

Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

March 2015

“Do You Follow the Right Leadership?”

Webster states the definition as: (1) a position as a leader of a group, organization, etc. (2) the time when a person holds the position of leader. (3) the power or ability to lead other people.

Do you follow the greatest leadership in the heavens and the earth, the one that comes with it's own instruction manual, and has not changed in almost 2000 years? You know... the one that comes from the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? Now that's the leadership I want to follow! As a matter of fact, it is the only leadership that I will follow. But what happens when we don't follow His leadership? So I looked in the instruction manual, and the first thing that I found was Adam & Eve in Genesis 3, Cain & Able in Genesis 4, and then Noah in Genesis 6:5-18:

“The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.^{6:8} But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God.^{6:13} So God said to Noah I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them.”

I think we all know the story and what happened; all because they did not follow the right leadership. The one person and his family that *did* follow His leadership at that time, went on to increase in number and fill the earth. Ok, I could go on and on. There are a lot of examples throughout the Bible of people that did not follow His leadership, and all the bad things that happened to them.

How about all those who *did* follow His leadership? They must have had it real easy and their lives were hunky dory - never had any problems, and things were always great. So I look in the instruction manual again, and I can't find one person that had it easy. Even Jesus had sufferings.

But what if we compare the outcome? God put an end to all people and the earth and Noah went on to increase in number. And think about Moses in Deuteronomy 34:4-7:

*“Then the LORD said to him: This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, ‘I will give it to your descendants.’ I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it.”
And Moses the servant of the LORD died there in Moab, as the LORD had said. He buried him in Moab. Moses was 120 years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone.”*

Wow! Moses lived 120 years, yet his eyes were not weak nor strength gone and he was buried by the Lord.

Now I guess I could go on and on with a lot of other readings, but it might take me weeks or even months to find them all. So I would like to write about something that has been in the news recently and I think it says a little about leadership and what the outcome of bad choices can do. I am talking about the Jackie Robinson West Little League Team. I know most of us have seen or heard about it, but the first thing that came to my mind was, oh my gosh, those poor children. I don't think the children had any idea of what was happening, even from the beginning when the children from outside the area were brought in, to play with this team.

(Continued on page 2)

All the children played their best and made it as far as they did, and now they will be stripped of the trophy. WHY? Because the leadership knowingly brought in children from outside the area to make them a better team and win. Because of this bad decision of the leadership, now the children have to endure the punishment. This is why it is so important to follow the right leadership. If those coaches and managers followed the manual and did what was right the children would not be going through this. And maybe they may not have made it as far as they did, but they could all say they gave it their best. I know the Lord doesn't care who wins a ball game, but He does care if we follow what is right, and not do the wrong things.

Now this brings me to some Scripture we heard from Pastor's sermon a couple weeks ago. But I thought the athletic metaphor worked well with this.

"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize?

²⁵*Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last (or maybe a trophy) but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.*

²⁶*Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. ²⁷No I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize."*

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

I know this verse centers on whether the prize lost, is salvation itself, or the reward for faithful ministry; but do you think those coaches or managers would have made that same choice of doing what they knew was wrong, if they read and understood this Scripture? I don't think so.

There is one other thing I would like to write about. Think of anything that has leadership: businesses, sports teams, military, etc. Everything has leadership of some sort. Now see if you can think of any that have had the same leadership and have not changed their vision statement (Instruction manual) or, how they play the game, or how to win the war. I don't know for sure, but I bet it would be very hard to find any that have not changed. I can only think of one: God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and the Bible. As it is stated in Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." No changes needed ever.

I would like to close with this Scripture that Paul wrote to the believers in Ephesus.

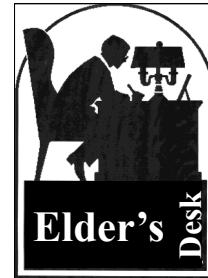
"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waste, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and your feet fitted with readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."

Ephesians 6:10-18

That's my kind of Leadership!

