



# Faith Networks

A Newsletter for Cooperation in the Churches of God

April, 2008

## Essentials for Congregational Health - Part 2: Gift-Based Ministry

A man who had lost his job in a mill asked around town and found a job working as a logger. On his first day at his new job, the foreman took him to a 40-acre stand of hemlocks. His boss told him to cut down as many trees as he could, cut them up in 20-foot sections, and remove the limbs.

Then his boss took from the bed of the truck a large chainsaw, along with a can of fuel, an axe, a 10-pound hammer, and some wedges. After that he got in the truck and drove away.

The man didn't know much about chain saws. To him they seemed extremely dangerous. He was afraid he might have an accident and get cut. So he took the axe and began to cut down a large hemlock with a trunk about three feet in diameter.

At the end of the day his boss returned to find him, dripping sweat, and about half way through the hemlock. "What an idiot," he said. "Why aren't you using the chainsaw? You could have cut down 10 trees by now."

### Powerful Christian Tools

Many Christians have the same kind of fear about spiritual gifts. We learn in First Corinthians and Ephesians that spiritual gifts are given to us to make our work for God easier and more effective. On the other hand, there isn't

anything easy about the use of them.

It is difficult to find out what gifts we've been given.

It's hard to use them effectively. For

some, it can be a temptation to become arrogant because of their gift. We've seen some people think they have a gift when everyone but them knows they do not. Sometimes using our gifts threatens others, especially people who are "turf conscious" or controlling.

It's easier to put the subject aside and pretend we didn't see it in the Bible.

Still, if we realize we all have work to do, we can understand the need to use our spiritual gifts. We can't do the work God has given us with just our human resources, because we humans are not equipped to do spiritual things. We must use the gifts of the spirit if we are to succeed in our work.

We can liken the foreman who handed the man the saw and left to the nobleman in Jesus' parable who divided his assets among his servants and told them to produce with them.

Of course, we know Jesus was speaking of himself. What can we learn from the parable? For one thing, the nobleman distributed *his* assets to his servants. Believing the metaphor to be accurate, we can know that the gifts of the spirit are the assets of Christ,



Bill Jacobs  
New Mexico  
billrjacobs@comcast.net

his power, his abilities, his insights, and his skills. He fortifies us with his own strength and his own mind—an amazingly selfless and generous gift.

What do you suppose he will do when he returns and finds that we were afraid to use what he has given us? The answer is already in the Bible (see Luke 19) and it's not pretty. Apparently it's a "use it or lose it" kind of deal.

Ignoring the issue is not a solution. We have to use the gifts God gives us. But how do we avoid all the pitfalls?

## Chainsaw Safety Classes

Thinking about the man with the chainsaw: If he wanted to be a logger, he needed to learn how to use a chainsaw safely before going out in the woods. There are such things as chainsaw safety classes. The chainsaw, because of its power, will always need to be handled carefully.

The same is true of spiritual gifts. They are powerful. If misused they can cause problems. But the upside is so great that it behooves us to find our way around the objections, obstacles, fears, and doubts. We need to do as we have been told.

## Three Important Elements

We can consider three elements when discussing this subject: power, commitment, and wisdom.

God's spiritual gifts are, as we have already discussed, powerful. They give us the ability to do the work God has called us to do.

Instead of being committed to using their gifts on God's behalf, many Christians are in a state of "free float." They go along from day-to-day oblivious to the responsibilities of their calling. These folks don't know they have a job to do. People in this state of mind are

not only uncommitted, they don't even know that they *should*

*be* committed. Nor do they know what they should be committed to do. Consequently, discussion of spiritual gifts, to them, is irrelevant and uninteresting.

Finally we must use spiritual gifts with wisdom. It takes wisdom to know what our gifts are. Have you ever seen someone sing special music at church who couldn't hold a tune? They are usually the only one in the room who doesn't know it. Feedback from others needs to be a part of our thinking when we attempt to find our gift. I'm not sure if that's wisdom or just plain old common sense.

It's also futile to try to stifle the use of a truly God-given gift in someone else. The Natural Church Development survey of over a million people revealed that the kind of leadership that causes spiritual growth is *empowering* leadership—such leaders *empower* others to use their gifts. Finding a way to involve everyone and their gifts in a synergistic manner requires humility and wisdom on the part of leadership.



