

Transformation



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New Christian Ashram Begins in South Louisiana



Pictured above are Joyce Lewis, Gayle Bailey and Rev. Jon Telifero preparing for the New Beginnings Christian Ashram in DeRidder, LA., September 24 – 26, 2004.

One of the goals that Rev. Jimmie Pyles announced for his tenure as General Secretary of the United Christian Ashrams International was to begin new Christian Ashrams, as well as to strengthen existing Ashrams. He has envisioned both one-day and multi-day Ashrams in new areas as a means of proclaiming to all faiths and to the entire world that "Jesus is Lord." The first fulfillment of this vision came in November, 2003. Under the leadership of Director, Rev. Jon Telifero, the **New Beginnings Christian Ashram** was begun in DeRidder, Louisiana.

The birth of this new Christian Ashram began nine years ago with the prayers of Alice Nelson and Elizabeth Anne Jones that the First United Methodist Church in DeRidder would implement an Ashram. Two years later, Rev. Jon

Telifero, who had been active in the North Louisiana Christian Ashram as Director, was appointed pastor of this church.

In the fall of 2003, the First United Methodist Church in DeRidder experimented with an alternative revival format. Dr. Bill Ury from Jackson, Mississippi, and Reverend Jimmie Pyles from Ruston, Louisiana, were invited to lead the revival built on an Ashram format. Reverend Pyles became ill at the last moment, so Reverend Telifero stepped in as the evangelist. The Ashram began with Dr. Ury teaching the Bible to more than 40 people. By the time the Ashram ended the following evening, attendance had increased to more than 80 participants. Hearts had been touched, lives had been changed, and all of DeRidder was talking about the New Beginnings Christian Ashram.

Building on the success of the first Ashram, plans have been made for the second annual New Beginnings Christian Ashram on September 24th – 26th, 2004. Dr. Bill Ury has been invited to return as the Bible teacher and Dr. Alice Rogers from Atlanta, Georgia, will serve as the evangelist. Although the New Beginnings Christian Ashram will be held at the First United Methodist Church in DeRidder, Rev. Telifero reminds us that all persons are welcomed as we join together ecumenically, inter-generationally, and internationally to participate in this Ashram. Registration will begin on Friday, September 24th at 5:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in DeRidder, Louisiana, followed by a light meal, and continue through two morning worship services on Sunday, the 26th. For further information, contact Carol Harmon at (337) 463-4491, by email at fumcdrla@wnonline.net, or by mail to 406 Shirley Street, DeRidder, LA 70634.

Visit us on the web! <http://www.christianashram.org>

Board of Directors and E. Stanley Jones Foundation To Meet in Louisiana

Rev. Jimmie Pyles and his staff are looking forward to hosting the Board of Directors meeting on September 23 – 25, 2004 at the Central Office in Ruston, Louisiana. All board members are encouraged to attend and participate in the planning and decision making for the future of this great organization born in the heart of E. Stanley Jones. The Board Meeting is open to everyone, not only board members. Several of our foreign coordinators are making plans to attend, also. This meeting is not only a time of work, but also a time of worship and fellowship as we become better equipped as enablers for the work of the Kingdom.

The E. Stanley Jones Foundation will also meet in conjunction with the Board Meeting on the morning of September 23, 2004. Among the important items to be discussed is the reprinting of books by E. Stanley Jones and securing financial funding for this project.

Plans are being made and information will be sent to participants in the coming months regarding agenda, travel, lodging, and other information. The Central Office promises to supply ample "southern hospitality" for all who attend!

INSIDE

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2 Transformation Official Information
In Memoriam & Gifts
ESJ Corner
Book of the Year 2004 | 3 "J" Words
A Word from the Chairman |
| 4 The 2004 Christian Ashram Schedule | 5 The 2004 Christian Ashram Schedule |
| 6 The 2003/04 Christian Ashram Circuit | 7 2004 Directories Available
A Christian Ashram Bible Study |
| 8 News from Sat Tal, India | |

TRANSFORMATION

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Transformation promotes the Christian Ashram ministry under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God spoken of in the New Testament. Christian Ashrams are international, interracial, and inter-denominational. The motto is "Jesus Is Lord!"

