

# logos ♦ ♦ ♦



Vol. 1 Issue 9-Conference on Practical Christianity—September/October 2007

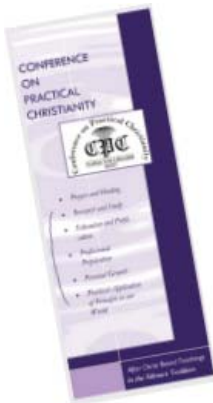
## [www.fillmoresunity.com](http://www.fillmoresunity.com)

Have you visited our web site lately? There have been many additions. We have added many items to the Ministers Resource page and also to the Member Resource page. Take a few minutes to look at the site and if you have suggestions about additions to what is already available please let us know. [drcharlie@fillmoresunity.com](mailto:drcharlie@fillmoresunity.com).



If you would like your own email address at fillmoresunity.com let me know and we will set it up, probably on the same day. Your email address would read (your name)@fillmoresunity.com and it would be received just as you receive your email now.

## New Marketing Brochure



Thanks to the talents of Rev. Barbara Hill we now have a new marketing brochure. The brochure is a trifold self-mailer with an application form on the inside of the last fold.

Contents include our Mission statement, a powerful quote on "Mind" by Charles Fillmore, a statement addressing "Who can join?", and a list of reasons to join.

The brochure is now in production and should be available by the end of the second week in October. The appearance includes heavy duty paper with a glossy finish and a coating that will protect the printing and allow the application to be completed with just a ball-point pen.

If you wish to have a packet of the new brochure, for distribution, contact Rev. Charlie at: [drcharlie@fillmoresunity.com](mailto:drcharlie@fillmoresunity.com)

## Chairperson Needed—Raise your hand . . .

A Chairperson for the 2008 Annual Conference is needed to coordinate location, activities, speakers and other details for making a successful meeting.



The Chairperson must be committed to the project and able to take charge of all aspects of the work to be done. This will be the first annual meeting of the Conference and we would all like to see it be done well.

Call Rev. Charlie at 800-939-2023 to discuss your possibilities.

## Wanted

Submit an article for the newsletter. Limit your subject to about 500 words. Or write a book review. Your peers are always interested in what you are doing at your church. Send it in soon.



## Contact Information

**Headquarters:**  
Conference on  
Practical Christianity  
17 S. Pearl St.  
Paola, KS 66071  
Telephone:  
Toll Free:  
1-800-939-2023  
913-871-0935

**Robert Kent**  
Treasurer  
P.O. Box 1221  
Greenville, TN  
37744  
Telephone:  
423-787-7706

*"We fairly sizzle with zeal and enthusiasm to do the work that is ours to do."*  
Charles and Myrtle Fillmore

## our greatest fear . . .

### (Nelson Mandela 1994 Inaugural Speech)

Our greatest fear is not that we are inadequate,  
but that we are powerful beyond measure.  
It is our light, not our darkness, that frightens us.  
We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant,  
gorgeous, handsome, talented and fabulous?  
Actually, who are you not to be?  
You are a child of God.  
Your playing small does not serve the world.  
There is nothing enlightened about shrinking  
so that other people won't feel insecure around you.  
We were born to make manifest the glory of God within us.  
It is not just in some; it is in everyone.  
And, as we let our own light shine, we consciously give  
other people permission to do the same.  
As we are liberated from our fear,  
our presence automatically liberates others.

## Join Today . . .

### Application: Conference on Practical Christianity

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Membership        | \$60.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Membership   | \$95.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organizational membership | \$125.00 |

Mail, Along with Check to:

Treasurer- CPC  
P.O. Box 1221—Greeneville, TN 37744  
Join On-Line at: [www.fillmoresunity.com](http://www.fillmoresunity.com)

## News from Fillmore Theological College by Rev. Donald Hudson

Fillmore Theological College is now ready for students. It has been a long haul but the effort was quite worth it in that we have a professional college of learning that offers an integrity for the confidence of incoming students.

