

Found MINISTRIES

April 2024

Greetings to all my friends and fellow laborers for the Kingdom!

I trust that by now many, if not all, of you have read the letters that have been sent about the name change and you understand the reasons—namely the Holy Spirit was leading for it to happen. Now that the change has been completed and all the technical aspects of such a shift are (mostly) done, we must look forward. Jesus was a forward thinker. His message was one that called any who would be His disciples to look forward with great anticipation for the coming Kingdom. When Jesus taught the parable about the new wine and old wineskins, and the new cloth patch on old cloth, he never explicitly states or even implies that what's old should be gotten rid of or forgotten—my mindset is the same. Jesus' teaching calls His followers to continue to value that which was old, while making room for and embracing the new. Such is our goal with these newsletters.

I have recently completed the process—with the help of my sweet wife—of sorting through hundreds of copies of RFOD newsletters dating back to 1963 in an attempt to coalesce an exhaustive archive. I believe we have accomplished that. The archive has been digitized and is available as a free download on our website. If you are reading this on a computer or smart device, just click [here](#) to navigate directly to that

page. We also sent paper copies to a book binder and have just received those back for enjoyment whenever you may find yourself in Parker City.

Part of the renewed vision for this ministry was a shift away from one man's message being communicated—save the message of Jesus Christ—and toward the voice of what the Holy Spirit is doing in His Bride; specifically this little representation of the Bride now known as Found Ministries. Accepting the reality of Found being an apostolic ministry there are certain identifiers one should expect to find. Generally, these are presented in Ephesians, chapter 4 verses 11-16: equipping of the saints, building up the body of Christ, speaking the truth in love, promote and pursue unity. One way the leadership of Found is pursuing the fulfillment of this mandate is by helping our friends all across the nation and globe be aware of and hear the voices of fellow disciples of Jesus. In practice, this looks like the regular inclusion of content from the leadership of local churches in this newsletter.

We believe doing this accomplishes the aforementioned goal of valuing the past while looking forward, and ministering to the body, from the body. With all this considered, it is my great pleasure to introduce a remarkable and poignant contribution from Pastor Caroline Holmes. Please take time to read this when you can really drink it in, and then read it again. When



you finish and realize what a profoundly simple, yet vital message is presented, please let Pastor Caroline know how much you have appreciated it.

Blessings,

Spencer

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

When Pastor Spencer asked me last week to contribute to this month's newsletter, I told him I am a blank page. He said, "Perfect!" He also gave me free rein as to what to write. When I use the word, "*found*," it comes through Christ in my thoughts and experience, and I believe delightfully sums up all our stories in God's book.

As witness of Christ, I can only share about what I know, and that is of **His truth, His order, His beauty, and His love**, and I have been privileged to experience these attributes and many more through His church in Minnesota.

In October 1983 Vernon Levisay from West Virginia was looking for work. He told his wife, Dean Ann, "I can have job with one call." Dean Ann responded, "Make the call." She knew God was in this and would be moving them from their beloved home and church. Vernon went ahead with the job and finding a home, with Dean Ann and their two sons joining him in January 1984 (not an ideal time to move to Minnesota!) When they left, they were told, "You are going to hungry hearts – you will find a people out there." Four

months later, God brought them to a beautiful church. What did Dean Ann do (for God's call was on her)? In obedience, she worshiped and waited, and **the attributes of God that had been worked in her of truth, order, beauty, and love, began to have an effect on the people**, causing quite a stir in the church. Christ said, "I came not to bring peace, but a sword (Matt.10:34)." His presence causes division. His presence in us should cause division. We don't cause this, but when Holy Love walks into the room, people will react, sometimes quite strongly. Fast-forward four more years and *many* more adventures in the kingdom, five families felt the call (more like a shove), but nevertheless the "Freedom to withdraw in Love and Free in the Spirit to Go." God said to Eve, the mother of all, "In pain you will bring forth children (Gen. 3:16)." Leaving all was not easy for the new church, nor for Dean Ann who now became a mother to this people. This was an act of faith. So, on November 12, 1989, a new church was born, though she had been in the mind of God from before the foundation of the world.

