

Heartland Messenger

Volume 9 Issue 11

April 2010

TERRITORIAL CALENDAR

April

16-18—Ladies Retreat
Cross Pointe Camp & Retreat
Center, Rocky Mount, Missouri

June

4-6—Kids Camp West
27-July 1—Kids Camp East

July

1-4—Sr. Camp East

September

10-12—Territorial Convention,
Branson, Missouri

October

15-17—Men's Retreat
Cross Pointe Camp & Retreat
Center, Rocky Mount, Missouri



Mark Your Calendars!

HEARTLAND TERRITORIAL CONVENTION 2010

The **2010 Heartland Territorial Convention** has been scheduled for **Friday, September 10—Sunday, September 12** at the **Welk Resort & Theater** in **Branson, Missouri**. Hotel accommodations include a full, hot breakfast and are \$80 per night for 2, with \$10 charges for third and fourth guests. More information will be coming soon.

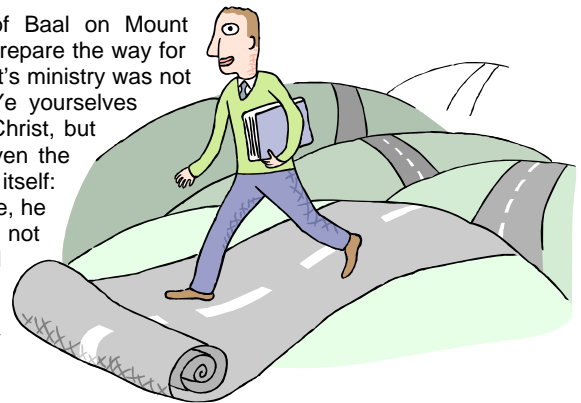


Prepare Ye The Way

This is the first part on a series based on the last territorial address

There are many ways to go with the topic *Prepare Ye the Way*: We could focus on the prophet Elijah; or his New Testament counterpart John the Baptist; or the ministry of the Holy Spirit as the Forerunner who prepares the way for Jesus in salvation; however, one thing must take precedent, regardless of the avenue, and that is the realization Jesus Christ is coming again. When we *make ready*, when we *prepare the way* that action is not an end unto itself, rather, it points to something in the future.

Elijah's confrontation with the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel was not an end to itself—it was to prepare the way for Israel to return to Jehovah. John the Baptist's ministry was not an end unto itself as he plainly stated: "Ye yourselves bear me witness that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him" (John 3:28). Even the Holy Spirit's ministry does not speak of itself: "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you" (John 16:13-14).



Similarly what we *do* cannot be the ultimate focus. Our work is preparatory and we must look to the end of that preparation, we must look to the return of Jesus Christ. We must embrace the words of the Voice while living in the wilderness that is this world: "He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled" (John 3:29).

Notice the words standeth, heareth, and rejoiceth John the Baptist used as it relates to all those we could focus on, and thus, how we practice ministry as well. The need to *stand* as did Elijah in his ministry, "And Elijah the Tishbite, *who* was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word" (1 Kings 17:1). The need to *hear* does the ministry of the Holy Spirit and in the admonition of Jesus, "he that hath ears to hear, hear what the Spirit says." The need to *rejoice* in that Voice as did John the Baptist. With the phrase "This my joy therefore is fulfilled" John means his delight stands filled like a cup to the brim with joy. There is no more room for any more without it spilling over.

As friend of the bridegroom, the *shoshben*, John held a unique place in regards to a Jewish wedding. He acted as the liaison between the bride and the bridegroom; he arranged the wedding; he took out the invitations; he presided at the wedding feast. He brought the bride and the bridegroom together. And he had one special duty. It was his duty to guard the bridal chamber and to let no false lover in. He would open the door only when in the dark he heard the bridegroom's voice and recognized it. When he heard the bridegroom's voice he let him in and went away rejoicing, for his task was completed and the lovers were together. He did not grudge the bridegroom or the bride. He knew that his only task had been to bring bride and bridegroom together.¹ And when that task was done he willingly and gladly faded out of the center of the picture.

This is why John could say with joy, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30) because his task was to arrange the marriage between the bride and the bridegroom by announcing the bridegroom's arrival and preparing His way.

(Continued on page 2)

February Average Attendance

Bertrand, MO	NR
Birch Tree, MO	63
Boonslick, MO	3
California, MO	NR
Centerpoint, MO	42
Carthage Sp. MO	NR
Columbus, KS	28
Delta, MO	26
El Dorado, KS	9
Eminence, MO	39
Emporia, KS	28
Fenton, MO	NR
Fredericktown, MO	62
Haddam, KS	10
Houses Creek, MO	NR
Houston, MO	NR
Joplin, MO	11
21st Street, KC,	NR
Hope Thru Grace,	70

Ladies Retreat

Heart of God

*April 16th-18th
Friday-Sunday*



We are looking forward to the wonderful plans God has for us this Ladies Retreat as we explore the "Heart of God" from April 16th-18th at Cross Pointe Camp and Retreat Center located near beautiful Lake of the Ozarks. Registration for this event is still open. To register or to find out more information, contact director **Leta Hightower** at **(573)-996-6817**. Payment for the retreat may be made upon your arrival.

*Cross Pointe Camp and Retreat Center
31434 Main Street
Rocky Mount, Missouri
65072*



February Average Attendance

Way of Life, KC, KS	65
Kirksville, MO	NR
Liberal, MO	38
Montier, MO	NR
Mountain View, MO	NR
Olathe, KS	110
Olathe Sp, KS	90
Poplar Bluff, MO	21
Potosi, MO	NR
Sikeston, MO	NR
Springfield, MO <i>(Wednesday night)</i>	55
Summersville, MO	NR
Topeka, KS	NR
Van Buren, MO	NR
West Plains, MO	NR
Wichita, KS	NR
Wichita, Sp. KS	NR
Winona, MO	75

*NR—No Report

(Continued from page 1)

It is also why John described himself as, "...the voice of one crying in the wilderness" (John 1:23 KJV). The word *voice*, both here in v.23 and as in "the Bridegroom's voice" of 3:29 has the idea of disclosure; that is, "the act or an instance of disclosing; exposure; revelation." What John heard is what he spoke, and in it his joy was fulfilled.

The Apostle Paul would later say it this way: "For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you..." (1 Corinthians 11:23 ESV). And that is our charge as well. We must hear His Voice, the Voice of revelation, and then be a voice of disclosure to this world. That must be our joy: His Voice and sharing what was heard. The foundation of His body is disclosure; the rock of His church is revelation (Matthew 16:16-18).

—Bishop John Pace, Overseer

Next month: **Part 2, entitled, A Church of Revelation**



¹ *The Gospel of John : Volume 1.* 2000 (W. Barclay, lecturer in the University of Glasgow, Ed.). The Daily Study Bible Series, Rev. ed. (143–144). Philadelphia: The Westminster Press.