

AFBC Class of '99



BACK ROW:

Daniel McCain, Rachel Hernandez, Nicole Ashwell, Cheryl Bensch, Traci Nelson, Tim Wasson, Brian Moser, Calvin Barber

MIDDLE ROW:

Keith Buschman, Jon Lewis, Willie Sims, Tara Cloud, Julie Barker, Roni Freshour, Kalle Hollis, Troy Foster, Brian Robinson, Denise Robinson, Darla Oakes

BOTTOM ROW:

Howard Whiteley, Yvonna Whiteley, Leola Buschman, Benny Buschman, Karen Grimmer, Savoy Grimmer, Bev Karber, Winston Barker, Christina Hawley, Bill Derixson

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The Apostolic Faith Report

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**BY LAWS OF THE
 Apostolic Faith Bible College, Inc.
 ARTICLE VII**

Doctrine

It is recognized that the true church of Jesus Christ consists of all believers who believe in the saving grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and who have accepted Him as their personal Savior. It is recognized and agreed that no organization or man has been granted authority by the Lord to exclude from or accept anyone into the Kingdom of Heaven, as this is done by Jesus Christ only. It is further recognized and agreed that we as Christians are to love all members of the Body of Christ (Christians), and this love and fellowship derives from the unity instilled by the Holy Spirit. Although differences in doctrinal beliefs and interpretations should not influence our love for one another, adherence to similar doctrinal beliefs and modes of worship have bonded together those of the Apostolic Faith Movement as founded by Charles F. Parham in the early 1900's. The scripture teaches us to adhere to the truth and proper doctrine. The common doctrinal beliefs are essentially as follows.

- Triune God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Creation and Formation.
- Man is basically sinful and in need of Salvation.
- Salvation by Grace upon repentance toward God and acceptance of Jesus Christ as one's personal Savior, which is the conception of Spiritual Life.
- Sanctification of the Spirit, Soul and Body, A second definite work of Grace by the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Baptism of the Holy Spirit; evidenced by the speaking in other languages.
- Water Baptism (of all believers) by immersion in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.
- Washing of Feet.
- Divine Healing through Jesus Christ for all believers.
- Do not condone divorce and remarriage.
- Destruction of the Wicked
- Conditional Immortality.
- Rapture of the Man Child Class.
- Return of Jesus Christ to earth again; bodily and visibly.
- A ministry supported by tithes and offerings.

These doctrines shall be adhered to in the teachings of the Apostolic Faith Bible College, which in addition to other doctrinal teaching approved by the Board from time to time if they are not in consistent with the above listed basic doctrines.

*Happiness is ...
 a by-product of goodness.
 Selected*

Apostolic Faith Church Bible College, Inc.

by Savoy Grimmer, Superintendent

(Editor's Note: The following is a copy of the introductions of last year's promotional team given at the Final Concert during the Bible College's closing activities. Please locate their picture on the cover of this report.)

It is my privilege to introduce to you the Apostolic Faith Bible College Promotional Group.

For the last seven years she has not enjoyed a Summer or Christmas Vacation without having to worry about what songs we will sing during the upcoming semester. She listens to hundreds of songs from current artists as well as those written by many of the people of the Apostolic Faith Movement and by the Bible College Students in order to find the songs with the right message. She has written the words and music to ten songs and has written the music to five others. It has been her silent ministry that has made the largest influence with those outside the school. It is not enough to select the appropriate song, but she must wait to make the final selections and arrangements until the students arrive. She never knows how much or how little talent she will have to work with. Often the students have sung very little or have never sung harmony. Even though she plays the keyboard and is learning the violin, she must teach students how to play all the instruments. She works with the instrument players until they can play the introductions and endings she has arranged. Many of the students have never played an instrument before. It is my privilege to introduce to you our Choir Director, my wife and friend, Karen Grimmer.

Our bus mechanic is a first year student from Hollister, MO. He is the son of Tom Wasson and Janet Beard. He has safely navigated our group over the 6500 miles traveled through Missouri, Illinois, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Kansas. He has served as the sanitation engineer without complaint. Twice we have been stranded on the side of the road while he, working with the mechanic from Joplin by phone, repaired our transmission. He fills the bus with diesel, checks the oil and kicks the tires. I refer to him as my little buddy, but the students refer to him as Gilligan, it is my privilege to introduce to you, our bus mechanic, Mr. Tim Wasson.

Over the course of two years I have had the honor of working with this fine young man from Joplin, MO. He is the son of Phil and Mary Moser. He has maintained a 4.0 grade average all year long. His ministry has been the most influential, yet the least noticed or commented about. In truth, he has been the leader of the team. Without him doing his job correctly, the others could not do theirs. He has been responsible for the electronics. He maintains the interconnection of four major equipment components including amps, mixers, effects and recorders. The system includes the amplification of five musical instruments and four speakers. He must verify the integrity and repair as needed, over 282 solder

connections. Often his que that there is trouble includes an unwanted hum or at times, no sound at all. His work starts before all the others and often he must remain after the others. What a great burden he has lifted off my shoulders. It is my privilege to introduce to you, my Right-Hand Man, Mr. Brian Moser.

