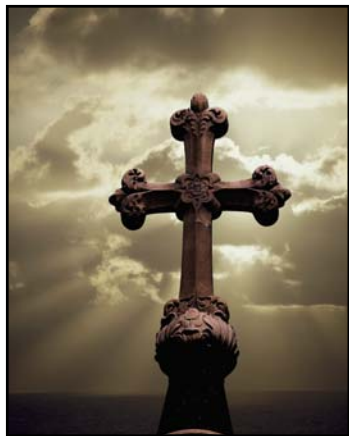


## Goldsby Zone Newsletter

March 2008

Issue 4



### Y'ALL-HAUL

By Sam Baker

An opportunity came to finally meet Steve Buster, husband of house church member Crisanta, when they were in need of assistance with moving. We rallied the troops and those who could met at the Buster's home. Steve arrived with the truck, introductions were made, and the team of family members and new found friends fell upon the well organized (Praise the Lord!) household items. The entire move was completed in about 2 hours.

When Steve walked into the rental company, the clerk looked up and became distraught as he caught sight of him, assuming that the truck had broken down because such little time had passed since it'd been picked up.

"The truck was fine," Steve reassured him. "You must not have had much to move," was the clerk's next thought. Steve, now laughing, responded that it was full and then some! "How," asked the clerk, "did you get it done so fast?" Steve shared that people from the church, whom he didn't even know, had helped. "What church do you go to?" asked the shocked clerk. "My wife and I have been looking for a church." Steve fished out his wallet and handed him a CHC information card.

As Steve shared this with us at house church, he literally beamed. John 13:35 had been put into practice that day, and He had a huge part in it. He had allowed us to walk in love with Him, and a witness was born.

...effective small-group ministry must accomplish three goals:

1. Provide nurturing relationships in the presence and to the glory of Jesus Christ.
2. Invite others to faith in Jesus Christ.
3. Reproduce a new set of leaders so new groups can be formed.

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### IN HARNESS—A NEW TEAM

By Bob Goldsby

I first read the phrase "in harness" in one of the House Church manuals I was introduced to in the summer of 2000. It is a very descriptive phrase, isn't it? It conjures up all kinds of pictures (although I doubt that the accompanying photo comes very naturally to mind!).

I commented at our first joint leadership gathering that God was creating a "new zone." I believe that is true because the strengths of both are coming together. I believe God is adding "strength to strength" and we will see God move in ways we have not seen before. We will still minister in many of the same areas, but they will be expanded and amplified, even strengthened.

About the harness ... the picture to the right is real. A man in Alaska raised a bull moose almost from birth. Because of its potential (weight and strength), he began training it in harness. He claims that it is now the best work animal he has!

We too must see potential in people who would not normally be considered. Don't just be satis-

fied with seeing their "potential" but begin working with them and you may find a "most valuable member" of your team. The only problem our Alaskan friend has with his "Draft Bull Moose" is that during the "rutting season" the moose is gone—but always comes back.

The work Pastor Mike Bashor has put into those he served has produced awesome ministers of God. The ministry skills of those in the Goldsby Zone are equally effective.

In Harness together? **WOW! What a team.**



*“You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.”*

2 Tim 2:2 (NLT)



## ON BEING A HOUSE CHURCH PASTOR

By Steve Leavell

Have you ever said or thought, “I could never be a house church pastor”? I’m sure many of you have, but I want you to think again. You don’t have to have a certain charismatic personality or be a gifted Bible teacher to be a house church pastor.

The Bible tells us what is important to becoming a leader: “*And the things ... entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.*” What God wants is reliable (faithful and trustworthy) men and women. If you are faithful, reliable, humble, and teachable, then you can be a House Church Pastor.

Linda and I were leaders of several small groups in other churches, and in every case, the groups started well, but in short order, they dwindled to nothing. When we came to City Harvest Church, we were understandably reticent to try again. We had concluded that we couldn’t be House Church Pastors and that our calling was in other areas.

When we joined the Goldsby Zone, we came to understand that there was a system for developing leaders and multiplying house churches. Even more importantly, it is a system that stands with and works with House Church Pastors.

In the past, we felt like we were **on our own**. If there was a problem, we had to deal with it **on our own**. If things weren’t going well, we had to figure it out **on our own**. But here we are a team with the District and Zone Pastors. If there is a situation or things aren’t going well, there is a team that works together and supports us, so we can all be successful.

I want to challenge you to **believe you can** be a House Church Pastor, Assistant or a Host. If you have thought about it but said “I can’t do it,” reconsider.

