

# The Front Range

# INFORMER

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

February, 2009

Editors: John Morris & Dale Loney

Volume 1 Issue 3

## *Homosexual Love?*

by Charles Fry  
(from [www.livwat.com](http://www.livwat.com))

*“It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit.”* (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8, NIV)

It is difficult to have a reasonable discussion of homosexuality, because of all the rhetoric in our times coloring and disguising the issues. To describe homosexual acts as wrong or sinful invites being labeled homophobic, or bigoted, or worse. Many notions about homosexuality have been advanced, and even become accepted as common knowledge, which are not fact-based but represent romantic idealism, wishful thinking, or outright deception rather than honest information.

The notion of homosexual fidelity for example is talked up, as though it is, or could be common, but is not supported by much evidence of “long term committed relationships.” People assert that God doesn’t condemn homosexual acts, but this is certainly not the case. The idea that homosexuality is a product of one’s genes-- “just born that way”--is touted, but there is little data to support the conclusion, and no unambiguous data at all. The

numbers estimating the percentage of homosexuals in the population are often drastically exaggerated.

However, we’ve had more than thirty years of increasingly strident propaganda promoting homosexual acts as normal and beyond reproach in the public media and popular entertainment. The evidence and symptoms that once defined homosexuality as a damaging “disorder” in psychology textbooks didn’t change, it was simply discarded and the diagnosis and treatment rejected. Nevertheless, homosexuality is still dangerous and self-destructive, spiritually, physically, and psychologically. It is still wrong, and should be resisted by all who are attracted to it. Homosexuality still keeps company with numerous health, behavior and attitude problems.

There is no question that the Bible consistently condemns homosexual behavior, by men or women. Romans 1:26-27\* describes the proliferation of homosexuality as one part of the progression of degradation that mankind, apart from God, sinks into. Jude and Peter refer to the acts performed in Sodom and Gomorrah as “sexual immorality”, “perversion”, and “filthy and lawless deeds” (Jude 7\*; 2 Peter 2:6-8\*). The Law of Moses condemned homosexual acts as “detestable” with a penalty of death (Leviticus 20:13\*). Keeping perspective though, we should realize that the same general references in context can also be used to discuss God’s condemnation of disrespect for parents and rejection of authority (actually these are closely related themes: Romans 1:30; Jude 8-10; 2 Peter 2:10; Leviticus 20:9).

The prophet Malachi wrote: “*You ask, ‘Why?’ It is because the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth,*

because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant. Has not [the LORD] made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth. 'I hate divorce,' says the LORD God of Israel, 'and I hate a man's covering himself with violence as well as with his garment' says the LORD Almighty. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith" (Malachi 2:14-16). God's design for mankind, from the beginning, included a design for the family, a man and woman joined together in a faithful relationship, producing godly offspring. Homosexual partnerships, of course, cannot conform to this design. There are many ways to deviate from the design, including homosexuality, infidelity and divorce. Any variation from the design is going to carry consequences that affect body, mind, and spirit, whether people like it or not. Every moral choice also has widespread effects on relatives, friends, associates, and ultimately the whole culture and world.

Paul pictures a marriage between a man and a woman as a healthy way of avoiding the temptations of immorality (1 Corinthians 7:1-7). Homosexual partnerships cannot be described in the same way. Rather (as in the references already mentioned), homosexuals are pictured as yielding to lust, not avoiding it, or triumphing over it. In the same letter, Paul spoke of the exclusion of "*adulterers, male prostitutes, homosexual offenders*", and others from the kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:9).

Paul also wrote about a man in a sexual relationship with his stepmother (his father's wife, 1 Corinthians 5:1-5). Paul didn't wonder whether the man and his stepmother "loved" each other. Their choice of relationship was intolerable and terribly destructive. It was wrong, and should have prompted grief, not acceptance (see Leviticus 20:11). Whether they were adults, whether they were "in love", whether they were otherwise decent people, none of that legitimized a forbidden and unacceptable relationship, a relationship that defied morals, undermined respect for authority, and perverted the family design. Immorality of any kind cannot be justified by feelings, good or bad. This will always be true of homosexual acts, whether in short-term or long-term relationships, no matter what efforts are made to normalize attitudes toward them. We shouldn't single out homosexual sins as worse than other sins, but homosexuality is clearly wrong, and like any sin, very destructive to all who embrace it.

### Scriptures cited:

- Rom 1:26-27- "Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion" (NIV).
- Jude 7- "In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire" (NIV).
- 2 Peter 2:6-8- "if God condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)" (NIV).
- Lev 20:13- "If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads" (NIV). ■

## The Church Online

- *One True Church* (a work of multiple brothers):  
[www.onetruechurch.net](http://www.onetruechurch.net)
- Murray Road (Lee's Summit), MO  
(John Morris' home):  
[www.murrayroadcoc.org](http://www.murrayroadcoc.org)
- Fairfax (Bakersfield), CA  
(Charles Fry's home):  
[www.livwat.com/fairfax](http://www.livwat.com/fairfax)

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# This Quarter's Close-Up:

## Jay Street

A brief history concerning the church of Christ  
that meets at  
1555 Jay St., Lakewood, CO 80214

by John Morris

Before her passing, sister Florence Klatt stated that the congregation began meeting in 1935 on Osceola Street. In 1943, Henry Deister purchased the plot of ground on Jay Street that was to become the congregation's long-term residence. Likely, the congregation was composed primarily of souls who had recently left Colorado farming communities to make a new life in town. One of those souls would have been E. B. Herndon from Joes, Colorado.

Sadly, not long into its life (1950's), Jay Street experienced a division partly over "the fellowship issue", a subject which was giving occasion to much strife throughout the country at the time. As a result, Jay Street watched as a number of souls left to begin their own congregation. About this time, brother Richard Riggins was called upon to address the troublesome doctrine, and did so in a week-long series of lessons at Jay Street in June of 1962.

