

Let's Engage!

Becoming a disciple of Jesus is by far the most important decision a person will ever make. That decision begins a life journey of following Jesus and it begins a declaration of war against Satan. Certainly as a young disciple this reality of war is felt as you confront your old self, in the world, and transform into the new self created to be like Christ. Yet as we progress, if we don't stay alert, we can lose sight that we really are in a war. This war is real, even more real, than what is going on in Afghanistan or Iraq. This war is not isolated to a few countries that we see on the evening news but rather is global and is in our city, our homes and our hearts.

God gave the children of Israel the promised land but in order to take possession of that land they had to fight. We are given salvation and an abundant life, we are given a commission to "go into all the world and make disciples" all of which demands a fight, a war, a real struggle. Sometimes we forget this! We forget that we are in a war! We forget that in a war there are casualties, we forget that in a war we have to make decisions to overcome fear with courage and faith, we forget that in a war our feelings aren't the driving force but victory. Here are a few things to remember.

- 1. Remember who is your enemy!** As Paul states, our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the "powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil" (Eph. 6:10-19). The enemy is not a commanding officer you may not like, it is Satan. Your adversary is not your fellow soldier and foxhole mate, it is Satan. When you are in a fight you need all the help you can get. In the heat of the battle we can never afford to forget who is the foe. It is tragic when fellow soldiers are taken out by "friendly fire".
- 2. Remember where is the battle ground.** It is not the church but rather the mind and the heart! Peter writes, "Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to

abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. (1 Peter 2:11) James writes "What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? In describing our sinful natures Paul writes "but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind" (Romans 7:22) We have to remember that the battleground is not our home, our school, our Bible Talk or our church, it is in our hearts. That is why our daily time with the Lord is so important. It is there where our hearts and faith are addressed.

- 3. Remember we don't wage war the way the world wages war.** Paul writes to the Corinthians, "For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds." (II Cor. 10:4-5) Paul teaches us the armor available to us in Ephesians 6. This armor is more than adequate to protect us as we fight the good fight and win!

Are you in the battle? Do you feel the heat of the fight? When was the last time you had a skirmish with Satan over something in your heart? When was the last time you had hand to hand combat with Satan over the soul of one of your friends? The battle is real, the battle is here, let's engage! -KW

Today we are taking an extra collection to assist those affected by the **earthquake in Haiti**. In addition to the collection we make for the medical clinic in Bogota, you can designate a certain amount on the "For" line on your check for "Haiti". The monies that we collect will be sent to Hope Worldwide to be distributed through Hope Worldwide Haiti. **Special thanks** to Steve Waddell who designed and posted fire exit maps throughout the entire church building. Thanks for caring enough to keep us safe!

Congregational Workshop

January 22-24, 2010

Friday, 7:00 pm Bible Talk Leaders Meet
Saturday, 9:00 am-12:00 pm Men Meet
1:00-4:00 pm Women Meet
Sunday, Celebration service followed by a Potluck

"Fire Proof" Marriage Class, Saturdays,
1/30/10- 3/13/10, 6:00 pm,

Introductory session for all participants on 1/30.
Young Married (with children 3rd grade or younger) sessions on 2/13, 27 and 3/13/10.
Older Married (with children above 3rd grade) sessions on 2/6, 20 and 3/6/10.

Books for classes may be ordered through our Bookstore for the upcoming marriage class and the women's class.

Prayer Request

Kim Carstens mother, Susan, asked that we pray for her mother Elizabeth Matthews. Elizabeth will be having two vascular bypass surgeries on her legs January 20th.

CONTRIBUTION

Budget	\$7150.00
Contribution	\$7384.04
Dr. in Bogotá	\$487.25
Special Missions	\$25.00
Music/Media	\$0.00
Local Benevolence	\$0.00

Along with our regular contribution we will be taking up a contribution on the first Sunday of each month for our Music/Media Ministry. On the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays we will collect money to support the Dr. that serves the poor at the Hope Clinic in Bogotá. The month that we have a fifth Sunday we will take a collection that goes towards local benevolence.
Sean Finch

Louisville Church of Christ Purpose Statement
The purpose of the Louisville Church of Christ is to bring people to Jesus and membership in his family—by connecting them with a vibrant, spirit-led church family that reflects the diversity of our metro Louisville community—to help them grow in Christ-like maturity and to become equipped for their personal ministries in the church and their life's missions in the world—in order to glorify God and advance the cause of Christ.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Midweek Service

Wednesday, 1/20/10

7:00 pm

Congregational Workshop

1/22-24/10

Celebration Service &

Potluck

1/24/10

Marriage Class

Saturdays, 6 pm

1/30 through 3/13/10

Women's Class

Wednesdays, 2/3-24/10

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