Now I would like to introduce to you the musicians and the singers. They have practiced one hundred and twelve hours during class time and were required to practice an additional fifty-six hours on their own for a total of one hundred and sixty-eight hours in a short five month period. We had roughly two and half months to prepare before each tour began. They have traveled over 6500 miles, through ten states, and the concert tonight marks our 51st concert this academic year. They have sung in churches, rest homes, high schools, a bank lobby and at Jackson Falls on the Natchez Trace in Tennessee. They have ministered in Apostolic Faith Churches, Baptist Churches, Church of God Churches, Community Churches, Full Gospel Churches and Independent Churches. They have loaded and unloaded, set-up and tore down and hauled the equipment over a hundred and two times. I believe these ten ministers have been called, commissioned, appointed and we trust, anointed to represent the Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The student musicians are as follows: Cheryl Bensch - keyboard, Julie Barker - marimba, Tara Cloud - rhythm guitar, Troy Foster - lead guitar, Daniel McCain - drums, Keith Buschman - bass guitar. The sign language expert is Kalle Hollis.

Our fiddle and mandolin player has been involved with the Bible College for five years. Two years as a student and three years as a faculty member. She is the Secretary of School, the Dean of Women and the Instructor of Old Testament History. She has played the fiddle for over fourteen years. Over the last five years she has traveled with the promotional groups over 29,000 miles and ministered in 168 concerts. It is with extreme honor that I introduce to you my spiritual daughter, Ms. Darla Oakes.

Our bus driver and tour pastor has been the Superintendent for seven years. He has taken 15 promotional tours and has driven 14 of them for a total of over 40,000 miles. He has driven four different buses: a 1952 Golden Eagle; a loaner bus from Gale Webb Transportation of Joplin, MO; a 1984, Ford, People Mover; and currently, he is driving a 1970, GMC, 49 passenger bus.

He has broken down in Kingman, KS, Roy, NM, Mosquero, NM, Montgomery, AL, Hempstead, TX, Orange, TX and Woodward, OK.

He has blown tires in White Deer, TX and in Columbus, TX and he ran the bus completely out of diesel in Follett, TX. In all the calamities, he has missed only one scheduled concert, largely due to the graciousness of the hosting Pastors. It is an honor to introduce to you our Superintendent, Mr. Savoy Grimmer.

News About Our People



NEWS ABOUT OUR PEOPLE

Alvin, TX

We have so much to be thankful for. Our Pastor and his wife, Bro. Johnny and Sis. Kathy Arnall, will be staying another year as Pastor. Bro. Arnall has been bringing Spirit-filled messages. We have been having some altar services with people earnestly seeking God.

During Spring break some of our youth spent time at the *Mission to Mexico* orphanage in Renosa, Mexico. This was quite an experience for them.

In March the *Apostolic Faith Bible College* visited our church. We always enjoy them.

Some of our youth attended the *South Texas Youth Camp*. Morgan Goings and Trenton Doty won a *Mr. Pops Scholarship* to Youth Camp. We appreciate our youth and the interest they have in the Lord. Brian Moser of Joplin, MO, a 1999 graduate of AFBC, has recently come to work with our youth. He will marry Cheryl Bensch of Logan, OK. in September and they both will be working with our church. We will be having *Vacation Bible School* soon and we know God will bless.

Johnny & Kathy Arnall, Pastors
Dorothy Cannon, Reporter

Wedding Announcement Hawley - Derixson

Desiring God's will for their lives and believing that included one another, Christina Hawley and William (Bill) Derixson were united in marriage on May 22, 1999 at the Apostolic Faith Church in Baxter Springs, KS. Rev. Paul Clanton and Rev. Savoy Grimmer officiated. A dinner reception followed at the Baxter Springs Community Center.

Christina and Bill were both members of the faculty at the Apostolic Faith Bible College for the 1998-99 term. They will be living in Kingman, KS.

Parents of the couple are Mr. & Mrs. John Hawley of Riverton, KS and Leroy and Roberta Derixson of IL.



Birth Announcements

Harris

Charles and Andrea Harris of Taneyville, MO announce the birth of a daughter, Kennedy Laurann Harris, on March 4, 1999. She weighed 8 lbs. 1 oz. and was 21 inches long.

Grandparents are Ron and Shirley Freshour of Columbus, TX and Roger and Martha Sims of Taneyville, MO.

Kennedy was welcomed by her sisters, Serena, age 9, and Sydney, age 6.



Whiteley

Our home has increased by six feet! On April 10, 1999, God blessed us with not one, not two, but three precious bundles of joy; Ryan Howard, 4 lbs. 3 1/2 oz., 17 in. long; Renee Gabriela, 3 lbs. 6 oz., 16 5/8 in. long; and Rebekah Lynn, 3 lbs. 11 oz, 17 1/4 in. long.

