



galanews

THE  LETTER

Serving members and friends of
Community of Christ

February 2012
Volume 23 Issue 1

Labor Day Retreat 2012

Courageously Challenge A Place at the Table for You and Me

By: Chuck Hewitt

Well it's hard to believe that another year has come and gone and it's already the end of February. This year GALA will be very involved in preparing for the 2013 World and National Conferences. Our retreat will be at beautiful Camp Doniphan. The pool and fresh air, along with the quiet and peaceful setting, always makes for wonderful walks and reflections.

Our quest speaker will be David R. Brock from Church Headquarters. David is the Presiding Evangelist for Community of Christ. He was ordained as president of seventy in 1988 and as an apostle in 1992.

His past assignments include the Pacific Mission Field, Southwest USA Mission Field, North Central USA Mission Field, administrator and stewardship commissioner of the Africa Region, assistant to the Council of Twelve, and Southwest Region staff member. I have had the privilege of attending Church retreats in which he shared his ministry. His words and teaching should be insightful. They will help us grow, not only as an organization, but individually as well.

Todd Davidson will be planning the Banquet, this year's theme will be "It's not easy being green" and you guessed it, the color is green. This will be fun for all, young and old. We will follow up the banquet with our talent show, so be prepared and bring your talents to share.

Bedding, pillows and towels are supplied. Remember swimsuits, sun screen, scriptures, and bring something GREEN, GREEN, GREEN.

I would really like to encourage GALA members, allies, and friends to join us at the retreat. So if you haven't been to retreat for a long time, or if this will be your first one, please join us. You will find yourself filled and your batteries recharged for what lies ahead. Everyone matters; everyone's



voice needs to be heard. In this time and place GALA is being held in high regard with world church leaders. We also don't want anyone to miss this retreat because of financial hardship. We do have sponsorships available; please contact Chuck Hewitt if you need assistance. If you are able, please feel free to send an extra donation to help us fund the registration fees for those needing help.

I will look forward to seeing everybody. Please note that you do not have to pay immediately, so if you plan on coming, please send us your completed retreat registration form to help us with counts and costs.

This is our time and we need to be together! The retreat will be a fabulous, memorable one. Have a wonderful spring and summer. May God be with you!

GALA

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Visit us on the web

at:

galaweb.org

President's Message

by Saundra Merth

FAITH – seeing light with your heart when all your eyes see is the darkness ahead.

David Alan Howard passed away on Jan 12, 2012 the day before we were to meet for our annual GALA Board retreat in Independence, Missouri. He had been in contact with many of us on the board in the days before the retreat, prepared with agendas, worship plans, and basically, just checking in with each of us. He always wanted to make sure that our time together was productive. It also always ended up being fun too. He had also sent an agenda to Becky Savage of the First Presidency for a meeting they had set up for Friday, Jan 13.

I personally was devastated by the news – we all were. David was a friend, mentor and like a brother to me. As GALA President he came to San Francisco to assist at our Pride booth sponsored by the Walnut Creek Congregation for the last two years. Although I know he loved his home in Cleveland – he also loved San Francisco. This last summer we especially had a great time driving around the city. David stayed in my room at my sister's where I live and was very upbeat and spontaneous. He was instrumental in helping us lay the groundwork for the church plant in the San Francisco congregation. He met with then pastor J. Curry, myself and current pastor, Kay Fletcher to take possession of the keys to the building to begin the arduous task of cleaning and preparing the space for meaningful worship. He and I returned the Monday following Pride weekend to work on the garden. This was one of David's favorite things to do. Of course we had to stop at Home Depot for potting soil, flowers of every variety and bark. Not much of this was used initially because there was so much cleanup to do but he loved the hard work. When I thought we were done and it was getting dark and chilly outside he still wouldn't leave until ALL the trees were trimmed properly. I would later send him pictures of the transformation that is becoming our Peace Garden.

