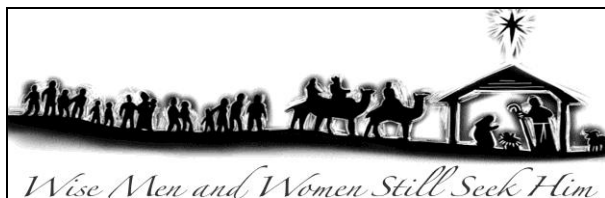


January 2009 West Wind
West Side Church of God
December 23, 2008

Annual Business Meeting
January 11, 2009, at 4:00 p.m.
2008 Financial Report, 2009 Budget, Voting

It is the wish of the West Side Church of God, its Church Council and Board of Trustees that Forest Cornwell be brought before the church for a vote to become our Senior Pastor at our Annual Business Meeting on Sunday, January 11, 2009, at 4:00 p.m.



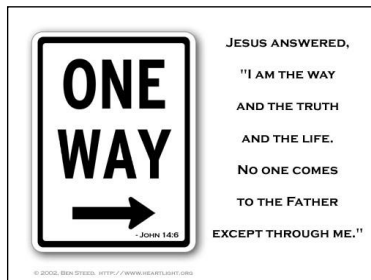
UPDATE Building Fund Campaign 2007-09

Your generous contributions to this above and beyond fund are a wonderful gift to our church family, as well as to others who are blessed by the opportunity to enjoy our facility. Your giving is generous and our ministry of the Family Life Center simply could not function without your help.

You are a vital part and you are part owner of this wonderful resource with which God has entrusted us. Your prayers for the ministries of the Family Life Center and your contributions to the operations are essential. Doesn't it give you great joy to be able to share our blessings of such a fine facility with the community?

BFC pledge income from January 1 to November 30, 2008 was \$41,732.50. The total BFC income during this time period was \$44,766.11. The additional income includes youth contributions from selling pop cans, tithes from various youth fund-raisers, volleyball league fees, and rental income.

The average monthly cost of operating the Family Life Center is about \$4,100 which includes the mortgage payment and utilities. Total expenses through November were \$44,913.80. If you would like to make a pledge or have any questions about BFC giving, please see Keith Carr or Yvonne Stone.



it is saying I know that there is not a God. The person who is an atheist is saying I have infinite knowledge that there is no one in the universe who has infinite knowledge. Now, it does not take much for you and me to see the contradiction here. The reality is that no one can say for sure that there is no God. That leads many people from atheism to agnosticism.

Agnosticism is saying that there is a God but that a person cannot know Him. It is saying I know that I cannot know. The agnostic's problem is self-defeating. If a person knows that he or she cannot know, then how do they know? Again, the contradiction is clear. Thinking about these two ideas that are so prevalent in our society has brought some questions to mind. What do people think of God? What are their ideas of God? Even though the atheist and the agnostic say there is no God or they cannot know God, they still have to have an idea of who God is or who God would or should be. There has to be some thought on who He is.

The picture of God in my own mind is that He is an intimidating figure. A God who is all powerful, all knowing, and everywhere is intimidating for someone who has more questions than answers and can only be in one place at a time. God is also Holy; and the sinful state of human beings separate God from humans and makes God even more intimidating. Isaiah faced this in a vision of God. In Isaiah 6 he finds himself in despair for the presence of God reveals his sinfulness. Isaiah is gripped with fear as his life hangs in the balance realizing God has the say in whether he lives or dies. But just then, Isaiah finds forgiveness as the angel comes over and purifies him with a hot coal. Suddenly Isaiah's guilt is burned away and he now sees God as approachable. God needs someone to take His message to His people and Isaiah readily volunteers. Isaiah shows us that forgiveness and the removal of guilt allows us to stand in the presence of God with confidence (Hebrews 4:16).

Looking at Isaiah's story, God is intimidating. But then we move ahead and look at Jesus. Jesus is a figure who is approachable for anyone. The sinner and the saint came to Jesus. Jesus Himself said in Luke 5:31 "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick." When Jesus said this, the righteous had

Who are You, God?

Atheism says there is no God. Ravi Zacharias says that the word for atheism comes from the Greek and means I know that there is no God. It is not saying I do not think there is a God or that I do not believe there is not a God, but

approached Him to ask why He was eating with sinners. His answer is that He came to seek out those who felt they could not come to God because of their sin. He came to show them that they needed God's forgiveness and that God is willing to forgive—that even the sinner could approach God. But the story goes beyond that. It shows that God is personal. He seeks to have a relationship with people. When we look at Jesus and His disciples we see He is a friend. For those who know Christ today know the love of God in their lives because He is our Heavenly Father (Matthew 6). God in Isaiah's time seemed distant but Jesus came to show us who God is (John 14:6-14) and that we can have a personal relationship with Him.

God is a gracious and loving God. He is holy and all knowing and all powerful. Sin separates us from Him and causes fear in our lives. Maybe this is why the atheist wants to believe there is no God because for the atheist, no God means no moral standard and no sin. What they do not realize is that God has taken care of the problem of sin for all people. Jesus died so we could be free. We do not have to do that for ourselves. We can approach God without the fear of rejection. I know this little newsletter cannot give a full picture of who God is. So I will keep searching the Bible and through prayer, I know that God will reveal Himself to me even more. I hope you will do the same.

In Christ, Pastor Forest



Thank you for using GoodSearch!
The Youth received a check for \$63.97
for October 2007-September 2008.

GoodSearch is a search engine which donates 50% of its revenue to the charities and schools designated by its users. It's a simple and compelling concept. You use GoodSearch exactly as you would any other search engine. Because it's powered by Yahoo!, you get proven search results. The money GoodSearch donates to your cause comes from its advertisers — the users and the organizations do not spend a dime! Just go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter West Side Church of God as the charity you want to support.

Mark Your Calendar ~ March 7 & 8

Faith Promise Missions Convention
Our Special Guest is Aaron Varner

Career Missionary Apprentice-Elect to Germany