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the E. STANLEY JONES CORNER

The Christ of the Mount

To E. Stanley Jones, the Sermon on the Mount is the transcript of Christ's mind and spirit. "Jesus announced himself as the light of the world. Light is made up of the sum total of the colors of the spectrum. Jesus as light gathers up the different colored truths and goodness of all who have gone before. Each one can find his distinctive national or religious color in Christ. But we do not want colors – we want light. Christ is the sum-total of the colors, but He is more. He is light itself. A Bahaist lady came from the West and speaking to an Indian audience in Gujarat with a Parsee gentleman as an interpreter. She said to the audience that when the sun arose, it arose in the East and shone through window after window in the house. Each window represented a religion and each window thought that it had the light. Jesus was a window and Buddha was a window, but there was One Sun shining through them all. The Parsee interpreter added this to his interpretation: 'I beg to differ from the lady. Jesus is not just a window. He is the Sun shining into these other windows. He is light itself.'

It was a moment of very tense silence when, at the Jerusalem Conference, Professor Otto said to us: 'I went out to India with the idea that Christ was the prolongation of other truths, but not essentially different. I have come back convinced that in Christ we have not merely a prolongation of other truths, but the difference in quantity is so great that it amounts to a difference in quality. He is not merely the More -- He is the Other.' It is this Other that brings me to his feet and will, I believe, bring the world to his feet."

The Christ of the Mount, pages 124 – 125.



JESUS IS LORD

IN MEMORIAM

Mr. Kenneth Leander
Minnesota Christian Ashram

Mr. Bill Copeland
Atlantic Christian Ashram

Mrs. Laverne "Dot" Aust
Blue Lake Christian Ashram

Book of the Year for 2004

The Book of the Year for 2004 is *The Christ of the Mount*, which provides a wonderful interpretation of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Please refer to the E. Stanley Jones Corner for a passage from this book. This book is available to local Christian Ashrams for \$1.00 each, plus postage and handling, by contacting the Central Office. Please be sure and reserve your copies.

GIFTS

IN MEMORY OF:

Rev. Carey A. Martin
By: Mrs. Bobbie B. Martin
Mrs. Muriel Stuart
By: Ms. Susan Stuart
Mr. Kenneth Leander
By: Mrs. Phyllis Leander
Ms. Eleanor Zwiers
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Benson
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Benson
Ms. Aleda Joy

Swanson
Mr. Malcolm Gregory
By: Mr. & Mrs. Orville Grauerholz

IN HONOR OF:

Rev. & Mrs. Howard Childs
By: Mr. & Mrs. Bo Fletcher

SUPPORT OF MINISTRY:

Iowa-Nebraska Christian Ashram

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Rev. & Mrs. Jimmie D. Pyles
Western Pennsylvania Christian Ashram
Atlantic Christian Ashram
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Mr. Robert Miller
Rev. Lew and Rev. Dorothy Davis
Rev. & Mrs. Raymond Crofoot
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Davenport
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Boyd

Rev. & Mrs. Tommy Freeman
Mr. Walter Cunningham

SUPPORT OF OVERSEAS MINISTRY:

Redwood Christian Ashram
Texas Christian Ashram
Minnesota Christian Ashram
Bridgewater Christian Ashram



Rev. Jimmie D. Pyles

As we enter the Lenten season, I am reminded of Winston Churchill, one of my favorite people from Great Britain. It is said he planned his own funeral, which was held in St. Paul's Cathedral. He included many of the great hymns of the church and used the eloquent Anglican liturgy. At his request a bugler, positioned high in the dome of St. Paul's, intoned after the benediction the universal signal that says the day is over. But then came the most dramatic turn. As Churchill had instructed, as soon as "Taps" was finished, another bugler, placed on the other side of the great dome, played the notes of "Reveille" -- "It's time to get up; it's time to get up. It's time to get up in the morning." That was Churchill's testimony: that at the end of history, the last note will not be "Taps," it will be "Reveille." As John Claypool said, "The worst things are never the last things."