*Faith Networks is a voluntary effort by a group of individuals interested in promoting cooperation among the Churches of God and encouraging healthy relationships both within congregations and between them. Resources have been made available for the initial stages of Faith Networks by members of the Church of God Cincinnati.*

**Editor:**

*Jim O'Brien*

**Associate Editor:**

*Pam Dewey*

**Page Layout:**

*Dan Farnsworth*

*Jenee Zaydon*

**Peer Review Team:**

*Guy Swenson*

*Bill Jacobs*

*Ron Dart*

*Wendy Pack*

*Pam Dewey*

**Contributors:**

*Richard Allen*

*Lenny Cacchio*

*Ramona Leiter*

*Horst Obermeit*

*Bill Stough*

*Scarlett Stough*

**Contact Information:**

*P.O. Box 1811*

*West Chester, OH 45071*

*jimobri@gmail.com*

*(513) 755-0040*

**Cover Photo:**

*Clipart.com*

Donations are greatly appreciated; checks can be made out to Church of God, Cincinnati and mailed to the address above.

To request Faith Networks, call 513-755-0040 or send your name and address to jimobri@gmail.com. Faith Networks may also be downloaded at [www.youall.com/faithnetworks](http://www.youall.com/faithnetworks).

I do a fair amount of family therapy and couples counseling. Usually, I begin by teaching couples how to communicate more effectively. They quickly see how helpful their new skills can be, and they become all excited about using them. But after a time, they become overconfident and drift back into the old patterns of miscommunication, have the same old problems, and get discouraged. It's at that point that I have to ask them, "What are the obstacles that keep you from doing what you know works for you?" Then we break down the problem and find a solution. Obstacles are there to be overcome.

How silly is it to shy away from the powerful gifts God has given us so we can be successful and effective in our calling, because they are powerful? Anything that is powerful has to be respected and taken seriously. God's gifts are no different.

Stepping up to the challenges that come along with the powerful gifts of God will yield incredible spiritual dividends for the church and all her members.

If you want to learn more about how your congregation can use the gifts God has bestowed on all its members, you might be interested in the following resources:

- Natural Church Development. A Guide to Eight Essential Qualities of Healthy Churches by Christian Schwartz
- Realizing your Church's Potential by Robert E. Logan
- Four audio or video presentations on Gift-Based Ministry from LifeResource Ministries. [FN](#)

In December 2007 I was challenged with something I thought would never happen to me. I had attempted to eat right, exercise most of my life, and avoid known carcinogens. I breast-fed my children, and had not taken hormone replacement therapies. In spite of all this, I received a call from Melissa, my nurse practitioner. She wanted me to come into the office instead of telling me the results of a breast biopsy over the phone. I told her, “Just tell me—I’m a nurse, I can handle it.” She said she felt it was cold to tell someone something like this over the phone. Finally she relented and told me I had breast cancer.

When you are told something like this there is a fear that grips you. We think of cancer as being synonymous with death. I remember praying and wondering—”Why me, why now? I have a great husband, children, grand-children, and lots to live for.”

I have come a long way from that day in December when I was diagnosed. One of the reasons is I know that God will complete what he has started within me long years ago. Another reason is because of God’s people—I *never underestimate the power of prayer, a call, a card, or an email*. God’s people are an encouragement in the time of trouble!

God says in Proverbs 15: 23, “...a word spoken in due season, how good it is!” I found that during the day I would be encouraged through study of God’s word and prayer. But in early morning or at night, I would be gripped with fear and anxiety. Now

I know that 1 John 4:18 says, “...perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment...,” but obviously you know where I stood in relationship to perfect love! I fell far short of it!

I remember one particular Sabbath morning after I had prayed and studied—I was still feeling anxious. It was just then that I received a call from a good friend. She said she had felt inspired to call me. She read Matthew 11:28-30 to me: “*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*” God knew I was burdened—without peace—and He had inspired my friend to call. She could have ignored the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and not called, but she chose not to quench it. Afterwards I was at rest again.

Through this trial God has influenced many people to pray for me, call me, and send cards and emails. One special person invited me to stay with her in order to care for me after surgery. There have been many other means of encouragement too numerous to mention.

