



# APOSTOLIC TRUTH

NEWSLETTER OF THE MISSOURI DISTRICT OF THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

January - March 2023



## You Can Do Nothing

Pastor Michael Adkins, Missouri District Secretary/Treasurer

We absolutely hate or despise the thought of ourselves being as extremely needy as we are. Don't we?

We are fragile, feeble, and unfaithful creatures who only took a breath this morning because God graciously gave it to us. Apart from God we can do nothing.

We as Christians realize that in and of ourselves, we don't possess the goods we need to survive this sin-stricken world. On a spiritual level, we are no less needy. We need the life vine of Jesus Christ to produce the fruit bearing branches we were always meant to become. Apart from God we can do nothing.

Here in the fifteenth chapter of John, we find Jesus knew that His life as the disciples knew it would soon end. He also knew His disciples would need a clear understanding of their position with God, as well as what would be expected of them. So, he filled their minds with pictures and ideas to help them survive the days to come.

In John 15:1 Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my father is the Gardner." The prophet Isaiah referred to Israel in the Old Testament as the vine. However, they proved to be unfaithful and unfruitful, so Jesus presents himself as the true vine.

Fruitfulness is a life of Spiritual usefulness and productivity for the good of others and the glory of God. Let that sink in. The fruit I am talking of has 3 main characteristics. First, it reflects the character of its tree. Apples come from apple trees and oranges grow on orange trees. The fruit of your life should reflect Christ. His attitudes, and actions, and His character and conduct.

Second, a true follower of Christ should be a visible follower of Christ not a "Secret Agent Saint." People of this world should be able to recognize that you are a follower of Jesus by your attitude, words, and

actions long before you tell them that you're a Christian.

Third, fruit is always for the benefit of others, if you're always serving yourself instead of others, your fruit is going to rot on the tree. The Greek word translated removes can also be rendered "takes away or lifts up." The branches in the vineyard can become large and drag on the ground. So, God the gardener takes them away from the ground by lifting them up.

God will seek to make you fruitful by lifting you up, encouraging you, and motivating you. Sometimes God will bring challenges and trials into our lives to enable us to grow in our faith and cast off anything hindering us. Abiding in Him is the key to fruitfulness in your life.

The scripture says that the disciples were clean through the washing of the word. Have you had enough word of God to clean you today? A branch that is disconnected from the vine is useless. The idea of remaining or abiding in Christ has to do with intimacy and relationships.

Jesus is our only source, the only one who can provide the spiritual nourishment and vitality we need to be useful believers. We need to hang out with Jesus daily.

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**Jason M. Hood**

Apostolic Truth is the official quarterly newsletter of the Missouri District of the Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ International, Inc.

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**OUR MOTTO**

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.” – Psalm 133:1

“With Apostolic doctrine and Apostolic fellowship with an Apostolic aim, this body of Christian ministers and workers are determined and hope to obtain Apostolic results.”

# REMINDER

The first Monday of every month has been set aside as a day of prayer and fasting for the Missouri District ACJC.

“Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ ...” Colossians 6:2



Celebrating 2 years since the reforming of the Missouri District ACJC and of Apostolic Truth being in publication.

# In Honor of Elder B.G. Keath

For 40 Years of Faithful Service and Fellowship with the  
Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ International, Inc.



A lifetime spent in Kingdom work is a goal to which every Christian should strive. Throughout the history of God's people, the Lord has raised up servants unto Himself to carry His name and the glorious Gospel to the ends of the earth. Honor is due to these faithful. Timothy was reminded by our Apostle Paul that the Elders who perform their leadership duties well and faithfully are to be considered worthy of double honor.

February 2023 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Elder B.G. Keath's fellowship with the Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ. The faithful work that Elder Keath and his late wife dedicated to the Kingdom and, for many recent years, as Pastor of Calvary Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ in Overland, Missouri has been a blessing to countless souls. Not least of all, the example of persistent faithfulness to the ACJC through many seasons over the past four decades should inspire us all to commit both to the Kingdom and our fellowship.

As an organization, only two of our licensed ministers have a longer tenure: Elder Kenneth White of Mississippi (a former Assistant General Chairman), and Bishop Lonnie Smith of Arkansas (our current General Chairman). Now, as Elder Keath retires from the Pastorate of the Overland Church, all our thoughts and prayers go with him along with our love and appreciation.

## Continued from page 1, “You Can Do Nothing”

You can't avoid Him all week and just show up on Sunday expecting growth. We only produce much fruit when we remain in Him. Apart from God we can do nothing.

If you disconnect from the vine for too long you will find yourself experiencing divine discipline, getting burned, and seeing your spiritual life withering. We then become useless to ourselves, God, and others. If you find this happening repent! Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. (James 4:8)

If you want Jesus words to “remain or abide” in you it requires more than just reading or listening to them. You must internalize them. Apply His words to your life. Apply the word to your specific circumstances. Prayers are answered when we maintain intimate fellowship with God through His word.

Jesus said remain in my love. How you say. Jesus said, if you keep my commandments you will remain in my love. Love for Jesus results in obedience. Obedience produces a deeper relationship with Him.

