



HIGH TIMES



A Ministry of The Highview Park Christian Assembly
A Bi-Monthly Publication

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Love Walk

(Continued from last edition)
By Gena O'Neal

We know that God has known us and predestined us from the foundation of the world. We are not acquaintances to him. He already knows us. In addition, his ways are not our ways and his thoughts are higher than our own. It would therefore seem that it is not expected of us to personally love each to person we encounter. How could we? If we show personal love it seems based upon emotion and condition. Sure our hearts go out to others, but does it stem more from sympathy, empathy or even compassion; is it based more on emotion?

So then how do I demonstrate God's love on a daily basis? When I encountered only familiar or even outright strangers, I tried to conceptualize loving each of them. Therein lay my mistake. I tried to out of my own ability. Did I really think I had the power to love everyone in and of myself? As I discovered, it is not of my own ability, rather it is the Spirit of God within me, who is love. I perform acts of love in obedience to the Spirit of God and not out of my own ability, lest I fail. Moreover, if I act in love in this way, I may draw out this same love in others.
(Continued on page 4)



Pastor Phil Thomas

The following is an article written by Teri Murphy, after an evening my husband, Pastor Thomas, and I spent with Teri and her husband Andy, and a Religious Science congregation, where Teri currently attends. I Pet 3:15... "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" became such a reality for us that day. Of course Pastor Thomas was up for the challenge and articulated the truth of God's Word emphatically and in a manner that was well received, even by those who didn't necessary accept it as truth. This is what Teri had to say:

Last night I had one of the best experiences of my life. Not the movie itself -- "What the Bleep" was just OK by me, although several other folks loved it-- but the discussion afterwards was a glorious culmination of several themes in my life the past couple years.

Thirty of us went to the movie yesterday including Pastor Phil of Highview Park Christian Assembly and his wife Cindy. The movie is heavily weighted

BLEEPING FANTASTIC!!!!

"Now the pastor and his wife were sitting directly behind me in the theater and when that line was spoken I sank way down in my seat and started hoping they wouldn't walk out. ...!"

toward science and makes the point that we can use our thoughts to change the chemistry of our brains and to change reality. It asked who the observer is and said science cannot locate an observer anywhere in our brains; there is only one observer which is common to all of us, and thus we are God. It also said, "Any religion which says we as tiny human beings can sin and displease God is an ugly superstition that blasphemes God."

Now, the pastor and his wife were sitting directly behind me in the theater, and when that line was spoken I sank way down in my seat and started hoping they wouldn't walk out. And just as a little tirade here, what the bleep were the movie makers thinking to have used such an incendiary, attack statement? I guess interfaith dialog is not one of the realities they were hoping to create.

At the close of the movie, as we all walked out, the pastor pronounced the movie, "interesting," which led me to flash on the story told by our dearly departed friend Ralph Hoar whose little daughter once said adults use "interesting" when they don't want to say something was a disaster.

Back at CCRS with 20 of us in a circle, we went around and pronounced one word that

summed up our reaction to the movie with words that ranged from:

Wow
Inspiring
Uplifting
Affirming
Fascinating

to **Scientific Psychobabble crap(JQ) Cold(me)**

And finally Pastor and his wife said "confirming" and "searching." (I'm using the title "Pastor" here the way it is used within Highview, although they use last names, even among each other in informal situations. One of the small amusements of the evening was hearing Pastor Phil address Reverend Harriet as "Pastor.")

When we got into discussion of the ideas, Pastor Phil held back a while and then said that the movie confirms Christian belief that science can't answer the important questions and it also confirms the scripture that "As a man sows, so shall he reap." Otherwise, he said, the movie was totally opposite from Christian belief that man is inherently sinful and can only be saved by Jesus and reliance on the Bible. He also said the movie ignored the question of what happens to us when we die and face judgment for what we've done in this life This led to a flurry of discussion on reincarnation and the concept that there is no right and wrong. DK stole the show here by pronouncing that if his wife butchered him in his sleep, he'd know that the two of them had an agreement beforehand that it would be for their mutual spiritual growth. *(Continued on Page 4)*

A PURPOSE DRIVEN MAN – PASTOR PHILLIP THOMAS

7TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION – October 10 – 17

Revival October 12 – 15

12 – Pastor Timothy Tillman

13 – Pastor Frederick Fisher

14 – Bishop James Thornes

15 – Pastor Raynor Wharton

UNCONSTITUTIONAL?

As you walk up the steps to the building which houses the U.S. Supreme Court you can see near the top of the building a row of the world's law givers and each one is facing one in the middle who is facing forward with a full frontal view... ***it is Moses and he is holding the Ten Commandments!***

As you enter the Supreme Court courtroom, the two huge oak doors have the ***Ten Commandments engraved on each lower portion of each door.***

As you sit inside the courtroom, you can see the wall, right above where the Supreme Court judges sit: ***a display of the Ten Commandments!***

There are Bible verses etched in stone all over the Federal Buildings and Monuments in Washington, D.C.

