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Vol. 1 Issue 10-Conference on Practical Christianity—November 2007



Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. Philippians 4:6

O Lord, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth. Isaiah 25:1

Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18

And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity. 1 Corinthians 13:13

We are all thinkers, dreamers and doers to paraphrase Richard Bach. If only in our thinking and dreaming and doing we would be thankful for the creative source and energy that allows us these gifts. In doing so we would celebrate and give thanks for each other, for awareness and for ourselves and the wonderful consciousness God created in each of us.

Be thankful in every moment for the wonder that is **you** created in the image and after the likeness of our loving and generous God. Wouldn't it be grand if each of us realized we are the gift for which we have been long seeking? We are loved and wonderfully created to be all that God intended for us. We are all of this, right now. Give thanks and celebrate your gift by being the very best you, you can infinitely imagine.

2008 Due Dues are Due to be Due

If you say the headline real fast it sounds like a Sinatra song. It's getting close to time to pay your dues for 2008. Dues are payable by December 31, 2007 for the year 2008. No matter when you may have joined, dues are not prorated and the full amount is due from each member. We are considering a new numbering system that will help in our accounting efforts and if it does come to pass will be reflected on your new membership card.

You may pay your dues using the form in this newsletter or you may pay your dues online at <http://www.fillmoresunity.com>. When you get to the "Home" Page simply click on the "Join Now"

Wanted

Submit an article for the newsletter. Limit your subject to about 500 words. Or write a book review. Your peers are always interested in what you are doing at your church. Send it in soon.



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"We fairly sizzle with zeal and enthusiasm to do the work that is ours to do."

Charles and Myrtle Fillmore

The Revealing Word

hold all persons in Truth--Never to think evil of anyone, no matter how much error he may seem to express, but to see all as they really are in Spirit: perfect, harmonious, joyous, and prosperous.

hold a thought--To search out and absorb to one's consciousness, through the process of meditation and prayer, the Truth contained in spiritual words. To repeat some statement of Truth in the silence and meditate on it until it becomes a living word in the consciousness, illuminating and upbuilding mind and body. **Charles Fillmore**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, **kindness**, goodness, faithfulness,
Galatians 5:22

. . . to godliness brotherly **kindness**, and to brotherly **kindness** love.
2 Peter 1:7

And now abide **faith, hope, love**, these three; but the greatest of these is **love**.

1 Corinthians 13:13

About Quarterly Reports

So that we can maintain our status as a non-profit 501 c 3 corporation we must submit the proper paperwork to the IRS at the times they designate it due. Failure to submit these reports can put our status in jeopardy.

Our responsibility to you who are enjoying shared 501 c 3 status is that we submit all paperwork to the IRS in a professional and timely manner.

So that you can maintain your status as a non-profit 501 c 3 organization operating under the umbrella of the Conference on Practical Christianity you must submit your quarterly reports in a timely and professional manner.

Your responsibility to your fellow Professional and Organizational members of the Conference on Practical Christianity is to submit your paperwork as it is requested. Doing so helps keep us all out of harms way.

For your convenience the quarterly report form is included in each newsletter. We not only do this for ourselves but for each other.

Don't worry about the listed activity. Simply fill out the form and everything will be fine. If you had no activity, you had no activity.

News from Fillmore Theological College by Rev. Donald Hudson

Fillmore Theological College is moving to its new permanent address in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Rev. Don Hudson and his wife Barbie are retiring this year and have already established residence in Tulsa. After retirement Rev. Hudson vows to put his energies into the College with excitement and enthusiasm. If you go to www.fillmorecollege.com you can see the huge amount of work Rev. Don has done on a part time volunteer basis. What is to come can only be imagined.



We are in the process of designing a new recruiting brochure and look forward to having it available after the first of the year. The brochure is intended to make Fillmore Theological College attractive to those who are seeking education in the area of spiritual awareness, growth and, for those who desire, professional preparation.

Rev. Hudson is still looking for Mentors to complete the educational staff. Take a look on the college website (www.fillmorecollege.com) and see if there is an area in which you would feel comfortable instructing. Mentors are also needed as student advocates to help the student complete his or her academic program toward a degree.

Very soon Fillmore Theological College will be the only institution offering training in Unity as a method of Practical Christianity as a personal life style and as an avenue toward Ministerial Ordination.

Call Rev. Hudson and discuss your ideas with him: (512) 303-4391

*"Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.
Live simply, Love generously, Care deeply, Speak kindly.....
Leave the rest to God."*

**Professional Member Quarterly Report
2007**

Organization: _____

Minister: _____

Board President: _____

Phone # of Board President: _____

No of Sunday Services Other Services

Weddings Christenings

Memorials Workshops

Hospital Visits Classes

You are blessed for all you do.

Tithe Enclosed? Amount: _____

Thank You.

You are appreciated.

Please mail to:

Due Now

Treasurer

Conference on Practical Christianity

P.O. Box 1221

Greeneville, TN 37744

Join Today . . .

