

# *The Clarion*

of

## *Christ Ministerial Fellowship*

-a non-denominational communion of ministries with the purpose of mutual encouragement, like minded fellowship and love toward one another.

[www.christianmaturity.com](http://www.christianmaturity.com)

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## *Preferring One Another*



The Word clearly points out that we are living in the days of the lovers of self and pleasure not lovers of God. Romans 12:10 states that we are to prefer others before ourselves. It states in this same chapter that to prefer others before ourselves we have to love them first. God is testing our love to expose our hearts

and stretch our love for the brethren. How far will we go in our love for the brethren? The Lord asked Peter three times, "Feed my sheep". Many times we feel the sheep are only our natural family or the church we have been called to serve. Some of God's best preachers and teachers will only go so far to love the brethren. Peter's first calling was to the Lord's disciples. Secondly, he was called to God's church in Israel and lastly to God's church among the Gentiles. Peter balked at the Lord's stretching in calling him to minister to the Gentiles but in the end gave in to God's purpose.

In this article I wish to discuss four brethren who preferred others before themselves. As each of them practiced preferring others before themselves great fruitfulness took place and God's purpose was advanced.

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ preferred His Father's need and the needs of mankind before His own need. In John 1:29, 30 it is clear to John the Baptist that Christ's ministry was preferred before his ministry. Jonathan loved David more than his own life. Without Jonathan's help David could have been murdered by the evil King Saul. Let us not forget brother Barnabas. He was a friend and mentor to Paul and John Mark. He chose to put their ministry above his. It breaks the heart of God to see that His church is operating like the business world with its competition and self-promotion. Many older ministries later in life due to insecurities and fears fall into a self-centered existence and squelch young Davids who God is raising up. May the cross of Christ deeply work in us so others are preferred before ourselves. Regardless whether we are a seasoned believer or preacher we must take stock from time to time of why we are serving God and the Lord's brethren.

If we have been in the Lord's service to please self with no regard for others, we may find a steady decline in our lives ending up in unfruitfulness and loss of our spiritual reward.

The word preferred means to lead the way for others to follow. John the Baptist came to prepare the way of the Lord according to Luke 1:16, 17. John the Baptist would prefer Christ before himself. He would lose his flock first and then his life according to John 1:35-37 and Matthew 14:6-12. So John's very own words would be fulfilled. He said, "He must increase and I must decrease." The prophet's calling is to point the way to Christ. A true prophet is not measured by his ability to preach and prophesy. It's measured before God by how much Christ is revealed through his character and ministry.

The best example of a person who preferred others before Himself is the greatest example of them all, Jesus Christ. Christ preferred His sheep before Himself according to John 10. He would lay His life down for the sheep and lead them to green pastures. In Philippians 2:4-8 Christ who was equal with God emptied Himself and became a servant to man and God. He died on the cross to bring us to the Father. We can understand why He preferred His Father's will over His own but He preferred us when we were yet sinners. Such dedication should move us to fully die to self so others can live.

***As the conflict of the ages increases in the earth, times will require the true remnant of God to lay their lives down for His purpose and the Lord's.***

The third person we want to look at is Jonathan, the son of King Saul and the close friend of David. Jonathan was a mighty soldier in Israel. He became a close friend of David, the future king of Israel. We must remember in this story King Saul is *man's choice* and King David is *God's choice*. In 1 Samuel 18:1-4 Jonathan makes a covenant with David and surrenders his rights to the

throne and the title of the greatest soldier in Israel to David. This is further brought out in 1 Samuel 23:16-18. This time Jonathan strengthens David by prophesying that David will become the next King and he will be second. Jonathan would love David, Saul and the nation of Israel right up to his death. We pray that such love for the brethren would return to the Church that we would prefer the brethren right up to our death.

