostolic Christianity. This movement crossed all religious lines. James O'Kelly, Abner Jones, Elias Smith, Barton W. Stone, Alexander and Thomas Campbell were some of the early leaders. In the popular mind the movement became the "Campbell and Stone" movement. In 1850 the census showed there were four major rankings in churches [Disciples of Christ, Christian Church and Church of Christ and Church of Christ Instrumental]. After the Civil War its ranks increased. An ominous note was sounded. The story of this movement to return to the Ancient Order was to have an impact on American religion. Eight Colleges were started and several "Normals" to help the urgent needs for teachers. Significantly the church of Christ became the rallying name for this restoration movement.

Prerevolutionary War time demonstrates an urgency to have religious freedom. England forced the colonists to pay a tax to subsidize the Church of England and her clergy. All others were looked upon with disfavor and persecution was seldom absent. The "clergy" was kept busy hunting and punishing heretics. Charges were made against the "non-conformist" that they were "ramming the Bible text down his neighbor's throat". Quakers and Baptist were summarily jailed. By the time of the Revolutionary War bills for religious freedom were called for by the populist. The clergy was looked upon with scorn and their lot was cast with the "Tories" [British]. An issue over "ordination" and who could perform marriages was a crisis. The gap was filled with those from the "Reformation churches" which emerged trying to reform the Catholic Church in Western Europe. These opposed what they perceived as false doctrines and ecclesiastical malpractice. Especially the teaching and the sale of indulgences which was the full or partial remission of temporal punishment due to sins, this was granted upon confession and payment required by the church, for absolution as well as simony [selling and buying of clerical offices]. The reformers saw this as evidence of the systemic corruption of the church's hierarchy, which included the Pope. Thus, the Protestant Reformation was engaged in **reform, not return** to the Ancient Order.

Within several of these early non-conformists groups it was recognized that what was being offered as an alternative did nothing to correct the apostate course of religious. Their insight was that the greatest need was to return to the Bible. At Cane Ridge Kentucky there was a "Second Great Awakening". This camp meeting drew over 20,000 people. The idea of restoring a "primitive" Christianity grew in popularity. The desire for a purer form of Christianity played a role in development of the churches of Christ on the North American continent. The appeal was pristine edenic [Eden like] and undefiled original Christianity. The primitive faith based upon the Bible only claimed the hearts and souls of thousands. The Restoration Movement began during and under the influence of the "Great Awakening". Two leaders were Thomas and Alexander Campbell [father and son]. They resisted the manipulation of the "spiritualist" efforts and plotted a course to return to the Bible only.

Restoring the purist form of Christianity was their model. This vision of correcting the faults or deficiencies in American religion appealed to restoring Christianity as originally preached and taught by first century Christians. This movement was greatly different from the "Protestant Reformation". It focused upon the structure and practices of the church and stressed the Bible as the pattern. The aim to restore the church and unify all Christians in a single body patterned after the New Testament was a "crisp and wonderful thought whose time had come". They saw the restoring of apostolic faith as a means to unite. Restoring Christianity that came from the Bible only could achieve a model wherein Christ would be Lord and Mediator at the right hand of God the Father and the Holy Spirit's work was governed by the New Testament teachings. Sunday was called the "Lord's Day" and **five acts of worship** were found to be common in the New Testament church along with **five steps for obtaining salvation**. They refused to accept denominational names. They used Bible names for Bible things. These disciples of Lord Jesus Christ broke the shackles and blessed the world with returning to "primitive Christianity".

The Restoration Movement must not lose its momentum. The work was not concluded by these able servants of God. The task still remains for each generation to complete the occupation of making sure the principles of the Bible are not marginalized is an ongoing work. Many today have a hazy conception of the restoration principles of returning to simple Bible faith and faithfulness. Urge fellow restorers to challenge themselves to unity of the Spirit and bond of peace (Eph 4:1-16). No estimate of the work of former generations is complete without considering what the present generation will accomplish. The lasting results of a "Restoration Movement" are felt around the world. The powerful appeal of a commitment to non-sectarian adherence to the Scriptures is flawless. A faith that is

stronger than anything that can be done to harm has a power greater than the world. The willingness to preach and teach New Testament Christianity is powerful (Rom 1:16, 17; 10:1-17).