James Madison, the fourth president, known as "The Father of Our Constitution" made the following statement: "We have staked the whole of all our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government, upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God."

Patrick Henry, that patriot and Founding Father of our country said: "It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded not by religionists but by Christians, not on religions but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ".

Every session of Congress begins with a prayer by a paid preacher, whose salary has been paid by the taxpayer since 1777.

Fifty-two of the 55 founders of the Constitution were members of the established orthodox churches in the colonies.

The very first Supreme Court Justice, John Jay, said: "Americans should select and prefer Christians as their rulers."

How, then, have we gotten to the point that everything we have done for 220 years in this country is now suddenly wrong and unconstitutional?

Let the world see and remember what this great country was built on.

FOCUS ON THE MARK

Question: What do these 4 people have in common?

Bill Cosby **Ben Nighthorse Campbell (US Senator from Colorado)**
Christian Slater **Ruth Ann Minner (Governor of Delaware)**

Answer: They're all GED graduates.

The GED (General Education Degree, sometimes referred to as the Graduate Equivalency Diploma) is a degree for people who didn't finish high school. It's equal to a high school diploma. In fact, one out of every seven high school diplomas issued each year in the United States is based on passing the GED Tests. More than 95 percent of U.S. employers consider GED graduates the same as traditional high school graduates in regard to hiring, salary, and opportunity for advancement. Furthermore, GED graduates outperform at least 40 percent of today's high school seniors.



Are you ready to earn your GED credential, or do you know someone who is? Sign up now!

The Mark of Excellence Youth and Adult Educational Services program is pleased to offer a 6-week course to help those preparing to take the test. We'll meet every Monday evening for 2 ½ hours, and then conclude with an all-day Saturday session just before the actual test. Students will receive a textbook and work materials and will be expected to study outside of class.

Each week, we'll focus on a section of the test: 1) Language Arts, Writing, 2) Language Arts, Reading, 3) Mathematics, 4) Social Studies, and 5) Science. It's a good review of high school subjects, and many people sit in on GED classes just to refresh what they've forgotten.

Here's a sample question from the first section, Language Arts, Writing:

Which correction should you make to this sentence?

I have included a copy of my resume, which details my principal interests education, and past work experience.

1. Remove the comma after "resume"
2. Replace "principal" with "principle"
3. Insert a comma after "interests"
4. Replace "past" with "passed"
5. No correction is necessary

See the schedule below.

Class Schedule:	Oct 4, 11, 18, 25, and Nov 1, 8	7:00pm - 9:30 pm
	Nov 13 (mock test)	8:00am - 4:00 pm

Cost: \$60 (\$25 registration and \$5 per class) Includes all materials

Location: Highview Park Christian Assembly
 1845 N Columbus St Arlington, VA
 (703) 527-0798

Information: Andy Murphy (703) 524-4438 andymurphy_22207@yahoo.com

[Answer to sample question: #3. Items in a series of three or more require a comma to separate them

“Spotlighting Our Needs—The Mark of Excellence TLC”

ABOUT THE MARK The Mark of Excellence Community Outreach Center’s Transformational Living Center (MoX TLC) is the services and operational arm of the Mark of Excellence Community Development Corporation (Mark CDC). We are a 501 (c) (3) non-profit that is dedicated to providing Job Preparedness, Coaching, and Life Skills Services to adults in Northern Virginia. We also offer Youth Educational Services (Y.E.S.) such as SAT / PSAT PREP, G.E.D. Prep, mentoring and youth creative development supports.

We will be located at 4100 Hunt Road, Fairfax, VA on the property that is currently “Fairfax Community Church.” Highview Park Christian Assembly now owns the property and will allow our staff to work from that location as of September 7, 2004. Our phone number is (703) 323-5422 (after October 1, 2004).

Please feel free to make an appointment (we are a volunteer staff to date) to come by and visit with us. You may reach us at (703) 527-0798 until October 1, 2004.

We certainly look forward to you and others volunteering with us.

For more information, visit the MoX website at www.markofexcellence.org

ONGOING TLC INITIATIVES

Invite other friends/ colleagues whom you may have wanted to recruit to work with you on a volunteer basis to join us. People love to be part of projects at their inception and continuing development. They may not wish to volunteer on a long-term ongoing basis, but we accept any gifts of time, talent or treasure as may fit your schedules for this great cause.

PUBLIC RELATIONS / RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

ANYONE WITH A GIFT FOR PR/Desktop Publishing--Please contact me or you may e-mail Nancy Bailey at the above e-mail to help with this effort. Our goal: To create a briefing packet that can be used to raise awareness and educate our donors and other individuals on the services, mission and supports that the MoX TLC provides.

