



APOSTOLIC TRUTH

NEWSLETTER OF THE MISSOURI DISTRICT OF THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

April - June 2024



What it Means to be a Disciple

Dr. Jason M. Hood, ACJC Missouri District Elder

Matthew 4 ends with Jesus traveling throughout Galilee, teaching in the synagogues, preaching the Gospel, and

doing many wonderful works of healing. Because of this, He began to gain a reputation as a healer and, consequently, was followed by a great multitude of people from all over the region. Doubtless, many followed Christ because of the healings and for no other reason. Their intentions were selfish. We see this demonstrated clearly in the events of John 6 when Jesus was accepted as He was feeding the thousands, but was rejected by all but twelve when He opened His mouth and began to teach.

In Matthew 5:1 we see the first instance of a distinction between those who sought Jesus' works and those who simply sought Jesus. The Lord goes up into a mountain, sits down, and waits. Notice that He did not command anyone to follow nor restrict anyone from making the same journey with Him. He went up into a mountain alone. The next move was for the multitude to make. It is here that we see, entering into the scene, a group called "His disciples."

The word disciple means "a follower or student of a teacher, leader, or philosopher." Our English word come from the Latin word *discipulus* (a learner) from the root *discere* (to learn). The Greek word used for disciple is *mathētēs* (μαθητής) and comes from math meaning "the mental effort needed to think something through." The individuals who came to Jesus on the mountain were not there for material blessings. They had decided upon a single course for their lives: we will put forth all of the effort necessary to listen to and take to heart what Jesus Christ is saying so that we may put it into practice in our lives.

When we made the decision to obey the Gospel and be born again, we were entering into a lifetime commitment of following Jesus wherever He may be and to listen attentively to every word of His teaching. Therein is life!

"... the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." (John 6:63)

The word disciple is closely related to the word discipline. This is very logical when you consider what "to become a disciple" means in Scripture. When Joseph of Arimathea is described in Matthew 27:57 as "a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also himself was discipled to Jesus" (Greek). Joseph was being trained as a learner so he could mature as a disciple of Christ and that his life might conform to the lifestyle required of a true believer.

An essential part of becoming a disciple of Christ is accepting that we need a teacher. Far too many come to Jesus with their mind made up of exactly how far they will go and what they will or will not do. A real student – a true disciple – approaches their trustworthy teacher with humility, realizing the teacher is the better knower and should be heard. What Jesus asks of those who follow Him is for the good of the disciple.

"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..." (Matthew 11:29-30)

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EDITOR

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Apostolic Truth is the official quarterly newsletter of the Missouri District of the Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ International, Inc.

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OUR MOTTO

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." – Psalm 133:1

"With Apostolic doctrine and Apostolic fellowship with an Apostolic aim, this body of Christian ministers and workers are determined and hope to obtain Apostolic results."

REMINDER

The first Monday of every month has been set aside as a day of prayer and fasting for the Missouri District ACJC.

"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ ..." Colossians 6:2

2024 ACJC MISSOURI FELLOWSHIP MEETINGS AND EVENTS

All fellowship meetings shall be held on a Saturday at 5PM unless otherwise noted.

Fellowship Meeting

June 1 at Louisburg

Fellowship Meeting

August 3 at Lebanon

Fall Family Fun Day

October 12

Bennet Springs State Park

Time TBA

Fellowship Meeting

November 2 at Louisburg

Ministers Banquet

December 7 at Lebanon

Continued from Page 1, “What it Means to be a Disciple”

As a disciple, I must become convinced of two essential facts: Jesus knows the way and the way will bless my life and my eternity. I cannot legitimately call myself a disciple if I am unwilling to listen to and follow the words of the Teacher.

John 8:31-41 records an interesting discussion between Jesus and a group described as “those Jews which believed on him.” To them he said, “If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” Their response to this brief lesson from the Teacher shows that, although they believed, they were not committed to being disciples. What followed was a question: “We be Abraham’s seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?” In other words, these believers considered themselves free already by virtue of being the physical descendants of Abraham.

Jesus answered with an explanation that these individuals, though they believed on Him, were still servants of sin and, more than that, were actually seeking to kill Him because “my word hath no place in you.” They believed, but they were not willing to receive Jesus’ teaching, thus making them servants of sin who had turned against the great Teacher. By the time all was said and done, they took up stones to try and kill Him (John 8:59).