Their parents are Lynn and Ute Whiteley of Bristow, VA. Grandparents are the following: Rev. & Mrs. Howard Whiteley of Baxter Springs, KS, Ludgar and Edith Thielmeier of Germany and Great-Grandfather Rev. E. K. Cornell of Woodward, OK.

Camp Meeting '99

1999 is here and Camp Meeting time will be here before we realize. I feel very inadequate to fill the position of Camp Chairman, but I will do the best I can with God's help. My sincere thanks to Bro. Frank Arnall and Bro. Howard Whiteley for consenting to co-chair with me. The burden lays very heavy on my heart when I stop and realize this is the last Camp Meeting this century, and the last Camp Meeting for this millennium. Who Knows? This could be the last Camp Meeting we'll ever have. I know full well, "*no man knoweth the day nor the hour*", but for many years our Bible students and teachers have pointed to the year 2000 with great expectation and longing. With the Y2K predictions, this could easily throw the world into turmoil that could precipitate us into the tribulation period. With this possibility in mind, I feel this is the time we should all get earnest before God, to seek Him for the things we need. We sincerely seek your prayers and thank you all for your support for Camp Meeting, this year of all years.

Lee Oakes, Frank Arnall, Howard Whiteley, Committee

Life In A Pressure Cooker

by Bob Taylor, Laverne, OK

In our day and age, we find ourselves hanging dangerously, with heavy weights of anxiety, on very thin ice of patience. There is so much demanded of us in our society. Competition requires high-level performance. If we can't do the job, someone else is ready to step into our place. As people demand, tempers flare, stomachs turn, ulcers bleed, hearts break, nerves unravel, minds blow. Some just drop out while others struggle just to cope with the situations. A college professor once said, when asked how he was doing, "I'm growing and learning. I used to say great! Any more I realize I'm not always on top and doing good." God's people should face the fact that there are more "growing and learning" days than "great and fantastic" days. Growing and learning is a healthy and normal experience.

It's sometime painful and very slow. Life is not a Disneyland, rose garden or a cloud nine. Such expectations are not only unrealistic but they are also not Biblical. II Corinthians 4:5-10. Paul describes life as persevering thru afflictions, crushings and the blasts of life, without despairing and giving up, but rather walking in victory. Rest assured that Jesus Christ will stay with you and see you through, though you may err, though you feel deeply hurt, though you feel misunderstood and want to quit. Jesus o'er shadows our low tides, just as much as He does our times of estatic joy! It's when we feel the bottom dropping out that we start feeling Jesus slipping in the back door of our lives with deliverance. This is why the children of God can cope. It's because they have help from the Lord, so they can keep their heads up high and keep going on for the Lord. Unsaved folks have wondered how Christians can endure some of the things that come in life and how they keep smiling.

There are four common misconceptions about what a Christian life is about.

1. Because you are a Christian, all your problems disappear Jesus promised us that He would never leave nor forsake us but He did also promise that "In the world ye shall have tribulations, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

2. All the problems that we will ever have are addressed in the Bible Sweeping statements like that are unwise. God does not give us examples of many problems and their answers, but God often forces us into situations that require a walk by faith. Abraham walked by faith, trusting God for every days direction.

3. If you are having problems you are unspiritual Having problems simply proves that you are human. Look at Job, he didn't have the answer. His so called friends didn't have the answer either. Job was certainly spiritual, but he had enormous problems. God brought him through in victory!

4. Being exposed to sound Bible teachings automatically solves problems You can drive a Chevrolet in to the garage, but it won't become a Lincoln Town car. The scriptures can either be a savour unto life or a savour

unto death. Think of the scriptures as being a road map. It will tell you exactly how to get to a certain destination, but just looking at the map won't get you there. It will take effort, paying the cost, taking the time to travel and then stay at it until you come to your destination.

Hebrews 5:11-14 tells us about maturing and also the lack of it. The Hebrew people had heard the gospel, but it did not register with them. You can grow old in the Lord and never grow up in the Lord. Practicing what you have heard is maturing. Don't be a 60 year old going on 6. There are people who have read and have heard it read and discussed for years and they still are the crankiest, most irresponsible people you will ever meet. Why? Because they don't practice what they have heard. Maturing is hearing, absorbing Bible truths, then allowing those truths to pervade our inner being; down deep inside where our attitudes are formed, where decisions are made.

If we are a mature Christian and bad circumstances arise, we can cope sensibly and face the realities of life. When irritations come, just obey God and carry out his word in dealing with the situation. When temptations come, apply the principles of the scriptures and they will help you to be victorious. When sin of the flesh arises, apply the advice given in the Bible ... Repent! It's in the experiences and application of the word that we grow and mature.