In 1967, Jay Street tore down the original concrete block building in which it had been meeting, and put up the present structure, which was much better-built, and far more accommodating. Construction was overseen by professional contractor, brother G. C. Yarborough, and assisted by brothers Jesse Yarborough (G. C.'s brother in the flesh and in



Jay Street Church Building (July 2008)

the Lord) and John Turner, construction professionals themselves. Brother E. M. Smith delivered the new building's dedicatory sermon.

Jay Street was assisted by several evangelists in those early decades. Along with E. M. Smith, brothers Bill Hensley, Roy Loney, Cliff Deister, Richard Riggins, Tom Dennis, and C. R. Turner all played a part. Since 1970, Jay Street has been helped by Richard Riggins, Jess Stephens, Rick Sparks, Jay Graham, Carl Hunter, Charles Fry, Dan Huff, Vernon "Chick" Smith, Tom Woody, Doug Twaddell, Steve Wright, Louis Garbi, Wade Stanley, and John Morris.

In its seven decades, Jay Street has had many elders. Those remembered as serving in that capacity are L. E. Turner (who moved to California), brother Weed, brother Peden, G. C. Yarborough (d. 1971), Jess Yarborough, Harvey King, and Carl Vaughn (d. 1992). Though no new elders have yet been appointed to serve in the stead of these old soldiers, Jay Street works and prays that such can take place in the future.



Sunday, November 9, 2008 (last day of Gospel Meeting)

In July of 1990, brother Jay Graham and his growing family arrived from Indiana to assist Jay Street in its labors. Jay was serving (and still is) as an evangelist sent out by the Chapel Glen church of Christ of Indianapolis. About a month later, brother Carl Hunter arrived from California with his family to work alongside Jay. This arrangement existed until 1992 when the Hunters departed to labor in Sutherlin, Oregon. Jay, Becky, and family continued to work with Jay Street until 2002, when they moved to Flagstaff, Arizona.

In April of 2006, brother Steve Wright began regularly assisting the congregation during his nearly monthly trips to support Colorado congregations. He was a help in both evangelism and edification. In July of 2008, John Morris accepted the responsibility of serving Jay Street as its temporary leadership (Tit. 1:5; 2:15).

The past seven years have been a time of

transition for Jay Street. Several deeply-loved souls have departed; however, a core of devoted disciples has remained steadfast and immovable, persisting in faith, hopeful for brighter days. That faithful devotion has recently drawn others, and we hope will continue to do so.

We are thankful for this buoyant body of believers. May their future, like the path of the just, “shine ever brighter unto the perfect day.” ■

## 2009 Brotherhood Meetings

*Hungry for some spiritual meat? Eager for Christian companionship? Across the country, large and small numbers of brethren, many travelling from far and wide, are gathering together for life-changing learning, fellowship, and encouragement. Below is a list of some of this year’s opportunities:*

Section Weekend Meeting <i>Section, KS</i>	March 14-15
Spring Meeting <i>Dean Ave. (Des Moines), IA</i>	April 11-12
Weekend Meeting & Fish Fry <i>Eldon, MO</i>	April 25-26
Memorial Day Meeting <i>Smart Road (Greenwood), MO</i>	May 23-24
Pennsylvania Camp Meeting <i>Bolivar, PA</i>	June 21-26
Midwest Bible Campout (held in Eminence, MO) <i>Prince Road (Alton), IL</i>	June 29-July 3
Summer Two Week Meeting <i>Murray Road (Lee’s Summit), MO</i>	July 26-Aug. 7
<b>Colorado Three-Day Meeting</b> <i>Jay St. (Lakewood/Denver), CO</i>	<b>Aug. 14-16</b>
Labor Day Meeting <i>Fairfax (Bakersfield), CA</i>	Sept. 5-7
Midwest Labor Day Meeting <i>Pleasant Hill, IA</i>	Sept. 5-6
Topeka Weekend Meeting <i>California Acres (Topeka), KS</i>	Oct. 10-11
Indiana Fall Meeting <i>Chapel Glen (Indianapolis), IN</i>	Oct. 10-11
Ozarks Fall Meeting <i>Nixa, MO</i>	Oct. 17-18

# This & That from Here & There

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

*If you have any information you would like included in April’s “This & That from Here & There”, please don’t hesitate to contact the editors. Thanks!*

## • Guest Speakers/Special Events •

**Colorado Springs:** Steve Wright & Louis Garbi (Feb. 15)

**Jay Street:** Jim Boyd (Feb. 1) • John Morris (Feb. 7-8, 11) • Steve Wright & Louis Garbi (Feb. 15) • Jay Graham (Mar. 14-15) • 8-Day Meeting w/ John Morris & Wade Stanley (April 8-15)

**Pueblo:** Steve Wright & Louis Garbi (Feb. 13) • Jay Graham (Mar. 22)

## QUARTERLY QUIZ

1. Which of Paul’s letters to a church contains no words of correction?
2. With which of the seven churches of Asia did Jesus find no fault?
3. How many men in the Bible fasted 40 days?

### Last Issue’s Questions and Answers

1. *How many times does the word “grace” appear in the Old Testament? How many times in the New Testament?*  
**Answer:** OT- 21 times; NT- 125 times  
(In light of the above, consider Jn. 1:17)
2. *How did Elijah ascend into heaven?*  
**Answer:** “by a whirlwind” (2 Kings 2:11)
3. *Who was the cousin of Barnabas?*  
**Answer:** Mark (Col. 4:10)  
(In light of the above, consider Ac. 15:36-40)

*Sorry So Late!*

*Please accept my apologies for the month delay on Issue 3. You can expect Issue 4 in April. John*