FAMILY CARE
A Message from Our Shepherds

Not for All the Money in the World...Beth Johnson to My Sisters, Many times I have been asked why we chose to live and work in India. People ask, "How do you stand the filth, the idolatry, the tropical climate or the primitive living arrangements?" If I were to tell just how primitive the conditions really have been for us over the years, I might tell how I washed our family's clothes by hand in a bucket, and that daily washing ritual included diapers for two babies a year apart. Or I might tell them that during the years when our family numbered six members, my cook "stove" was a one burner kerosene hot plate, and there was no oven. I could even tell them that we had no proper brooms or mops, but had to use clumps of grass for sweeping and a rag to mop our cement floors every day. I could tell them that floors had to be mopped daily because dust from feet tracked in the dried feces where people relieved themselves out in the open day in and day out. They never considered covering their dirt like the OT law taught the Israelites to do in Deut. 23:13. I could tell them about the diseases our family has endured—diseases like typhoid fever, pneumonia, tuberculosis, amoebic dysentery, bacillary dysentery, food poisoning (multiple times), and even cholera. Most people have never endured these diseases at all, much less more than one at a time. I could talk about lack of decent water for bathing or washing clothes or electricity cuts or unfair taxation. I could tell about land grabbers who wrested property owned by the church. I could tell about the early years of having to pasteurize our own milk or boil our own drinking water on a daily basis.

I could tell them about the times when our postal delivery person sold our mailing addresses and even our actual mail to charlatans who wanted to make contacts in the US. I might tell about the times we were "reported to the government" for doing mission work, or about the times we have actually been evicted from the country because we did not give some "undesirable" a job. Some would disdainfully say, "Why, I wouldn't endure that for all the money in the world!"

"Neither would I." "And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you. Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible" (1 Cor. 9:23-25).

"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets" (Matt. 7:12). "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself" (Matt. 22:37-39). Fortunately we have passed through those early gray days and perhaps become wiser for our experiences. We have somewhat better facilities now than we had several years ago and better supplies and amenities. Roads have become safer and bottled water is now available in most shops. More of our good people at home are aware of our needs and have been most gracious to help as they could. God not only blesses those who are sent, but He also blesses the ones who do the sending.

JUST GOT THE NEWS TODAY! Dennis has a visa that is good until January 2021. Please ask the whole congregation there to pray a prayer of thanksgiving for all the favor the Father has shown us. Now, when we have to have the visa renewed each 6 months, we can go to Singapore and Malaysia will no doubt have a favorable response to return each time. Four Seas College has asked Dennis to teach for them during the two months we have to be out each time. It is such a blessing to have a continued use and we can make a much shorter and less expensive trip. We appreciate your prayers for the visa and appreciate your encouragement in the India work. Richard L. Renfro

True Holiness

"This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye no longer walk as the Gentiles also walk, in the vanity of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardening of their heart; who being past feeling gave themselves up to lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But ye did not so learn Christ; if so be that ye heard him, and were taught in him, even as truth is in Jesus: that ye put away, as concerning your former manner of life, the old man, that waxeth corrupt

after the lusts of deceit; and that ye be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new man, that after God hath been created in righteousness and holiness of truth" (Eph 4:17-25).