Hearing the doctor say that you have a malignant tumor won't cause it to go away. Either you will have to believe God for his divine healing or go to the surgeon to have it removed. Being exposed to the truth of the gospel will not save you nor will it mature you. Although the Bible is a trustworthy book, it has no magic potion. God's word offers no quick fix for eternity. We must apply what we hear, obey God's word and then persevere as we grow in the Lord. Persevere means to apply what we have heard and know it to be truth. The truth shall make you free! Whosoever is free is free indeed! We are living in a real world, facing real problems. It's not in man to direct his steps. We need God! We must be anchored in the Lord.

Consecration

"Will you please tell me in a word," said a Christian woman to a minister, "what your idea of consecration is?"

Holding out a blank sheet of paper the pastor replied, "It is to sign your name at the bottom of this blank sheet, and to let God fill in as He will."

In Memory Of

Christina Nelson

Oct. 18, 1983 - Mar. 1999



Christina Marie Nelson was born October 18, 1983 in Lander, WY to parents Lee and Shirley Nelson. When she was 1 1/2 years old she moved to Baxter Springs, KS where her parents attended the *Apostolic Faith Bible College* from 1985-1987.

Because of her parents being in the ministry, Christina lived in many different places including Arnett, OK; Snyder, TX; Fernandina Beach, FL and Amarillo, TX.

Christina had been in school in Amarillo for the last four years. At *Horace Mann Middle School* she was very involved in the *Bufs Peer* mediation group. This group helped other students settle their differences with one another. The *Bufs* group was also involved in community service projects. Christina helped the group raise money for the *Make-a-Wish Foundation* to provide the wish of a young lady who was dying from MS.

When she was in 7th grade she helped on a project involving the video taping of class activities and class pictures. The video was a graduation present for the outgoing 8th grade class.

At *Horace Mann*, Christina received many awards for her good grades and her involvement in school projects.

At the time of her death, Christina was a freshman at *Palo Dura High School*. She was very involved in the *Air Force Junior ROTC* program. She held several positions including Information Management, Logistics and Flight Sergeant.

Christina often sang specials in church services. She was blessed with a truly beautiful voice. Two of her friends, Heather Stover and Kimberly O'Donald would join her in her in singing. They blessed the congregation with their songs.

Christina is remembered by her family and friends as always having a beautiful smile on her face. If she saw someone who looked sad, she would try to encourage them. If she heard someone was having a problem she would try to help them solve it.

Christina was nicknamed "*Sister Christina*" because she preached Jesus to students and teachers alike. She was never afraid to stand up for what she believed in. When her class was studying evolution, she did a report on how God created the universe according to the book of Genesis.

Christina's funeral was held March 9th at Blackburn - Shaw Funeral Home in Amarillo TX. Over 500 of her family and friends attended.

The service began with a color guard from the *AFJRO-*

Christina Nelson Memorial continued ...

TC unit. The pallbearers were also uniformed cadets from the unit. Pastor Jack Cornell of the *Apostolic Faith Church* in Woodward OK officiated. Organ music was provided by Sister Yvonne Whiteley of Baxter Springs KS. Soloist Gary Sutton sang Christina's favorite song "In The City Where The Lamb Is The Light". Tara Cloud of Joplin MO and Angie Downs of Amarillo TX also sang. Christina's older sister interpreted a song using sign language.

Graveside services were performed by Pastor Alvin Buschman from the *Apostolic Faith Church* in Cave Springs AR. He encouraged Christina's classmates to carry on her work of encouraging one another and to stand strong in their faith in Jesus.

Survivors include her parents Lee and Shirley Nelson, sister Traci Nelson and brother Michael Nelson. Grandparents are Henry and Dorothy Szczepanski of Lander, WY., Clarence and Mildred Echols of Cheyenne, WY.

Thank You

Dearest Brothers and Sisters,

Words can never adequately express our gratitude for the outpouring of love we received when our daughter, Christina Nelson, died. I don't think any of you will ever truly know how much all you did meant to us.

We thank you for the cards, flowers, food, help around the house, the financial support, phone calls, visits, your prayers and those who traveled many miles to be with us. These were a great comfort to us in our shock and sorrow.

God bless each of you.
The Nelson Family

Rev. G. K. "Bitsy" Rees

Mar. 9, 1999

Rev. G. K. Rees, age 80, of Webb City, MO passed away on March 9, 1999 at St. John's Medical Center of Joplin, MO after a long illness.

Rev. Rees, *Pastor Emeritus of Frisco Church* had been in full time ministry for nearly sixty-three years. Thirty-three of those years were spent as pastor of Frisco Church until his retirement in 1985. During his tenure as pastor, the congregation grew to attendance of over 500 and became one of the larger churches in Webb City. Rev. Rees was a pioneer in the *Early Pentecostal Revival* and he and his brother, Sidney, traveled extensively in tent meetings. In 1947 Rev. Rees traveled the newly constructed *Alcan Highway* to Alaska with his wife and infant son and built a new church, now



G. K. "Bitsy" Reese Memorial continued ...

known as the *Marantha Chapel*. In 1997 Rev. Rees preached at the church's 50th anniversary service. In October friends and family attended Bro. Rees' 80th birthday at his home.

