

# The Front Range

# INFORMER

*Promoting biblical truth and mutual support among churches of Christ in the Centennial State.*

July, 2008

Editors: John Morris & Dale Loney

Volume 1 Issue 1

## *A New Newsletter*

You hold in your hands the introductory issue of *The Front Range Informer*, a proposed quarterly periodical, conceived and created for the purpose of “*promoting biblical truth and mutual support among churches of Christ in the Centennial State.*” Among Colorado congregations which practice a shared ministry, there has existed for some time a felt need for greater connectedness. It is hoped that this periodical can contribute in some small way to the satisfaction of that need.

*The Front Range Informer* will seek to fulfill its mission by offering: biblically sound articles and activities; announcements of brethren’s birthdays, anniversaries, and personal milestones; a quarterly “Close-Up” (for the first year, at least) on one of the Front Range’s congregations; and up-to-date information regarding guest speakers, special meetings, baptisms, and new members. Suggestions for other content are very welcome.

At this time, *The Front Range Informer* is a *proposed* periodical, one whose future existence depends on how initial issues are received. In light of that, it is kindly requested that if you would like to see this paper continue, that you let the editors know (by phone, mail, or e-mail). Please know that your contact information will be regarded as private, and that you will not be contacted in return, unless you so request. The editors’ contact information is provided on the last page.

Thank you for reading. Please peruse the following pages, and let us know what you think. God bless you as you live for Him. *The Editors*

## "Lights in the World"

*by Wade Stanley*

As each day passes, the world grows darker. We, like the Philippian brethren of old, live in “the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world” (Phil. 2:15). While the world sinks deeper into the dark abyss of depravity and perversity, we must uphold the light of Christ at all costs. How do we keep the flame of Jesus burning bright when so many seek to extinguish it? Paul answers this question in the verses surrounding Phil. 2:15.

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*“How do we keep the flame of Jesus burning bright when so many seek to extinguish it?”*

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He first commands us to “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” (Phil. 2:12). This work rests upon each individual member. We work out our salvation by casting aside our old life with its recesses of darkness and fill our resurrected life with the light of Christ. Jesus “called [us] out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1 Pet. 2:9), and expects us to “walk as children of light,” having “no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness” (Eph. 5:8, 11). In other words, a child of light will “put off...the old man which grows

corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,” and “put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness” (Eph. 4:22, 24). For the church to effectively broadcast the light of Christ, each individual member must drive out their own hindering works of darkness.

Paul's next command is, “Do all things without complaining and disputing” (Phil. 2:14-15). Complaints and disputes destroy congregations. They reflect ingratitude and selfishness while introducing divisive elements. A divided congregation cannot manifest Christ's spirit. In contrast to this attitude, consider verses 3-5: “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus...*” A congregation's selfless spirit of service promotes the light of Christ. “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (Jn. 13:35).

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“[hold] *fast the word of life*”  
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To conclude, Paul exhorts us to “[hold] fast the word of life” (Phil. 2:16). One major contributor to the world's growing darkness is the presence of deceiving doctrines. Pantheism, paganism, atheism, and corruptions of Jesus Christ's gospel swirl about us. To navigate the storm, we must hold firm to the doctrine revealed in the New Testament. Instability appears when we surrender to the storms of false teaching: Paul says we “should no longer be children, tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine” (Eph. 4:14). Instead, we must hold fast to the gospel, turn a deaf ear to the confusion around us, and uphold the light of Christ. “Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle” (2 Thess. 2:15).

My brethren, as the darkness deepens around us we should not despair! Rather, let us labor to uphold the light of Christ until our death or His return. Prepare your soul for eternity, maintain an environment of goodwill and peace, hold fast to the word of God. One thing is certain: the darker this world grows, the brighter Christ's light will shine!

## This Quarter's Close-Up: *Colorado Springs*

A history of the body of Christ meeting at  
950 E. Cimarron St. in Colorado Springs

*by Steven Lee Wright*  
(June 23, 2008)

On June 30, 1906, John Beswick deeded to the congregation, for the whopping sum of one dollar, the property upon which the meeting place at 950 E. Cimarron now stands. It is fascinating to contemplate this transaction 102 years later.

On August 1, 1876, one hundred years after the United States of America established its independence from England, and 73 years after the acquisition of the Louisiana Territory, Colorado became the 38<sup>th</sup> state of the Union. Within 30 years after that, there was a congregation of the Lord's people establishing themselves in the city of Colorado Springs.

On March 17, 1907, Hamlin Brown of Husted, Colorado, and Anna Kemp of Colorado Springs, were married. To their union on August 9, 1908 was born a baby girl (my great aunt), Edith (Brown) Russell. I remember my great grandmother Brown, and I certainly remember my Aunt Edith. It would be a blessing to have her copious notes on EVERYTHING that ever occurred with this congregation over the many years to consult as I write today! Edith could tell you about the days when the church met in a tent while the building was being constructed. It was in 1915--five years after Edith's sister Emma (“Ella”) (Brown) Spence (2/15/1910--10/19/1986) was born --that the work on the building was completed. In those days there were neither classrooms, nor any access via stairs to the basement; no furnace, no plumbing, just a single pot bellied stove for heat.

