

# Oak Grove Church of Christ

(502) 749-9209

## Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship: 10:30 AM  
Evening Worship: 6:00 PM

## Wednesday

Bible Class: 7:30 PM

**Evangelist:** Bruce J. Dehut

*Home Bible Studies Available  
Upon Request*

Oak Grove church of Christ  
9203 Thixton Lane  
Louisville, KY 40291



## OAK GROVE ENCOURAGER

**"And let us consider one another in order to  
stir up love and good works" Hebrews 10:24**

MARCH 12, 2006

### Heroes by Design

by Bruce J. Dehut

Webster's dictionary defines "courage" as follows: Mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty. This is a very good definition to a powerful word.

There are at least two types of heroes we encounter in this life, and we may even find ourselves included in the mix, *heroes by default* and *heroes by design*. David demonstrated at early in his well-documented life how to be both types of heroes.

But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I

went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God." Moreover David said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!" (1 Samuel 17:34-37).

This young scruffy shepherd had courage, and to spare. He had responded instinctively to the safeguarding of his flock but now with plenty of time to consider the man mountain belittling his countrymen he had to make a choice. Either cower with fear, like Saul and the rest of the army, or stand up and be a *hero by design*. We know the rest of the story. With God as his ally, David demonstrated true courage and cut the mountain down to a molehill.

Courage isn't just the knee-jerk reaction to a spontaneous moment in time, a *hero by default*. We have all heard of mothers lifting automobiles off their children who are pinned underneath or a father willing to use his body to shield his wife from the attack of a mugger. Men and women like those mentioned are to be applauded and held in high esteem for their instinctive valor, people like these save lives every day.

Granted, it takes resourcefulness and a cool head to react properly to stressful circumstances that stare you point blank in the face. But *heroes by design* are those people

who have weighed the cost and are willing to risk life or limb (not soul) to protect and maintain a courageous disposition over the long haul of their life.

*Heroes by design* are parents, grandparents, children, or singles who routinely make courageous, conscientious choices to the trials of day to day living. These are people willing to rise up and face the consequences of their actions, whether good or bad. They understand that events of daily living can cause ripple effects throughout generations.

Courage to these warriors isn't a one-time event; it's a life process of putting it all on the line consistently. One author put it this way: Courage is faith in action. A true *hero of design* endures the criticism of others for taking the road less traveled of self-sacrifice and the temptation to choose the "quick fix." Becoming a hero by design takes determination of character to withstand the ridicule of shortsighted people and strive to add conviction and commitment to your life's repertoire.

A hero isn't a person who goes off half-cocked, or seeking glory for themselves, a real hero puts other's well being above their own at the realization of loss. And a real hero never hesitates to bend a knee to the Almighty who assures of ultimate victory through His Son if we are found faithful in the end.

## If You Think You Have Problems

If you think you have problems or tough situations, read about old Moses. "Well, here I was, out on the desert with no food, no water, and three and a half million people. Now how was I going to take care of myself, much less all the people? Do you know that it would take 500 tons of food each day to feed all that bunch? It would take two freight trains each a mile long, to provide all the food. And the water! It would take 11,000,000 gallons to fill that crew...that's a train 1800 miles long just for water! And it will probably take 4,000 tons of wood just to cook all that food.

Another thing, I understand I'm suppose to lead these people across the Red Sea, in one night even! Do you realize that if we walked double file, the line would be 800 miles long? Why it would take us 35 days to get across. The only way we would possibly get across in one night would be to have a space three miles wide and walk 5,000 abreast. Then, the camping space, did you ever think about that? Every time we camped, it would take an area two-thirds the size of Rhode Island (25 miles wide, and 130 miles long) just to hold all those people. Buddy, you think you've got problems!!!"

All those statistics are real - figured out by the Quarter Master

General of the Army. That's what I'd call a real problem, but Moses wasn't worried. Do you know why? Mainly because he put the Lord first and the Lord took care of everything else. Now, if the Lord can take care of three and one half million people, sure looks like He could take care of our problems, too, doesn't it? Put Him first in your life, and He will do just that!

From the "News Provider," Nortonville, KS.

## We Need More Stoves

For me, one of life's joys is to sit with old friends before a winter fire, to sniff the pungent oak in the curling smoke, to watch its shadows play on cold walls, to find peace in its ember glow. For touching with heart, few things beat the hearth. For providing heat, however, few sources are more inefficient. According to most sources, only about 10% of the wood's heat gets into the room, while 90% goes up the chimney.

In a way, evangelism, through pulpit preaching only, is a lot like heating a house with a fireplace only. While it is a good source of edification to the Christians present, it does not provide much radiation to the non-Christians who are absent.

A wood stove, which sits in the middle of the room, radiates more heat than a fireplace. In like manner, a Christian on fire, who goes with the word into the middle of his neighborhood, his family, will reach more than the pulpit. We need more stoves in the church.

- Author unknown

Plan to attend and invite others to our

# SPRING MEETING

with

## Paul Earnhart

Sunday Bible class: 9:30 AM  
**What We Need to Know about the Unknowable**

Sunday 10:30 AM:  
**The Grace and Necessity of Gratitude**

Sunday 6:00 PM:  
**Living Sacrifices - Understanding the Meaning of Worship**

Monday 7:30 PM:  
**God Has Plans for You**

Tuesday 7:30 PM:  
**The Cost of Following Jesus**

Wednesday 7:30 PM:  
**Paul and the Corinthian Church**

Thursday 7:30 PM:  
**The Things That Save**

Friday 7:30 PM:  
**What's Heaven All About?**

# March 19-24

## THE LORD'S DAY PRIVILEGE LIST

### Sunday Morning Service

Announcements: **Brandon Yates**

Song Leader: **Jim Covington**

Opening Prayer: **Jim Phelps**

Lord's Table: **Mark Smith**  
**Chuck Sharp**  
**Robert Hood**  
**Mark Sharp**

Scripture Reading: **Brian Shepherd**

Sermon: **Bruce Dehut**

Closing Prayer: **Mike Shepherd**

### Sunday Evening Service

Announcements: **Brandon Yates**

Song Leader: **Jim Covington**

Opening Prayer: **David Shepherd**

Sermon: **Bruce Dehut**

Lord's Table: **Mark Smith**

Closing Prayer: **Larry Runner**