

THE ECHOES

September, 2021

Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,

It is hard to believe another convention has come and gone. It was so good to see each of you and get to have a time of fellowship.

I was approached by several people, some seasoned ministers that have been in our fellowship for many years, and they stated this may be the best convention we've ever had! There was such a spirit of love and unity. So fitting with our theme being, "and He went about doing good."

I encourage each of you to remember to follow the example of Jesus, go about doing good. I would like to share this article by a pastor that I don't know personally, however his words are my exact thoughts, so I feel like it is essential that I pass this on to you.

*Laboring together for the greater cause,
Rev. Jim Yates
General Superintendent*

Perspective by Pastor Tim Brown

"Pastor Tim, these are momentous and perilous times. You and your church need to take a stand."

We have. We stand on Jesus Christ. There is salvation in no one else and there is no other name given under heaven whereby people can be saved.

"No – I mean you have to take a stand when it comes to opening or closing and masking or not masking and pro-vaccination or anti-vaccination."

No, I don't have to take a stand on those things. The church I serve will serve those who have differing opinions and convictions on all those matters.

- You don't set the narrative for the Church – Jesus does.*
- You don't set the imperatives for the Church – Jesus does.*
- You don't set the agenda for the Church – Jesus does.*
- The mission, mandate, and message of the Church comes from Jesus and not from some think tank somewhere.*

*I cannot depart from the narrative, the imperatives, and the agenda of Jesus to serve your small vision.
I cannot depart from the mission, mandate, and message of the Jesus to serve your narrow vision.*

"Well, don't you have opinions and convictions when it comes to these matters?"

Yes, I do. And I will stand by them. But the only thing I will stand on is the salvation that is found in Christ and in Christ alone. I will not let any of those things, and a thousand others, define what the Church of Jesus is. The Church of Jesus Christ serves maskers and anti-maskers, vaccers and anti-vaccers, Democrats and Republicans. I want to be known for our stand on eternal matters and not the cultural issues of the day. I want to be known for declaring the salvation that is in Jesus Christ and not for being a champion for the cultural cause of the day.

From where I sit, maskers have good and foolish reasoning and anti-maskers have good and foolish reasoning. The same goes for vaccers and anti-vaccers. The same applies to Democrats and Republicans. To wholly identify with one excludes the other. To wholly identify with Jesus Christ includes all who love Him and excludes all who reject Him. Remember this story –

John answered and said, "Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name; and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow along with us." But Jesus said to him, "Do not hinder him; for he who is not against you is for you." Luke 9: 49-50

- I saw someone preaching Jesus with a mask on and I tried to prevent him because he does not follow along with me. Jesus rebuked me.*
- I came across an anti-vaccer preaching the gospel and I tried to prevent him because he doesn't follow along with me. Jesus rebuked me.*
- I encountered a Democrat preaching Jesus and I tried to prevent him because he doesn't follow along with me. Jesus rebuked me.*
- I heard a Republican preaching Jesus and I tried to prevent him because he doesn't follow along with me. Jesus rebuked me.*

****Continue on page 2****

*My twisted sense of righteousness prevents the preaching of Jesus.
Let's not allow a cause to eclipse Christ.
Let's not allow the good to overshadow the Best.
The narrative and imperatives and agenda for the Church come from Jesus – and not from an article on Google.
The mission and mandate and message of the Church come from Jesus – and not from your favorite pastor.
Church, don't become more zealous for a cause than for Jesus Christ.
Pastors, don't allow the things you stand by to become the things you stand on. Take your stand on Christ alone.
May the church you serve be known by the Jesus you preach and not the cause you champion.
Rev. Jim Yates, General Superintendent*

ARKANSAS WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Theme: "Mary Chose That Which Was Better" Luke 10:42

Saturday, September 25, 2021, 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Lunch: El Acapulco (everyone pay for your own lunch)

Place: Living Word Fellowship

1600 W. Main, Corning, Arkansas

Rev. William & Janice Allen, Pastors

Speakers: Sister Kathy Butler

Rev. Alison Yates, National Fine Arts Director & Missouri Ladies President

For more information contact: Host: Rev. Janice Allen (870) 335-8687

Rev. Cheryl Johnson (870) 239-8811,

Arkansas State Ladies President

National Ladies Retreat

Its that time again for our annual Ladies Retreat. We will meet again at

Lebanon Mo. at the Wallace Building 325 Harwood.