The Browns apparently spent a little time further west, because the next daughter born was Cleeda (Brown) Polster, on April 11, 1915, in Azusa, California. In her 93 years, my Aunt Cleeda has seen a lot of coming and going, a lot of rising and falling with the church. Cleeda remembers

various evangelists who have worked with the congregation in times past: Brother Smith from Washington; Brother Harper from Riverside, California; Orville Webb; Fritz Chesly; Roy



950 E. Cimarron (Cedar & Cimarron)

Harris; Roy Loney; C. R. Turner; and Tom Dennis. Cleeda also remembers my great grandfather, Arthur Marion Wright: carpenter, preacher, good man, and father of ten children. Cleeda remembers the two week protracted meetings, the young people's meetings, and the vacation Bible studies that these men used to conduct with the group. Evangelists working with the church in more recent years: Thomas Woody; Rick Sparks; Jay Graham; Carl Hunter; Louis Garbi; Wade Stanley; John Morris; Kevin Ferguson; Dan Huff; Doug Twaddell; and myself, Steven Wright.

On August 12, 2006, I stepped into the role of interim leadership, specific to the evangelist (Tit. 1:5). This was done at the initiative of the congregation.

The current membership of the congregation consists of seven souls: Jeanette Dorland, whose late husband Jack Campbell served as an elder with

the congregation; their daughter Cynthia Minick, who faithfully serves the congregation in multiple capacities; Jack Campbell's first cousin Betty McDaniel, who became a member of the body in September 2007; Art and Lois Criswell, who first came to the congregation in 1949; Cleeda Polster; and the youngest of the Brown girls, my dear maternal grandmother, Carol (Brown) DuCharme. Carol was born to Hamlin and Anna on December 24, 1921, in Colorado Springs. She, like her sister Cleeda, and the dearly departed Edith, has been attending at 950 E. Cimarron all of her life.

In this great nation of ours, how many congregations of the churches of Christ can we point to that are 100 years old or older? For 950 E. Cimarron, if this world and our nation continue, we hope to see at least 100 more years to come. I commend these brethren for their fortitude and their faithful resolve. It is a struggle right now, but we all hope for brighter days ahead. In the words of Cleeda: *"In my lifetime, I have seen this congregation cycle down and come back up many times; we are praying that it will come back up again."*

My parents, Lee and Carol Jean (Orrell) Wright, both grew up in this congregation. In times past, many more of my relatives have been a part of the group as well. I myself have many fond memories of summer visits there. Indeed my heart goes out to this place and its people.

May God be with us all in strength!

*"...but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us."* (2 Cor. 8:5b ESV)



L to R: Janette Dorland, Art Criswell, Cleeda Polster Betty McDaniel. (January, 2008)

# "Oh Lord, Bless Everyone"

~ submitted by Dale Loney

*I knelt to pray when day was done,  
And prayed, "Oh Lord, bless everyone.  
Take from each saddened heart the pain,  
And let the sick be well again."  
And then I awoke another day,  
And carelessly went on my way.  
The whole day long I did not try  
To wipe a tear from any eye.  
I did not try to share the load  
Of any brother on my road.  
I did not even go to see  
The sick man just next door to me.  
Yet once again when day was done,  
I prayed, "Oh Lord, bless everyone."  
But as I prayed, into my ear  
There came a voice that whispered clear,  
"Pause, hypocrite, before you pray.  
Whom have you tried to bless today?  
God's sweetest blessings always go  
By hands that serve Him here below."  
And then I hid my face, and cried,  
"Forgive me, God, for I have lied.  
Let me see but another day  
And I will live the way I pray."*

(The Beacon, Vol. 2, No. 12, April 1966, Bolivar, Pennsylvania)

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## The Church Online

Are you online? If so, here are a few websites from around the brotherhood you might enjoy. On these you will find helpful articles, audio recordings of sermons, and much more. A great way to stay "connected" with the brethren!

- Smart Rd. (Greenwood, MO):  
[www.smartroadcoc.org](http://www.smartroadcoc.org)
- Pleasant Hill (Pleasant Hill, IA):  
[www.pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org](http://www.pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org)
- Living Waters (Charles Fry):  
[www.livwat.com](http://www.livwat.com)
- Bread of Life (Dan Huff):  
<http://bol.gospelmesssage.net>

# This & That

from

# Here & There

~birthdays, anniversaries, milestones, events, etc.~

## Guest Speakers/Special Events

- Gordon Wang at Jay St.: July 6
- John Morris at Jay St.: July 13

## Happy Anniversary

- Wayne & Marge Worthington (Pueblo): June  
Congratulations on 60 years!

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- Mable Craddock (Jay St.): July 22
- Jenila Stice (Jay St.): July 23
- Long Vu (Jay St.): August 8

## New Members

- Calvin Reeves placed membership at Jay St.  
on July 6.

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## QUARTERLY QUIZ

1. What does Ps. 85:10 mean?
2. What two verses in Acts clearly connect baptism with the forgiveness of sins?
3. What did Job treasure *more* than his "necessary food"?

*Answers next issue*

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