Want to learn more about God, about Unity, about Charles and Myrtle Fillmore and about yourself. FTC offers each of us this opportunity. No matter your educational level or your position in the spiritual community you can always gain more in life by being open to study. To paraphrase Abraham Lincoln, "I will study and I will get ready and when opportunity comes I will be prepared." When we are active students our mental doors are open and prepared to accept and understand that good which is being presented to us.

Think about taking some classes right now so that you will be prepared when understanding presents itself. Further, encourage others to do the same by introducing them to Fillmore Theological College. There are none of us who can ever serve one and another enough.

Over the next few weeks our new FTC brochure will be completed and printed for distribution. We will announce when they are ready and you will be able to order some packets for distribution and for placing on your literature table at your church. We are excited about all that is going on and will share new developments with you as they come to pass.

Visit the FTC web site: <http://www.fillmorecollege.com> Share the site with others.

"One of the greatest joys known to man is to take a flight into ignorance in search of knowledge."

- Robert Lynd

Due Now

Ministers/Organization Quarterly Report  
2007

Thank You

Name of Minister or Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Board President \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # of Board President: \_\_\_\_\_

No of Sunday Services \_\_\_\_\_  No. of Other Services \_\_\_\_\_

No of Weddings \_\_\_\_\_  No of Christenings \_\_\_\_\_

No of Memorials \_\_\_\_\_  No of Workshops \_\_\_\_\_

No of Hospital Visits \_\_\_\_\_  No of Prayer Meetings \_\_\_\_\_

You are blessed for all you do.

Is your tithe enclosed with this report?  Yes. Amount \$\_\_\_\_\_ Thank you. You are appreciated.

Please mail to:

Conference on Practical Christianity

P.O. Box 1221

Greeneville, TN 37744

I give up . . . I surrender . . . Is there a difference?

Rev. Charles Smith

In a sense we can say that to **give up** is to experience despair. When we give up it is because we have lost hope. We feel that there is nowhere to go and nothing to be gained by anything we do. We know this because we have tried everything we can think of to be happy and healthy and prosperous. Nothing worked. We "give up." Whatever is against us wins. What ever is against is usually ourselves. Through ego and self will we were successful in defeating ourselves. We only trusted ourselves and were found to be untrustworthy.

Let's take a look at the word **surrender**. First let us note that surrender is no small thing. In the Christian doctrine Surrender is also noted as one of the three columns of victorious living, or Christian victory. It is literally turning one's self over to the will of something greater than self and in our case, that greatness is God.

Unity has long presented the delusion that in order to live the perfect life we must be in control. We call ourselves co-creators with God. We claim the ability to do great physical things by affirmation alone (fake it 'til you make it) or say it long enough and it will become true yet most things we claim over and over and over again seldom do come true. This is not a bad thing but looked at from an enlightened view we can see that there just might be another way. We must recognize that we of ourselves can do nothing and accept the help of our God. God is not only our source but God is all of the source there is. Yet, God does not have what we desire but God **is** what we desire.

Jesus said, in John 14:10 "Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work."

How simple. **Surrender** is the very power that allows Practical Christianity to work at all. The lack of surrender implies that we are yet attempting to control our lives rather than, through the guidance of God, being **in** control of our lives. There is a very subtle but powerful difference between the act of control and of being in control. We control our lives, though not very well, through self will, we are in control of our lives by surrendering to the Christ within allowing Christ to live through us.



## Blessed Am I

Rebecca Roupe

BLESSED is my body, for it is a temple of the Lord Most High. I honor and respect my body, for in it dwells the Holy One, the Christ of God.

BLESSED is my mind, for into and through it flow the rich ideas of God. Through it I know the joy of His life, the power of His love, and the wonder of His creation.

BLESSED are the words of my mouth, for they are consecrated to messages of good cheer, love, and kindness. They are ambassadors of good will and peace.

BLESSED are my feet, for they carry me in paths of righteousness, joy and justice. They walk on holy ground, loyal in the service of the Master.