Application: Conference on Practical Christianity

Name: _____

Title: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email address: _____

General Membership \$60.00

Professional Membership \$95.00

Organizational membership \$125.00

Mail, Along with Check to:

Treasurer- CPC

P.O. Box 1221—Greeneville, TN 37744

Join On-Line at: www.fillmoresunity.com

**This was written by a Metro Denver Hospice Physician:
Psalm 55:22**

I was driving home from a meeting this evening about 5, stuck in traffic on Colorado Blvd., and the car started to choke and splutter and die - I barely managed to coast, cursing, into a gas station, glad only that I would not be blocking traffic and would have a somewhat warm spot to wait for the tow truck. It wouldn't even turn over. Before I could make the call, I saw a woman walking out of the "quickie mart " building, and it looked like she slipped on some ice and fell into a Gas pump, so I got out to see if she was okay

When I got there, it looked more like she had been overcome by sobs than that she had fallen; she was a young woman who looked really haggard with dark circles under her eyes. She dropped something as I helped her up, and I picked it up to give it to her. It was a nickel.

At that moment, everything came into focus for me: the crying woman, the ancient Suburban crammed full of stuff with 3 kids in the back (1 in a car seat), and the gas pump reading \$4.95.

I asked her if she was okay and if she needed help, and she just kept saying "don't want my kids to see me crying," So we stood on the other side of the pump from her car. She said she was driving to California and that things were very hard for her right now. So I asked, "And you were praying?" That made her back away from me a little, but I assured her I was not a crazy person and said, "He heard you, and He sent me."

I took out my card and swiped it through the card reader on the pump so she could fill up her car completely, and while it was fuelling, walked to the next door McDonald's and bought 2 big bags of food, some gift certificates for more, and a big cup of coffee. She gave the food to the kids in the car, who attacked it like wolves, and we stood by the pump eating fries and talking a little.

She told me her name, and that she lived in Kansas City Her boyfriend left 2 months ago and she had not been able to make ends meet. She knew she wouldn't have money to pay rent Jan 1, and finally in desperation had finally called her parents, with whom she had not spoken in about 5 years. They lived in California and said she could come live with them and try to get on her feet there.

So she packed up everything she owned in the car. She told the kids they were going to California for Christmas, but not that they were going to live there.

I gave her my gloves, a little hug and said a quick prayer with her for safety on the road. As I was walking over to my car, she said, "So, are you like an angel or something?"

This definitely made me cry. I said, "Sweetie, at this time of year angels are really busy, so sometimes God uses regular people."

Financial Report—Conference on Practical Christianity

Starting with this issue the Conference will be sending, under separate cover, a copy of the current financial report to all active members whose dues are up to date. Additionally the monthly newsletter Logos will be made available on-line through the Conference website. <http://www.fillmoresunity.com>

It is becoming more and more important that members begin to contribute articles and items of local information to the newsletter. We want to know about what's going on in your community, your church or study group and, in general, what is happening that is contributing to the good of the world.

No item is too insignificant or mundane. These articles serve to help bring us all together as a group and as a family in service to the one who is our source of all and our creator.

I look forward to seeing your articles this coming year and for making our newsletter a more practical instrument for our good.

Highest blessings to all, Rev. Charlie

Now Hear This . . .

Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle. Live simply, Love generously, Care deeply, Speak kindly..... Leave the rest to God

Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass --- It's about learning to dance in the rain.

Above Contributed by Rev. Nancy Smith

Faith is when you have come to the end of all the light you know and are getting ready to step off into the darkness knowing, that when you do, you will be given something solid upon which to stand or . . . you will be taught to fly.

It is okay to be happy. (Who knew?)

Isn't it amazing that when the world pushes you to your knees you are in perfect position to pray?

There are two rules:

1. Love God. Matthew 22:37—Deuteronomy 6:5
2. Be Nice. Mathew 22:39—Leviticus 19:18

Prayer is answered through you and not to you.

from The Prayer Chest

Be open to everything that happens and you will never be closed to the answers to your prayers. Resistance of any kind, type or nature will cause resistance to your good. (Paraphrased)

from The Prayer Chest

Practical Christianity is a way of life, not a theory . . .

1. The Conference fiscal year is January through December.
2. The beginning and ending balances on the report agree with those of the bank statements.
3. For the sake of efficiency and economy, the reports of fiscal activity have been condensed and simplified.

www.fillmoresunity.com

If you haven't visited our website lately you might want to and discover the new look as well as some additions. We have added a minister's resource page.

Free Unity books by Charles and Myrtle Fillmore are available on line as we add to the library

New Members . . .

Take the time to invite people to join our organization. We all associate with folks who are Truth students that want to be made aware that we exist for them.

If you are a minister it is important for you to invite your congregation to join. This makes for a tighter relationship in the commonality among our members.

We are an organization designed to grow and all of our efforts so far have lent to the purpose of bringing more and more people to the Truth as we understand it.

Let us know if you have encouraged someone to become a member.

Classic Unity . . .

UNITY

What Will We Stand For?

Every once in a while when I speak for Unity, someone will ask me "Where is Unity going?" My answer always is "Where are you leading it?"
James Dillet Freeman

We at Unity headquarters have been living off a legacy instead of building upon it. Our focus has been on surviving rather than serving, on fear rather than faith. The recent passing of great souls is both a call and a response, for it is time that we grow into the truth we espouse. Moreover, we must not only prove the principles upon which this movement is based but also be willing to move beyond them.

