

# Central Park Church of Christ

4 West 76 & Central Park West, N.Y. 10023

May 6, 1984

**Evangelist**  
Steve Johnson

**Women's Counselor**  
Lisa Johnson

**Telephone**  
(212) 677-7915

## **Services**

Sunday 3:00 p.m.  
Wednesday 7:30 p.m.  
Friday 8:00 p.m.

Sponsoring  
**Group Bible Discussions**  
for adults and students  
in the boroughs of  
**Manhattan**  
**Queens**  
**Brooklyn**  
and  
**New Jersey**

## **Direction**

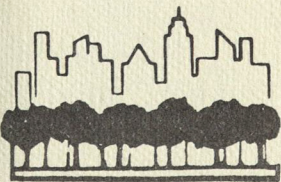
*Then the disciples came to him and asked, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?"*

*He replied, "Every plant that my heavenly father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. Leave them; they are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit."*

Matthew 15:12-14

Cliches are plentiful on the subject of direction and goal planning. "If you aim at nothing, you'll hit it every time." "Failing to plan is planning to fail." Funny thing about cliches, though, is that they are usually true. Jesus had his own way of saying it. "Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher." (Luke 6:39) In the parallel passage to this (see title verse, Matthew 15:12-14) we see Jesus upset with an upset group of men. The leaders of that day had lost their direction; they had lost their purpose for existing and had simply created a religious shop to keep.

A demonic danger to churches bent on restoring pure Christianity is the trap of meandering. Even among our fellowships of dynamic, growing ministries we can tend to be reactionary at times. We may oppose regimentation, but often replace it with less organized, less effective, and less directed programs. The scriptures leave much flexibility for autonomous approaches to ministries, but the great commission is not ambiguous. We are to teach, baptize, and teach to obey. The difference in effective congregations and super-effective congregations is often how they carry out the last part of the great commission--teach disciples **how to obey** the teachings of Jesus. In a word--direction.





In the last five years, I have been blessed to be the evangelist in two dynamic, growing churches. In beginning the work here in New York, we merely implemented the Biblical principles we had practiced in Boston. And in my ever so few travels, one of the most frequent compliments our congregation receives is also one of the few weaknesses I've witnessed in other ministries--the training of your Christians to do the work of theministry. One of the keys to this strength is the unity of direction. We do have a planned method of both teaching the scriptures and teaching young Christians how to teach the scriptures. Because of its level of effectiveness and its absolute adherency to scripture, I'm inclined not to use the word "method" to our approach of discipling. But it is a method, in as much as there is a step by step conceptual theme to the studies. As autonomous congregations, we may elect not to use each other's "methods," but we should never react against being congregations with a set, Biblical direction.

Whether we wander around in a wilderness of lost souls or conquer the world for Christ depends on leaders in churches following God's plans of action and lending direction to a unified congregation. We can avoid the ditch of meandering, but not without paying the price of a good, solid Biblical approach to discipling, which every member of our congregations are a part of.

Steve

"They devoted themselves..."

Acts 2:42

ATTENDANCE	Sunday, 4/29	136
CONTRIBUTION	Sunday, 4/29	\$1,825.00

"And the Lord added..."

Acts 2:47

BAPTIZED

4/29 Kristen Kirkland 525 E. 68th Street, Nurse's Annex  
Box #9, New York, 10021, 628-7460.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP

4/27 Lorzel Luper 930 Old Mill Road, Franklin Lakes,  
NJ, 07417, (201) 891-8210.  
4/27 Laurie McCabe 73 Ureeland Ave., Midland Park, NJ,  
07432, (201) 444-7261, (201) 444-0745.  
4/29 Doris Ann Slusser 16 Franklin Street, Mahwah, NJ, 07430,  
(201) 891-5131

New York City School of International Missions

Today the Central Park church of Christ is thrilled to formally announce the founding of the New York City School of International Missions. Of the nearly one hundred members of the congregation, 21 men and women are planning to enter the full-time ministry, either as evangelists or women's counselors! Our school of international missions will formally train and disciple these men and women through classroom experience, as well as in-the-field training. The director for the school is the evangelist of the congregation, Steve Johnson, and the purpose is in keeping with II Timothy 2:2 -- "and the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others." Our ambition is not only to raise up men and women who will be effective in leading the congregation as we evangelize this area for Christ, but also to teach them to raise up other leaders here so that we will be able to help in sending our mission teams throughout the world. We thank God for the growth He has given us and the blessing of seeing His great commission coming true here as we prepare to go make disciples of all nations!

Special Foreign Missions Contribution

One of our goals this year will be realized, Lord willing, on July 22. Our goal was to make at least one contribution this year to foreign missions work. At the close of our Spiritual Enrichment weekend we will take up our regular Sunday contribution and give the entire amount to a team planting a church on foreign soil. For our special contribution in February we gave \$8,000! What can we give for foreign mission work? Fred Faller, director of the Stockholm mission team will come on May 23(Wednesday evening) and make a special presentation on the work which will begin in Sweden in June 1985. Let us pray for Fred, Sweden, and the July 22 Special Foreign Mission Contribution!

Steve

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 9	Acts Final
May 16	Women's Class Final
May 23	Stockholm Mission Presentation
May 26	Country Play Day
June 10	Dinner and Concert
July 20-22	Spiritual Enrichment Seminar
July 22	Special Foreign Missions Contribution



## Group Bible Discussions

Sunday, 9:00 a.m.	<b>Adult Mixed</b> Isabella Geriatric Center 515 Audubon Ave., Room 1352	Manhattan
Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.	394 First Street, Apt. 2L	Brooklyn
Thursday, 12:00 p.m.	Y & R Advertising 285 Madison Ave., 5th Floor	Manhattan
Thursday, 7:30 p.m.	930 Old Mill Road	Franklin Lakes, N.J.
Thursday, 7:30 p.m.	35-35 77th Street, Apt. B68	Queens
Thursday, 8:00 p.m.	760 Ogden Place	Dobbs Ferry, Westchester
	<b>Adult Women</b>	
Monday, 7:30 p.m.	80 Madison Ave., Apt PHD	Manhattan
Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.	340 E. 34th Street, Apt. 2D	Manhattan
Thursday, 10:00 a.m.	930 Old Mill Road	Franklin Lakes, NJ
	<b>Adult Men</b>	
Monday, 7:30 p.m.	254 Park Ave. South, Apt. 9H	Manhattan
	<b>Teen Mixed</b>	
Monday, 7:30 p.m.	34 Ethel Ave.	Allendale, NJ
	<b>College Coed</b>	
Monday, 9:30 p.m.	425 E. 25th Street, Room 956	Hunter College
Tuesday, 9:30 p.m.	160 Claremont Ave., Apt. 3A	Columbia University
	<b>College Men</b>	
Monday, 10:00 p.m.	Judson Hall, Room 414	New York University
	<b>College Women</b>	
Monday, 9:30 p.m.	Weinstein Hall, Room 628B	New York University
Thursday, 9:30 p.m.	Judson Hall, Room 317	New York University

**Central Park Church of Christ**  
**4 West 76th & Central Park West**  
**New York, N.Y. 10023**

BULK RATE  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 NEW YORK, NY  
 Permit No. 1958

Roger Lamb  
 1004 Harmon  
 Urbana, IL 61801