BLESSED is my heart, for therein dwells patience, contentment, understanding, and loving-kindness.

BLESSED are my hands, for they minister willingly and efficiently. With a benediction they perform works that bless unknown friends in unknown places.

BLESSED are my ears, for they hear and heed the voice of God as it speaks both in my inner self and in the outer world of sound and harmony.

BLESSED are my eyes, for they are opened to see the beauty of life. They behold only perfection, and their vision is clear, their sight is keen.

BLESSED are my lungs, for they breathe the life-giving breath of Spirit.

BLESSED is my blood, for its purified stream nourishes and renews every cell in my body, making me strong, harmonious, and whole.

BLESSED am I, for I am radiant with the life and light of Spirit, unfettered and unbound, triumphant, glorious, splendid, and free!

The Blessing above is an example of the unique and unpublished styling's of many Unity authors, ministers and of the co-founders of Unity Charles and Myrtle Fillmore. More of these writings can be found at:

[www.unityheritage.org](http://www.unityheritage.org)

### What did Buddha teach?

Buddha discovered Three Universal Truths and Four Noble Truths, which he then taught to the people for the next 45 years.

#### Three Universal Truths

1. Everything in life is impermanent and always changing.
2. Because nothing is permanent, a life based on possessing things or persons doesn't make you happy.
3. There is no eternal, unchanging soul and "self" is just a collection of changing characteristics or attributes.

#### Four Noble Truths

1. Human life has a lot of suffering.
2. The cause of suffering is greed.
3. There is an end to suffering.
4. The way to end suffering is to follow the Middle Path.

Buddha then taught people not to worship him as a god. He said they should take responsibility for their own lives and actions. He taught that the Middle Way was the way to nirvana. The Middle Way meant not leading a life of luxury and indulgence but also not one of too much fasting and hardship. There are eight guides for following the Middle path.

#### The Eightfold Path

1. Right understanding and viewpoint (based on the Four Noble Truths).
2. Right values and attitude (compassion rather than selfishness).
3. Right speech (don't tell lies, avoid harsh, abusive speech, avoid gossip).
4. Right action (help others, live honestly, don't harm living things, take care of the environment).
5. Right work (do something useful, avoid jobs which harm others).
6. Right effort (encourage good, helpful thoughts, discourage unwholesome destructive thoughts).
7. Right mindfulness (be aware of what you feel, think and do).
8. Right meditation (calm mind, practice meditation which leads to nirvana).

It is not so important that we buy into the tenets of other religions so much as it is important that we look at the methodology. The Buddhist obviously are committed to their belief system and their discipline is an example of right living that we could all observe. (United Religions Initiative) [www.uri.org](http://www.uri.org)

## Bible Study (NIV) Rev. Charles Smith

2 Chronicles 7:11-14

*When Solomon had finished the temple of the LORD and the royal palace, and had succeeded in carrying out all he had in mind to do in the temple of the LORD and in his own palace, the LORD appeared to him at night and said:*

*"I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices."*

*"When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.*

Although there are many instances when the Holy Bible is quoted out of context, there are many passages that offer gifts of the Spirit that allow us yet another manner in which to make use of the teaching. These few passages offer one of the most important messages for attaining peace throughout the Bible. After Solomon had finished the Lord's Temple and had done all the Lord had asked of him the Lord appeared to Solomon and uttered the covenants made in 2 Chronicles 7:11-14. It is not a complex message but it tells us that no matter what happens in our world, in our individual world, if we surrender to the will of God and if we pray and if we turn from our error ways, God will hear our prayers, and will forgive our wrong doings (our mistakes) and God will heal our land (our lives, our health, our circumstances) and establish His Kingdom within each of us and will remain there always.

God's eyes will be ever open to us individually so that He will see our needs even before we do and that His heart will be open to providing all that would give us the "peace that passes all understanding" (Philippians 4:7).