The current of my life would not merge with this lovely stream (then Christ Fellowship) until July 1992. I was attending Crown College at the time when one of my friends was to be married. Pastor Rick Dally from Cotton, Minnesota, officiated the wedding. He encouraged us college kids to visit the Fellowship in Anoka, Minnesota. A week later, four of us piled into a car and went to the church in Anoka, which was by then meeting in a rented facility instead of a home. This was the beginning of me finding "home," my place in God's kingdom. Looking back, I find it so ironic that in 83-84 when the Levisays came to Minnesota, and again 1989



when the church was formed, were for me extremely difficult years, yet now I see God's light at the end of the tunnel, how He works in the darkness when all seems lost. And in January 1993, He merged my own little life into the stream of His church in Minnesota.

Since that time, I have been privileged **to know God's truth, order, beauty, and love in His church, the ripple effect of His Presence.** I can say with confidence that I know these things because I have seen it lived out before me in many others, particularly Dean Ann. She and Vernon were a "sent people" and we a "found people." This found people needed a lot of nurturing to grow to maturity. Dean Ann, as the mother, set the tone and held the line, **in truth, order, beauty, and love, Christ being the Source.** This has been *our modus operandi* now for thirty-four years. God breathed life into the Church, and she became a living being. **She stands in truth, walks in order, and does everything beautifully with great love.** Great men and women have come and gone, risen, and fallen, but "through the Church the song goes on." I have been so thankful to be part of this stream, lost in the current of God's love. (Note, a current is "a body of water or air moving in a definite direction, especially through a surrounding body of water or air in which there is less movement (Oxford Languages). We are each like a little water molecule, two parts hydrogen, one part oxygen, united to other water molecules to become the life-giving river that flows from the throne of God (Rev. 22:1-2). This is a precious and sacred privilege. It is no coincidence that one of the symbols of the Holy Spirit is water, that water covers 71% of the Earth's surface, and that 60% of each person on average is water. Think of it!

You may wonder that I don't have specific scriptures supporting how I see God working in His church, but I think there are too many to mention. **His truth, order, beauty, and love run from beginning to end.** A couple of other significant dates for me in the stream were 1997 when Paul and I were married and the 2000's when our three children were born. After many years of following this current, Dean Ann asked me in October 2019 if I would succeed her in the church in Minnesota. Like Mary, I always want to say "yes" to the next step God has, even though it looms so large; "Behold, the bondslave of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word (Luke 1:38)." But the promise before it looms even *larger*, "For nothing will be impossible with God (Luke 1:37)." I was ordained in a small ceremony, November 1, 2020, and it has been a *wonderful adventure* in the kingdom. (Note, an adventure is "an unusual and exciting, typically hazardous, experience or activity (Oxford Languages) 😊." By all outward appearances, our Fellowship appears small, when in reality, God has increased the faithful current over the years to encompass other people, cultures, and nations. Again, this is a blessed privilege.

A water molecule doesn't "know" much, but more importantly is "known," joined with other molecules to form not only a river, but the mighty ocean. She is lost and found at the same time, no longer choosing her own way, but joyfully surrendering to the current of God's love.

May we be lost and found *together*.

In His Love,

Pastor Caroline Holmes

A Couple Notes from the Executive Director

- If you would like to write Pastor Caroline to express appreciation for her labor of love, please send your notes to: Blessed Fellowship of Christ Our Redeemer, 22115 Quincy St. NE, East Bethel, MN 55011 or email her at Carolineholmes.BFOCOR@gmail.com
- Fellowship Youth Camp is July 14-20 at Lincoln State Park in southern Indiana. If you would like to register a camper or get more information, please visit foundministry.org/fyc or email fyc@foundministry.org.
- Some of you may have seen the previous email we've sent or the social media posts, but in case you missed it we wanted to make sure you know about the RFOD Newsletter Archive. Every newsletter we had (we believe we got them all) from 1963-2006 have been digitized and are available as free downloads at foundministry.org/newsletter so please enjoy!