Your humble servant in Christ,

Ted Gehman



Connect

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Connecting Families With The Love Of Christ

TLC

Together Loving Christ

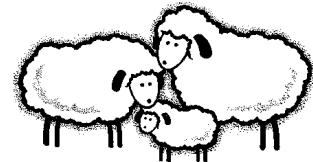
Are you sharing in the exciting and spiritual blessings of studying God's Word and discovering how it applies to your contemporary life?

Join with us in our Adult Study Group at Sunny Place every Thursday at 7:00 p. m.

Grow in the Word!

Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.

Kid's Rock available
for children ages five to nine



Nursery Services Provided

**Please join us on
Saturday, March 28TH
10:30-11:30 a.m.
for our 4TH Annual**

Easter Eggstravaganza"

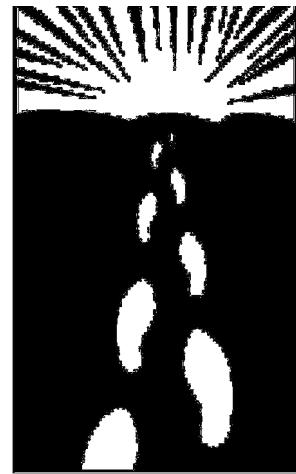
Visit us at: www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org

In the footsteps of JESUS

Saturday, March 21st

9:00 to 11:00 AM

Celebrate Spring with your Sunny Place Sisters
at
Cantigny Park Educational Center



A light breakfast buffet will be decorated with Spring flowers.

Our message will be... “**Set apart and Unbound**”

You can look forward to a spirited and spiritual discussion of womanhood as well as a tour of the gardens at Cantigny Park. This is a great way to warm your spirit...

“Adopt the pace of nature, her secret is patience.”

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

The Gardens at Cantigny beckon you. They tug at your senses, drawing you closer. If you listen carefully, each garden will tell you a story, unfolding with every step. You will feel your body relax as you absorb the landscape and the landscape devours your stress. The hustle of life melts away just a few steps into our 29 acres of flourishing, blooming tranquility. Come enjoy the pace of nature here in The Gardens at Cantigny.

Come to: Cantigny Park

1S151 Winfield Road
Wheaton Illinois 60189
www.Cantigny.org

Reservations are needed. Please let Nona or Margaret know if you will attend. Enter the park from Winfield Road. Tell the gatekeeper you are attending a meeting at the Education Center and the parking fee will be waived.



Kid's

Connection

March, 2015

In February, Pastor Pete talked about Isaiah 61: 1—3.

The Year of the LORD's Favor

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,
² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,
³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,
the oil of joy instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

Effective leaders need to submit themselves to God's Spirit. In this verse it says, the Spirit of God was on Isaiah.

God also gives effective leaders the tools required to do HIS will. In these verses the Lord anointed Isaiah to...

Preach the good news to the poor.

Sent to bind up the broken hearted.

To proclaim freedom.

To release from darkness.

To proclaim the year and vengeance of our God.

To comfort all who mourn.

To provide for those who grieve.

To bestow upon them

A crown of beauty (vs. ashes)

Oil of joy / gladness (vs. mourning)

Garment of praise (vs. spirit of despair)

"They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor."

When Pastor Pete started talking about this I thought about some of the massive oak trees that have been around for who knows how many years. Then I thought about all of the trees I have seen up close in the Smoky Mountains, Colorado, and Washington state. They are so majestic, strong, and beautiful. I can't help but wonder about when God plants a seed in us (His Holy Spirit). Does He envision us in this way? Does he visualize us as the leaders we can become when we abide in Him?

I pray that you are all seeking Him with all of your heart and leading your lives as God has called you to do.

-Margaret

The patterns that really struck me in these verses are underlined. These words are all verbs, action words. God anointed and called Isaiah to action. God gave him all of the tools that he needed in order to do what God wanted him to do before he started.

Minutes of the Elders Meeting, held on February 4, 2015

Attendees: Phyllis Clark, Pastor Weber, Sam Jacob, Chuck Bender, Paul Gigous, Bob Hettlinger, Shyam Nair.