All of us know that "Taps" will sound in the sunset of our lives and then the dawning of a new morning will begin with "Reveille." Jesus told the disciples the grave could not hold Him. "Those who believe in Me, even though they die, will live" (John 11:26). The words Jesus had spoken shifted from flesh and bone to the Spirit of Resurrection on Easter morning. When the women arrived at the tomb in despair, they were greeted with the "Reveille" of Resurrection. Easter morning, the gift of Resurrection, was given through the words of Jesus: "Everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die" (John 11:26).

Thanks again to those of you who stay in touch with us. Lynette and I both continue to be amazed at the scope of the Christian Ashram family. We also thank those of you, whether through your local Christian Ashram family or personally, have sent a special financial contribution to the Central Office. Several local Christian Ashrams made contributions, over and beyond their registration fees, to designated areas or to the general support of the Ashram ministries. Other Ashramites are including the Christian Ashrams in their wills. We are grateful for your continued financial and prayer support.

We look forward to the Board of Director's meeting on September 23, 2004, to be held at the Central Office in beautiful Ruston, Louisiana, USA. We covet your prayers as we make plans for the continuing work of our Lord and the Christian Ashram ministry.

Jesus is Lord!

Brother Jimmie

A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Bishop James K. Mathews

These words are being written during the first days of Lent in 2004. Our General Secretary asked me as chairman or president of the United Christian Ashrams to send a message to our members. In response I decided to focus on this season of the Christian year.

The word "Lenten" in Old English is related to "lengthen." It refers to Spring when, in the Northern Hemisphere at any rate, the days become longer and when our hearts long in a new way for God. It is a time in which the Christian recalls the Gospel as a message ever fresh and invigorating; a time when we reflect upon its meaning. It is a time when we may reflect on the final journey of Jesus up to Jerusalem to die for us. It is an opportunity for us, in holy recollection, to follow Jesus on the journey. As with the first disciples, we too follow our Lord at some distance.

Lent began as a devotional season in about the fourth century. In early years it was largely a practice of Roman Catholic and Orthodox Christians. In more recent years Protestants, including those of us who are pleased to be known as Evangelicals, also have found ways of celebrating Lent. It is, of course, a time of repentance but especially a time of spiritual deepening and

renewal. Some of us practice fasting for spiritual, physical and economic reasons. I have observed many who have given money for Kingdom causes that might otherwise be spent on over-eating or other forms of indulgence.

We are all aware of the new movie titled, "The Passion of the Christ." I have not personally seen it and have no present plans to do so. I have, however, "read the books" (the Gospels) as all of you have. We know that through the passion (the suffering) of Jesus we are gifted with salvation. By his stripes we are healed. We cannot acquaint ourselves -- imbue ourselves -- too much with this story nor reflect too much on its meaning for us and for all who will take it seriously.

As some of you may recall, I try again and again to cultivate the idea of the mini-ashram; that is, to take a few moments, whenever we are prompted to recall the Ashram disciplines of silence, of prayer, of Bible study, of remembering the Good News, of witnessing in word and deed, of doing justice, loving kindness and of walking every day humbly with God. As we do this we are refreshed by the reality and power of the Gospel. This is a good way of celebrating Lent.

Then, we need to remember constantly that: "JESUS IS LORD!"

Brother Jim

Contact Us! Telephone: (318)232.0004 • Fax: (318)232.0300 • Email: uca@christianashram.org

If you would like to receive future issues of *Transformation* by email or if you prefer to view *Transformation* on our website, only, please notify us at uca@christianashram.org.



