

# NEW YORK CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Town Hall, 123 W. 43rd St., New York City

(212) 316-0734

July 20, 1986

## HELP THE WEAK

*"...by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' " Acts 20:35*

It is great to be home. After traveling almost 10,000 miles in 11 days, we are really excited to be back with the body in New York.

The conference in London was inspiring. A number of the brothers from the London congregation shared about the six church plantings being planned by that young congregation. Steve and Lisa did a tremendous job in their speeches and classes. We are really blessed to be reaping the benefits of their talent and training.

I had the privilege of teaching a class on winning and discipling those to Christ who are enslaved to drugs and alcohol. Tremendous problems exist world-wide and across every socio-economic strata of society. It is possible that as many as 500 million people world-wide are experiencing powerlessness over some mood-altering chemical. This means that among this one target population, we have an evangelistic opportunity one half the size of China. It was so exciting to see an intense desire on the part of the brothers and sisters in France, England and the United States to develop more expertise in winning and discipling a difficult, but ever-increasing segment of our world.

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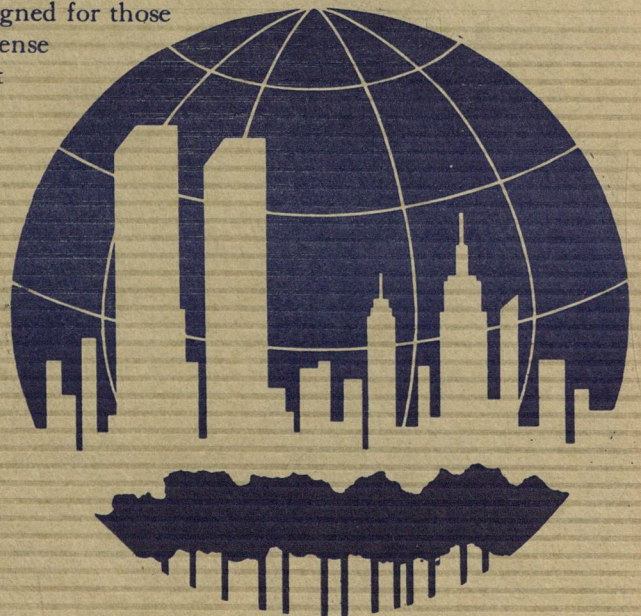
Plans are currently under way to develop a support group within the body here for those who have a history of chemical dependency. This group will: 1.) provide insight into the dynamics of alcohol and drug addiction, 2) encourage and strengthen brothers and sisters who may be struggling in this area, 3) speed up the discipling process by providing specific direction on how to put this sin to death on daily basis, and 4) make possible a far more effective outreach by those who have been crippled in their fruitfulness by this problem.

The group will be designed for those who have experienced an enslavement to drugs or alcohol. Many of us have been involved in drug abuse. But when we decided to repent, we were able to turn our backs on it and never resume using drugs. This is not the case with those who have an addiction or enslavement to this

sin. Romans 7 teaches that there are some sins which we simply cannot overcome without God's help. A part of that help comes through gaining insight into Satan's schemes and by receiving help from other members of the body (Heb. 3:12-13, 10:23-24). The group is designed for those who have either continued to get high or have experienced an intense desire to use after their conversion. Those who want to get honest and are willing to go to any length to put this addiction to death in their life will receive the support and direction they need. Please contact your house church leader if you feel that this would be of help to you.

I am grateful to the Old Louisville church in Louisville, Kentucky, whose vision and encouragement provided me an opportunity to be equipped in this area. Through their pioneering efforts, I believe a seed is being planted worldwide which will result not only in the salvation of many souls, but in the growth and multiplication of those who might otherwise have lived crippled and ineffective Christian lives.

Mike Leatherwood



## QUALIFIED TO TEACH

*"...entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others." II Timothy 2:2*

As Christians, we're entrusted with the charge to bring each other to maturity through our relationships. But how do we do this? How do we become effective disciplers?

### **Train yourself to be Godly (I Tim. 4:7).**

We can't teach what we don't ourselves live. Can you imagine learning to swim from an instructor who can teach the strokes but cannot himself swim? Discipling others starts with being disciplined yourself to take responsibility and initiative to grow spiritually. We can't teach others to be eager learners or seek Godly advice if we aren't doing these things.

### **Example**

*"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity (I Tim. 4:12)."*

We teach more through the daily example we set in our lives than through our words. A sister asked me how she could make others respect her. Respect (not being looked down upon) cannot be asked for or commanded; it can only be earned. What is your example like? What would the church be like if everyone was like you in speech, life, love, faith and purity? A student will be like his teacher (Luke 6:40). Often we can detect our own weaknesses by looking at the weaknesses in those we disciple. Are they not demanding the best from themselves? Not sharing their faith? Not being open? Maybe we are not setting an example in these areas.

### **Authority**

What gives us the authority to teach? We need to constantly use the Word in our teaching and learn how to correctly handle it (II Timothy 2:15). We can teach with confidence and authority because we have the words of God! Every discipling time should include Bible study as we compare ourselves and others to it. Too often our words lack weight because we do not use the Scriptures.

### **Confront**

*"If you point these things out to the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus (I Tim. 4:6)."*

Confrontation of sin and mediocrity is not easy to do, and yet if we really love each other, we must be able to confront. Jesus looked at Peter and said, "Out of my sight, Satan!" (Matt. 16:23). Imagine how hard it would be to call one of your closest friends Satan! So often we shy away and are timid - yet we must bring up the hard things and even be willing to put the relationship on the line to help the person change. Some of us need to be tougher on sin and not be just pals with each other. If we don't confront sin in each other, people will fall away. I'm so thankful for those in my life who have cared enough about me to consistently point these things out because often we aren't objective on ourselves.