Born in Center Point, TX, Rev. Rees was a graduate of the *Center Point High School* and the *Apostolic Faith Bible College* in Baxter Springs, KS. Rev. Rees married Ruby Nealy of Webb city in 1944. Together they worked in the ministry and authored three books. Rev. Rees is survived by his wife Ruby; a son Gary and his wife Sharon of Fayette, MO; a daughter Janice Lamb and her husband Jim Lamb of Webb City, MO; a sister, Doris Frye and her husband David of Amarillo, TX; a grandson, Dustin Lamb and his wife Kim of Webb City, MO; and grandsons Jared Lamb and Derek Lamb of Webb City, MO.

Funeral services were held on March 12, 1999 at *Frisco Church* and burial was in the *Ozark Memorial Park Cemetery*. Rev. Bob Palmer and Rev. Steve Hutchinson officiated.

House Of Flesh

by Lowell Long, Neosho, MO

If this flimsy house of flesh,
this tabernacle where I dwell,
should fail but in a moment's time,
Oh God, I know all shall be well.

For all the millions of the earth,
by scripture's truth are doomed to fall,
and what am I but passerby,
tuned into His immortal call.

And should I gain the battlements
to view bright fame's alluring sweep,
there's but a breath from fame to death,
and God's appointment I will keep.

And so this flesh we count so dear,
a borrowed shell to house the light,
a trembling frame for spirit's flame
that soon will vanish from the sight.

Of mankind's poor, deluded race,
his reckless disregard of life,
in endless quest from birth to death,
to reap the bitter sheaves of strife.

What if this flimsy house of flesh,
should fall but in a moment's time,
dissolve this poor hut where I dwell,
I'll answer still, with rising thrill,
"Yes, Lord, I know that all is well."



Pity The Children

by Mrs. Laurel Wilson

Now I sit me down in school,
Where praying is against the rule,
For this great nation under God,
Finds public mention of Him odd.
Any prayer a class recites,
Now violates the Bill of Rights,
Any time my head I bow,
Becomes a federal matter now.
Teach us of stars and the equator,
But make no mention of their Creator.
Tell us of exports to Denmark and Sweden,
But not one word of what Eve did in Eden.
The law is specific, the law is precise,
Praying out loud is no longer nice.
Praying aloud in a public hall
Upsets unbelievers in nothing at all.
In silence alone can we meditate
And, if God should get the credit, great!
This rule, however, has a gimmick in it;
You've got to be finished in a minute.
So all I ask is a minute of quiet,
If I feel like praying, then maybe I'll try it.
If not, oh Lord, this plea I make,
Should I die in school, my soul you'll take.

(Editors Note: I found this poem in some older papers and thought it would be a good time to print it. Our love and prayers go out to all the families in our country that have lost children at school. May God bless and comfort them.)

The Importance of Our Minds or (How Is Your Head?)

by Travis Bard, Joplin, MO

Psalms 19:14 says, "*Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.*" In the original Hebrew, the word heart is synonymous with the mind and the thought processes. Proverbs 23:7 says, "*...for as he thinketh in his heart, so he is.*" Our mind is very important to our spiritual life. It is in the mind that sin begins. It is the focus of our thoughts that will allow us to have enough faith to believe God, or that will prevent us from having that faith. It is the meditation of our heart that will drive our attitudes and actions.

If we are tempted to sin, that temptation will begin in our mind. James 1:14 says that "*every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lusts and enticed.*" Notice that these are own lusts, not something that Satan has brought to us. In Matthew 15:16-20, Christ said that it is not the things that go into the body that defile, but rather those things that come out of the mouth, that originated in the heart or mind. Mark 7:20-23. If we allow into our mind things that will be tempting to us later, we are setting ourselves up for a failure. Our actions, and our attitudes are a direct result of what is in our mind and what we meditate on. You see, we cannot be tempted by what we do not think. Conversely, if we allow ourselves to meditate on the things of the world, we will find those things becoming strongholds that Satan will use to defeat us. Luke 6:45 tells us that the fruit borne out in our life will reflect what is in our heart.

What we think and how we think, will have a profound impact on our spiritual lives. Romans 8:6 says, "*For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*" We often apply this scripture to point out a difference between those who love Christ and those who are in sin. It is important to point out that to be carnally minded simply means to have thought processes that are after the flesh, and not after the spirit. Carnal means of the senses or fleshly. Christians can allow their thought to become carnal and the result will not be life and peace but death. Paul warns the Ephesians in chapter 4 of his letter to them to, "*Walk not as other Gentiles, in the vanity of their mind, having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who past feeling ... That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupted according to deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind.*" Walking after the vanity of their mind means to be occupied with the depravity or inutility of the mind of this world. Doing this leads to blindness of heart (callousness or hardness), being past feeling (becoming apathetic) and being alienated from the life of God. Being renewed in the spirit of your mind means having your mental disposition or way of thinking changed. In other words, allowing our minds to be filled with the world's philosophies rather than the things of Christ will damage our spiritual life.