Sometimes we may feel that we do so little to inspire, encourage, or build up the body of Christ—that we have no gifts. I want you to know that those prayers, cards, emails, and other expressions of concern have encouraged me, and I have felt the hand of God through them.



God often expresses His love by inspiring His people to perform good works. Jesus instructed us by saying, “*By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.*” (Mat 13:35)

Be sure to continue in good works! There are many people—just like me—that will really appreciate your support in times of trouble! [FN](#)

## Getting God Out of Our Box

### Part I

I stood surveying the pile of luggage and bags that had to be loaded into the car for our trip to keep the Feast of Tabernacles, and I was shaking my head in disbelief. That pile was not going to fit in the space we had available for a 13-hour road trip. As the father of three teenage girls, the concept of “take only what you need” is lost when bags of spare shoes are packed “just in case” they find a new outfit to wear. After my wife declared me of little faith, they managed to cram most of it into the car, leaving just enough space and oxygen for us to arrive alive at our destination. On that trip, it seemed that everything we had of importance was stuffed into our box on wheels, and I feared that there was no room left to bring anything back home with us.

In looking back at my religious life, I have to say that I have spent much of it cramming God into my little box I have made for Him, not leaving much room to take anything new back with me in my walk with God. Like my daughters, I have loaded bags and bags of stuff I thought was important to have into my God box, and not heeding the advice to take “only what I need.”

In considering this analogy, there is a lot of baggage I had once thought was

vital to be considered a true Christian—that I have since learned was just a waste of space. I’m not talking about sound biblical doctrine such as the Sabbath and other commandments and principles. I’m talking about *traditions* and *personal preferences* that men create into doctrines, that, in the scheme of things, are about as important as that bag of spare shoes. I remember “doctrines” about make-up, birthdays, undershirts, whether television was “of the devil,” about proper dress, the holiness of whole wheat, and the sin of white flour and sugar.

I didn’t stop to think about whether or not those extra bags were vital for the journey God has put me on, but like someone taking a bag of stiletto heels on a camping trip, I used to think I couldn’t be a “true” Christian without them.

Mankind has a natural proclivity toward using traditions and making them into doctrines, thereby creating a box that they then demand everything must fit into—including God Himself! This is especially true among religious organizations—this kind of God-in-the-box Christianity is epidemic among



Michael Deering  
Kentucky  
[mdeering13@mchsi.com](mailto:mdeering13@mchsi.com)

churches. As a Catholic growing up, it was impressed upon me at a young age that anyone outside the Catholic faith's box was going to hell. Depending on your particular church background, you may have experienced something similar with your denomination. I recall that the Baptist church we attended in the late 1990's held a similar view about who was and was not "saved." God-In-A-Box Theology is present in almost every brand of Christianity, and most religions on the planet.

The Churches of God have been no exception to the practice of putting God in a box. Many have taken what they believe to be their special relationship and understanding of God's Laws, and their own traditions of obedience and worship, and used them to construct a box limiting in their own minds how God operates and with whom.

Biblically speaking, there's probably no clearer example of this than the circumcision argument of the First Century church. Understanding that argument reveals that even biblical instructions can become misinterpreted and misapplied with the best of intentions when we assume how and with whom God works, and with which other humans we can have spiritual fellowship.

Genesis 17:9-12 tells us that circumcision was an agreement and sign of the covenant God made with Abraham. It was then included in the Law given to Moses in Exodus 12: 43, 48. This was a biblical requirement of the Jews that even Jesus Himself was subject to, as Luke 2:21 reveals. Circumcision in the flesh was biblical. It was part of the Law. After Jesus' death and resurrection,

and after the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Church, suddenly this aspect of God's Law became a divider, a wall, and a box that some in the church leadership in Jerusalem decided all Christians must conform to. Their understanding of the Law's requirements was not wrong. Neither was their understanding that physical circumcision was a sign of those keeping the covenant of God at the time.