The last person that we want to show preferring others before themselves is Barnabas as found in the book of Acts. The first time we find Barnabas is Acts 4:33-37. He gives his land and wealth to the Church so the Gospel can go forward. He prefers spiritual wealth over natural wealth. Many Christians, including many preachers, will only serve God if they can hold onto natural wealth. They have no sense of sacrifice or giving fully to God's work either at home or abroad. In Acts 11:21-25 Barnabas finds God's promotion. He is sent out to establish a mission center in Antioch. He chooses to take on a young Saul who at first is not trusted by the Lord's disciples. In Acts 13:1,2 Barnabas' name is mentioned first and Saul's name is mentioned last. The Holy Spirit says, "Separate Barnabas the chief apostle of Antioch and the least apostle Saul to the work I have called them to do." In Acts 13:46 and Acts 14:8-12 the Lord reverses the order. It is Paul first and Barnabas second and Paul becomes the chief speaker. Barnabas obeys the Holy Spirit and submits to the new order. A test would come in Acts 14:8-12. Barnabas would choose to salvage the ministry of John Mark. It would cost him his relationship with Paul. If Barnabas had not preferred Paul and John Mark's ministry before his own both these men could have disappeared into obscurity.

As the conflict of the ages increases in the earth, times will require the true remnant of God to lay their lives down for His purpose and the Lord's brethren like never before. May the lives we discussed in this article produce a deep cry and divine "Amen" in all of us to prefer others before ourselves. May the Lord's grace enable us in the days to come to press beyond our personal preferences and limitations to fulfill the complete will of God. Ω

Bert Ghilardi, Endwell, NY

## Uriah

### Jim Laws



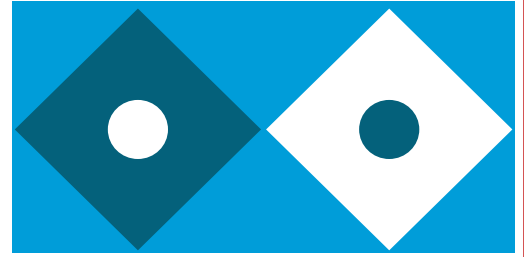
I have to admit that I don't get the time with the Lord that I need or want. I work full time, grandparent full time, being a husband full time, etc., etc., etc. Every

year at Christmas I get close to two weeks off so I look forward to getting some much needed time with the Lord. So, during December 2018, I prayed Lord, I really need to hear something from you. My problem was where to start reading in the Bible to hear what the Holy Spirit was speaking specifically to me. I started reading from Matthew Chapter 1:1. I usually skip genealogies though this time I did not. As I starting reading in Matthew 1, I came to verse 6 and read Uriah.

Why should Uriah be in the genealogy? The interpreters of the King James give the understanding that he had been married to Bathsheba. But, he was not in the lineage that led to Jesus Christ. What is it about Uriah that God kept his name alive in the genealogy in the New Testament? What does God want us to remember about Uriah?

First of all, Uriah had not been a Jew. He was a Hittite who must have converted. In Joshua 9:1 and 11:3, the Hittites fought against Israel. Uriah obviously had a sincere conversion. In 2 Samuel 23:39, he was one of David's best fighters.

He had a beautiful wife, very beautiful the Bible says. King David lusted after Uriah's wife, Bathsheba, and she became pregnant with King David's baby. To cover what he did, David called Uriah home with the pretense of wanting to know how the battle was going. David tells Uriah to go to his home hoping that Uriah would sleep with his wife, Bathsheba. Uriah slept at the king's door instead. Why didn't he go home David asked? Uriah's refusal to have sexual contact with his wife was clearly an expression of his devotion to the Lord. If Uriah had contact with his wife, he would



## **The CMF Spring Gathering**

**Wednesday, April 24—  
Friday, April 26, 2019**

**There's a place for you!**

Tuscarora Inn & Conference  
Center, Mt. Bethel, PA.

For more information call  
Mark Waters 570-888-1055  
or CMF7001@gmail.com  
Registration PDF attached.

**The deadline is April 11th.**

*Pastors and workers are  
welcome.*

*If scholarship is needed  
please, let Mark know.*

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**CMF Women's Retreat**

**May 3, 4 2019**

*at Bethany Christian  
Fellowship, Athens, PA.*

*Cony Rojas and Maria Paul  
Londono from Colombia will  
minister on the theme of  
"Prayer". The registration*

*deadline is April 10. Put yours  
in the mail today. Cost is \$30.*

*See attached Form.*

have rendered himself unfit for military service and unfit for service to the Lord.