This wonderful passage also provides the formula to exacting World Peace when attended to by God's people. It doesn't necessarily mean that all wars will end or that a surreal serenity will prevail throughout the World. It does, however, provide that those who call themselves God's people would lend themselves to these simple instructions we needn't fear anything because God's Eyes, Heart and Hands would be upon everything we experience providing for our very best life. Providing for an elegance and quality of life we have heretofore experienced. We are truly blessed.

We must also understand that to "surrender" does not mean

to give up our gift of free will or to admit defeat by God. Surrender is a matter understanding that we of ourselves can do nothing. This form of "surrender" gives us more power than we could ever learn to use. By surrendering to the almighty spirit of God we are opening ourselves to the very best life has to offer. God does not want to defeat us, God only wants the very best for us in every facet of life. To yield to God is simply to get out of our own way so that the almighty activity of the Holy Spirit can be active in our lives.

To surrender is the work by which faith is nothing (James 2:26). To surrender to our Creator is to receive the wealth of health, happiness and well-being.

## Church Development

### Take a look around . . .

Rev. Charles Smith

Is your church terminally ill? How can you tell? Here's the way it works.

These things that make a church grow and live a long and healthy life.

1. Pray. Prayer is always the key under every circumstance and in every experience. Pray every Sunday morning in thanksgiving for the wonderful people God is sending to your church this Sunday.
2. Good music. Praise music. Get a band. Put the words on the wall and rejoice in the day the Lord hath made.
3. Activities. Let almost every moment of every day have something going on in your church. Select ministers (not preachers) to head the different activities. Remember what Jethro told Moses. If you don't, go look it up. (Exodus, Chapter 18).
4. Family. Make your church a family that attracts families.
5. Children. Jesus told us to suffer the children. Back to the Bible. (Mark, Chapter 10)
6. Honor the elders for they have wisdom but welcome the children so that they may become elders.

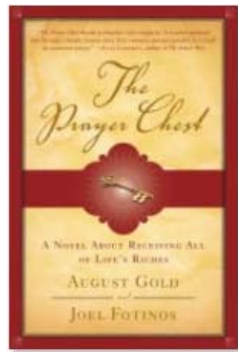
Without these things your church is doomed. It's not about the building and it's certainly not about the preacher's Sunday message. It's about understanding that the church is made up of people and your group of people make up the church and the church is the body of Christ. It is the body of Christ that we desire to keep whole and we do this by consistently practicing the steps above. By loving God and by being nice to each other.

It's simple, really. It's a good chance to practice your faith.

## Book Report

Rev. Charles Smith

### The Prayer Chest By August Gold and Joel Fotinos



It's about prayer and the power of prayer. A wonderfully told story about a family on the edge of ruin discovering a prayer chest and a notebook that truly teach them about prayer.

I recommend this book because it underscores what most of us have known all of our lives but do not know how it works. Three simple ideas of great depth teach us Truth in a way that is easy to understand and equally as easy to put into practice in our daily lives. Don't miss the opportunity this book delivers. Get it, read it, put it into practice.

Read a good book? Tell us about it.  
We'll feature it here.

## Time to Learn the Bible . . .

- Lots wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.
- The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.
- Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotomy.
- St. Paul cavorted to Christianity, he preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage.
- Jesus enunciated the Golden Rule, which says to do unto others before they do one to you. He also explained, a man doth not live by sweat alone.
- St. John the blacksmith dumped water on his head.
- It was a miracle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.

## Agenda for Board Meeting by Tele-conference

Conference on Practical Christianity  
Board Meeting Agenda  
October 13, 2007  
10:00 am CST  
Telephone Conference Call

Call to Order: Rev. Charles Smith  
Opening Prayer: Rev. Donald Hudson  
Call of Attendance: Rev. Marty Copelin  
Reading of the Minutes of the last Board Meeting:  
Secretary Rev. Marty Copelin  
Treasurers Report  
Treasurer Mr. Robert Kent  
Committee Reports  
Ordination Rev. Gloria Alexander  
Member Relations Rev. Donald Hudson  
Annual Meeting Open Report - Chair  
Fillmore Theological College Rev. Donald Hudson  
Newsletter Committee Rev. Charles Smith  
Website Committee Rev. Charles Smith  
Old Business  
Floor open to old business.

