

Monthly newsletter from the

**Lakeport Christian Church**

# Gospel Restored

**June 2021**

*Restoring the church back to the  
New Testament pattern!*



As most of you know, I was not raised in the Church of Christ/Christian Church. I did not become a Christian until I was 22 years old. When I look back over my spiritual journey, the plea to go back to the Scriptures comes to my mind.

Let's go back to the beginning! No, not Genesis 1:1, but my beginning! I was born in Rochester, New York. At birth, I had some health issues, so my parents had me "sprinkled". They understood that because infants inherit their sins from Adam, a baby needed to be sprinkled to have inherited sins forgiven. I appreciate that my parents did what was right in their thinking, but I understand now that this is not what the Scripture teach. For one: baptism in the Scriptures is ALWAYS by immersion—that is the meaning of the original Greek word. And two: Children are born innocent until they reach the age of accountability—where they know right from wrong.

After my parents divorced, my dad looked around for a church to take all six of us kids. We wound up in a church that taught baptism by immersion. The church taught that a person would believe the Gospel, and say the "sinner's prayer", and thus be saved—then later baptized. I was about 7 or 8 when I went through this process. As I have studied the Scriptures, I now know that the Bible has a different order. Mark 16:15-16 teaches a person must believe and be baptized to be saved. The order is different than what was taught by this church. And even though they taught baptism by immersion, the purpose was different than what Scriptures taught. They would of said that it is an "outward sign of an inward grace". In other words, you are baptized to show you are saved. But Acts 2:38 teaches baptism is "for the forgiveness of sins".

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My journey isn't done yet! When my Dad remarried, he married a woman who was involved in the Jehovah's Witnesses. Yes, you guessed right. After being taught at the Kingdom Hall, I was fully immersed at the Bayfront Center in St. Petersburg, FL, again, as an "outward sign of an inward grace.

Then FINALLY, after moving into Tampa, my neighbors told me the Gospel—plain and simple from the Bible. And after much persistence on their part, I went to the Central Christian Church in Tampa, just a couple blocks from my home. There I heard the evangelist Edgar Harris preach straight from the Bible. He preached that if a person will just follow the Bible only, he would be a Christian only. I was placed in a young adult Sunday School class where the teacher, Dan Hefner, had us memorize Scripture that dealt with God's plan for man. And to add to all this, I sat through all five of the Jule Miller filmstrips. After that last filmstrip, I went up to Ed Harris and said it sounds like I need to be immersed to have my sins washed away. He agreed that this is what the Scripture taught—and so that very hour, at the evening service at Central Christian Church, brother Harris placed me totally under the water, and brought me up, so that I could walk in newness of life—my sins washed away!

So this is why my spiritual journey reminds me of the plea to go back to the Scriptures. I was taught many man-made traditions along the way. But I thank God daily that He placed many people in my life that would teach me that we need to restore back the Bible teachings and principles—and the Bible alone as the authority.

Everyone's journey is different. But the key is to make sure that when you obey the Gospel, that you do it as the Scripture teach. We are forgiven when God says we are forgiven—forgiveness is on His terms, not on our terms! I had to learn that.

Now that is my journey. What is your journey like?

I love being your evangelist! Love you all in Christ!

Kevin

Have you checked out the church's website?

**[www.lakeportcc.com](http://www.lakeportcc.com)**

Here you will find lots of information about what is happening at the church. You can also go back and listen to sermons, and even watch the most recent sermons! Please bookmark it and check it often!

## Sunday School at 9:30 with George Randolph teaching

*Meets in the Fellowship Hall*

6-6	No Worries	Matthew 6:25-34
6-13	Calming the Storm	Matthew 8:23-27
6-20	A Healing Touch	Matthew 9:18-26
6-27	An Amazing Feat	Matthew 14:22-33



## *From the Pulpit*

### Worship Service at 10:30

*Meets in the Auditorium*

*Sermons during June are part of a series on "Essentials"*

6-6	<b>The Assembly</b> is Essential	Acts 2:42
6-13	<b>Edification</b> is Essential	Ephesians 4:1-17
6-20	<b>World Evangelism</b> is Essential	Mark 16:15-16
6-27	<b>The Plan of God</b> is Essential	II Corinthians 5:21

*Want to learn more about the Bible? Join us for*

## **Bible Study**

*Wednesdays at 2:00 PM at George & Jo Randolph's home*



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[www.facebook.com/LakeportChristianChurch](http://www.facebook.com/LakeportChristianChurch)

## Sunday Evening Services Resume June 6th—6:30 PM

*We plan to meet in the Fellowship Hall. The Lord's Supper will be offered during the service to any who did not have the opportunity to partake in the AM Service. Join us for a Look Back, so we can Look Forward!*



**← Looking Back**

**to Look Forward →**



**A History of the Restoration Movement**  
*a study of the restoration ideal*

## Wednesday Evening Services Resume June 9th—6:30 PM

*We plan to meet in the Fellowship Hall. Our first study will be from the book of Philippians. This will be a verse by verse study of this great epistle with the theme of JOY!*

The  
**Joyous**  
Christian Life

*Studies from the Epistle of Philippians*