But they wrongly assumed God was only working with those who were physical, circumcised Jews or official,



complete converts to Judaism. Acts 10 tells us the story of the Roman Centurion Cornelius. He was an uncircumcised Gentile who was yet God-fearing, and who prayed and gave to the poor. Acts 10:4 tells us that an angel stated to him, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God." Now consider this—here was a man outside of Judaism and outside the "church." Yet this man's prayers were heard by God, his service to the poor was a memorial offering God



accepted. This man's prayers were being answered. And God had chosen him to be part of His family.

Yet up to that time, the Church in Jerusalem essentially made circumcision a requirement for club membership in the Church. They assumed God only worked with and blessed those who were circumcised and who kept all of the traditions of their brand of religion. They failed to understand that physical circumcision was just a shadow of the circumcision of the heart that God was actually interested in. Of course scriptures such as Jeremiah 9:25 already outlined this fact, as this was not some new doctrine that Jesus brought.

The *traditions* of the Jews that required them to shun and view Gentiles as worse than dogs were so deeply entrenched in the mind set of the Jews, the Apostle Peter had to be shown that God was not limiting salvation to Jews only. The vision he had of unclean animals, described in Acts 10, was an analogy of how he and the Jews viewed the Gentiles to whom God was extending His Holy Spirit.

God clearly showed Peter, a leading apostle of the Jerusalem Church, that He was not a respecter of persons and that Gentiles were to be part of the Body of Christ. Acts 11 makes it clear that the rest of the leadership there were persuaded by Peter's description of the experience with Cornelius, and accepted the reality that Gentiles had received the gift of the Holy Spirit without the need for circumcision and following the traditions of the Jews.

But this was not the end of the problem. Fourteen years later the Apostle Paul had to go *back* to Jerusalem to deal with the recurring, stubborn demands by

some that Gentiles had to become Jews, and follow all the traditions, in order to become Christians.

And in Galatians 2, we read of Paul admonishing the Apostle Peter in public in Antioch. Paul got right in Peter's face to reprimand him for going against what God had *already* shown him about the Gentiles. The traditions of the Pharisees would not go away, and Peter and Barnabas had both become afraid to stand up against those who demanded

***Mankind has a natural proclivity toward using traditions and making them into doctrines, thereby creating a box that they then demand everything must fit into—including God Himself!***

that God be put back in the box created by the traditions of the Jewish sages.

A similar situation exists almost 2000 years later, in our own time. It is taking place right now in certain Church of God groups and congregations that believe in exclusivity and conformity to specific and narrow definitions of whether or not you accept and practice their particular God-in-the-box set of doctrines.

Traditions, even those that grow out of keeping and following God's Laws, can become a ball and chain that can prevent us from going in the direction God wants us to go in—especially in terms of reaching out and becoming instruments toward making disciples.

In the second installment of this article, we'll look at how traditions have been used to shove God into tiny boxes that are suffocating and even discouraging our youth from a vibrant life in Christ. [FN](#)

## Feast of Tabernacles 2008

Where are you going to the Feast? It is just about time to make a decision for this Fall, so we decided to list a few Feast sites where some of the Faith Networks folks will be attending. Many of these sites were featured in the September 2007 Feast Issue, when we were able to include events, photos, and contact information. This listing is just to give you some ideas, relevant web pages and phone numbers, and maybe a little Feast fever. Some locations are yet to be finalized, so keep an eye on their websites. Also see the Feast of Tabernacles ads in this and future issues. Happy Feast—six months early!

### **Christian Church of God, Grand Junction, Colorado:**

Grand Junction, CO    See: [www.ccofgod.org/feastoftabernacles.html](http://www.ccofgod.org/feastoftabernacles.html)  
To receive an information and Festival packet, please call Coy and Neta Colbert at 970-858-9299, or email [staff@ccofgod.org](mailto:staff@ccofgod.org)

### **Christian Educational Ministries:**

Panama City Beach, FL    See: [www.borntowin.net/2008tabernacles.aspx](http://www.borntowin.net/2008tabernacles.aspx)  
General contact information:  
P.O. Box 560 Whitehouse, TX 75791  
903-509-2999 or 888-BIBLE-44

### **Church of God, Big Sandy, Texas:**

Big Sandy, TX    See: [bigsandychurch.org/bigsandy/fot](http://bigsandychurch.org/bigsandy/fot)  
Branson, MO    General contact information:  
Destin, FL    P.O. Box 690 Big Sandy, TX 75755  
Flagstaff, AZ    903-636-4300  
Myrtle Beach, SC