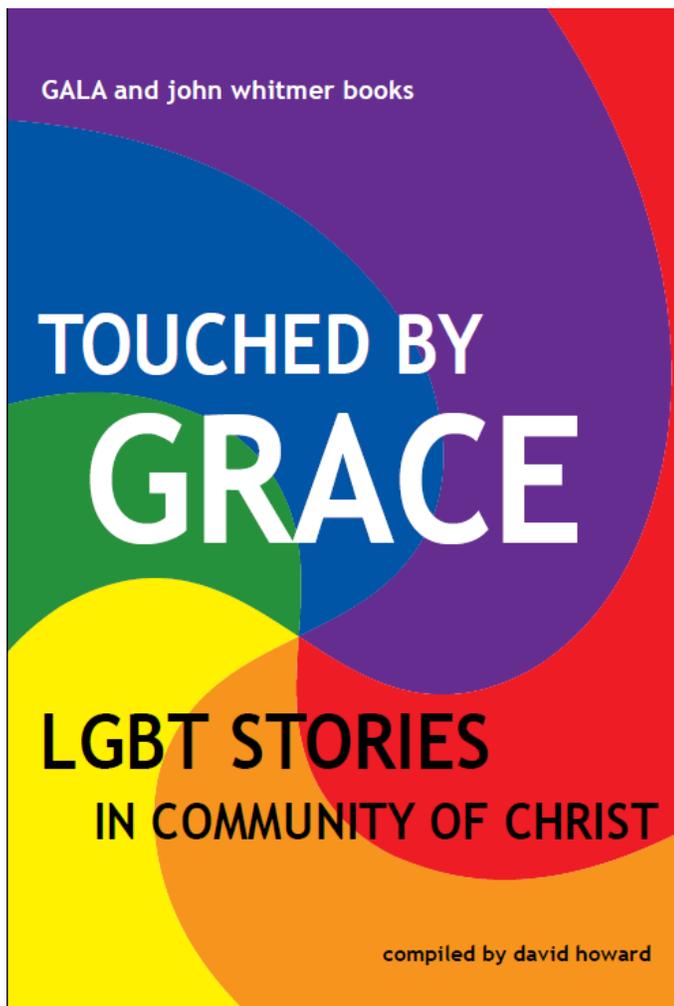
David was most passionate about Community of Christ and

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If you make a purchase from Amazon, don't forget to go to the GALA website first, then click on the Amazon logo. GALA receives a percentage of all purchases this way. Here's a trick: Create a bookmark for Amazon and then go into the properties of the bookmark and change the address to the GALA website.

amazon.com

Start the Presses!



Touched by Grace is another wonderful compilation of life stories from members of GALA members, family and friends. After months of work collecting stories, reading stories, editing stories, designing covers, finding pictures, the final proof reading and implementing the corrections, the GALA Board and John Whitmer Books is proud to announce, *Touched By Grace* is headed to the printer the week of February 13th!

Letter to GALA:

Hello,

I was looking up the word gala on wikipedia in reference to a "gala dinner" and was happily surprised when Wikipedia had your site right up at the top of related sites! As a lifetime member of the Community of Christ, it is not often that our denomination is mentioned in the forefront of anything online, so I had to check out your site.

I was saddened by Todd Davison's "mixed bag" experiences with the church. I wish that individuals would be supportive of all people and live up to our belief in the "worth of all persons," but I know that some need more time than others to accept things that are foreign to them. This is evident in changes such as women in the priesthood, the name change, open com-

munion, and the many other changes that have been brought our way. Please know that there are MANY of us (regardless of our sexual orientation) who believe wholeheartedly in the worth of all persons and who support ALL on their journey through life.

I thought that your website is very good and really appreciate the links to the church. I am thrilled that we are a denomination that can openly talk of sexual orientation and am hopeful that the future will be much brighter in this regard. I look forward to the Canadian national conference, where this issue will also be discussed.

Basically, I just wanted to let you know that you are supported in spirit by many members of the church population, whether we be heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, or transexual. You are accepted and loved beyond measure! Keep up the excellent website and support system.