2004 NORTH AMERICA CHRISTIAN ASHRAM SCHEDULE

Date	Name	Location	Registrar
January 15 - 17, 2004	N. Louisiana	Ramada Inn • 318/255-5901 P.O. Box 1189 • 1951 N. Service Rd. E. • Ruston, LA 71270	Ms. Sue Carroll • 318/435-3505 • scarroll@entergy.com 390 Gaither Streer • Gilbert, LA 71336
February 14 - 16, 2004	California Winter	Camp Maranatha • 909/659-2739 54162 Maranatha Dr. • P.O. Box CC • Idyllwild, CA 92549	Ms. Mary Beth Hebert • 909/487-0943 • chenobi2@earthlink.net 1462 Sunswep Dr. • San Jacinto, CA 92582
February 23 - 26, 2004	Florida Winter	Life Enrichment Center Picciola Road - C466A • P. O. Box 2107 • Leesburg, FL 32748	Mrs. Karen L. Wenck • 941/625-2753 • kwenck2@comcast.net 2359 Fintonrod Street • Port Charlotte, FL 33948
April 16 - 18, 2004	Wesley Woods	Wesley Woods Christian Education Center Grand Valley, PA 16420	Ms. Peg Toothman • 814/362-1156 29 Peach St. • Bradford, PA 16701
May 15, 2004	Tri-County	Warsaw Township Fire Hall Route 5 (Hazen) • Brookville, PA 15825	Mr. Tim Reynolds • 814/328-2310 • timr@alltel.net RR #5, Box 165 • Brookville, PA 15825
May 28 - 30, 2004	Mountain	Young Harris College Young Harris, GA 30582	Ms. Dot Manchester • 706/745-9029 • vmcvay@alltel.net 5387 Paradise Lane • Blairsville, GA 30512
May 29 - 31, 2004	California Spring	Idyllwild Pines Camp & Conference Center • 909/659-2605 Route 243 • P. O. Box 425 • Idyllwild, CA 92539	Ms. Sharon Cox • 714/828-5902 • scox@qsii.com 2427 W. Transit Ave. • Anaheim, CA 92804
June 25 - 27, 2004	Tennessee	Maryville College Maryville, TN	Ms. Judy Griffith • 865/984-0367 • igriffith@bdbc.com 523 Jackson Avenue • Maryville, TN 37804 Mrs. Debbie Pope • 865/995-9203 • DEnergyinc@aol.com 1778 W. Lamar Alexander Pkwy • Maryville, TN 37804
June 25-28, 2004	Colorado	Saint Malo • 303/747-0201 10758 Highway 7 • Allenspark, CO 80510	Mr. John Davis • 970/586-5474 • jddavisep@yahoo.com P. O. Box 20517 • Estes Park, CO 80511
June 25 - 28, 2004	New England	Geneva Point Centre Star Rt. 62, Box 469 • Centre Harbor, NH 03226	Ms. Nancy Peffers • 978/658-5208 11 Lloyd Road • Wilmington, MA 01887
June 28 - July 1, 2004	Saskatchewan	Arlington Beach Camp • 306/484-4460 Box 15 • Cymric, SK • Canada S0G 0Z0	Ms. Patricia Mutlow • 306/882-3238 Box 1196 • Rosetown, SK • Canada S0L 2V0
TBA	Montana	Camp -on-the-Boulder Outside of Big Timber • McLeod, MT 59053	Mr. & Mrs. Bill Davison • 406/733-6422 • bbranch@3rivers.net 8466 Gap Road • Highwood, Mt 59450
July 4 - 9, 2004	Redwood	Redwood Christian Park 15000 Two Bar Road • Boulder Creek, CA 95006	Gerry and Joan Olsen • 805/482-4109 • gerryolsen@dock.net 861 Durkin St. • Camarillo, CA 93010 -4926
July 9 - 11, 2004	Junaluska	Lambuth Inn Lake Junaluska, NC 28745	Ms. Bea Fosmire • 828/698-8196 P. O. Box 85 • Flat Rock, NC 28731
July 10 - 15, 2004	Atlantic	United Church Camp Berwick, Nova Scotia • Canada B0P 1E0	Ms. Brenda Ellis • 902/765-2526 5 Birch Drive, Jefferson Pines • Kingston, NS Canada B0P 1R0
July 12 - 15, 2004	Bridgewater	Bridgewater College • 540/828-8000 Bridgewater, VA 22812-1599	Ms. Katie Mangrum • 301/899-8336 4202 Leisure Drive • Temple Hills, MD 20748
July 16 - 19, 2004	British Columbia	Alexandra Camp Crescent Beach • 2916 McBride Ave. • White Rock, BC Canada	Ms. Norma Carruthers • (H) 604/553-5509 20050-50A Avenue • Langley, BC • Canada V3A 7H9
July 19-22, 2004	Iowa-Nebraska	Midland Lutheran College Fremont, NE 68025	Mrs. Dorothy H. Boeckner • 402/729-2646 • dorothy-howard@alltel.net P. O. Box 243 • Fairbury, NE 68352
July 21 - 24, 2004	Kansas	Sterling College Sterling, KS 67579	Mr. Lewis Wilson • 316/536-2673 P. O. Box 542 • Towanda, KS 67144
July 21 - 24, 2004	Western Ontario	Pearce Williams Christian Center • 519/764-2317 R #1 • Fingal, ON • Canada N0L 1K0	Mr. Steve Harris • 519/892-3909 R #1 - 3358 St. Clair Pkwy. • Sombra, ON • Canada N0P 2H0