A New Year is a time to start afresh making plans with all of our hopes and goals. With resolutions and lofty ideals, it is good to review last year and perhaps make new commitments or revamp and reorganize our old ones. For the areas we excelled in, keep them and rejoice we have a new year in which to serve God from whence all blessings flow (Jas 1:17—20). We can all purpose to gain even loftier pinnacles in our holy journey. No matter how far we have ascended, there are always new heights to gain on the upward way, resolving not to let the world charm or allure our sight. We are going to a city wherein righteousness and holiness dwells. Satan's snare we must evade and flee from temptations (1 Cor 19:13). The joy of things that are higher and more noble are all apart of walking with the Lord (1 Jn 1:5-10). Jesus is the true One, He is the just One and has words for a spiritual life. When we are weak Jesus is strong. He can keep us from all wrong. If we falter Jesus cares and will share all our burdens (Gal 6:1-15). Being a Christian there is always someone to cheer and give relief, Jesus Christ. He will guide our souls, help in defeats, be a shield against the foe and always mediate and intercede for us (Rom 8:31-39; 1 Tim 2:1-5).

How can this be accomplished? As our text teaches, we must school ourselves in the new and righteous ways of living and acting. "But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus" (Eph 4:20-24). Jesus manifested that he will help us, "...take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls" (Mat 11:28, 29).

We "put off . . . the old man" and "put on the new man," clearly identifying our manner of life, as if we were changing old clothing for new. We cannot hang on to a few old rags. Let this year be a time of deepening faith and practice through obedience to His will. Build our faith and faithfulness. "...put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom 13:14; Gal 3:27).

Submission links us to spiritual desires that will result in being "renewed in the spirit [desires of our minds]" (Eph 4:23). Putting on the new man and putting the old man out of our lives brings about holy changes and will control our daily activities, setting our spiritual compass to a destiny with God in a heavenly realm. The new man is a new creation of God, modeled after Him "in righteousness and true holiness." "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works" (Eph 2:0). Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

January 16, 2011

Front foyer: Mike & Elizabeth Garrison

Back foyer: Dessie & J.C. Ross

January 23, 2011

Front foyer: Richard and Carolyn Renfro

Back foyer: Roberta Price & Max Melton

Sermon Titles

January 16, 2011

a.m: "An Exceeding Bitter Cry"

Scripture: 2 Sam 18:31-33

p.m: "Law and Grace"

Scripture: Jn 8:1-11

January 23, 2011

a.m: "Bartimaeus" Mk 10:46-52

p.m: "Shiloh" Gen 49:8-12

Contribution Counters -Darrell Allen, Mike Garrison.

MISSION PRINTING

Mission Printing will meet **Sunday** at 4:00 p.m. in the Jr. Auditorium.

SINGING SESSION

The singing class will meet **Sunday** in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.

MENS' GATHERING/DEVOTIONAL

The **Monday morning** devotional will meet at 6:00 a.m. in the Annex.

Bear Valley Bible Institute

We have a new report from Dan Keele on the bulletin board in the foyer. Dan has been doing campaigns and completing his studies. He will graduate May 22nd. He will still have some course study to complete in the fall after graduation.

39^{ers} Meal and Fellowship

39^{ers} will have a pot luck meal and fellowship in annex Monday 17th at 6:30pm.

Christ's Haven

We have been asked to furnish Christ's Haven with grocery items. They will pick them up February 15th. **The items are:** Trash bags-39 gallon size with draw strings, one gallon Ziploc bags, apple juice, baking soda, Clorox wipes, garlic powder, honey, size 5 boys pull-ups, liquid laundry-Tide or Cheer and Swiffer wet jet antibacterial cleaner refills. They do not buy institutional sizes. Their families are usually around 10 members and use regular sizes.

Investment In Others

As you read the New Testament this year make your cards that list the various items we do in the name of the Lord (Gal 6:1-10). On the back side of the card write the names of those you are going to contact this year.

LADIES

The **Ladies Class** is studying the "Parables of Jesus". Beverly McKey will teach on the "Prodigal Son" (1/18). Make plans to attend.

Thank You Cards

"I want to thank Ladies Bible class for all the sweet cards and the goodie bag. It was wonderful. Also to Mary Wise, Roberta Price and Marcella Porter who work in the beauty shop and do my hair alot. I want to thank the men that bring me communion every Sunday, Mike Batot, Darrell Allen, Bill Paschall and Garl Latham. I love it when their families come along. May God bless all of you and keep me in your prayers, Much Love."