Cheers!
Bonnie Levitt, Chilliwack, BC

David Alan Howard



accepted a position of field director for early childhood development with Community Solutions of Ohio. David was always working with organizations that helped to validate the worth of all people. In both Charlotte and Cleveland he was very active in the Community of Christ church and served in various roles, including pastor. He proudly served as president of GALA to promote acceptance of all. David was preceded in death by parents and partner, Stephen Christen. He is survived by two sons, Matthew and Scott, daughter-in-law Sal and three grandchildren, Alexander, Ethan and Milena; sister, Cindy (Ken) Campbell, his nieces, Elena (Blaze) Barbre and Jenny (Mikhael) Ser, and a host of loving friends and extended family. The family will be accepted friends Friday, January 20th between 4:30-6:30 PM at the Elyria Community of Christ, 42515 Adelbert St., Elyria, OH 44035. A memorial service to celebrate the life of David was held Saturday, January 21st at 11:00 AM at the Kirtland Community of Christ congregation located at 9017 Chillicothe Rd., Kirtland, OH 44094. His ashes will be scattered at his favorite spot on earth, Sunset Beach, NC. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in David's name, to his son's hike, Appalachian Trail 4 Multiple Myeloma at www.active.com/donate/2012mmrfYOR/AT4MM; Community of Christ, PO Box 982, Elyria, OH 44036; GALA, PO Box 2173, Independence, MO 64055-0073; or Outreach International, 129 W. Lexington, Independence, MO 64050.

DAVID ALAN HOWARD died unexpectedly on Thursday, January 12, 2012, at Lakewood Hospital in Lakewood Ohio. He was born on September 22, 1948 in Davenport, Iowa to the late Marcene and B.A. Howard, Jr. David attended Graceland College and Iowa State University, where he received a degree in City Planning and met his wife, Linda. In 1973 he accepted a position with the planning commission in Charlotte, NC and worked there until 1991. While in Charlotte he loved working with community leaders as a liaison between the city and community groups. It was in Charlotte that his sons, Scott David Howard and Matthew Alan Howard were born. In 2000 he moved to Lakewood, Ohio to start a new business venture. Carrying on his humanitarian efforts he volunteered extensively throughout the city. He then

GALA Treasurer's Report

FY2011

October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011:

Total Income—\$7,792.34

Total Expenses—\$7,546.91

Cash on hand:

\$9,427.44

2012 GALA Annual Board Retreat

by Clyde Phillips-Frey, GALA Secretary

The GALA Board of Directors met in Independence, MO over the somewhat warmer than usual weekend of January 13 – 15, 2012. The sudden passing of GALA President David Howard the day before the meetings began reminded the gathered members of the fragileness of life and the blessings received because of the grace of God. The group met Friday evening to begin the labor of love that is known as the Board Retreat where new members to the Board were welcomed, friendships were forged and reinforced, and the movement of the good spirit within the group was recognized.

Each year we thoughtfully select a location in which to hold deliberations, articulate hopes for the year ahead, listen to the membership through the board members, and have found each location has been superbly unique. Village Heights Congregation, Community of Christ, in northeast Independence,

with a wood burning fireplace in the fellowship hall was the site for the meetings on Saturday. GALA provided the ministry for the congregational worship service the following day.

As we arrived to the faint smell of wood burning in the fireplace (reminded me of an app on my android) we were greeted by two gracious women of the congregation that had labored to prepare a tasty breakfast complete with piping hot cinnamon rolls, a ham and egg delight baked in cupcake pans, a fresh fruit bowl, juice and coffee on tables set with crisp white linen tablecloths, gleaming silverware and sparkling glasses. The day, although somber, began with greetings and hugs, proceeded to sometimes jovial and sometimes tearful conversations during the meal, and then quietly to a worship setting in front of the fireplace. Allan Fiscus, former GALA President and current liaison for the new book, *Touched by Grace*,

who had been invited to attend the Board meeting to report on the progress of the book, provide insight into the process of publishing, and participate in a meeting with the publisher's representative was also in attendance.

Saturday's meeting began as we took time to worship, remember, and give thanks for David Howard, our lives, the opportunities and responsibilities that we held then and now, and asked

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GALA Board of Directors

From left to right: Sandra Merth, Charlie Robison, Erin Cavanaugh, David Woosley, Stephen Donahoe, Allan Fiscus, Clyde Phillips-Frey and Charles Hewitt

for guidance and direction in the year ahead. The worship was led by Charlie Robison, Chaplain, Pam Robison provided ministry from an electronic keyboard, and Mike Hewitt joined with us in the worship service; each person spoke from their hearts during this moving service.

