

# Church of the Open Bible



(Church of God General Conference, McDonough GA)

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## Are We Really Content?

By Rachel Cain

How many of us can say we are truly 100% content the way we are? Many might claim to be content, but it seems there's always something after which we are striving -- a new house or car, that perfect vacation, children to be born or children to move out, more money, more time, a different job, a different season of the year...



Lately, contentment has been a struggle for me. I like to think of myself as a satisfied person, but sometimes, worldliness gets the best of me. I'm sick of driving around an old car; I wish my house didn't have so many quirks; I yearn for the weather to never get below 70 degrees; I long to travel and see the world; if I only had more money...

I didn't really notice how discontented I have been until the other night when I went to my husband Dan's softball game. When I arrived with my blanket (to cover the cold metal bleachers), I noticed that all the other observers were likewise clad in blankets, sweatshirts, and some even in winter coats... and it was the first day of June! Having a blanket in the summer is not unusual to me (I tend to be cold in anything less than 78 degrees and would really prefer to hibernate during the winter months), but seeing all the other people cold too, I concluded that it was REALLY cold for a summer evening... at least, the strong wind made it feel much, much colder than the supposed temperature.

I came home from the game very frustrated by the cold temperatures, asking God why I had to put up with cold weather in June. While this might seem a small issue, my time with God that evening led me to realize that there is a much bigger issue than weather that I need to deal with -- it's a matter of my heart.

God has blessed me so much, and yet I always desire more.

My heart is not in the right place. I often need to read the words of Paul to the Philippians to get my heart back on track:

*"I've learned by now to be quite content whatever my circumstances. I'm just as happy with little as with much, with much as with little. I've found the recipe for being happy whether full or hungry, hands full or hands empty. Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am."* (from *Philippians 4, The Message*)

At least I have a car, a place to live, a source of income... while these may not be "ideal", I need to be grateful and realize God's blessings. I need to make the best of the situation in which I find myself and seek out opportunities to serve and thrive anyway. Maybe my possessions are not the "best" of things in the world's eyes, but His grace has been sufficient for me. He is all I really need.

Thank you, God, for all my blessings, and forgive me for not being content with that which you have blessed me. Help me to have a heart that is grateful and satisfied in You alone.

6-7-09 THRIVE devotions

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## **OUR 50<sup>TH</sup> CHURCH ANNIVERSARY IS ONLY 1 WEEK AWAY !**

**(SEPT. 12--13<sup>TH</sup>) !!!**

Tentative Schedule:

Sat., Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>, 5 p.m. Pictures (power-point), Dinner, Fellowship

Sunday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>, 9:45 S.S. / 10:45 Worship Celebration

**(Steve Bolhous, speaker)**

Noon: Dinner

After dinner: Organ dedication & concert by **Pastor Dale Ramsey**

We will have a **"Mystery Guest"**

**Leaders** from our N.E. Conference celebrating with us.

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**TODAY WE OBSERVE COMMUNION:** What is Communion? Communion is also called The Lord's Supper, & it's a powerful way for Christians to remember & celebrate what God did for us through Jesus. Jesus instituted this ritual in **Mark 14:22-26**, and Paul describes it in **1 Corinthians 11:23-26**.

**KATHY JONES JOHNSON** is home from the hospital after back sur-

gery Aug. 25<sup>th</sup>. She's feeling better with each day of recovery.

**AL SZEKELY** hasn't been feeling up to par lately and has had some tests run. Keep he and Arlene in your prayers.

**BOB JONES** had some laser eye surgery last Friday to help his glaucoma. At this printing, I've not heard how the procedure went.

**17 YEARS TODAY!** Today concludes 17 years I've been at Bedford with tomorrow starting my 18<sup>th</sup> year. It just doesn't seem possible that it's been that long, but that must mean it has been a blessing ... at least to me. What do they say – time passes quickly when you're having fun! May God continue to bless our work and ministry here as we do it together.