### **Church of God in El Salvador:**

Site not finalized...    For upcoming information contact:  
(for all English speakers)  
Patricia Cisneros [paticisneros2@yahoo.es](mailto:paticisneros2@yahoo.es)  
011-503-2262-6232 (after 5:30 PST)  
(for Spanish speakers)  
Herberth Cisneros [herberth\\_m\\_cisneros@yahoo.es](mailto:herberth_m_cisneros@yahoo.es)  
011-503-2225-4308

### **Guardian Ministries:**

Squaw Valley, CA    See: [www.davidantion.com/feast\\_of\\_tabernacles.htm](http://www.davidantion.com/feast_of_tabernacles.htm)  
General contact information:  
P.O. Box 50734 Pasadena, CA 91115



# INTERESTED IN THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES IN GREECE?

The group of us that attended Italy last year wanted to go somewhere together this year and of course, invite other people, so we all decided on Greece. We have around 50 people who are interested in attending so far.

We have begun the process of finding a travel agent and making arrangements. We will be getting several itinerary and bids from those agents! Italy was so fabulous last year that we are going to try to make similar arrangements for this site. The numbers will be somewhat limited, but the big reason Italy was so fabulous was the bonds we made with the people who attended such a small intimate feast site. If you really want to attend, please be ready to commit and pay the deposit as soon as we know the details.

Some of you may be thinking we've waited too long to begin, but don't worry. The year we went to Aruba we didn't even have a destination with contract until May. If we had a contract now, the first deadline would be in May, final deadline in June. Please help spread the word, so when we get an itinerary, price and contract, everyone will be ready to commit.

## How to respond

I am happy to add your name to the email list so you will know when it is time to sign up. Just call me or send an email:

Linda Pratt  
(513) 779-2675  
[LindaP777@Juno.com](mailto:LindaP777@Juno.com)



## Life Resource Ministries:

Park City, UT

See: [www.liferesource.org/pages/activities/feast-of-tabernacles.html](http://www.liferesource.org/pages/activities/feast-of-tabernacles.html)

General contact information:

P.O. Box 66540 Albuquerque, NM 87193  
505-890-6806

## United Christian Ministries:

Sevierville, TN

See: [4ucm.org/feast.htm](http://4ucm.org/feast.htm)

General contact information:

P.O. Box 608 Reanoke, IN 46783  
260-672-9800 or 888-985-9066

# Markers, Crayons, and Glitter Glue: Notes of a Sabbath School Teacher



Rachel Schatzle  
Ohio  
reschatz@yahoo.com

A stack of connect-the-dot pictures sits on the table ready to be passed out. The students wait ever-so-patiently for their lesson to begin. I give them their pictures, and each child chooses something to write with – usually a marker or crayon of their favorite color. Taking their chosen crayon or marker, they start at one and continue to draw a line throughout the

messages. The underlying message behind “connect-the-dots”? With the Lord all things are possible...you are only a prayer away from achieving so very much. It is the message of Matt. 7:7:

*Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.*

Opening the eyes of children to the glory of the Lord God is the most important thing a Sabbath school teacher can do. It has become more and more evident to me that the earlier a child learns about the Bible, the fantastic abilities of God, and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for us, the better.

Motivating children to work for God in all they do is a vital aspect in their upbringing in the church. The

future leaders of the church are in our hands now. The youth of the church are becoming more and more involved in church services, gradually preparing to take the reins some day, and helping to breathe life back into the church now.

The children in my beginner’s class



paper until they reach the final number. When they have finished, it reveals a picture of a giant, a giant who was defeated by a boy. Thus, they are introduced to David, who defeated Goliath with a small, smooth stone and the help of the Lord.

These seem like simple coloring activities and crafts. They are; however, they are simple coloring activities and crafts with important underlying



are from three to six years old. I am constantly amazed at the ability of children to recall stories from the Bible with the help of just a few, simple teaching methods. Once my students have heard a story, doing some kind of activity reinforces what they've learned and makes the story stick with them much better. Entertaining activities also entice children to want to hear even more stories, as they know that a fun activity will follow the story. Providing additional rewards for good memorization is also helpful.