Romans 1:20-22. How many Christians come home, turn on a television, and bombard their minds with the world's philosophies, the world's attitudes, and the world's sinful lifestyles and then wonder why it seems that their Christian walk is a struggle. Filling our minds with the things of this world will cause us to be weak spiritually. Colossians 2:8 tells us to, "*beware lest any man spoil you through vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*" To spoil means to strip off all that is good or valuable, just as a conquering army would spoil a city. Allowing our thoughts to be conformed to the world's standards will strip us spiritually of faith and power in Christ. To be carnally minded is death ..., but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Being spiritually minded builds our faith, and allows us to experience the peace of mind, joy, spiritual strength, and prosperity that Christ intends for us to have. Psalms 1:1-4 tells us the result of a mind that is stayed on the word of God. We will experience prosperity and stability. Joshua 1:8 tells us that the way to prosperity is through a mind that meditates on the law of the Lord day and night. Isaiah 26:3 says, "*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusteth in thee.*" I am reminded of Peter. His mind, his attention was stayed on Christ, and as a result he walked in faith on the water in the midst of a storm. It was when he focused on the world around him that his faith was weakened and he began to sink. If we are trying to believe God for healing, we will not see it accomplished by focusing our thoughts on the bad news from the doctor, or on all the symptoms of the disease. Do we really believe what God said about healing? The word of God says in Isaiah that with his stripes we are healed, looking to the future price that would be paid for our healing, and in I Peter, by His stripes we were healed, looking back on a work that was already done. The word of God says, that if any be sick, they should call for the elders of the church, who would lay hands on them, and they WOULD recover. You see, if you are meditating on the hopelessness of the word from the doctor, your faith to receive these things will be weak, but if your complete focus is on what the Word of God says, you will find your faith growing by leaps and bounds. "*Now faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*" Romans 10:17. What we think on and meditate on is completely under our control. We decide whether we will focus on what God says or on what the world's philosophy says. If we are tuned in to the world's philosophies, how can our faith be strong? We should have our minds stayed on the word, not on the world.

Romans 12:2 is a very familiar scripture to most of us. "*And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.*" It is important for us to renew our minds. Mark 12:30 says, "*And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with*

all thy mind, and with all thy strength..." I Peter 1:13 tells us to gird up the loins of our mind. Our mind is our imagination, thought, or its exercise. Renewing our mind is not always easy, and there will be a battle. II Corinthians 10:3-5 points out the fact that we do not war against the flesh, but rather we war in our own minds. A great deal of spiritual warfare consists of, "*casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.*" The real battle is in our mind. Do you cast down worldly imaginations and thoughts, or do you entertain them?

How do I renew my mind? Let me give some practical suggestions that I believe will help to transform you and build your faith. First, as Christians, we need to be in the Word as we never have before. John 14:12-14 tells us that we should do the same things that Christ did, and greater. The prerequisite is that we believe on Him. We have this faith by being full of the word of God. I believe that television is one of the tools that Satan uses more than any other against us. If we will sit still and allow the world's attitudes and philosophies to bombard our mind instead of the word of God, our faith will be weak. You cannot experience success in your relationship with God if you are double-minded. Go on a media fast and for a period of time fill your mind solely with the word. You may find it so satisfying and find your spiritual life take off to the degree that you begin to have a hunger for the word of God like never before. Remember that the word of God is quick (literally alive, or full of life) and powerful and sharper than any two edged sword.... and that faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Fasting is another way of focusing our thoughts on the Lord. When we fast we must put the flesh and the desires of our body for food under subjection. When you fast, don't just go without food, but fill every spare moment with meditation on the word and prayer. Fasting is not about convincing God to do something, it's about bringing ourselves to the point where we can get our flesh out of the way and be used of God. I used to find it difficult to study the word of God. The problem was that I did not have an appetite for the Word. I was like a man who was malnourished. When food was available, I was so used to starving that I was not hungry. When I began to bombard my mind with the Word, I began to have an appetite for more. I found my relationship with the Lord seemed stronger and better than I have ever remembered it.

The mind is where the battle is at. David, a mighty man after God's own heart, repeatedly stated that it was his desire to meditate on the things of the Lord. Are you having difficulties? Does your faith seem weak? Refocus your mind.

A Letter from Jesus

Author Unknown
My Precious Friend,

I am sending you this letter by way of one of my disciples. I just wanted to let you know how much I love and care about you and how greatly I desire to become a meaningful part of your life.

This morning when you awoke, I was already there with you in the light of my beautiful sunshine that filled your room. I was hoping that you would say good morning to me; you didn't. So, I thought maybe it was just a little too early in the day for you to notice me.

Again, I tried to get your attention when you stepped out of your door. I kissed your face with a soft gentle breeze. I breathed upon you my fragrant sweet breath scented flowers. Then I sang you a love song through the birds in the trees. You just walked past me.