Upcoming Events

September

4 – HAPPY BIRTHDAY ASST PASTOR LOTTAHALL



10-11 – Women’s Harvest Fellowship Weekend

15 – Women’s Ministry Summit,
Speaker: Rev Kelly Hayes,
Hunter Memorial AME Church
9:00am – 3:00pm

16 – Annual Women’s Day,
Speaker: Rev Lisa Kelly,
Morning Star Baptist Church,
Balt, MD
11:30am

19 – Annual Usher Day,
Speaker: Elder Shaun
Pressley, Highview Park
4:00pm

25 – Rev. Anthony Brown,
Morning Star Baptist Church,
Balt, MD

October

2 – “Showtime at the View”
7:30pm

3 – Minister Bryan Allen, Atlanta,
GA, 11:30am

Pastor James Victor, Mt. Olive
Baptist Church, Arl, VA, 11:30am

4 – Mark of Excellence Family
Fun Nite at Fuddruckers,
6:00pm – 8:00pm

6-8 – Pastor Thomas in Revival
at Blue Ridge Baptist Church,
Wirtz, VA

10 – Pastor’s 7th Anniversary
Bishop Robert Farrell, Refuge
Tabernacle Christian Center,
Livingston, NJ
11:30am

Pastor Dwayne Debnam,
Morningstar Baptist Church, Balt,
MD, 4:00pm

17 – Bishop Jan Goodman, One
Accord Gospel Temple,
Jacksonville, FL, 11:30am

31 – Hallelujah Nite

Weekly/Monthly Schedule

Sunday

Sunday School 9:30am

1st Sunday – Communion 4:00pm

Morning Service 11:30am

Children’s Church 11:30am

4th Sunday – Sunday School
Breakfast 8:30am

Monday

2nd Monday – Deacon’s Meeting
7:30pm

Wednesday

Prayer & Bible Study 7:30pm

Youth Bible Study 7:30pm

Thursday

Minister’s Development Institute
7:00pm

Friday

1st Friday – Men’s Ministry
Fellowship 7:30pm

3rd Friday – Women’s Ministry
Fellowship 7:30pm

Saturday

1st & 3rd Saturday
Praise Team Rehearsal
12:00pm

2nd Saturday – Mass
Choir Rehearsal 12pm

4th Saturday – Youth
Mass Choir Rehearsal
12:00pm

4th Saturday – BASIC
(Teen Choir) Rehearsal
2:00pm

Highview Park
Christian Assembly
1845 N. Columbus St.
Arlington, VA 22207

PHONE:
(703) 527-0798

“Where Everybody Is
Somebody Special”

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.highviewpark.org

**HIGHVIEW PARK
CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY**
1845 N. Columbus St.
Arlington, VA 22207

BLEEPING FANTASTIC (Continued from Page 1)

Sensing way more trouble than we could get ourselves out of in one evening, I tried to steer the conversation back to commonalities. I said that one of the most fascinating aspects of my regular dialog with Pastor Phil is that even though he limits himself to the Bible as his sole standard, when it comes to choices he would actually make or counsel others to make, I have yet to hear anything different from what I would come to drawing on a much wider range of sources -- which points to the fact that God speaks to us all.

And let me just editorialize that the tone remained amiable with lots of laughter. Pastor Phil several times asked someone's name, got up to shake their hand, and then remembered to use the name later in conversation. One of the best laughs was when someone who shall remain nameless (I'm walking a line about being discreet here) said the only evil people were Republicans, which caused Pastor P. to stand up and feign walking out saying, "Well now I'm outta here." Frankly, his undefended good-naturedness under fire took my breath away. It was positively Christ-like.

And in fact, it was Ed Preston's comments on Christ consciousness which steered the evening to its glorious finale. Ed talked about his goal to bring the Christ consciousness into himself and express it in the world. Rev. Harriet said we use meditation to inquire "Who am I" and thus to determine who the witness really is. These comments caused Pastor Phil to rise to his feet and deliver a sermonette that included something like:

"I can tell you who the witness is. Christian theology tells us it's God. Oh I feel like preaching now. And we need to not just imitate Christ, but bring him into our lives. As Paul says in Galatians, Christ must be formed in us."

This caused the rest of us to cheer and leap to our feet in what felt like a glorious discovery of a meeting point. Rev. Harriet then asked Pastor Phil to give the closing prayer, and he said simply, "Heavenly Father we thank you for the sharing that has brought us together tonight. In Jesus name, amen." And in the surprised silence that followed, he gave us the final laugh of the evening saying, "I know y'all think Baptist preachers pray too long."

It was the perfect close to an evening that was the perfect way to commemorate 9/11.

LOVE WALK (Continued from page 1)

Love is a decision. I should practice the love I know from God and do so less by feeling. And God's perfect love casts out all fear. If I receive His love, I have nothing to fear in loving others despite feelings, or whether or not I get along with them, just as Jesus did. Any rejection or misconduct I receive on behalf of others who may not be walking in the same love, does not sway my decision to love. Again, I've been qualified by Him, by having received His love.

Indeed, I experience God's love the most when I act in it. It is His power of love demonstrated within me. This is wherein, like Paul, I can glory in my weakness, and gladly so, as it is remarkable. Through readings, I encountered Paul's words in Ephesians 3:16-19, which I have also since heard referenced through teachings: "I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

...to this I say, Amen.