But how do we learn from Christ? The commandment of Matthew 28:19 to the first Christian disciples was to go into all the world and “teach” (literally – go make disciples). In giving this commandment, Jesus laid the burden of making disciples through teaching on the shoulders of those who were already disciples. Obviously, we learn directly by reading and studying the Word of God for ourselves, but a great blessing of being born again into the Kingdom of God is the assistance of disciples who themselves are called to be teachers. The duty of the ministry to teach the disciples is not only to give them a volume of information or facts and figures to memorize. Jesus commanded the ministers He was

sending:

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you ...” (Matthew 28:20)

Observe here is a Greek word (*téreo* – τηρέω) which is associated with keeping, guarding, and maintaining a particular doctrine, custom, practice, or act. In other words, Jesus commanded His ministers to teach future disciples not only to think of the teachings of Christ but to do everything that had been commanded by Him. Notice the “call and response” pattern in the Gospels. As Jesus walked by those men who would be called His first apostles – or special emissary messengers – He called out to them, “Follow me.” What they did afterward was their choice.

Obedience has always been important to God, in large part because it is an ultimate expression of trust. I show my trust in God by following what He says, especially when I do not understand or do not agree with it. I am showing my confidence in Him as the One who knows better, sees more clearly, and understands more fully those things which are best for me as not only His disciple, but His child.

“And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.” (1 John 2:3-6)

Obedience is evidence of relationship. The more time I spend with God and in His Word the more thoroughly I will know Him as I learn more about Him, His nature, and His ways. As a result, I will discover that He is wiser than me and only commands me to do what is for my own good. It is true that Jesus Christ is both my Lord and my God, but He is also my Father and, as Father, has an interest in my life being abundant. His love for me produced teaching, and my love for Him embraces and obeys that teaching. ●



Preaching Point: Richland, Missouri

Pastor Randy Sapp, Missouri District Home Missions Director & District Secretary/Treasurer

Richland, Missouri is a small town located at the intersection of Camden, Laclede, and Pulaski Counties. The 2020 census listed the population at 1,734 people. As you drive through the city and the surrounding countryside, you will see a number of churches of different denominations: Baptist, Catholic, Church of Christ, Assembly of God, Christian, Methodist, and Non-Denominations. What you don't see, however, is a Oneness Apostolic Church. This doesn't mean that one isn't there.

You see, Pastor and Sister Hood have had a burden for this small town for a number of years. In 2023, they were able to start a preaching point in the city gymnasium for a number of months. This resulted in one family being baptized in Jesus' name. Due to the gymnasium being unheated, this was not an arrangement that would work for the winter months.

While the services had to be halted for a time, there was prayer for a place to meet as well as active searching. Then Sis. Hood received a call from the pastor of the United Methodist Church offering use of their facilities! So, on March 3, 2024, services began once again – this time in the new location.

Currently, two local families have shown a good interest in attending, and I believe we will be hearing great things in the near future. There's no telling what God is going to do! •



UPDATE: The services have been well supported by the attendance of Saints from the Lebanon and Rolla, and much outreach has been occurring in the community. A family of three recently visited and approached with questions about water baptism. They will be in a more in-depth Bible study soon. Please continue to pray for Richland, Missouri!

Thank you for your continued support of ACJC Home Missions. Please send your offerings of support to: ACJC Missouri, P.O. Box 1670, Buffalo, MO 65622





Upcoming Events for Women (and Men)

Sis. Sandi Sapp, Missouri District Ladies' Auxiliary Leader

Throughout 2023, every time we would schedule a ladies' event, we would hear the question, "What about the men?" So, we decided to do something about that this year! As you all know we have already had 2 wonderful events this year: One for the ladies and one for the men. The only bad thing is we didn't get any pictures.

In March, the ladies met at Sis. Sapp's house for a Game Night. If you all haven't played *Telestrations* with a group of friends, you need to give it a try! You find out a little more about the way their minds work, and you will definitely laugh more than you think you would. Some of us, (okay, I'm talking about myself here) simply cannot draw and we obviously have different ways of looking at things, which makes for some entertaining results! The group of ladies that came were great and we all enjoyed a time of fellowship, food, and laughter! I am already looking forward to the next Game Night!