2004 NORTH AMERICA CHRISTIAN ASHRAM SCHEDULE

Date	Name	Location	Registrar
July 23 - 25, 2004	Central Ontario	Salvation Army Conference Center Jackson Point, ON • Canada	Mrs. Ianthe Spencer • 905/771/9351 120 Promenade Circle, Apt. 608 • Thornhill, ON • Canada L4J 7W9
July 24 - 29, 2004	Texas	Scottsville Camp and Conference Center P. O. Box 307, 400 Harkins Lane • Scottsville, TX 75688	Mr. Walter Farmer • 979/279-3771 • wamlf@txcyber.com Rt. 1, Box 630 • Hearne, TX 77859
July 24 - 30, 2004	Sierra (CA)	Camp Sierra • 559/893-3333 P. O. Box 161 • Big Creek, CA 93605	Ms. Nicole Sulzby • (H) 714/960-9632 21851 Newland #284 • Huntington Beach, CA 92646 Ms. Nancy Hollenbeck • (H)714/593-4152 • nhollenbeck@access.k12.ca.us 19291 Bethel Cir. • Huntington Beach, CA 92646
July 25 - 30, 2004	Keuka	Keuka College Keuka Park, NY 14527	Ms. Diane Hunter • 410/290-9872 6391 Open Flower • Columbia, MD 21045
TBA	Buckeye	Ohio Wesleyan University Delaware, OH	Contact Rev. LeRoy Ickes, Director • 740/368-9701 • lickes00@juno.com 147 Curly Smart Circle • Delaware, OH 43015
TBA	Georgia	Epworth-By-The-Sea St. Simons Island, GA 31522	Ms. Kitty Fitzgerald • 912/638-8572 105 Lady Huntingdon Drive • St. Simons Island, Ga 31522
August 1 - 6, 2004	Southern California	Idyllwild Pines Camp & Conference Center • 909/659-2605 Route 243 • P. O. Box 425 • Idyllwild, CA 92549	Ms. Stephanie Page • 858/278-0697 • somepages@netscape.net 9393 Angwin Place • San Diego, CA 92123
August 2 - 6, 2004	Midwest	Christ the King Retreat Center • 309/364-3084 Henry, IL 61537	Ms Terri Bender • 641/932-5396 • bendert@aea15.k12.ia.us 233 Washington Avenue W • Albia, IA 52531
August 5 - 8, 2004	Minneosta	St. John's University Collegeville, MN 56321	Mrs. Carol Smith • 612/927-6665 • PSA236@aol.com 3409 West 28th St. • Minneapolis, Mn 55416
August 5 - 8, 2004	Mountaineer	Parchment Valley Baptist Conf. Center Route 2, Box 304 • Ripley, WV 25271	Don and June Jones • 304/343-3635 • deejayjones@earthlink.net 800 Michael Avenue • Charleston, WV 25312
August 5 - 8, 2004	Alberta	James River Bible Camp • 403/638-2206 RR 1, Site 8, Box 8 • Sundre, AL • Canada T0M 1X0	Ms. Dorothy Flesher • 780/450-6851 • hdflesher@shaw.ca 3012 79th Street • Edmonton, AB • Canada T6K 3W1
August 6 - 8, 2004	Blue Lake	Blue Lake Assembly Grounds Route 1, Box 170 • Andalusia, AL 36420	Mrs. Joan McLeod • 334/263-7806 • jmcleod1@charter.net 2514 Agnew Street • Montgomery, AL 36106
August 6 - 8, 2004	Newfoundland & Labrador	Burry Heights Camp Newfoundland & Labrador • Canada	Mr. Wilburne England • 709/747-7378 86 Canada Drive • St. John's, NL & Labrador • Canada A1E 2M5
August 19 - 22, 2004	New Brunswick	Beulah Campgrounds Browns Flat, New Brunswick	Mr. Peter Jacobs • 506/459-5795 • peter.jacobs@unb.ca 58 Marlow Rd. • Hanwell, NB • Canada E3C 1M6
September 17 - 19, 2004	Shenandoah	Massanetta Springs Conference Center Route 17, Box 138 • Harrisonburg, VA 22801	Mrs. Julie Seaux • 540/898-1714 3140 Summit Crossing Road • Fredericksburg, VA 22408
September 24 - 26, 2004	New Beginnings	First United Methodist Church • 337/463-4491 406 W. Shirley • DeRidder, LA 70634	Carol Harmon • 337/463-4491 • FUMCDRLA@wnoline.net 406 W. Shirley • DeRidder, LA 70634
TBA	E.S. J. Memorial	Asbury Theological Seminary Wilmore, KY 40390	Mrs. Tillie Moore • 859/885-6505 223 Kimberly Drive • Nicholasville, KY 40356
October 3 - 5, 2004	Oklahoma	Canyon Camp, Hardt Lodge Route 2, Box 29 • Hinton, OK 73047	Rev. Phillip D. Erwin • 580/628-8667 1402 East Grand Ave. • Tonkawa, OK 74653-4321
October 8 - 10, 2004	Western Pennsylvania	Jumonville Retreat Center • 800/463-7688 887 Jumonville Rd. • Hopwood, PA 15445	Mr. & Mrs. Ed Buckingham • 724/869-4376 • ed.buckingham@kvaemer.com 1701 Porter St. • Conway, PA 15027
TBA	Puerto Rico	Centro de A diestramiento Departamento de Educacion Base Ramey • Aguadilla, PR	Mr. J. Javier Gutierrez 5ta Ext. Villa Carolina Bldg 210 #7 Calle 508 • Carolina, PR 00985

