

THE ECHOES

January, 2021

MINISTER'S AND CHURCH CHARTER RENEWALS

*Minister's and Church Charter renewals will be emailed or mailed out in soon. If you have moved or changed your email address or would like a hard copy sent to you please notify Rev. Amy Patrick, by email, amyjopatrck44@yahoo.com or by calling or texting her at, (417) 850-1254 **as soon as possible**.*

The Minister's renewal fee is \$100 and Church Charter fee is \$50, please submit this with your renewal application. If you are a minister with FGCI for 5 years or longer and age 70 or over, your fee is \$50.

Before sending the application to Sister Amy, please remember to have your pastor sign in the appropriate spot or if you are the pastor, the church secretary or a board member may sign it for you. We appreciate all of you and look forward to hearing from you soon.

God bless you, your ministries, families and churches abundantly!

We are one month into this new year and what a wild ride it has been. We have gone through things in this past year that none of us ever imagined we would see in our lifetime. Now more than ever it is important to strive for greater faith. To strive means to make a great and tenacious effort. I have recently been reading the Gospels and came across the story of a Roman officer who sent for Jesus because his valued servant was dying. This particular story is found in Luke 7:1-9. First, the Roman soldier sends esteemed Jewish leaders to ask Jesus if he would come to this man's house and heal his servant. On the way to the soldier's house, they are approached by friends of his who relay a message to Jesus from the Roman soldier. Romans 7:6b-8 (NLT) states, "Lord, don't trouble yourself by coming to my home, for I am not worthy of such an honor. I am not even worthy to come and meet you. Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed. I know this because I am under the authority of my superior officers, and I have authority over my soldiers. I only need to say, 'Go,' and they go, or 'Come,' and they come. And if I say to my slaves, 'Do this,' they do it." This man had never met Jesus or even laid eyes on Him, yet he humbled himself before the Lord and had faith that Jesus could heal his servant without ever coming to his house. Luke 7:9 (NLT) goes on to say, "When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. Turning to the crowd that was following him, he said, 'I tell you; I haven't seen faith like this in all Israel!'" It is my new prayer to strive for faith like this Roman soldier had and have the faith to believe without seeing. No matter what is going on around me, I can have faith that help is on the way; not because of what I have seen Jesus do, but because of who I know He is.

Rev. Sarah Stone

Due to Covid 19 restrictions FGCI Winter Leadership Meetings (Round Table Meetings) is postponed until further notice.

Rev. Jim Yates, General Superintendent

1 Corinthians 4:2 “Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.” Faithfulness and commitment are closely tied together. Actually, faithfulness is a byproduct of commitment. In any relationship faithfulness can only be obtained by strong commitment. In a marriage where one of the partners is not committed, you will eventually have a problem of unfaithfulness: it is the same in the church. When individuals are not truly committed to God, they struggle with faithfulness to His house.

If you know me, then you know I am a fanatic about faithfulness. I was taught faithfulness to the House of God, and all three of my children were taught the same principle and are products of that teaching. But now for the first time in my 50 plus years of preaching this message I find myself unable, as many of us have been, to attend the House of God like I so desire. It grieves me week after week when I cannot leave my hero and attend the House of God. I cannot blame it on covid, my sweetheart cannot be left alone and there in none to relieve me, but that has not changed my message. I will still preach it because I believe it. God knows my heart and my spirit and I fill myself with Him and continue to financially support the work of the Lord, but it does not take the place of assembling together. It is too easy for many to use covid as an excuse to not go to the House of God. Yet, you will find them at Walmart and dining out. I have my groceries delivered and shop online, but if I could go shopping, I would first go to the House of God.

Hebrew 10:25 tells us, “not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” Explain to me how you can exhort others without assembling yourselves with them. If you are able and do not take advantage of every opportunity to assemble, don’t tell me you love God. The need to assemble together to worship is not about me, it is about others. God doesn’t need your worship or praise but he desires it. Somehow we must get out of the “it’s all about me” mentality. The entire body has need of the encouragement and fellowship of others of like faith. You may say, “that’s great, but I don’t need that, I find fellowship in other ways.” So we are back again to “it’s all about what I need.” What about what others need? Our responsibility is to be there for our brothers and sisters, to encourage and uplift them in their trials.

Hebrews 10:24 says, “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.” It grieves me when I hear the excuses that Christians make for not supporting or being faithful to a local church. Do you really want to see the church doors shut? Do you want to abandon the concept of corporate worship and everyone stay home? Do you want to take care of your own needs and never call upon a minister to assist in weddings, funerals, baptisms and other occasions of life? When you choose to not support a local body of believers, that is what you are saying! If we were as faithful to our jobs as we are to the House of God, what kind of paycheck would we get? Do you have to go to church to be saved? No, I don’t believe you do, but why wouldn’t you want to? Why wouldn’t you, as a child of God, want to do everything you could to encourage someone else? Faithfulness to Christ is not about following the path of least resistance but of thinking of others and preferring their needs above our own.

As we encourage and bless others we cannot help but be blessed ourselves. If we have a complete commitment to the Lord it will not be nearly as hard to be faithful. In fact, it is a requirement for service; some want to be used but do not want to be faithful. If you believe that we are living in dark perilous times, then consider Hebrews 10:25 “even more as we see the day approaching.”

Proverbs 3:6 “In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

Rev. Jean Criddle

WORLD MISSIONS OFFERING

Please send your World Missions Offering to:

Rev. Liz Majors
World Missions Director
P.O. Box 252
Salem, Missouri
65560
(573)247-0497

Email:
ekmajor@yahoo.com

NEW MEMBERS,
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ADVANCEMENTS,
NEW CHURCHES

New Minister:

Reinstatements:

Advancements:

New Churches:

GRADUATION TO GLORY

Rev. Kathleen Diles of Conway,
Arkansas. Graduated to
Heaven January 25th. She was
an ordained minister with FGCI
since 2003

Please remember her husband,
Carl Diles and her family in
your prayers.

FGCI GENERAL OFFICE

Credentials - Church Charters
Tithes & Offerings
Home Missions Offerings
By-Law Books—\$5.00

Send or call all inquiries and
change of addresses to:

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2101 East 34th Pl.
Joplin, Missouri 64804
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Send your email addresses to:

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THE ECHOES

Is the official publication of:
**Full Gospel Church
International**

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All submissions must be received no
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(870) 243-1097
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YOUR PRAYERS ARE NEEDED

Prayers are needed for Brother Donald Travelstead from Illinois. He was in a horrific auto accident on August 24, 2019.

Many of our ministers are in need of your prayers that have tested positive for covid-19. There are more out there than you think.

SHELTERING ROCK TENT MINISTRIES

If you would like to have Evangelist John Virden and family from Des Moines, Iowa come to your church to hold a tent revival please contact John at (515) 577-2474.

If you have any announcements for your state please remember to email the Echoes at echoeseditor@gmail.com.

“If my people, which are called by my Name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”
2 Chronicles 7:14

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