



“The Del-Haven Vision”

“Without vision, the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18)

Newsletter of Camp Del-Haven

Turning Kids from Crime to Christ

887 NW 1901, Lone Jack, MO 64070-9404 (816-690-8465)

www.campdelhaven.org

January 2006

“For a woman whose young daughter had an unclean spirit heard of Him, and came and fell at His feet. The woman was a Greek, a Syrophenician by nation; and she besought Him that He would cast forth the devil out of her daughter. But Jesus said unto her, ‘Let the children first be filled, for it is not good to take the children’s bread, and throw it to the little dogs. And she answered and said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs under the table eat from the children’s crumbs’. Then He said to her, ‘For this saying go your way. The demon has gone out of your daughter’.” Mk.8:24-30

This remarkable event occurred during the mid to latter part of Christ’s ministry in Galilee. Although the real thrust of the gospel ministry unto the Gentiles was not to officially and pointedly begin until after Calvary, here was an early testimony of what was to take place which would also literally shake up the entire world.

This desperate woman was definitely not an Israelite. She was in fact a Canaanite -- a pagan by birth. Jesus intentionally travels to the very borders of where it is that she lived. Matthew tells us that she came and cried out to the Lord Jesus for mercy. Even though Jesus did not want anyone to know He was there, somehow this woman found out and personally determined to catch His attention. Her daughter was demon possessed, and she besought the Lord to cast the devil out of her.

There are a couple of things that makes this incident so significant. The first one we could say has two parts: 1) How Jesus initially appears to ignore her cries for Him to be merciful to her, and 2) What He says when finally He does directly address her. He in essence suggests that her being a Canaanite likens her to being a “little dog” in comparison to any one of the “children of Israel”. In other words, the Lord’s identification of her only heightens her desperation in hoping to get any help for her daughter from Him. Mt.15:24 relates how Jesus told her, “*I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*” And this displays another point of great significance about this incident. The Lord’s words to her put her precisely where she needed to be in order for her to be able to most properly and purely identify the Lord Jesus as the gloriously gracious Savior that He is. For even the pets that get fed the crumbs under the table of the children also own a sort of place in the family, or they wouldn’t be allowed there. What she retorts back to Jesus shows that she truly reckoned Him to be the Christ of God; the Son of David of all the Old Testament promises that foretold Him to be a Savior of Gentiles as well as of Jews, and she was right! And, Jesus regards what she says as the word of truth -- the word of faith -- that He presently honored even though the time was not yet fully realized historically. In short, this New Covenant subject of grace who had heard of Jesus, came and worshipped Him, and by faith sought deliverance from the devil for her daughter. All the tenets of a genuine salvation experience are here wonderfully demonstrated. And, our Lord grants unto her daughter the deliverance that she knew only He could provide. “*The Lord is near to all who call upon Him*” Ps.124:18

*For Christ's glory only!
A. Carpenter*

A Visit to Strasburg Union Church

It was a wonderful blessing to have been invited to address the congregation of the Strasburg Community Church on January 8th. We always rejoice when the Lord opens a door of opportunity for us to be able to update supporters of this ministry and promote the gospel of the glory of Christ at the same time. The Lord has used our dear friends at Strasburg so many, many times to be a help and encouragement unto us. The grace of faith that works through love is definitely demonstrated. It is a wonderful testimony of the Lord leading this ministry when we have folks ask us to come and remind them -- provide them -- the details of the challenges and prayer requests that we have for the new year. Pray with us that more of these opportunities may be granted.

Civil Engineer Gives Insight to the Lake Project

It is astonishing that already the first month of 2006 is almost over. Due to bad weather in December our Del-Haven Board did not have its year-end meeting until the middle of January. We invited our good friend, Jim Dent of Oak Grove, MO, who is a civil engineer, to come out and help us assess the huge challenge we are facing with the restoration of our lake. He gave us some great insight and direction that we are in the process of pursuing. Please be in prayer with us in regards to this project as we really do miss all the camp activity that centers around the lake.

A True Story of "Crime to Christ"

Mary Kay Beard, who is the one who actually started the Angel Tree Program of the Prison Fellowship Ministries, has finally published the story of her life. The book is titled, "Rogue Angel" -- and it is a real thought provoking and soul-stirring piece of work. She has been a valuable ally to the ministry of Del-Haven, and we want to give you all an opportunity to get a copy of this book. Once you get started, you won't want to put it down. Her life story is a real journey of God's saving grace. She went from a very oppressive home environment into a life of crime that ultimately landed her in a federal penitentiary. It was there that the life quickening Spirit of Jesus Christ used His Word to change her life. Every church should have this book available for folks. Call us and we will be more than glad to help you get copies at a very reasonable cost.

You may remember that over a year ago I asked you all to pray for Mary Kay's husband, Don Beard, who was given only three weeks to live because of multiple health problems. Well, he is still with us as a testimony to God's grace and goodness in answer to all our prayers. Please keep both Don and Mary Kay in your prayers.

Save the Date for the Glory of Christ Bible Conference

The Del-Haven annual Glory of Christ Bible Conference is slated to take place this year on April 20-22. In fact, in answer to many requests, we are going to try to put together two conferences this year. One in April and perhaps another in September. Please pray for God's direction in these matters. We will be providing thorough and complete details in upcoming newsletters. The Lord has really blessed this aspect of Del-Haven Ministries. This will be our eighth year promoting Bible conferences.

May the peace and joy of Christ providentially preside over all your circumstances.

"Happy are the people who are in such a state...whose God is the Lord!"