### **Help each other.**

*"Correct, rebuke and encourage with great patience and careful instruction (II Tim. 4:2)."*

Lastly we need to not only confront, but then to give solutions; patiently teach, follow up and offer hope that things can change. Discipling must be more than a one-hour weekly appointment - it takes daily involvement in each other's lives.

To evaluate our discipling, are the people we're discipling changing to be more like Jesus? If they aren't, we need to pray for wisdom and insight, seek advice, figure out the areas that need to change, and then decide to have an impact on that person's life.

Ann Yarri

### **Evangelists**

Steve Johnson  
Mike Taliaferro  
Tom Gurrentz  
Steve Kinnard

### **Women's Counselors**

Lisa Johnson  
Pamela Gurrentz  
Ann Yarri  
Charlotte Hamilton  
Leigh Kinnard

### **Services**

The Town Hall  
123 W. 43 St.  
Sunday 3:00 p.m.  
Spanish Review - 5:00 p.m.  
House Churches  
Wednesday - 7:30 p.m.  
Friday 8:00 p.m.

### **Special Announcement**

Remember - the Harvest is quickly approaching - July 31 - Aug. 3. This promises to be a tremendous event to bring our friends, family and neighbors to as Marty Fuqua from Chicago, Walter Evans from Champaign, IL, and Russ Ewell from Boston proclaim God's Word in a powerful way. Be getting your invitations out now!

## ALLOWING THE FIRE TO BURN

*"Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? (1 Corinthians 3:16)*

**A**fter Jesus left this earth God knew we would need His power to live the challenging life He has set before us. Therefore He gave us His most powerful tool, Himself. He gave us His Holy Spirit to live inside every Christian. However too often we simply are not aware of the Spirit's working in our lives.

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galathians 5:22)*

God's Spirit inside us has a purpose. That purpose is to change our lives to become like Jesus in every aspect. However His work can only be accomplished if we "keep in step with the Spirit". We must be aware of the Spirit's urgings inside of us and obey them. Although the Spirit of God would never urge us to disobey or disregard God's Word, we must ask in what ways does the Spirit urge us? *John 16:8* tells us that the Spirit gave the apostles the words to say when confronted in a tough situation.

*For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1:7)*

Paul tells his friend Timothy that the Spirit inside of him will be urging him to live a life that is apparently different than he is living now, one that is more like that of Jesus. Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. (Romans 8:5)

In order for God's Spirit to truly take over our lives we must have our minds set on God's Spirit and His desires and be determined to let God's Spirit have full reign over every aspect of our lives. Are our minds set on personal success or the desires of God's Spirit being fulfilled in our lives?

*Do not put out the Spirit's fire (1 Thessalonians 5:29)*

This verse describes God's Spirit inside of us as a fire (Hebrews 12:29) a fire that is trying to consume our lives with God's will if we will let Him. However, this verse also describes the possibility of our decisions thwarting God's purpose in our lives. We can ignore or say no to God's Spirit as He urges us to be bold, to repent, or to encourage. Our own laziness, fear, or pride could stop God from making our lives beautiful replicas of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us be a church that is determined to have our minds set on being aware of and obeying God's Spirit within us and to never say no to God's fire.



Kevin Maines  
(Evangelist for the Gateway  
church of Christ in  
Cincinnati, Ohio)

### *"They devoted themselves..." Acts 2:42*

Attendance, 7/13

631

Contribution, Sunday, 7/13

\$11,839.42

7/13

Yoony Suh

Jersey City

7/13

Noemi and Keith Kelly

Jersey City

7/13

Anthony Chow

Queens

7/13

Luz Tapia

Jersey City

### Placed Membership

Baptized

7/13

Shelly Roberts

Queens

7/13 Joel Mendias

Upper Manhattan

## HOUSE CHURCHES

*"Greet also the church that meets at their house."*

*Romans 16:5*

### **Uptown Manhattan**

David Peden (212) 316-3230  
354 W. 110th St. #3A  
New York, NY 10025

### **Brooklyn**

Steve Kinnard (718) 789-6206  
224 17th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11215

### **Allendale**

Mike Leatherwood (201) 934-0560  
38 W. Orchard  
Allendale, NJ 07401

### **Downtown Manhattan -- the Loft**

Tom Gurrentz (212) 431-7344  
19 East 16th Street  
New York, NY 10011

### **Bronx**

Steve Sapp (914) 428-5357  
2 Westchester Ave. 2P  
White Plains, N.Y. 10601

### **Jersey City**

Les Johnson (201) 894-5296  
379 Ogden Avenue  
Jersey City, NJ 07205

### **Daytime**

Steve Johnson (212) 865-5879  
275 West 96th Street - 29B  
New York, NY 10025

### **Queens**

Mike Taliaferro (718) 776-4141  
60-11 Broadway 2R  
Woodside, NY 11377

### **New Brunswick**

Matthew Fridley (201) 463-7518  
53 Mitchell Avenue  
Piscataway, NJ 08854

### **Eastside House Church**

Barry Beaty (212) 481-8676  
41 Bleeker Street  
Ground Floor  
New York, N.Y 10012

Over 50 small group Bible studies are meeting in the New York City area.  
Contact one of the above house church leaders for information regarding a  
group Bible study near you.

New York City Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 1090  
New York, N.Y. 10025



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