THE 2003/2004 CHRISTIAN ASHRAM CIRCUIT

NEW BRUNSWICK

Beulah Campground
Browns Flat, NB
Terry Loughead, Director

The key word used at the 2003 third annual New Brunswick Christian Ashram was "wow!" There was such a presence of God's love and peace throughout the three days. The "Twelve" praise and thank God for the number of children and youth who came to this year's Christian Ashram with 27 children and 16 youth in attendance. In total there were 186 people (143 adults) enjoying all aspects of the Christian Ashram. Each year the number has increased. One new person to the Christian Ashram said she was "blown away" from the experience and planned to bring others to the Christian Ashram next year. Praise the Lord!

A special thank-you goes to brothers Bill MacDougall and Peter Reid who were the Evangelist and Bible Teacher respectively. It was amazing how they had similar messages based on Matthew 11:28 "Come unto Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest."

Jesus is Lord!

The following is a poem written by Rev. Karl Maydell while attending the New Brunswick Christian Ashram in August of 2003. We would like to thank Brother Karl and the New Brunswick Christian Ashram for sharing this with us.

Right from the start
We opened our heart
We did not play monopoly
We raised our hands in "Holy, holy".
So you guess where I am?
At the NB Christian Ashram.

He heals in 2003
I know with Jesus in me;
Just as He did so long ago
He heals today, going to and fro.

I know that when I knelt
His healing touch I felt
So throughout my days
I sing of glory to Him in Praise

by Rev. Karl Maydell

COLORADO

Saint Malo
Allenspark, CO
Barbara Mallette, Director

According to Director Barbara Mallette, the Colorado Christian Ashram (June 22 – 26, 2003) had a "tremendous teacher on Psalms and we were encour-

aged to write a group Psalm." Barbara shared with us a Psalm written by Nicole Larson, age 11.

Jesus is Lord!

