



The Link

August 1, 2010

“We proclaim Jesus Christ and promote communities of joy, hope, love and peace. We will become a world-wide church dedicated to the pursuit of peace, reconciliation and healing of the spirit.”

We are all familiar with the gospel story of Christ walking on the water and Peter trying to do the same. I do not want to dwell on what happened as Simon Peter began to look around and asked the question “what in the world am I doing?” You know the story, he began to sink. What I do want to emphasize is that he had faith to get out of the boat. There comes a time when we must step out of the boat. I believe that for many of us that time is NOW. We have congregations who are in maintenance mode. We have members who are preoccupied with things other than the kingdom. We have persons who are fearful of the new challenges that face the church. I am reminded of the character in the classic work Don Quixote named Pancho Sanchez. Pancho Sanchez hangs in fear from the ledge of a window all night long, too frightened to let go. When morning dawns he discovers his toes are only an inch off the ground. There are many of us hanging on to our fears. Fear of inviting, fear of taking on a new responsibility, fear of doing what must be done as a congregation because numbers have dwindled to a few, fear of allowing younger adults to become leaders, fear of the future. The list of fears is endless; you need to add the fear you have when you remain in the boat.

Peter began to sink when his faith waned, but Christ reached out his hand and caught Peter. “You of little faith, he said, ‘why did you doubt?’” Doubt is our enemy. Fear our greatest adversary. The challenge is to dream great dreams, believe that all things are possible to those who believe in Christ, and step out in faith to do great things for Him.

Now is the time, people of Central Missouri Mission Center. This church was built by believers. It was built by doers. It was built by people who knew in their hearts that God could do great things through them. Wouldn't it be a shame if our only contribution was to hold on to the boat?

Now is the time for the people of Central Missouri Mission Center to step out of the boat and do great things for God.

Claude M. Rains, Jr., President/Financial Officer

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 21 — One-Day Training, cancelled. New date will be set.

HISTORIC SITES NEEDS YOU — Answering the call to serve, Joyce Moses of the Oskaloosa, Iowa congregation is spending two weeks at the Joseph Smith Historic Site in Nauvoo, Illinois. As a first-time volunteer, Joyce sees the site with new eyes and is focused on ensuring the Smith properties look their very best for visitors during the busiest month of the year by helping house-keeping. Joyce is living her discipleship through the ministry of hospitality. Please consider doing the same. More information on volunteering at Community of Christ Historic Sites, contact lmackay@cofchrist.org or Lachlan at 217-453-2246.

SUMMER CAMPS

Junior Camp — **August 2-6**, Grades 3, 4, 5, Camp Far Westa, Camp Director, Heather Brooner, Cost: \$155.

Jr. High Camp — **August 2-6**, Grades 6, 7, 8, Camp Far Westa, Camp Director, Kyle Jeschke, Cost: \$155.

Children's Camp was held June 4-5 for grades K, 1, 2, at Camp Far Westa. Camp Director was Anita Norman. Central Missouri had 20 campers at this combined camp.

Sr. High Camp was held July 5-8 for grades 9, 10, 11, 12, at Camp Far Westa, Camp Directors were Steve and Janet Muse. Central Missouri Mission Center had 14 campers at this combined camp.

Spectacular was held July 24-31, for grades 10, 11, 12, at Graceland University with staff members Anita Norman, Becky Carlile, Jeff and Jenny Kramer, and Justin and Mandy Olmstead with 16 campers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 15 — Mission Center Council, 3 pm, Mission Center Office.

August 22 — Back to School Activity — Call Anita Norman, 660-238-4944, or e-mail anorman@cmcofchrist.org for details.

August 28 — Priesthood Training, 9am-2pm, Warrensburg Church. Basic Priesthood 101 Training event for all priesthood in the Mission Center. Call 1-888-747-0439 toll free or 660-747-6193, locally, to register.

September 12 — Pastors/Financial Officers Meeting, 3 pm, Warrensburg Church

September 14-16 — Central Field Adult Retreat at Lake Doniphan. The theme is *Commanded to Love* and guest ministers include: Jac and Sherrie Kirkpatrick, Dr. Virginia Ragan, Dr. Catherine Madden, Scott Murphy, and Dr. Matt Naylor. Cost is \$71 by August 30 (\$77 after). Register at Central Mission Center, 816-833-4300, 500 W Pacific, Indep., MO.

September 24-25 — Health and Spirituality Workshop, Community of Christ Temple, Friday 5-9 pm with keynote speaker, David Schaal, *When the Real World Comes to Church*. The Keynote address is FREE. Saturday, 8am-5pm, attendance is required for nurses and will be filled with dynamic speakers *Navigating Life's Transitions*. Register on line at www.hmacofchrist.org or call 816-833-1000 x 1418.

October 9 — One-Day Women's Spiritual Retreat (See ad on back page)

October 23 — Priesthood Training, more details later.

November 6 — Central Missouri Mission Center Conference, 9am, Warrensburg Church.