Later on in the day, I watched over you as you were talking with some of your friends. Oh! How I wished that you would talk to me also. I waited and waited, but you just went along your way.

This afternoon I sent you a refreshing shower and glistened to you in each raindrop. I even shouted to you a time or two with thunder trying to get your attention. Then, I painted you a lovely rainbow in the midst of my fluffy clouds. I just knew you would see me then, but you were unaware of my presence.

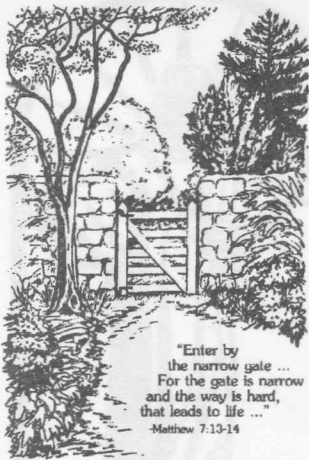
This evening to close your day, I sent you a beautiful sunset. After that, I winked at you a thousand times through my stars hoping that you would see me and wink back. You never did.

Tonight, when you went to bed, I spilled moonlight upon your face to let you know that I was there with you. I was hoping that you would talk to me a little while before you went to sleep. You never said a word. It hurt me deeply; however I continued to watch over you all through the night thinking that, maybe, just maybe, you would say hello to me in the morning.

Each and every day, I have revealed myself to you in many strange and wondrous ways hoping that you would accept me as your Shepherd. For, I am the only one that can supply you with all your needs. My love for you is deeper than the deepest ocean and bigger than the great blue sky. I have so very much to give to you and also share with you. Please let me hear from you soon.

Your loving friend forever,
Jesus





"Enter by the narrow gate ... For the gate is narrow and the way is hard, that leads to life ... -Matthew 7:13-14"

Cracked or Perfect; We Can Make A Difference!

Author Unknown

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on each end of a pole which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, and while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of

water at the end of the long walk from the stream to the master's house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water in his master's house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect to the end for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do. After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream.

"I am ashamed of myself, and want to apologize to you."

"Why?" asked the bearer. "What are you ashamed of?"

"I have been able, for these past two years, to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your master's house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts," the pot said.

The water bearer felt sorry for the old cracked pot, and in his compassion he said, "As we return to the master's house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path."

Indeed, as they went up the hill, the old cracked pot took notice of the sun warming the beautiful wild flowers on the side of the path, and this cheered it some. But at the end of the trail, it still felt bad because it had leaked out half its load, and so again he expressed his feeling to the water bearer.

He replied by saying, "Did you notice that flowers were only on your side of your path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I took advantage of it. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back from the stream, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my master's table. Without you being just the way you are, he would not have this beauty to grace his house."

The moral of this story is that we all have our faults, but we all have a path to follow and that path we make must have a reason to our being.

The Old Minister, the Boy, and the Tombstone

One day an old minister in England walked into his churchyard and, sitting down on a tombstone, began to weep. He wept because his church officers had just notified him that he was getting old and that he ought to resign and let a younger man take his place. As he sat there disconsolate, he saw a boy with sunshine in his face and joy in his heart, coming down the street beyond the cemetery fence. The old preacher was fond of boys, and he called the boy to him and had him sit down beside him on the tombstone. There he forgot his sorrow as he talked with the boy about the meaning of life and told him about Christ and His salvation.

Presently the boy left him and went on his happy way down the street. The old preacher went back to his manse and to his sorrow. Not long afterward he was called to his eternal home.

If it were permitted the dead in Christ to behold what transpires on earth, then this is what the old preacher would see: He would see that boy with whom he talked become a lay preacher, a teacher and a cobbler. In his schoolroom and cobbler shop he had fashioned a large leather globe; and scholars in his class and customers who came in for their shoes have seen the face of the teacher-cobbler suffused with emotion as he pointed to land after land on that globe and said, "And these are the pagans!" After a few years he saw that boy to whom he talked to in the cemetery become the pioneer missionary to India who translated the Scriptures into the dialects of the East. That boy was William G. Carey!

Attempt great things for God!

Separation

by Traci Nelson

Show me your will, O Lord,
I want to do your work.

Mold me and build me,
No matter how it hurts.

Here I am, send me,
Only in your time.

Write the book of my life,
Allow me not to enter one line.

You are speaking to my heart,
I desire to go and do.

Take my life in your hands,
I want what pleases you.

Lead me as a child,
Be quick to tell me when I stray.

Guide my feet on my journey,
For you are the only way.



Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock. -Isaiah 26:4

The Storm Chapter

by Editor Karen Oakes,
Joplin, MO

A few weeks ago, our daughter Valerie called one morning. The weather had been stormy the night before and we were talking about that, when she said to me, "Mom, do you remember when I was little, how we went

to the storm cellar when it stormed? Can you remember the scriptures that you always told us whenever it stormed, you know, *The Storm Chapter*?" Well, to be truthful, I remembered quoting scripture, but I didn't remember any being called "*The Storm Chapter*". I think what really happened was that I always quoted the same scripture for every storm so she called it "*The Storm Chapter*." Then she told me what "*The Storm Chapter*" was and how well I remembered and what really thrilled my heart was that she remembered. Seeds planted when children are young do take root and grow.