Jesus is Lord
Everywhere He is
He sees me
Under the heavens
Since He's so Big
I feel safe
Sincerely He Loves me
Leads me thru the path of righteousness
Oh God
Renew my strength
Divine Healer
Nicole Larson

NORTH LOUISIANA

Ramada Inn
Ruston, Louisiana
Rev. Andy Hurst, Director

Our North Louisiana Christian Ashram met all of our eagerly anticipated expectations, and more. Our Evangelist, Brother Jason Adams and his lovely wife, Amy, opened the Word and gave us much to ponder. He encouraged us to deepen our love and commitment to Jesus, as our journey grows longer. Rev. Joy Moore, Bible Teacher, taught us to see God's Word from His perspective – to hear the Word for the first time without our preconceived ideas. God can then use us to go out into the world and live His glory.

There was great joy throughout our meetings as we joined together in praising God, lifting our hearts to Him in prayer, and being provoked to receive all the Lord has for us.

Submitted by Sandra Hancock, Secretary



[r: Rev. Jimmie Pyles, Mrs. Amy Adams, Rev. Jason Adams, and Rev. Joy Moore.

2004 DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE

The 2004 Directory is now available in a new, easy to read format, in spiral binding. The directory contains information on the Board of Directors, officers, committees, approved leaders, and local Christian Ashrams, as well as updated addresses, telephone numbers, and emails. Complimentary directories will be distributed to board members, regional coordinators, and local Christian Ashram directors. Copies are available from the Central Office for \$1.00 each plus postage. We encourage you to procure a copy of this directory, hoping that you will find it both informative and helpful. Please let us know if you would like to have a copy.

Rev. Allan Barnes presented the following as a devotion during the 2003 Regional Coordinator's meeting in Oklahoma City, OK. Brother Allan has been involved with the Christian Ashram movement since 1961, and is currently serving as a member of The Four, as Northeast Regional Coordinator, and as an approved evangelist.

A Christian Ashram Bible Study



Rev. Allan
Barnes

Brother Stanley refers to the Christian Ashram as an attempt to bring the fellowship mentioned in the early chapters of the book of Acts back into the life of the church. I am sure that when you attend a Christian Ashram you would agree that it is a unique Christian fellowship

I would invite you to take your Bible and open it to the book of Acts and see that the Christian Ashram is an attempt to recover both the ministry and the fellow-

ship of the New Testament church. We will begin with chapter two. It begins with the story of Pentecost and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Then we see what happens when the believers respond to the leading and empowering of the Holy Spirit.

Read Acts 2:22-24. The church begins with the preaching of the gospel. This is the role of the Evangelist. Peter, the Evangelist, begins by telling the people about the humanity and the ministry of Jesus. As the apostle John would later write in his gospel, "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). Peter continues by saying, "you . . . put Him to death by nailing Him to the cross. But God raised Him from the dead. . . ." In Acts 2:36 Peter says, "God has made this Jesus, Whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." From the beginning we learn to say that "the Lord is risen. Jesus is Lord." In Acts 2:38 we read how Peter, as an Evangelist, calls people to repent and be baptized. He promises them forgiveness and the gift of the Holy Spirit when they do. The response to his message and invitation was outstanding. The church begins with an additional three thousand persons.

Then we look at life in the New Testament church. In Acts 2:42 we read "They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching. . ." This was a time of Bible study. They were discovering how the promises of God were fulfilled in Jesus their Messiah. The apostle Paul would later express it this way, "All the promises of God are 'Yes' in Jesus" (II Corinthians 1:20).

" . . . and to the fellowship." This was a fellowship of believers who shared a common experience. They had accepted Jesus as Messiah and Saviour from sin. They confessed Him as Lord. This was a sign of their total commitment to Him. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit who led them in their daily life and ministry.

" . . . to the breaking of bread." This was probably their first expression of the Lord's Supper as we know it. He had told them to do it in remembrance of Him. Everyday as they broke bread and drank from the cup, they remembered Jesus' death for them. Estelle Carver, one of our early Bible

ATTEND A CHRISTIAN ASHRAM

Please note the 2004 North American Christian Ashram schedule listed on pages 4 and 5 of this issue. We hope you will find a date and location that is convenient for you to attend. All persons are welcomed! If you receive this newsletter and are in a location where no Ashrams are currently held, and you would be interested in starting an Ashram in your area, please let us know.

teachers in the Christian Ashram, told us how her father began every meal with the symbol of breaking bread and lifting the cup. It was a daily life and ministry.