Also in March, the men gathered at Bro. Sapp's for a Bonfire and Cook-Out. The weather was uncooperative so they were not able to have the bonfire, but that didn't stop them from grilling outside then heading into the house to eat and fellowship. They enjoyed time spent talking, singing, and playing instruments. And as often happens when you begin to sing songs of praise, the men couldn't help but worship and praise God for His many blessings!

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 13th

The ladies will gather at the Lunchbox Café for another great Cooking Show, planned and put on by Sis. Light. There will be lots of good food to try, along with recipes and cooking tips. And ladies, for this one you don't have to bring any food! The men will be meeting at McCubbins Point for a day of fishing, and a competition for the heaviest fish. There are sure to be some wild fish stories started here! Men, bring your fishing equipment and join in the fun!

September 21st

The ladies will be challenged to an Escape Room, hosted by Christ Fellowship. Sis. Light will be designing this and I can't wait to see what she has planned. I just hope I am smart enough to escape! The men will be gathering together for a Horseshoe Competition. And, of course, there will be food as well! The exact location isn't decided yet, but it will be held in Lebanon.

October 12th

Our 3rd annual Family Fun Day! There will be either a fish fry or BBQ —we will be voting on that later. Look forward to horseshoes and other outdoor games, as well as a Chili Cook-off (hosted by Bro. & Sis. Hood). We will be meeting at Bennett Springs in Shelter B (this is a different location than before). This is always a great time together with our church family!



34 SOULS BAPTIZED IN JESUS' NAME IN THE PHILIPPINES ... AND MORE



Along with 34 souls recently baptized in the name of Jesus Christ in our works in the Philippines, Bishop Zaragoza reports ongoing testing to end the first semester at the Apostolic Theological Seminary and open enrollment for the second semester. Along with this, the virtual/online classes for the Bible school are up and running with active students in the Palawan District.



A joint Men's and Women's conference was held in early April with the theme "Mission Possible." During this conference, they saw 18 receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost with the sign of speaking with other tongues.

Thank you for your continued faithful prayers and support of the work of the ACJC in the Philippines!



Thank you for your continued support of ACJC Foreign Missions. Please send your offerings of support to:

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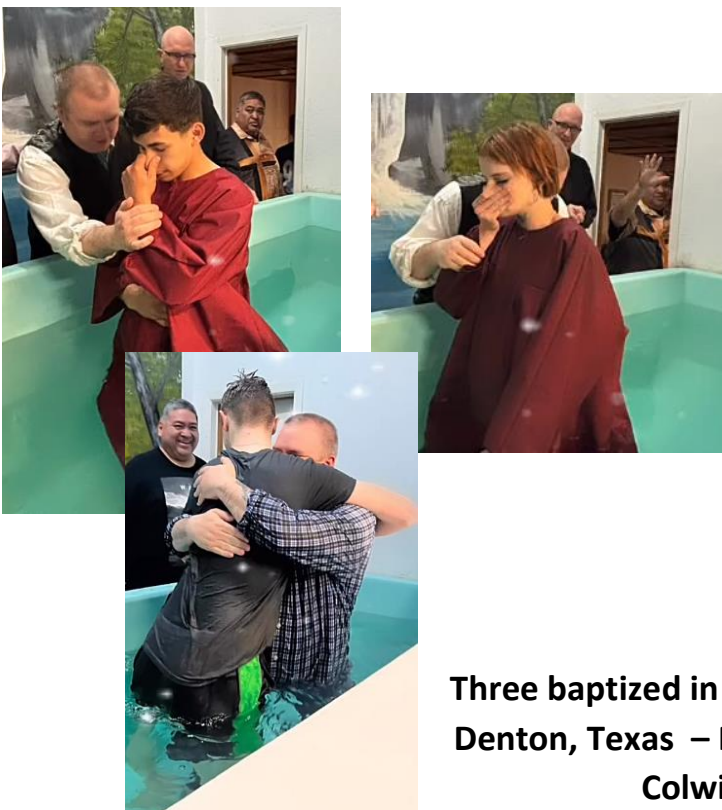
WATER BAPTISM REPORTS FROM AROUND THE ACJC IN THE UNITED STATES