Following a brief break in which the tablecloths were removed and the tables rearranged to form a 'U' shape so that everyone could easily see and hear one another the group was unanimous in their support of Charlie Robison to act as the facilitator and director during the meeting until such time as a President pro tempore was elected. Members of the Board shared their strengths and weaknesses and communications from World Church were shared with the Board. Allan Fiscus was excused as the Board moved into a committee of the whole, executive session, to discuss the potential candidates and to elect a President pro tempore as prescribed by the corporation Bylaws. The Board moved out of the committee of the whole without a decision having been reached. Board members were asked to continue to prayerfully seek guidance as the election of a President pro tempore was deferred until Sunday morning at a meeting to be held before others arrived for church activities.

Moving forward, following are highlights of what the Board discussed:

- Completed business related to the treasurer and banking instruments including the addition of a third person on banking instruments as a signor; David Woosley added as the third person available to sign.

- Established preliminary policy statements on the 2013 USA National Conference and one on how we report membership based on dues payments received.

- Appointed the 2012 Nominating Committee: Charles Hewitt, Erin Cavanaugh, Stephen

- Donahoe, and Keith Carter; fifth GALA member who is not serving on the current Board shall be appointed.

- Approved recommending to the membership Bylaw amendments to change the fiscal year to coincide with the calendar year; such change would necessitate a bridge fiscal year of three months since the organization cannot have a fiscal year longer than twelve months. Additionally, since the terms of office for members of the Board of Directors are tied to the fiscal year, the terms shall also require revision.

- Approved recommending to the membership Bylaw amendments to add the officer position of Vice President with authority to act in place of the President whenever the President is unavailable or unable to serve and to be a third signor on all banking instruments.

- Discussed the 2012 GALA Annual Retreat, Camp Doniphan, Labor Day Weekend. The theme suggested was 'Courageously Challenge' with directors: Sandra Merth, Chuck Hewitt, Charlie & Pam Robison. Activities were discussed and it was indicated by David Woosley that WCN would like to schedule a joint meeting to plan strategies for the 2013 conferences (World and USA National).

- Accepted volunteers to write articles for the next GALA newsletter; articles must be received by David Woosley, Undersecretary for Publications, no later than February 15 with publication shortly thereafter.

- Reiterated the reunion initiative and the importance of telling our stories! When others hear us, they learn that we are just like them in that we are all God's children and are all deserving of the love of our heavenly parent. Books, tee-shirts, banners and slogans all have their places, but the most important is hearing and feeling our stories; the humanizing and personalization of LGBT folks in the journey together with others in the church.

- Listened to Jan Marshall, representing the publisher of the new book, *Touched by Grace*,

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(Board Retreat *Continued from page 6*)

as she relayed where things were with the publication and the steps yet to be taken; publication is expected to be available in February, 2012. The Board approved and supported Allan Fiscus as the liaison between the GALA Board and the publisher.

On Sunday morning, in a bright sun lit day, the Board gathered for prayer and scripture. The floor was turned over to Clyde Phillips-Frey to conduct the morning's business. After comments were made by each of the Board members about their experiences since we last met, Sandra Merth and Charlie Robison excused themselves from the room so that the remainder of the Board could make a decision. Upon their return, the Board affirmed Charlie Robison in his role and capacity as Chaplain and thanked him for his compassion and thoughtful service to the Board and expressed their hope that he would continue with the new Board as Chaplain. The Board thanked him for the offer to call upon some of his contacts in the World Church as we move forward with the work of GALA and Community of Christ. The Board then welcomed Sandra Merth as the President pro tempore, elected with unanimous support, to serve beginning immediately and until September 2, 2012 when the newly elected GALA President shall be announced.

In other business, the Board moved to provisionally elect Allan Fiscus to fill the balance of the term (expires September 30, 2012) created by the movement of Sandra Merth from Member at Large to President pro tempore; provisional dependent upon his acceptance. [Please note that Allan Fiscus accepted the Member at Large position vacated by S. Merth and joins the Board of Directors immediately.]