After our conversation was over and I had hung up the phone, I picked up my Bible and read "*The Storm Chapter*" again. The name she gave it as a child really fit, she was right. As I read it, I thought, we need "*The Storm Chapter*" more today than in the days that we went to the storm cellar when the weather was so rough.

There are storms in the air - the clouds on the horizon are getting darker, the winds of adversity are blowing and we need to seek shelter. There is a feeling of uncertainty and we must be under God's protection.

So again I will share "*The Storm Chapter*". Take it into your heart, live by it, trust in it --- It will see you through.

The Storm Chapter *Psalm 91*

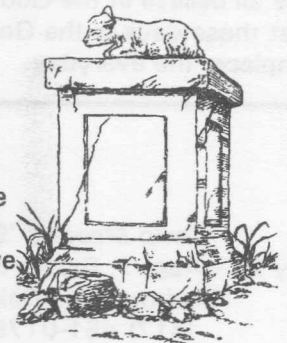
1. He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
2. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress; my God ; in him will I trust.
3. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.
4. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.
5. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day
6. Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness: nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.

7. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.
8. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.
9. Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation.
10. There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.
11. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.
12. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.
13. Thou shalt tread upon the adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.
14. Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.
15. He shall call upon me , and I will answer him: I will deliver him, and honour him.
16. With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

Thank you Lord, for peace and shelter in the midst of the storm.

Back to Bethel

Where is your "*Bethel*"? Hundreds of students have passed through these doors of AFBC chapel and at these very altars have found their "*Bethel*". What prayers have been prayed in this chapel that you can share with us?



We would appreciate if you would take time to write down a testimony and leave it with us for a memorial to this "*Bethel*" in your life. We are interested in your testimony of answered prayers prayed in this chapel.

One of the reasons we desire to restore the chapel is because of the sacred place these altars hold in thousands of hearts. These altars offer a special place of prayer, and many still find that "*Bethel*" is still here for them when they return and pray at these altars. Please take the time to share with us a testimony of your "*Bethel*" at AFBC. And remember, these altars are always open for new "*Bethels*" to be created in hungry hearts by God.

Karen Grimmer

*Please send your testimony to the
Apostolic Faith Report
c/o Back to Bethel
Box 653
Baxter Springs, KS 66713*

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God of the Humdrum

by Peter Marshall

If God is not in your typewriter as well as your hymn-book, there is something wrong with your religion.

If God does not enter your kitchen, there is something wrong with your kitchen.

If you can't take God into your recreation, there is something wrong with your play.

If God for you does not smile, there is something wrong with your idea of God.

We all believe in the God of the heroic. What we need most these days is the God of the humdrum...the commonplace, the everyday.

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1999 Movement-Wide Announcements

Camp Meeting '99

July 26 - Aug. 1, Baxter Springs, KS
Chairman Lee Oakes
(417) 451-0175

AFBC Fall '99 Term

Aug. 17 - Dec. 17

"A Time To Share"

Women's Prayer, Share, Praise
Sept. 18, 1:00-4:30 PM
Apostolic Faith Church
20173 Elm Rd., Prosperity, MO
call Kay Wheeler, 417-673-1567

Holy Convocation and Watch-Night Service

Dec. 29-31, 1999
Baxter Chapel
1009 Lincoln Ave.
Baxter Springs, KS.
Contact: Savoy Grimmer

AFBC Board Meeting Schedule

DATE LOCATION OCCASION

07-20-99¹, Baxter, Camp Meeting
08-17-99², Baxter, Semester Start
12-16-99², Baxter, Semester End
02-11-00³, ??????, Advisory Mtg.
05-11-00², Baxter, Year's Evaluation
05-12-00³, Baxter, Annual Business

¹ Starting at 1:30 PM

² Starting at 2:00 PM

³ Starting at 9:00 AM

It is the intention of the Board of Trustees to publish the agenda for each meeting in the Apostolic Faith Report. If anyone should have a comment on an agenda item or a suggested new item, please feel free to contact Chairman Austin Sutton, (417) 546-3382, as soon as possible.

"Habits of the Heart"

Women's Conference in Tyler, TX
Pine Cove Conference Center
Oct. 1-3, 1999
\$25 deposit deadline, Aug. 15
Call Polly Barker 281-391-9076
Box 897, Katy, TX 77492

AFBC Spring 2000 Term

Jan. 4 - May 12

100 Year Anniversary of the Holy Spirit Out-Pouring

Convocation and Watch-Night Service

Dec. 29-31, 2000

Baxter Chapel
1009 Lincoln Ave.
Baxter Springs, KS.

Contact: Savoy Grimmer