**GENE FAEHRICH** was moved Aug. 24<sup>th</sup> to Jennings Center for Older Adults where his wife (Fred Schuld's sister), Gloria, resides. He will be there during his rehabilitation from surgery.

**CURRENT INS SITUATION.** The Gen. Conference has been asked to keep the International Naturalization Services in our prayers that they would approve the new campuses so foreign students could attend at each campus. Classes for the Koreans (north campus) is set to begin Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> and classes for the Avalon (south campus) is to begin Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>. We've not heard anything as of 9-4 from the INS which means - the Koreans and other foreign students will have to return to the old Morrow campus for classes until INS approves both the Avalon and Duluth campuses. This means students and staff driving from Duluth (45 minutes) and the south campus (25 minutes). It really complicates things! Keep praying that the INS will soon take action.

However, in spite of this waiting, the north campus was dedicated Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup> with GC board chairman, Bob Morrison, delivering the dedicatory message. A Korean meal followed.

### **Still Crippled, Haiti Faces New Hurricane Season**

Mission News Network reports that Haiti faces this year's hurricane season with its infrastructure still severely damaged from last year's storms. Almost 800 people were killed in last year's storms, which destroyed harvests and roadways. Red tape and corrupt bureaucracy has prevented tons of international aid from reaching Haiti's people. Co-founder of For Haiti with Love Eva DeHart says, "The

port situation in Cap Haitien is almost impossible to deal with, so we need somebody reliable enough to bring it through customs, to know that it will get to us." She continued, "I can't reassure anybody that there is any food in the chain on its way down. So the food we currently have on hand is all we have to deal with now until we get these problems solved. When the food is gone, it's gone." [PRAY FOR OUR BRETHREN! Rex]

**PRAY FOR:** Kathy Jones Johnson (back surgery), Bob Jones (see inside), Skip Reed, Gene & Gloria Faehnrich, Karel (Michal Sittek's g-father), Luke (4-yr old, cancer, by SMay), Quick INS inspection approval of ABC campuses, W.C. Blankenship (heart), Susan May, Lucinda (by ASzekely), Jean Szantes (cancer, by Arlene), Josh Eberly (by SMay), Pastors Don Ward & Leon Driskill; Ken Cramer, Tammy (Koston) Lisiecki, Leslie & Stanley Hervert (by Grace), Ruth Schuld, Susan (Stine) Bradley, Edith Speer, Jack Hearp, Kathy Reed+3 children, Craig Blankenship, **College students:** Laura Schuld, Andrew Weaver, **Shut-ins:** Carol Reed, Evelyn Pennington, Amy Dunbar Puehler **Military:** Rodger Schuld, **Missionaries in other countries:** Gaston Ucanay-Peru, Mauro Apolos Gonzalez-Uruguay, Lupe Badillo-Mexico, Tracy Zhykhovich-Russia, Pastors in Malawi & Mozambique, Lesly Bertrand and the Pastors in Haiti. / **Churches:** Knightstown Family Fellowship IN, Korean Extension Steve & Sam An, RRCC, ABC, Golden Rule, Grace Brethren and for the peace of Jerusalem, Ps. 122:6; Isa. 62:6, 7

**DEACONESSES FOR COMMUNION** today are Mary Ellen Jones and Nancy Koston

### SEPTEMBER 2009

06 Communion / "Do this in remembrance of me."

### **12-13 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!**

20 Sunday School staff meeting

27 Mildred Dennis, guest speaker

**SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:45A.M.**

**WORSHIP 10:45A.M.**

Musicians: Doris Schuld and Mark Cain

Welcome / Announcements / Prayer

Worship Hymns: Mark Cain

233 Let Us Break Bread Together

228 Around the Table of Our Lord

Prayer / Offering  
Responsive Scripture Reading: Justin Kostyo  
Message: The Secret of Contentment  
Key Verses: Philippians chapter 4  
Communion: Pastor Rex Cain  
219 Blest Be The Tie That Binds