" . . . and to prayer." Daily prayer had been a practice for a Jew. They continued to pray daily. In Acts 3:1 we read, "One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer — at three in the afternoon." It was a set time as a daily practice. In the Christian Ashram we sign up for a set time to pray in the prayer vigil and then we have a set time for our prayer and share groups.

In Acts 8:1, 4, 5 we read of the church facing persecution. But notice what it provides them an opportunity to do. "Those who had been scattered preached the Word wherever they went." It was an opportunity to witness. This is why we have a witness hour. We read in this chapter of Philip, one of the Seven, who went to a city in Samaria and witnessed of Jesus his Messiah.

We are told of the results of witnessing and practicing the faith. In Acts 8:8 we read, "So there was great joy in that city." In Acts 2:43 we read, "Many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles." These were the results of their teaching, fellowship and prayer. In Acts 3:6-8 we have the account of the healing ministry as performed by Peter and John on a man who had been a cripple since birth. The healing ministry was a part of the church and still is. It is also experienced in the Christian Ashram.

We also see the church in action. In Acts 2:44, 45 we read how the believers sold possessions and gave to the apostles to distribute to help "anyone as he had need." In Acts 4:32 - 35 we read a further account of the church in action as they made sure there was not a needy person among them. The apostles remembered that Jesus had said, "Love one another as I have loved you." When the apostles needed help to continue this ministry, we read in Acts 6:1-6 how they appointed the Seven to feed the needy.

In Acts 2:46, 47 we see that worship, both regular and spontaneous was a vital part of their fellowship. They kept their focus on Jesus as their Lord and Messiah. We are reminded of the times in the Christian Ashram when we have praise and worship as well as a service of Holy Communion.

It is important to note the results of this kind of ministry and fellowship in the New Testament church. In Acts 2:47b we read, "and the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." When our Christian Ashrams remain true to the Biblical pattern, surely the Lord will add to our numbers so His children will be nurtured and cared for in this fellowship. The result then should be that having been blessed and guided in the Christian Ashram with an experience of the Kingdom of God here and now, we can take this home to be shared in our local church life.

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News from Sat Tal, India

Resident Acharya, Rev. R.S. Verma



Bishop & Mrs. James Mathews and others at Sat Tal, India

School of Evangelism:

The thirteenth session of the School of Evangelism was held on September 1 – 30, 2003. There were fourteen candidates from Gujarat, Rajasthan, Delhi, and U.P. States in this session. The School of Evangelism provides full scholarships to the participants who are approved for admission. There are only twenty seats available.

Maharshi E. Stanley Jones Memorial Lectures:

Between 200 and 250 persons from city churches, organizations, and other

faiths participated daily in the Maharshi E. Stanley Jones memorial lectures, which were held at Allahabad Bible Seminary on November 21 – 23, 2003. The topic was the Kingdom of God and the guest speaker was Bishop Dr. S. K. Parmar, Hyderabad. Rev. Verma expressed his appreciation to all those responsible for the successful lecture series.

Summer 2003 Ashram Sessions:

The 73rd session of the Sat Tal Ashram was held May 15 – 30 (English Session) and June 1 – 15 (Hindi Session). More than one hundred fifty participants from all different parts of the country were involved in these sessions. The Ashram provided scholarships to the pastors, theological students, evangelists, and deaconesses. The Sat Tal Ashram is the only one in India that has this kind of facility for the people who are in full time ministry.

Summer 2004 Ashram Sessions:

The 74th session of the Sat Tal Ashram will be held the last two weeks of May, 2004, for the English session, and the first two weeks of June, 2004, for the Hindi sessions. Contact Rev. V. S. Verma, Sat Tal Ashram, P.O. Bhowali, Dt. Nainital, U.A. 263 132, India, (telephone: 91-5942-247058) for more information.

Brother Verma was delighted that the local Board members had the opportunity to enjoy the fellowship of Brother Jim and Sister Eunice Mathews, along with the daughters Anne Younes and Jan Stomsem, during their visit at Sat Tal from October 11 – 14, 2004