The meeting was concluded with prayer by Charlie Robison, Chaplain, as we prepared to participate in the adult Sunday School class in Village Heights; an opportunity to share our stories! Following Sunday School, and without missing a beat, we moved to the sanctuary where the members of GALA led in a moving, heartfelt service designed around the World Church theme: "Lord, Speak to Me!" The good spirit was present in abundance during a power point presentation on 'Sanctuary' in concert with ministry of music, a short drama was performed, a welcome (longer than it should have been, I can say that, I provided it) was given in the stead of David Howard who was scheduled to have done so, fabulous singing by a wonderful trio, congregational sharing of hymns, sharing of a children's story, a disciples' generous response in action, and a heart touching sermon with all parts working together as a body provided by the GALA Board as the congregation interacted that glorious morning. What did my heart want to shout out? Hallelujah and Amen! What an experience!

Why I Donate to GALA

by Stephen Donahoe

I recently sent in my membership dues check with an extra donation to help GALA carry out its very critical mission.

I am still fairly new to GALA. The annual board retreat this January was my first weekend with a group of GALA members. The capstone of the weekend for me was attending the brunch after the retreat which was open to local GALA members. Looking around the table I realized I was blessed to be in the presence of some of the founding leaders of GALA. It was amazing to me to hear about the progress that we have made in their lifetimes. I was even more impressed by their dedication to the Community of Christ, despite tremendous hardships over the years.

I have to admit, before I joined the GALA board, I took the organization for granted. I believed that I already had the supportive community I needed. I have a loving and increasingly supportive family, an accepting church community, a job where my sexual orientation is often an advantage and a fabulous group of friends who are genuinely happy that I am who I am.

However, I have also had my share of adversity within the church and within my family. What I hadn't realized until I was with the group of GALA members, was how meaningful it would be for me to share the depth of that struggle with other people who had faced similar challenges. It is one thing to find LBGTQ people who struggle for acceptance within their families and churches, but it was so much more powerful for me to be in community with LBGTQ people who have worked arduously for acceptance within my church.

Over the next year, GALA will be working hard with you to seek full acceptance of LBGTQ people within the Community of Christ. We will be publishing and promoting another fabulous book with powerful stories of people like you who have had struggled for acceptance. We will be sharing our stories at Reunions around the country. We will continue to be in dialogue with leaders of the church about the 2013 conference. Perhaps most importantly we will be reaching out to members of our community who feel alone and help them to find a loving, accepting community.

We couldn't do this very important work without your stories, your work, your prayers and yes, your donations. GALA is an organization that works on a miniscule budget, so your contributions, whether large or small, make a tremendous difference. So please consider sending in your membership dues if you haven't already and when you do, add what you can to help achieve full equality in the Community of Christ.

GALA Board Recommends Amendments to the Bylaws

By Clyde Phillips-Frey, GALA Secretary

The GALA Board of Directors in their Annual Board Retreat Meeting, January 2012, discussed and approved recommendations to be sent to the membership to amend the Bylaws. The Secretary was directed to review the corporation Bylaws and prepare the necessary proposed changes.

First, change the fiscal year to a calendar year. The membership dues year was changed by the Board a couple of years ago to the calendar year so it would be less confusing to the members as to when the dues were due, and therefore membership due for renewal. It has become increasingly burdensome to continue a fiscal year of October 1 – September 30, while the membership and dues are calculated and reported on a calendar year basis. We have been informed that a fiscal year can be no longer than twelve months. Therefore, in order to move to a calendar year as our fiscal year, there will be a proposal for a one-time, fiscal year of October 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012, which will be followed thereafter by succeeding fiscal years of January 1 – December 31.

Second, add an officer position of Vice President. The addition of one person in this position would provide a second-in-command with the responsibility to assume the responsibilities of the President whenever the President was unavailable or unable to perform in office. This officer would also be the third person listed as a signor on all banking instruments so that if and when anything happened to either the Treasurer or President, there would be someone else that could assume responsibility.