Jesus is teaching us things that will cause our joy to be complete. Joy is internal stability in spite of external circumstances, because we have the knowledge that God is in control. If your joy container is empty Jesus will let you borrow some of His.

Every miracle comes with something. 5 loaves and 2 fish fed 5000 people. The water was turned into wine. Instead of telling God you have nothing, tell God I am willing to give you something, and ask him to take this something and perform a miracle in your life.

Think of how different the new year might be if your single greatest pursuit was to be in the presence of Jesus more fully. To endure, remain, and persevere with the shepherd of your soul. Imagine how the people around you might be affected if you were affected by His grace and Mercy. Let's realize today that we can do nothing without Him, and this is everything. ●



## Thank You for Giving to ACJC Home and Foreign Missions

2022 was a tremendous year for giving to missions. The Missouri District was able to give over \$1000 to Home Missions and over \$600 to Foreign Missions through the Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your faithfulness in giving!

Please continue your faithful financial support of what the Lord is doing at home and around the world through the ACJC.

Your little means a lot!

## 2023 DISTRICT AND NATIONAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULES

*More information will be posted at [ACJCLL.org/events](https://www.acjcll.org/events) as it becomes available.*

**PLEASE ATTEND AND SUPPORT YOUR ORGANIZATION!**

### **MISSISSIPPI DISTRICT CONFERENCE**

Thursday, March 16 - Friday, March 17

Dexter Pentecostal Church

717 Highway 48 East

Tylertown, Mississippi 39667

### **MISSOURI DISTRICT CONFERENCE**

Thursday, April 6 - Friday, April 7

Christ Fellowship

Apostolic Pentecostal Church

380 South Washington Avenue

Lebanon, Missouri 65536

### **NATIONAL LADIES CONFERENCE**

Thursday, April 27 - Friday, April 28

ACJC National Campground

125 FM 2649

Campbell, Texas 75422

### **OKLAHOMA & ARKANSAS JOINT DISTRICT CONFERENCE**

Thursday, May 25 - Friday, May 26

First Apostolic Church

106 South 3rd Street

Porum, Oklahoma 74455

### **109th ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE & NATIONAL YOUTH CAMP**

Monday, July 24 - Friday, July 28

Camp Mulberry

1206 Millcreek Rd.

Hot Springs, Arkansas 71901

### **MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONFERENCE**

Thursday, August 24 - Friday, August 25

Location To Be Determined

### **TEXAS DISTRICT CONFERENCE**

Thursday, October 5 - Friday, October 6

New Life Apostolic Church

4712 East Rancier Ave.

Killeen, Texas 76541

### **NATIONAL MENS CONFERENCE**

Friday, November 3

First Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ

1407 Pershing Highway

Smackover, Arkansas 71762



## Time

### Sis. Sandi Sapp, Missouri District Ladies' Auxiliary Leader

From the moment God said, "Let there be" and He set time as we know it into motion, time has faithfully marched forward.

And now, right on schedule (though it seems to me to have happened extremely fast), here we are, finding ourselves welcoming in a brand-new year. 2023 is upon us!

Some are welcoming the new year with great anticipation. Weddings are planned, babies are on the way, graduations are nearing, and new careers are on the horizon. Others are dreading the thought of another year of being stuck in their current situation, seeing no hope for change. Some are reviewing 2022, seeing what worked and what didn't and setting goals for 2023. Others are just glad to have survived the past year and haven't even considered the new year that is upon them.

Love it, hate it, or feel indifferent about it--regardless of your thoughts and feelings, here we are.

First, I would like to say congratulations for making it this far in your life! Whether it is your 5th year, your 50th year, or your 100th year, you have been blessed by God to see another trip around the sun. Second, I would like to ask: what are you going to do with this new year, this new opportunity?

What is it that you really want from this coming year? What do I want? And even more important, what are we going to do to make what we want a reality? Because the truth of the matter is that wanting something is only the very beginning of the process. We must plan, we must follow through, we must work at it, we must continue.

There are things in my life that are settled and unquestionable. For example, I do not wake up on a Sunday morning and ask myself, "Am I going to church today?" No, that is established. It doesn't need to be considered or questioned. My Sunday morning alarm is always set on my phone. As well as my Sunday

afternoon, in case I am able to take an afternoon nap. This is a priority in my life and with the exception of sickness or some other emergency, if the church doors are open, I will be there.

However, there are other things in my life that are also important and things that I know I need to do and things I want to do, but I have not yet made them into a habit. I have not learned to be faithful with them. Why? What is keeping me from doing these things?

I have noticed that, for me personally, I am good at planning. I am not as good at following through with the plan. Oh, yes, I follow through with the big plans, but the day to day...not as good. And the truth is that it is the day to day that ultimately decides our future.

Let me give you an example here of what I mean. I plan to practice piano 3 days a week and to finish one lesson a week. Then, suddenly, Thursday arrives, our mid-week church service, and I realize I haven't touched the piano since Sunday. I play for nursing home service Thursday afternoon and I play for our regular church service that night.