Fauna Garrett

Our Sympathy

Janice Daniel's mother, Katherine Walker, passed away Friday (1/7). There will be a memorial. In lieu of flowers they have asked that donations be sent to Childhaven, Inc. P.O. Box 2070, Cullman, AL 35056

Gary Workman's mother, Cilia Martin Workman, passed away in California. Funeral services will be Saturday 15th of January in Sylmar, CA. She was just a few days short of being 100 years old.

NEWS OF THE SICK

• **Billie Beverly** has been ill with Asthma problems

·**Letitia Beverly** has strep.

·**Samantha Howard's** uncle, James Coates is suffering with lung problems and is in a Desoto Hospital.

·**Debra Alonzo** is home with infection in her eyes. Her father, Raymond Forbus is in the hospital with heart problems.

·**Sherry Hodge**, frequent visitor, has pneumonia. She has been on IV's for over 10 days.

·**Linda Brown** is scheduled to see a Neuro Surgeon Tuesday (1/11) for MRI results and a possible problem with her thyroid.

·**Maxine Prude** called and said she was ill Sunday.

If you would like to receive the bulletin in your email please contact the office. It will save us postage. We will need your email address. Thank you

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Evelyn Armstrong, Erma Lee Baker, Bobby Bowen, Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Jean Kelly, Frances LaFerney, Garldean Latham, Tom Prince, Jan Smithson, Thomas West, James Coates, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend).

Be sure and mark your calendar –

·39ers will meet for pot luck meal and fellowship Monday 17th at 6:30pm

·Christ's Haven grocery items will be picked up on February 15th

·Ladies' Class January 25th Vera Gleghorn will teach on "Workers In The Vineyard".

THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE THIS SUNDAY*

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

·Purman Cofer

·Jerry Baker

·Dorris Walker

·Marvin Brown

·Mike Garrison

·Denzel Myers

Rear Table

· J.C. Ross

·Robert Taylor

·Brent Howard

·Max Melton

·Thomas Rathbun

·Darrol Allen

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

· Richard Renfro

· Garl Latham

· Stan Selby

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

· Henry Seidmeyer

2 Samuel 18:31-33

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

·Glen Kelly

·Robert Ruckman

· Mike Batot

· Jerry Baker

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

· Thomas Rathbun

John 8:1-8

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

·Mike Batot

A.M. SONG LEADER

·Darrell Allen

P.M. SONG LEADER(S)

· Garl Latham

FOR THE RECORD: WEEK ENDING ATTENDANCE & BUDGET

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	63	77	82	100
A.M. Worship	130	130	145	150
P.M. Worship	75	60	75	75
Wed. Class	68	75	77	75
Ladies Bible Class	-	-	29	25
Contribution	\$5736	\$4762	\$5049	\$5433

MISSIONS

Willie & Del Gley – Ghana/Togo, Africa
 Charlie & Mary DiPalma - Malaysia
 Roland & Rose Mohsen – France
 Glen & Kuin Tattersall – Australia
 Gary & Nadya Workman – Ukraine
 Oleg & Natasha Yakimenko – Russia
 Wil & Telanda Sadler – Military Missions
 Hyderabad Church of Christ - Hyderabad, India
 Christ's Haven Children's Home - Keller, TX
 Foster's Home for Children – Stephenville, TX
 Wayne Jackson – Christian Courier on the Web
 Dan Keele – Bear Valley School of Preaching
 Ted Lingren - Sisophon Bible School – Cambodia
 Mission Printing Worldwide Literature Distribution
 Terry & Pam Laurence – Ft. Defiance, Arizona – Navajo Nation
 Dennis & Beth Johnson - Chennai Teacher Training School – India
 Rohan & Sandra Jones Capetown South Africa