There’s a team of people committed to walking with you as you find your destiny in Christ.

## THE CALL TO BE PERFECT [τέλειος]

By Bob Goldsby

While teaching the Book of Matthew on Sunday morning, I came to Matthew 5:48: “*Therefore, you are to be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.*” The question was asked, “Does that mean we are to be sinless?” At first glance, it is a bit shocking. I’m not perfect and cannot be!

The context of this verse is Jesus’ delivery, in the Sermon on the Mount, of the “Beatitudes.” After describing those things required for a disciple, one who lives in the Kingdom, Jesus says that we are to be perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect.

The key to understand this verse is in the original language. The word “perfect” is *teleios* [τέλειος] and means that which is: 1. brought to its end, finished, 2. lacking nothing necessary to completeness, 3. perfect, and 4. full grown, adult, of full age, mature.

Jesus is calling His disciples (that means you) to full maturity in the faith. His sermon describes the characteristics of maturity, and He closes with the statement that we are to be mature, full grown like our Heavenly Father.

It obviously does not mean that we are to be God or function in the same way God does. I believe Jesus is challenging us that even as the Father is fully accomplishing those things which are His, so we also are to fully accomplish those things which belong to us, which He has seeded in us.

The expectation of maturity carries with it the awareness that we are in process. We often look at an infant and say, “He is perfect,” but we know that the child is nowhere close to being able to walk in his or her ultimate destiny as a mature adult.

The same is true of Christians. When we are born again, God covers us with the righteousness of His Son. He also plants seed in us which is to come to maturity to enable us to function as His ambassador in this world.

Some look at their salvation experience like they do a fire insurance policy—in case the fires of hell are real, they get to go to Heaven instead. While we are assured of Heaven, salvation is far more. God wants to save us from the consequences of this fallen world. He wants to grow us up to maturity [τέλειος] and serve God with all our heart and with disciplined skill.

*Lord, we want all You have for us. Do not let us be like selfish children, preoccupied with our own pleasures and ways. Train us to function as mature believers who serve You with our whole hearts. Amen*

## THE DEFENSE AGAINST OFFENSE

By Juana-Leigh Baker

*“Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bring unto captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;”*

2 Corinthians 10:5 KJV

Has the last straw just been drawn? The scale been tipped? You’ve been offended?

Hold hostage the thought of that offense. Got it? Okay. Now keeping a tight grip, hold that thought off to the side and consider this: Jesus is the Light of the world, and as a

Christ follower, I choose not to **D.I.M.** the Light.

Do you still have a grip on the thought of the offense? All righty then, bring it back around. Look at it and ask:

In light of eternity,

**D**oes  
**I**t  
**M**atter?

“We use our powerful God-tools for smashing warped philosophies, tearing down barriers erected against the truth of God, fitting every loose thought and emotion and impulse into the structure of life shaped by Christ.”

2 Corinthians 10:5  
*(The Message)*

## WHAT’S IN A NAME? אֱהְיֶה אֲשֶׁר אֲהְיֶה

I asked April Golden to help me do an article each month on the “Names of God.” The first is from Ex 3:14, where God uses a verb cluster to identify Himself (Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh).

Moses anticipated questions from the children of Israel when he returned to them as the Lord’s spokesman, and he wanted to be able to tell them who sent him. It was at this point that God first revealed Himself as JAWEH, the Great I AM. His name comes from the Hebrew verb “to be.”

This sacred name is known as the tetragrammaton (“four letters”). The two common

pronunciations in English, “Jehovah” & “Yahweh,” come from the Hebrew consonants YHWH, combined (somewhat arbitrarily) with the Hebrew vowel markings from “Elohim” or “Adonai.” The Jews refused to pronounce the divine name and so never placed vowels with the consonants. As a result, we don’t know for certain how it is to be pronounced, but scholars feel that “YAHWEH” is probably correct.

The name proclaims God as self-existent, self-sufficient, eternal, and sovereign. As used in Exodus 3:14—“I am who I am”—it includes the idea of the present always, now and in the future.

## THE CROSS

By Tom Hazen

It was not beautiful  
It was rugged and terrible  
Our Jesus went to it for us  
To make us acceptable to God

The cross was reserved for the very worst of criminals. It may have been justified for them, but Jesus was not guilty of what they were crucifying him for. He was not guilty of anything, except loving us and being sold out for us.

## ENCOURAGERS

By Kathy Haught

In the City Harvest Church March Newsletter, *they* are described as “a force to be reckoned with.” That is powerful, and if you have met any of the Encouragers, you know that statement is accurate.