Ok, so there's still Friday and Saturday, right? But suddenly it's Sunday and again, I have not touched the piano since Thursday. But then I find out that I am playing for a special service...a conference, a funeral, something out of the ordinary, and suddenly I have time to practice! Why? Because now I have made it a priority.

Which brings me to a saying that I have heard time and time again. We do what we really want to do. And for the most part that is true. Why is it that way? Because when we really want to do something or when we must do something, we make time, we make the effort, we let less important things go, we do what is necessary to make it happen. ●





## Ten Gospel Preachers

Pastor Jason M. Hood, Missouri District Elder

A couple of years ago I was reading an old booklet from the 19<sup>th</sup> century written for a small ministerial association that was in a difficult season.

Inside was a poem called “Ten Gospel Preachers” which I edited slightly and have referred back to often. I wanted to include it in this first edition of our newsletter for 2023 as a reminder and to ask a question: How much does fellowship mean to you?

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Ten Gospel Preachers, happy, doing fine;  
One listened to a rumor, then there were only nine.

Nine Gospel Preachers, faithful, never running late;  
One didn't like the leaders, then there were only eight.

Eight Gospel Preachers, rejoicing on their way to heaven;  
One was too busy for fellowship, then there were only seven.

Seven Gospel Preachers, life dealt them some hard licks;  
One grew too discouraged, then there were only six.

Six Gospel Preachers, all very much alive;  
One lost his interest, then there were only five.

Five Gospel Preachers, always wishing there were more;  
Got into a small dispute, then there were only four.

Four Gospel Preachers, keeping just as busy as could be;  
One didn't like a decision made, then there were only three.

Three Gospel Preachers, could it be one of them was you?  
He grew tired of all the hard work, then there were only two.

Two Gospel Preachers with so much to be done;  
One said "I give up," then there was only one.

Now just one Gospel Preacher left who found a Brother true!  
Brought him into fellowship, and suddenly there were two.

Two Gospel Preachers didn't find the work to be a bore;  
Each brought along another, and suddenly there were four.

Four Gospel Preachers dedicated to their fellowship's fate;  
By showing Christ's true love, and suddenly there were eight.

Eight Gospel Preachers, keeping unity between;  
Talked so much about it, they soon numbered sixteen.

Sixteen Gospel Preachers, to their obligations true;  
Were pleased when their number grew to thirty-two.

So we can't put our troubles at someone else's door;  
It's our fault if we harm the fellowship we adore.

Don't fuss about decisions made or who is in the lead;  
Keep your obligation to God by serving all indeed.

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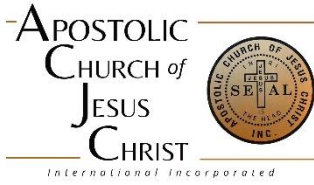
Generally, it is small things that cause Brethren to cease to dwell together in unity. Solomon said the little foxes are the ones who spoil the vine, but he follows this with the reason: the vines have tender grapes. Or, in other words, the grapevines are blooming. Fruit is coming, but it isn't quite there yet.

Satan meddles in an atmosphere where unity is producing fruit. If he can interrupt unity, he can prevent fruit. Paul said we were to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. The Spirit and peace work together in the preservation of unity. But where peace is disturbed, disunity is soon to come.

Small things. Minor disagreements. Unresolved bitterness. Untreated discouragement. Grudges. Hurts. Holding to the right to be angry. A vote that doesn't go in your favor. A position you were not asked to fill. Someone else preached the meeting. No one called to check in on you this week.

On October 15, 1973, Peter Jenkins shouldered his backpack, whistled for his dog, and left Alfred, New York headed for the west coast. He was going to walk across the United States. His book, *A Walk Across America*, chronicled his journey. While promoting the book, an interviewer asked about the greatest difficulty he faced along the way.

Although he had been hit by a car, mugged, and attacked by wild dogs, among other things, he said the only time he was tempted to quit was when sand kept getting in his shoes. Small grains of sand which, if left in place, irritate to the point of total discouragement. Come on, Gospel preacher! Let's not let little things get between us and good fellowship. ●



MINISTERIAL & CHURCH DIRECTORY  
Updated January 2023

The January 2023 Update of the ACJC Ministerial & Church Directory is available now to our licensed ministers for download or online viewing at [ACJCII.org/ministers](http://ACJCII.org/ministers). The page is password protected. If you are a licensed minister, you may request a password by going to [ACJCII.org/contact](http://ACJCII.org/contact) and completing the form. Please mention "Password Request" in the subject line.

Please note: these changes are based on the information provided by the General Secretary at 2023 Winter Conference. If your information is incorrect, please contact Elder Richard Gearin directly.

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# Prayer Network

Pick a way to receive  
messages for  
ACJC Prayer Network



## Use the Remind App

- On your smartphone, open your browser and go to the following link : [rmd.at/acjcpr](http://rmd.at/acjcpr)
- Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind.
- You will be prompted to download the mobile app.
- Allow push notifications to receive prayer updates.

## Receive Text Messages

- Text the message @ acjcpr to 81010
- Follow instructions in the text you receive



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