Devotion and Prayer: 1 Timothy 4: 7-12, 15-16 Paul wrote these verses to give encouragement and leadership guidelines to new Christian leaders. We are told to train ourselves to be gGodly. We are to have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives tales. We need to reflect God in our lives. We are to train ourselves and others in godliness. We must put it into practice to save ourselves and those that hear the words of Gods truth's. We must be examples in speech, love, life, and our faith. There is a gift in you, watch your life closely, we cannot get this wrong.

Ministry Reports

Treasurer: New balance for January 2015 is not available at this time.

Worship: Rebecca Brogan will not be visiting as a candidate for the worship leadership position. Our search is ongoing for a new worship leader.

Christian Education: The material for Vacation Bible School this summer has been purchased. We are in need of permanent teachers, ready for nursery school if the need arises.

Hospitality & Encouragement: Cards and flowers have been sent for birthdays, anniversaries and to those who are ill or unable to attend church. Special card and flowers went to Marty and his family.

Missions: The Missions meeting will be rescheduled to February 15th.

Prayer and Devotion: The team is looking at a greater accessibility for those in need through email, text, and individuals on the prayer chain.

Stewardship & Support services: The Stewardship team is working to complete repairs on the parsonage. Repairs and improvements are ongoing. A Church Work Day is planned in March.

Ladies Ministry: The Ladies have an outing planned at a restaurant for the 20th of February.

Evangelism & Outreach: There is the work with the FACE program. The mission of the F.A.C.E. program is to help alleviate hunger on weekends for Addison students. Several members of the church met with the Los Padres group, to discuss the needs of the children of Addison. Plans are ongoing for this year's Easter Extravaganza.

Fellowship: There is a bowling night planned for the 1st of March and the details for the talent show are being worked out and will be announced shortly.

Men's Ministries: The Men's Breakfast will be held Feb. 14th and is planned to be held on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

Old & New Business:

- The search for a worship leader is continuing.
- There has been progress on the parsonage, the projected completion is mid March.
- Elders Retreat date set for Saturday March 7th.
- Completed survey questions from Church of God Ministries on the purpose of our movement.
- We will be participating in "Freedom Sunday" on February 22.

The next Elders Meeting will be held Saturday, March 7, 2015.

Outreach will be collecting food and gently used clothing throughout the year for the needy in our local community.

Some of the needs include...

Powdered milk

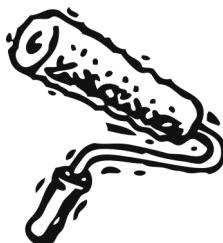
Powdered milk for the food bag distribution. The powdered milk MUST be the 25.6 ounce size (makes 9 gallons). Any other sizes cannot be used.

Grab some breakfast and join us for the Work Day!

Men's Ministry Breakfast!

Feeding the body, mind, and spirit.

Saturday, March 14, 2015
from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.



Work Day at Sunny Place

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



Help us to make our church the best it can be!

March Sunday School Line-Up
Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

**Adult
Bible
Study**

“Jesus is Greater...”

Study led by John Gryparis
on the Book of Hebrews



**Thursday Evenings
7:00 p.m.
at Sunny Place**

Children's Classes

Grades 1-6 led by Carla Weber
Youth 7-12 led by Kim Gehman
 & Chuck Bender
Nursery services are provided

“Jesus in 3-D”

A study through the
Synoptic Gospels
led by Pastor Pete

March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1  Holy Communion Teacher Appreciation Breakfast 9:30 a.m. Bowling at Brunswick 5:30	2	3	4	5 Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	6	7 Elder's Retreat at Cantigny 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
8  Missions Meeting 12:30 p.m. at Sunny Place	9	10	11 Christian Education Meeting 7:15 p.m. at Sunny Place	12 Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	13	14 Men's Breakfast 8:30-10:00a.m. at Sunny Place Workday from 10:00-1:00 p.m.
15 Light Lunch 12:30 p.m. & Sweet Hour of Prayer at Sunny Place	16	17	18	19 Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	20	21 Ladies Breakfast & Cantigny Tour 9:00-noon
22 Special Guest Speaker, Don Dennison Former Pastor At Sunny Place	23	24	25	26 Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	27	28 Easter Eggstravaganza 10:30-11:30
29 Palm Sunday 	30	31				