God has brought us thru another year to glorify Him. Are you ready for what God has for you? He's still good and they that know their God shall do exploits. The greater one is inside us.

Our dates are October 8th & 9th

Service starts at 7:00 on Friday night and Saturday morning 9:00-12:00

Make plans now to come. It's always exciting when we women get together. So much is accomplished in these services and classes.

Our theme this year is Psalm 34:3

"O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together."

Coming together is so important today for the Body of Christ. We need each other. It's time to exhort, encourage one another in the things of God.

Motels: Super 8 -417-588-2574

Holiday Express-417-532-1111

Hampton Inn-417-533-3100

American Best Value Inn-417-532-3133

Registration is \$4.00.

Looking forward to seeing each one of you.

In His Service- Sis Joyce Myers

Texas Ladies Conference

Theme: "What Chains Are You Carrying?" Psalms 2:3

Place: New Day Fellowship

7210 Hwy. 78, Suite D, Sanchez, Texas

(972) 743-1432

Friday & Saturday

October 15 at 7:00 PM

October 16 at 10:00 AM

*Friday Night Speaker: Patricia Singletary
Cornerstone Family Church, Richardson, Texas*

*Saturday Morning Speaker: Rev. Jean Criddle
FGCI Texas State Secretary/Treasurer*

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NATIONAL YOUTH DEPARTMENT

OFFERINGS go to:
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Send or call all inquiries and change of addresses to:
Rev. Amy Patrick
General Secretary/Treasurer
2101 East 34th Place
Joplin, Missouri 64804
(417) 850-1254

Send your email addresses to:
Email:
amyjopatrck44@yahoo.com

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THE ECHOES

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All submissions must be received no later than the 20th of the preceding month.

FGCI EMERGENCY DISASTER RELIEF

Vision statement:
Helping people in our group and enabling them to help others.
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All designated funds will go directly into this fund and are tax-deductible.

Since General Convention ended it has been a difficult time for my family and me. My mother, who I took care of in my home, had dementia and since returning home mom took a turn for the worse. The last couple of weeks we watched as mom's body began to shut down. The most amazing thing was the way she balanced between this world and Heaven. Her children had to all tell her it was alright to leave us, that we would be okay without her. Jesus took her Home August 21st at 9:30 in the morning. What rejoicing she is doing now!

I wanted to thank everyone who was involved in this year's FGCI Fine Arts Festival. We were so excited that we were able to have the festival this year, after last year's cancellation due to Covid19. This year's winners were as follows. Human Video, Jade and Jayme Hudson, Poetry, Jade Hudson, Puppetry, Rivers of Life Youth Group, Vocal Solo, Cheyenne Edington, Vocal Ensemble, Jodie Yates and Kelsey Hudgens, Worship band, Marilyn Rice, Jodie Yates, and Rebekah White.

Special Awards were also presented as follows: Ms. Cheyenne Edington, "Most Effective Ministry", and invitation to minister in the Ladies Service, and Worship Band Entry (Marilyn, Jodie, and Rebekah) with invitation to minister during the Youth Service.

Again, thank you so much to our judges, Rev. Jean Criddle, Rev. Cheryl Johnson, and Rev. Clayton Patrick! We look forward to growing Fine Arts this coming year. Please encourage your young people to step out and do something for the Lord! There is something for everyone to do. If you are interested in serving on a Fine Arts Committee or in any way, please reach out to me. Thank you FGCI!

***Blessings,
Rev. Alison Yates
Fine Arts Director***

***"My voice shalt thou hear in the
Morning, O LORD; In the morning
will I direct my prayer unto thee, and
will look up." Psalms 5:3***

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