Recently, a gentleman from the group asked me if I knew how old he was when he went to Bible College. His answer was astonishing, 71 years young! Isn’t that proof that we are never too old to accomplish God’s will and that no matter what age we are we can pursue our destiny?

The Encouragers formed to meet some needs within a specific age group, provide opportunities for ministry, and bridge the gap between generations. They want to develop community with others that are in a similar life season, have fun, and stay active. It is primarily a daytime event so those not able to drive at night are able to participate.

The very core of the Encouragers is about being used by God to minister inside and outside of the church. The wealth of knowledge, experience, and wisdom of

this “Abraham generation” is being offered to the Isaac and Jacob generations. They are a valuable part of the Body of Christ, so let’s honor them and appreciate their ministry here.

If you are age 55+ and retired, consider joining with this dynamic group.

The meetings are normally the last Wednesday of the month at 1:00 p.m., but there is an occasional change so check the church bulletin or call the office to confirm the day & time.

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# JESUS LOVES YOU FOR WHO YOU ARE AT THIS VERY MOMENT

By Marie Loudermilk

As a ten-year-old child, I realized that everyone did not like me. My mother said, "Marie, it's okay for some people not to like you." How devastating! I was always trying to find out what I did wrong and what I needed to do for them to like me. Eventually, I learned how to deal with the fact that not everyone would like me. But then I learned a most wonderful thing: Jesus loves us just as we are, and He has prepared every opportunity we need to help us change.

The most destructive things in people's lives happen when they don't know that Jesus loves them. His love is not based on performance. Experience taught us that good performance equals acceptance while poor performance often meant rejection. Driven by the desire to be accepted, we are motivated by "What can I do that will make Jesus love me more?"

I have often asked people I am teaching to look at themselves in a mirror each morning and say several times, "Jesus loves me." I get a variety of reactions. Most have a hard time accepting this on a very deep level, because they don't truly believe

that Jesus loves them. We are nagged by the suspicion that whatever we do will not be enough. As we learn more about the real Jesus, we realize that, while obedience to Christ is important—even necessary, we know that Jesus' love for us as an individual and His acceptance of each of us does not depend on our performance. His love for us never fades or falters. He accepts us without conditions of performance. He always treats us the same way. He loves us on our best day, and He loves us just as much on our worst day. The ultimate proof of His acceptance was His willingness to die for us—"While we were still sinners...." He is far more loving and accepting than we can imagine. Psalms 139 says that this knowledge is far too wonderful for us to understand. As we understand it, we want to be obedient and to change to be more like Jesus.

If you feel like much of your acceptance in life is based on performance, take a few moments to be comforted by the truth that there is One whose love is not based on what you do or don't do. Jesus loves you for who you are at this very moment. This is perhaps one of the most important lessons to learn!

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## A TESTIMONY OF GRACE

By Terry Rankin

I grew up in a very dysfunctional and negative family, who did not know how to show love and affection to their children. There was a lot of yelling and that caused me to be very fearful of people, and, as a result, I went through life being very quiet and shy.

As a young adult, I went through relationship after relationship, looking for love in all the wrong places. Needing love and acceptance, I endured verbal and emotional abuse through two failed marriages. During the second marriage, I suffered through bouts with depression and ended up with severe pneumonia.

I received the Lord in my heart during my second marriage but did not start to grow until after I came to City Harvest Church. For the first time in my

life, I actually felt I belonged somewhere. I have never felt so much love from so many caring people.

The Lord blessed me with a wonderful husband while attending Clark College (he is such a man of God!). I became a leader at CPR for the "Healing of the Wounded Spirit" class for women, and my husband and I are assistant house church pastors. **These are things that I never thought that I would be doing. God believed in me even when I didn't.**

One verse that has always been very strong in my heart and has helped me through is Philippians 4:13: "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*"

I love God so very much. He has shown me what love really is.

### News & Events

3/27/2008 HC Pastors Meeting held quarterly  
City Harvest Church  
7:00-8:30pm

#### Regular Events:

Monday Kreider Series #1 (ladies)  
Denise Boyer's house  
(503) 933-8997  
Mary Bardonski is the teacher  
(360) 991-9277  
7:00-8:00pm

4/6/2008 Zone Leader Potluck  
1st Sunday each month  
Creekside Estates Rec Hall  
2:00-5:00pm

3/26/2008 Encouragers Luncheon  
55+ & Retired Fellowship  
Last Wednesday each month  
CHC Chapel 1:00-3:00 pm.  
Call Gene Zinck  
(360) 882-3257