The most important thing to teach children at a young age is to give their



hearts to God. Loving God is very important; however, learning about God and loving God are not the same. Once the children give their hearts, their whole hearts to God, He will take them in His arms and be with them forever. "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.'" (Mat 22:37). Those who think they have nothing to offer God are wrong. Children must be taught that you have your heart to give.

We also need to tell the children of God's mercy, grace, forgiveness, and love; but these concepts may be difficult to teach, especially if they are very young. Kids may relate better to the Bible when they hear stories of young people in the Bible. There are a number of note,

such as the afore mentioned David, who defeated Goliath, a giant that no one would even try to fight. David believed that God would help him, and God did. Then there was Joseph, who had the ability to interpret dreams, which saved him from imprisonment, and eventually allowed him to save his whole family from starvation. Moses was a baby when his mother sent him afloat in a basket on the river. Moses was led to the Pharaoh's daughter, and one day set his people free from bondage. And of course there is

Jesus, whom we first meet in the Bible as a baby in a manger.

Children need to know that the Bible is not just for adults.

Beginners' Bibles are

helpful in telling a story in terms that a child can understand. As they grow older they can learn more of the details and how each story fits into the timeline of the Bible.

A teacher's job is to inspire and motivate his or her pupils. Just as I was motivated and inspired by my teachers, I pass on the knowledge and love for God that was instilled in me. My goal is to prepare the children of the church to become children of God, tell them of His wonders, and instruct them on how to reach God in prayer whenever they need Him. Children need to know that if they need help or comfort, they can and should always turn to God with their worries, needs, and – most importantly – their love. [FN](#)

# The House Still Stands

On March 18, 2008, the floods began. The Meramec River basin received from five to ten inches of rain in 36 hours. Five and one-half inches fell at our house. The river rose to near record levels and sent a fury of fast-moving water downstream. Flooded areas would



remain underwater for four days.

The Meramec River passes by a gravel quarry near St. Clair, Missouri, only five miles from where we live. When that quarry was begun decades ago, the owner built a house for himself on the banks of the river. That proved to be an unwise choice, because the river often floods that place. After having to evacuate eleven times, he abandoned that house, but it still sits there. An amazing thing about this house is the way it withstands floods. It hasn't been flooded only once. It has been flooded at least twenty times! On at least two occasions, including the floods of this March, the waters covered much of the roof. The waters race by with great force.

When the waters go down, the house remains. No repairs are done, so it is a beat-up house. But it somehow is able to resist the powerful, rushing water. How can this be?

When the owner built the house, he dug the foundation deep and laid it on bedrock. Then he thoroughly anchored the well-built superstructure to that foundation. It has proven to be a marvel of endurance and resistance to what nature throws at it. Those of us interested in weather forecasting in this area have become so accustomed to the house surviving that we use it as a gauge for what can be expected downstream based on how high the waters go up the side of the house. The house doesn't float away as many other buildings have.

As Christians, are we like that house? Can we survive and remain attached to our foundation even though we may feel beat-up at times?

"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not what I say? I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck the house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who



Bill Stough  
Missouri  
bstough@yhti.net





built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.” (Luke 6:46-49)

Many of us have seen people who seemed to be strong Christians. They were very solid members of their church. Yet, when their church went into turmoil, they abandoned much of what they used to believe. Some then went out and took up worldly lives. Some became atheists. How can that be? How can someone who seemed to be so strong spiritually now say God doesn’t exist? Could it be he never had a connection with Christ and that his connection was really only with a church?

When Christ is in us, he is very real. We know he is there. We experience conviction when we are about to sin in



never walking away. We know he won’t put more on us than we can bear, and we know he is there working with us. We often find ourselves feeling nearly overwhelmed by the flood of troubles we face, but we can still pray. We know God is our way through the flood waters that assault us. We stand because of him, and we are still intact after the waters go down. We know Christ is shaping us, and we sometimes see a pattern. These things are real to us because we are anchored upon, and building upon, the foundation that can withstand anything. Do we grasp that we may feel and look weathered and beat up, but we are still attached to Christ?