Furthermore, when David asked Uriah why he didn't go home, Uriah's first and foremost concern was, as we see in 2 Samuel 11:11, the ark of God; God's presence. Uriah had an undying love for God's presence and did not want to do anything negative to effect God's presence. Shouldn't that be our priority; not doing anything negative that would cause God's presence not to want to dwell with us? Do we take God's presence seriously or haphazardly?

***May we live uncompromisingly  
lovers of God's presence no  
matter what comes our way!***

Also, David gets Uriah drunk to get Uriah to go to his house, but again Uriah makes his bed with David's servants and did not go home. This time David wrote a letter for Joab and had Uriah carry it to Joab. Uriah was carrying his own death sentence. Uriah means Jehovah is light. How many of us kill off that part of God's Word when it does not go along with what we want? When God's Word does not go along with what we want, we compromise God's Word to have it conform to what we want, rather than conforming to God's Word. How many pastor's kill off part of God's Word so that the sheep will not get offended and leave? By compromise, pastors are more concerned with what the people want rather than God's presence.

To cover up David's sin, blood would have to be shed; innocent blood of Uriah whose main concern was the ark of God. Uriah, like Jesus, refused to compromise, and his innocent blood was shed.

That is why God kept Uriah's name alive in the genealogy of Jesus Christ. He was so much like Jesus Christ, and God had the Holy Spirit remind us of that by putting him in Matthew's genealogy.

May we live uncompromisingly lovers of God's presence no matter what comes our way!

## ***The Cross, and the Unity of Vision and Ministry in the Church*** ***\*by T. Austin-Sparks***

The Lord gave the Word: this sums up the impression left by a remarkable Conference. His Presence was throughout the feature of each session. Indeed, we are learning, though it may seem trite to say so, that His Presence is salvation, for His Presence is everything; it certainly constitutes the ecclesia, since without His Presence we have no right to call ourselves the assembly of God. It is not the preaching, the teaching, or anything that may gather under the category of human activity, but it is HE, Himself, Who brings and supplies all the constituents of the feast. Without His Presence word and work are all in vain. It is one thing to pay lip-service to such truths, but quite another to live in them and by them. We therefore praise God for His faithfulness in reducing us to such weakness and impotence that, having ruled us out, He has a free course for the manifestation of His glory.

It is also very difficult to report the spoken word. Our readers must therefore pray that the Lord may, by His Spirit so bring the messages that were spoken and are now reported in these pages through, that they may share with us the deep impressions made upon our hearts.

The theme we felt was Divinely timely, "The Cross, and the unity of the Vision and of the Ministry of the Church, the Body of Christ."



## **Why do we gather?**

*Including 2 Christ Ministerial Fellowship Conferences and one Women's or Men's retreat, we find ourselves drawn together by the Spirit of God like birds innately hear an inner call to return home after a long winter in a land far away.*

*After reading the articles on pages 3-5 I'm impressed to emphasize the value of our gathering. The dear presence of our Lord Jesus Christ is manifested in a way when we are **together** that accomplishes an inward work that will not be done if we had stayed at home and tended to the many things that draw us after the natural life.*

*There is such value in strengthening the fellowship that we have with one another by spending time **together** in worship and the Word. His presence effects a joining in eternity that surpasses all natural relationships in depth and quality; in eternal love.*

*What value do we place on that which is eternal? Do we crave His wonderful Presence like Uriah did? What sacrifice are we prepared to make in order to cultivate His presence in our lives? "Sow to yourselves in righteousness. Reap in mercy, break up your fallow ground. For it is time to seek the Lord 'til He come and rain righteousness upon you." Hosea 10:12*

*Looking very much forward to seeing you at one of the upcoming Conferences. Sincerely with much love,*