### New Business

By-Laws	Charles Fisher
Conference Brochure	Rev. Barbara Hill, Ph.D.
Policy Manuel	Rev. Marty Copelin
Letter to Conf. Ministers	Rev. Charles Smith
(To do with membership drive)	
5. 501 c 3 Status	
Rev. Charles Smith	
6. Membership Roster	Rev. Teny Fisher
7. Board Expenditures	Mr. Robert Kent
8. Membership Drive	Rev. Marty Copelin
9. Directors Compensation	Rev. Don Hudson/Rev. Teny Fisher

Closing Remarks Rev. Charles Smith  
Closing Prayer Rev. Teny Fisher

The By-Laws will have been read and discussed by the time of the meeting and will be presented for adoption at that time.

A copy of the minutes of this Board Meeting will be available at a near future point after the meeting adjourns. If you would like a copy emailed to you please contact Rev. Marty Copelin by email.

mcopelin@comcast.net

All copies of the minutes of the meeting will be available by email only.



Visit Fillmore College On-Line:

**www.fillmorecollege.com**

If you are a member of the Conference on Practical Christianity you have automatic acceptance to any of the available programs of study.

At present we offer:

- Diploma in Advanced Religious Studies
- Associates Degree - Advanced Religious Studies
- Bachelor Degree - Advanced Religious Studies
- Bachelor Degree - Ministerial Studies
- Bachelor Degree - Theology
- Master Degree - Advanced Religious Studies
- Master Degree - Ministerial Studies
- Master Degree - Theology
- Master Degree Pastoral Counseling

There are doctoral programs being prepared that should be ready by the end 2007.

Quality Education

• Intellectual and Spiritual Fulfillment

• Individual Programs for Personal Development

• Professional Programs in Preparation for Ministry and Ordination

• Extremely Reasonable Tuition

• Some Texts Provided for Free

**1-877-FTC(382)-3888**  
**www.fillmorecollege.com**

## IRS . . . Good News

When we re-organized our group we felt that we would have to start from scratch and reapply for our 501 c 3 non profit status. We contacted a firm that specializes in 501 c 3 filing and were given a price of around \$1200.00 for the filing and a fee of \$750.00 to the IRS to complete the process.

God helped us raise the initial \$1200.00 and was prepared, as always, to provide the \$750.00. How generous our God is to do these wonderful things for us. As an additional benefit to all of this we felt that because God provided the fees we desired for the 501 c 3 we were also getting the message that what we are doing in our reorganization is a good thing.

We paid the foundation who was preparing our forms for submission an initial payment of \$250.00 but, as yet, the remaining \$950.00 or \$1000.00 dollars wasn't due until the forms were completed.

At least twice a year I get a package from the IRS that wants me to complete our organizational roster and add any new members. Because we were so close to filing our new forms I called the IRS to ask if I should wait until our new status was a reality. A mystical thing happened. First, every time I had to call a new number at the IRS I was answered by real persons who were very kind and helpful. I was never put on hold nor was a call dropped. It was divine as only those of us who see the possibilities can know.

Then came the gift. The last lady I spoke with said that I was going about it all wrong. We didn't need a new 501 c 3. She said she would just change the name on the existing one and list our new corporation as the recipient. She gave me instructions regarding letters I would write, who/whom to and how to word them. She then helped me download certain forms and helped me complete them and stayed with me until I faxed them to her. We don't have to pay the foundation the balance of the money (\$950-1000.00) and we don't have to pay the IRS \$750.00.

We are already getting positive replies to the letters and forms we submitted. We saved, at the least, \$1700.00. What a gift from God. It excites me when the message is not the money but that the Conference is the right thing for us to be doing.

What I would ask from each of you is that when next you pray please pray in gratitude to God for the grace, kindness and supply that has surely been sent our way.

**Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"**

John 11:40