actions and thoughts. We feel clean when we repent and we know God forgave us. These things occur when we are alone, and it has nothing to do with what people in a church think. We know we are walking with God and know him as a friend. Christians affect one another, but being a genuine Christian is primarily an individual thing. We grasp that Christ knows us personally. Christ is real to us, and we sense him prodding us and

We are to be “built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.” (Eph 2:20) There are false foundations, and wrong ways to construct upon a foundation. Time and events will show what kind of a building we are. That’s why it is so important to have a strong prayer life and to follow Christ. We can endure the floods as well as the house on the Meramec River has endured—if we are built upon Christ. [FN](#)

# CAMP OUTREACH

## for Teens



It's a three day camp in Minnesota including a service project in the community, a worship service geared to topics of interest to teens, and a boat load of fun activities like water skiing, fishing, canoeing, volleyball, and campfires.

The camp is on Lake Pomroy in Central Minnesota, 90 minutes north of the Twin Cities.

**Dates:** June 26-29, 2008

**Ages:** 12 - 18

**Cost:** \$75.00 per camper

For applications and more information contact:

Dale or Dona Fehr at 763-572-8377, [dlfehr@usfamily.net](mailto:dlfehr@usfamily.net), or download applications at [www.liferesource.org/campoutreach](http://www.liferesource.org/campoutreach)

Camp Directors: Dale & Dona Fehr

Camp Advisor: Bill Jacobs



**Sponsored by**  
**Building Bridges &**  
**LifeResource Ministries**

Information about  
**Camp Outreach**  
**Indianapolis, IN**

soon available at:  
[www.ntevangelism.org](http://www.ntevangelism.org)





## The Park City Feast of Tabernacles

# Imagine...



- Participating in practical spiritual educational experiences.
- Having a choice of which spiritual lessons you learn.
- Acquiring spiritual skills that you can use in your family, work, school, congregation and community.

**N**ow imagine doing all of it in the most awesome mountain town in the West – that's what the Feast of Tabernacles is like in Park City, Utah.

This Feast of Tabernacles will be a family retreat with hands-on spiritual learning, shared meals, exciting activities and numerous workshops. Even with all these educational events, you can still find time for hiking, biking, the alpine slide and the zip line!

In addition to all this, we will be initiating some public service projects and will be learning the process of effective community outreach.

Park City, Utah offers an incredible array of housing – everything from lovely hotel rooms to very affordable condominiums.

Park City is relatively low in elevation compared other mountain towns (6300 feet) and is only 35 minutes from the Salt Lake City airport. Fares into SLC are relatively low.

If you are interested in something different and spiritually rejuvenating, plan to attend the Feast of Tabernacles in Park City, Utah sponsored by LifeResource Ministries. You can find all the information at [www.liferesource.org](http://www.liferesource.org). Address questions to [FOT@liferesource.org](mailto:FOT@liferesource.org).



[www.liferesource.org](http://www.liferesource.org)

PO Box 66540, Albuquerque, NM 87193  
[info@liferesource.org](mailto:info@liferesource.org)

# Jesus Touched a Leper

*Now a leper came to Him, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him and saying to Him, "If You are willing, You can make me clean." Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed." (Mark 1:40-42 NKJV)*



Lenny Cacchio  
Missouri  
cacchio01@aol.com

What a scourge it would be to be a leper! In those days a leper was essentially cut off from society, forced to live alone or with other lepers. One time ten lepers hailed Jesus from a distance because they did not feel free to approach him.

But on another occasion Jesus not only lets the leper approach him, Jesus actually reaches out and touches him, which by the standards of the day would have made him ceremonially unclean. This was a highly compassionate, yet controversial, act. We all have a need for human touch, and along with the curse of a degenerative disease, a leper also bore the curse of lost human contact and physical touch. Imagine a life without a hand of encouragement on your shoulder, a life without hugs and kisses.

So Jesus touched him. How moving this must have been for the leper, and what a shocking thing for Jesus disciples! Yet it is exactly this type of outside-the-box action that typifies the things that Christians must do. Do you want to wear your Christianity like a banner? Reach out and touch those that others won't touch. [FN](#)

*Faith Networks  
P.O. Box 1811  
West Chester, OH 45071*

Presort Standard  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit# 4513  
Cincinnati, OH