

What's In a Name?

Arthur Barry

In 1990 I sat in a MacDonald's in Manchester, England, talking with the church planting evangelist who had been sent to our area by what is now known as the International Churches of Christ. Since becoming a Christian I had been exposed to this group several times, as I had encountered individuals who had been involved with them. But now here they were planting a church, which was to meet a quarter of a mile from where we were meeting, and they were calling themselves the Manchester Church of Christ, which was the name by which **we** were known. I explained to this individual that I had complete sympathy with what the movement wanted to achieve, but that I had grave concerns over their methods. I have the same reaction today as I read about and talk to others about the new movements in our brotherhood. These movements do not necessarily start within the brotherhood, but we always seem to be very fertile ground for new ideas. So we hear terms like "Emergent" and "Missional". I have been very confused when I encounter preachers who call themselves "missional evangelists" because, if I understand the term right, how can there be any other kind of evangelist? It is much like the once popular "Born-again Christian". Can there be any other kind of Christian? I don't feel the need to describe myself as a married husband, or a paternal father or a human man. What is the purpose of adding redundant descriptors to well-established terms?

Maybe I am just different because, even though I was born and raised in England, I am now content to be just an American. If I were to call myself an "Anglo-American" that would not be redundant, but would it be necessary? To put it in a biblical framework it would be permissible but is it expedient? (1 Corinthians 10:23) Apparently many who can trace their roots beyond these shores feel that there somehow is added value to being a hyphenated American rather than just an American. It is as though to be described as an American just does not tell the whole story. For many the same applies with the name "Christian".

I believe Paul is making that point when he warns the Corinthians about their party spirit and elitist attitudes in 1 Corinthians, chapters 3 and 4. The Corinthians were gravitating to personalities and programs and looking for ways to stand out as better Christians than those who did not respond to the same gravitational pull. Paul has his way of bringing these stellar ones down to earth. He calls them infantile (3:1) and fleshly (3:3). What they call wisdom he sees as merely the human boasting of deceived people (3:18-23). He warns them not to be puffed up in favor of one against another and, particularly, he warns them "not to go beyond what is written" (4:6). His words in 4:7 are very telling when he simply says, "Who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If you received it, why do you boast as though you did not receive it? Or, as Peter would tell us ...

Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

1 Peter 4:7



That meets at 215 South Thomas Ave, Sayre, PA 18840
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March 5, 2017

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday

Ladies Bible Class- 10:00 a.m.

Thursday

Home Bible study-7:00pm

**ALL THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST
GREET YOU.
ROMANS 16:16**

Today's Sermon: *Caught Between the Meeting Place and Market Place*

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org

aicoc.org (Antioch Initiative)

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Scripture: Mark 7:1-9

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Next potluck: March 19th Theme: Irish**
- **Ladies Class: 10am, Tuesday, March 7th at the building. We will be discussing chapter 6 of Struggle, Seek, Grow, which is about Rahab.**
- **Midweek Bible study @ McElhaney's Thursday nights at 7pm. Coffee and dessert is usually served. All contributions gladly accepted!**
- **Horseheads Ladies Day will be on March 18th. Diana Owens from Wetzel Road church of Christ in Liverpool, NY will be the speaker.**
- **Men's Revival, Inner Man: the Uprising, Saturday, May 6th. Arthur has lined up speakers from Newark, NY and Endwell, NY.**



- Our memorial service for Cathy Carey last week was a meaningful and poignant time of sharing with daughter Kimberly, her husband David, and daughters Emma and Lilly in attendance.
- Kelly, along with Jackson and Harper, are spending a few days in FL with her sister, and seeing her mom as well.
- Molly Rivera has gotten good results from her test for heart problems and Celiac. She has none of it, but could have a hiatal hernia.
- The search for an evangelist for the Endless Mountains church of Christ in Tunkhannock is pretty much over. Jeff Wyeth from Ohio was interviewed extensively yesterday morning. He will be teaching Bible class and preaching at the Elmore, AL church this morning. He will accept the position at Endless Mountains if it is offered to him, he says.

PRAYERS...

- Pray that we can all stay healthy and that there is a **spirit of unity** among us here at Valley Cities church.
- Ruthie went to the ER at Cayuga Medical Center in Ithaca, NY on Monday night because she felt faint and her pulse was elevated. She was diagnosed with tachycardia, given medicine and told to follow up with a cardiologist. Pray that the doctors will be able to keep her condition under control.
- Pray for all of our family members and loved ones who are yet lost or have strayed far away to come (back) to Christ.
- Pray that Darlene has no discomfort or reason for worry during her radiation treatments, which will begin in a few weeks.
- Pray that Darlene's sister, Dara, can find a job in or near Sayre, so she and their mother, Jackie, can move here and be close to Darlene.
- Keep praying for the Endless Mountains church in Tunkhannock and Jeff Wyeth, that it works out having him become their preacher.
- Pray for comfort for those from war-torn or famine-stricken countries who have no homes and are starving, without clean water or safety.
- Emily Barry had a needle biopsy of her thyroid on Wednesday. Pray for courage, and that there is no cancer, as the results were inconclusive.
- Edna Jarrett of the Bronx, who we have been praying for because of her blood cancer, shows no sign of cancer upon completion of her radiation therapy.
- Remember to pray for Deborah Albro (stage 4 breast cancer) in Florida, Matthew Lowe (needs care) in Ohio. Also Lori Kashorek (lung cancer) in Plattsburgh, NY and Rocky Perry (seeking the Truth) of Sayre.

If you have any prayers or news that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy Barry

barncat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.