It all sounds very simple, however, the change to a calendar year for fiscal purposes also begged the question, what about the terms of officers which run concurrent with the fiscal year?

So, there will be recommendations included that will basically call for the election of the next President to a 27+ month term, serving immediately following the next regular election until December 31, 2014. Since the Chaplain serves the same term as the President, the same will be proposed to apply to that term. All other terms affected will be proposed to be extended three months and shall be on a calendar basis thereafter. Any terms not effected shall be proposed to change to a calendar year basis with their next election.

In the Bylaws, Article XI: Amendment of Bylaws (found on GALA website: www.galaweb.org > About Us tab > By-laws) it states: “These Bylaws can be amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership provided notice has been given at least thirty (30) days prior to the vote. In the case of mailed ballots must be returned within fifteen (15) business days of issue and date of issue will be on the ballot.” This is the official notification that there will be a ballot mailed that proposes and specifies amendments to the Bylaws that shall reflect the changes as notified in the paragraphs above.

If you have any questions about the proposed changes, please contact the GALA Secretary, Clyde Phillips-Frey at cfrey@oniraudit.com

GALA's mission to push it gently toward full inclusion. He believed that by us telling our stories, others would be brought to a fuller understanding of our pain and sorrow. This passion led to our second book which is soon to be published titled, "Touched By Grace". He asked each of the Board members to write our stories and also to reach out to others to include their stories. This book which was to be a more upbeat collection of stories to share with those in our community to show that we are still here, still waiting for full inclusion, still praying for understanding from our brothers and sisters in Christ.

He asked each of us to remain steadfast in our home congregations in order to put a face to the issue before the church. To some this may have seemed pushy or demanding. Asking **US** to be tolerant and understanding instead of demanding that the church change their policy. But that wasn't his way. He was a gentle giant, as more than one person said at his memorial service held at the Kirtland Congregation across from the temple. He knew when to push and when to step back and patiently wait. He also had a way of bringing people together. We have been amazed, as was he, at how smoothly things ran on the board – how much we always seemed to accomplish when we were together. Trust me, this was not because we always agreed with each other, there have been quite a few lengthy conference calls, but it was because of our passion for GALA and the church.

From the time he asked us to consider another book to the time of publishing it was only 17 months. If you think about the fact that it required gathering 40 stories from different authors around the country, reading and considering inclusion by all board members, sometimes extensive editing by our fabulous secretary Clyde, this was an amazing feat. But we were always up to the task that David set before us.

During our most recent board retreat weekend we struggled with our loss and spent time in prayer together and alone. I bought a new bible and found myself thumbing through the pristine pages when I

came across this scripture in 1 Corinthians 16: 13-14 – "Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love."

It spoke volumes to me and seemed to be something David would say to us during this time. His passion for GALA was sparked by his love for all of us and he will be greatly missed. I have faith that as we move forward as an organization and as a church we will do it in love for each other and although it may seem dark ahead I know there is an everlasting light to guide us. That weekend the board elected me as the new President pro tempore of GALA until the next election can be held. Although I feel called to this position it does not mean I feel prepared. David and I had spoken several times late last year about adding the position of Vice President to the board because he was concerned about this very thing happening. He wanted someone elected to the position that could step into the President's role when needed and he asked me if I was interested. I said "Let's talk about this after the first of the year." We never got another chance to talk about it but I feel called to lead GALA in this role as we go into the 2013 National Conference if you decide to elect me President. I had hoped to have more time to be mentored by David and feel more prepared to take over the reins after 2013 but that was not meant to be.

In the November 2011 GALA newsletter David spoke about the Reunion Initiative. This is extremely important going into the 2013 National Conference so I ask each of you to seriously consider how you can become an integral part of this initiative. This is what it requires – you must contact your Mission Center President **now** to find out who is in charge of planning reunions in your area. Then you need to ask permission from the MC President and the planner to conduct a class or a more informal chat session. A safe place to discuss LGBT issues and our new book "Touched By Grace" which will be available from the publisher hopefully by the time you receive this newsletter. We have also engaged someone to write a study guide for this book which we hope will also be available for your use. If a class or more informal chat

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session is not something you feel that you could facilitate or isn't possible in your area simply setting up a table where you can sit with books available for sale would be helpful.