*Arlene Ghilardi*

One thing was emphatically registered as being absolutely essential for the children of God to realize in these closing days of the dispensation - THE ONLY objective VISION of the Church must be JESUS, revealed by the Holy Ghost. For fear of any question we mean Jesus the Christ come in the flesh, crucified, and thus glorified through His out-resurrection. All other visions are subjective, that is, they may be realizations in experience of certain truths in the Christian life; but there abides ONE VISION, the Heavenly Vision; it is Jesus in the Godhead, and the fulness of the Godhead in Him. The Light, Who is God, is the Light of His Glory in the Face of Jesus the Christ. The complementary truth to this was that the vision of the Body is not objective, but subjective. We do not visualize a Body: we see Jesus. But by the Holy Ghost we should realize the Body as a Life that is One in the fellowship of One Spirit.

So likewise the one ministry is the building-up of His Glorious Body in the energy of the Holy Spirit. The ministry is wholly of the One Spirit. He can only use us as the natural man is kept continually crucified, and thus His Life is free to function through us. And it is also so necessary to make clear that every saint should share in this one ministry, the Holy Ghost's upbuilding of the Body, for the Body makes its own increase in that abiding constituent of the Divine Nature which is Love; that is to say God Himself in Christ supplies the increase as out from His own Being by the Holy Spirit. It is an increase of God! Therefore it must be by His Spirit, since it is a circulation and supplying of His own Life through the members as they abide in Him, and thus, through the travail of the Interceding Spirit, are made channels for the Divine communications.

This is so important to realize. What avail are mental visions of the truth of the Body without a spiritual realization of the fact of the Body as working in our own hearts in the Passion of the Divine Love?

Then it is so easy to say this, and to re-affirm it, but once again, beloved friends in our Lord, it is not the anointed ministry in the Word that builds up the saints into the heavenly Body of God in Christ: this is but the means the Holy Spirit would use to bring the saints to maturity, a maturity in the simplicity of the revelation of the Truth as it is in Jesus, in order that they, the saints (including these anointed ministers also as saints now) might commence through the travail and in-working of the Spirit in their hearts to build-up the Body in the Love that prompts and compels continual Holy Ghost prayer.

May God call us all to our holy, heavenly vocation, a vocation so far beyond our self-bound nature as well as all natural powers, that we are forced to cry unto Him for His enabling Spirit to mightily energize us.

Surely the Cross in its utter ruling out of the self-life is the only possible basis for such a ministry. Conference messages from February 4-6 1928. First published in "A Witness and a Testimony magazines 1928.

## *Prayer Requests*

Pastor Joe Csontos-Allentown, PA: healing for neck and back; wisdom on how to proceed with treatment

Bro. Joe Nieves-Allentown, PA: strength and grace to hold up under chemo therapy

Bro. Steve Wilber-Georgia: grace and healing from cancer.

Fredy Lopez & Gloria Osorio; Cony Rojas; Alejandro & Maria Paula Holguin: health and strength to make a safe journey to the US in April.

Pastor John and Flor Penrosa-Wallingford, CT: direction for their life and ministry

Ric Vargas, Lou Pressman: Blessing on Ministry Trips, including Japan April 10-22; Bulgaria in June; Bolivia in July; Cali, Colombia in September-Pastor's conference.

Bert and Arlene Ghilardi Colombia-14 days end of June into July for a Family conference with Transformando el Mundo, (Transforming the World Church) and ministry in Pereira with Mahanaim Home Fellowship and other churches in Cali and Pereira, Colombia.

Youth of our churches: personal encounter with God that will bring them into a solid walk and fellowship with Jesus.

Ralph Cotterill and the Stream of God International School of Ministry, Leroy, KS: may the video classes be completed, edited and may the first year of the School be launched.

## *Pastor's Conference in Barranquilla, Colombia*

*In March of this year Ric Vargas and Lou Pressman made a special trip to Colombia covering some new territory on the Caribbean coast of Colombia in Barranquilla. They were ministering to a group of pastors who probably have not heard before the new things that our brothers had to share with them. Here are some pictures of the trip.*