Clinging to yet not honoring the definitions of the past, we wrap our identity in what was. We know who we were; but we do not know who we are. And it seems that whatever we do know of ourselves, we are often too afraid to be—for that might displease or offend "someone," that illusive "someone."

Authenticity has its price; and true service, the kind that moves beyond mere words into bold action, has its risks. But the compensation for us all, givers and receivers, is of immeasurable worth.

We have a purpose that is uniquely ours, a gift that only we can share. And gifts bear with them tremendous responsibility. Myrtle Fillmore said, "There is great responsibility, yes. But there is great satisfaction in determining to meet it."

Through my brief association with James Dillet Freeman, I was able to discern a difference between serving and pleasing. Pleasing places power outside of ourselves and can easily give way to illusion. Serving draws power from the Source within and requires that we stand in Truth. That is what we are here to do, and we are capable of it.

We are Unity—you and I. What will we stand for?!

*A Unity Village Telephone Prayer Ministry worker
(2003)*



Why go to Church?

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing... God is UP to something!

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible!

Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!"

Email Etiquette . . .

- **Use of all upper-case fonts and large colored fonts** is the equivalent of shouting in some one's ear. **ONLY** use upper-case words when trying to make a point (such as I just did). Even at that, you should be careful with whom you are exchanging messages. Upper-case and large colored fonts create defense and disharmony.
- Messages should be **concise** and to the **point**.
- **Have the courtesy** to check your spelling and punctuation.
- Take care with abbreviations and emotions.
- **Read** the email **before** you send it.
- **Respond** to emails promptly.
- **Avoid offensive and abusive language** of any kind. Doesn't have to be profanity to be offensive or abusive.
- **Remember**, you can't know what's going on in the world of another. Be patient. Give a mental hug.
- **Apply the tenets of Practical Christianity**. It's what we stand for in the long run. Be kind, be understanding and be an example.



Bible Study (NIV) Rev. Charles Smith

Exodus 18:

13 The next day Moses took his seat to serve as judge for the people, and they stood around him from morning till evening. **14** When his father-in-law saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he said, "What is this you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge, while all these people stand around you from morning till evening?"

15 Moses answered him, "Because the people come to me to seek God's will. **16** Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me, and I decide between the parties and inform them of God's decrees and laws."

17 Moses' father-in-law replied, "What you are doing is not good. **18** You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone. **19** Listen now to me and I will give you some advice, and may God be with you. You must be the people's representative before God and bring their disputes to him. **20** Teach them the decrees and laws, and show them the way to live and the duties they are to perform. **21** But select capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. **22** Have them serve as judges for the people at all times, but have them bring every difficult case to you; the simple cases they can decide themselves. That will make your load lighter, because they will share it with you. **23** If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied."

24 Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said. **25** He chose capable men from all Israel and made them leaders of the people, officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. **26** They served as judges for the people at all times. The difficult cases they brought to Moses, but the simple ones they decided themselves.

27 Then Moses sent his father-in-law on his way, and Jethro returned to his own country.

Are you a minister trying to do it all? Unity churches seem to have this common problem in church management. The minister simply doesn't know to establish a team of ministers that can contribute to the health, welfare and growth of the church. As in all things spiritual we go to Spirit for the answer. If we are applying Practical Christianity to our way of life and if we teach Practical Christianity in our sermons and classes then we are pressed to go to the Christian book of instruction we call the Holy Bible. It is the minister that must have the vision and who must hold steadfast to it

with a single-eye and it is the function of the body of the church to see to it that the minister has the freedom to focus on the big picture. There are several scriptures in the Bible that attend to this area of church functionality. There is not room to list them all but there is room for a wonderful beginning in your study of Scripture and Church Growth.

1 Corinthians 12:25:

25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.

26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. **28** And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. **29** Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? **30** Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? **31** But eagerly desire the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way.

In the New Testament the church is called the "Body of Christ" to reflect the organism of the whole church on earth. The thought is that we, as members of the church, are parts of the body of Christ. Just as the human body wants all organs and limbs to function well for the success of the body so must the members (you and I) function as members of the body of Christ for the church to function successfully. The scripture above names some of the characteristics of individual members of the body of Christ but as God is infinite so are the gifts infinite.

It's a simple application of scripture, really. The Minister takes on the role of Spiritual Leader and all of the people of the body of Christ take on roles as ministers. When our gifts are discovered we take on roles as Minister of Grounds keeping, Minister of Sunday School, Minister of Building maintenance, Minister of Administration, Minister of Greeters, of Outreach, of Marketing, of Printing and so on . . .

Volunteers are gone and committed workers, we shall call Ministers, take their place. The "Body of Christ" comes alive as a vibrant part of the spiritual health of all concerned and of the community-at-large.

There are many more examples of this idea among the Scripture. Take a dive into the "Word" and find the many ways you can bring Practical Christianity to life in your church. You don't have to be a Reverend to contribute. Oftentimes simply bringing the idea or the message, as Jethro did to Moses, is the key to success.