**Two baptized in Jesus' name in
Coweta, Oklahoma – Pastor &
Sister Jackson**



**Two baptized in Jesus' name in
the Home Missions work in
Dumas, Arkansas – Pastor &
Sister Everett**



**Three baptized in Jesus' name in
Denton, Texas – Pastor & Sister
Colwick**



**One baptized in Jesus' name in
Brandon, Mississippi – Pastor &
Sister Phillips**



Prayer Sandwich (The Lord's Prayer Burger)

Sis. Barbara Light, Missouri District Sunday School Leader

Greetings in the name of Jesus! I hope the first quarter of 2024 has gone well and your Sunday School is thriving. As we begin the second quarter, I wanted to share a quick lesson idea that works well in many settings, but is one I often use as an "emergency back-up" lesson when something has gone awry and I need a fail-proof option with minimal prep. It is likely to require a grocery store run, but beyond that, it takes about 10 minutes to set up and be ready to roll.

And the icing on the cake is that it teaches a critical part of Christian living – prayer. We can never reinforce prayer enough, so this lesson can easily be reused from time to time, and I can assure you, the kids won't mind if they happen to remember it from previous years.

Food and fun so often go together, and Sunday School is no exception. One great opportunity to incorporate food, fun and a memorable lesson is teaching the Lord's Prayer. For this lesson you will make a "prayer sandwich." Start by explaining how the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray and He gave them an example that they could learn from. Then, begin going through the Lord's Prayer, talking about each part and drawing and labeling a hamburger on the white board as you do so.

The bottom bun is praise and the top bun is praise. Other layers can include praying for needs, repentance, praying for strength in serving God, etc. Assign each piece to an "ingredient" – burger, lettuce, mayo... Depending on your age level, you can break the prayer down more or less. After you have taught the lesson, have them make "prayer sandwiches" using vanilla wafers as "buns," chocolate dipped mint cookies or graham crackers as the "burger," coconut with a bit of green food coloring for lettuce, and icing for mayo. Depending on how many layers you taught in the prayer, you can add more toppings or less – get creative coming up with ideas for ketchup, pickles, onion, etc.

Sesame seeds and a touch of honey on top of the "bun" make it look even more realistic, and if you are extra motivated, peanut butter fudge cut into strips can be served as a side of "French fries." As with any snack, make sure you have checked with parents for possible food allergies ahead of time. ●



ACJC YOUTH Camp 2024

June 18-20

Hot Springs, AR

\$120/camper

Make your plans now to attend!

Registration Information Coming Soon

**And that, knowing the
time, that now it is
high time to awake
out of sleep:
for now is our
salvation nearer than
when we believed.**

Romans 13:11

2024 ACJC NATIONAL MEN'S CONFERENCE UPDATE

The offer was extended and accepted for the Missouri District and Christ Fellowship to host the 2024 ACJC National Men's Conference this fall in Lebanon, Missouri. More information on dates and times will be shared in the very near future. It will be a one day/all day event to be held in late October or early November.

We look forward to a great time in the Lord!

ISN'T IT STRANGE

It's strange how \$20 seems like such a large amount when you put it in the offering place, but such a small amount when you go shopping.

It's strange how 2 hours can seem so long when you're at church, and how short it seems when you're watching a good movie.

It's strange how you can't find words to say when you're praying, but you can find plenty to say when you're talking to a friend.

It's strange how difficult it is to read a chapter or two of the Bible, but how easy it is to read a complete novel by your favorite author.

It's strange how you kneel down to pray and you can't raise your voice above a whisper, but you can be heard clear across the room when you are talking to a friend.

It's strange how everyone wants front row tickets to concerts, but they want to sit in the back row at church.

It's strange how we need to know about a church event two or three weeks ahead of time so we can work it into our schedule, but we can adjust for other things at the last minute.

It's strange how difficult it is to witness and share our testimony, but how easy it is to repeat gossip.

It's strange how we believe everything we read on the internet or in the newspapers, but we question the words in the Bible.

It's strange how we follow our doctor's instructions without question, but we ignore the words of our Pastor.

– Submitted by Sis. Sapp