If you are available please plan on staying a full day on the day of your class so that those who wish to speak with you privately will have that opportunity. If you are able to stay longer that is even better. The board needs to know when reunions are happening and if you are available to attend one in your area or not. Please send this information to Sandra at smertth_coc@yahoo.com so that board members can try to cover those areas otherwise not attended by a GALA member. I am hoping to build a matrix of reunions and dates along with a template for conducting the chat session (especially if the study guide is not available in time for summer reunions). Once this is complete we can begin filling in the spaces where people are willing and able to attend. We would sincerely prefer to conduct these sessions in groups of 2 or 3 and hope to conduct a conference call with some sort of training so everyone is 'secure in the task' as David said in his article.

This will be a huge effort on everyone's part to participate as fully as possible. We need to put a face to the issue before the National Conference and that requires getting into relationship with people in each of our Mission Centers. We would sincerely hope that many of you already plan to attend a reunion this summer and with some support would be willing to reach out to your MC President about this proposal. Donations of travel and costs of meals for the day will be matched with a tax refundable receipt. So if that means you can attend more than one reunion excellent!

I just want to close with the words from David's article – "This is a very important task in the long journey on which we have embarked. Please give this your prayerful consideration and respond. You will be blessed with that wonderful spirit that Nate and Clyde and I experienced at the Eastern Great Lakes Mission Center reunion (2011). Don't hesitate . . . this field is more than white!"

Another passion of David's was GALA affiliates. I must admit that I believe if an affiliate were initiated in every section of the country it would go a long way to a positive outcome at the 2013 National Conference. Please refer to the guidelines that you can find on our website and consider facilitating a small group of GALA members and allies in your area. Florida and Independence are already affiliates and I am hoping to officially begin one in San

Francisco too. It would seem that the Pacific Northwest, Southwest, Michigan, New York, and the Boston-D.C. areas would be able to sustain groups if there was someone willing to step up and help plan events for people here. Please reach out to myself if you are interested in setting up an affiliate in your area.

Nominations

It's that time of year again! The GALA Board is looking for members who will put their names up for nomination for the board of directors. The board strives to include a diverse representation of the community, while being inclusive of persons of all sexual orientations, differing abilities, racial/ethnic backgrounds, gender identity, geographic locations and ages.

Nominations will be handled by a nominating committee. As GALA bylaws state, the committee consists of three board members and two GALA members. The board members are as follows: Chuck Hewitt, Chair; Stephen Donahoe; and Erin Cavanaugh. GALA members are Keith Carter and Arthur Butler.

The nominating committee is looking for people who are interested in participating on the board as Member-at-Large, Secretary, and President-Elect. If you or someone you know may be interested in one of the positions, please e-mail your suggestions to the attention of Chuck Hewitt, Nominating Committee at galainfoline@gmail.com or mail to: GALA, P. O. Box 2173, Independence, MO 64055-0073.

Please make sure to include the name of the nominee, the position for which you are recommending him/her, and whether you have contacted the nominee and received their consent. Please also note that all nominations must be current members who have paid their annual dues.

The nominating committee is charged with providing the membership with a list of candidates by early spring. Due to the timeliness of this matter, please submit your nominations as soon as possible.

Thank you!



Courageously Challenge

GALA RETREAT 2012
REGISTRATION FORM
August 31-September 3
Camp Doniphan
12856 Doniphan Lake Rd.
Excelsior Springs, MO 64024



Please complete this form and return it by August 15 so that we have an accurate count and can prepare for you. Payment is due at the beginning of the Retreat on August 31.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ E-mail: _____

Special Dietary Needs: _____

Medical/Special needs: _____

For Airport pickup, please contact Chuck Hewitt for arrangements;
(816) 616-5883 or mikechuckh@gmail.com

Payment Enclosed: \$ _____

Fees:

Adults: \$178.00, kids 5-12 \$118.00 (under 5 free)

(Limited sponsorships available contact smersh_coc@yahoo.com)

2 people per room; Roommate Preference: _____

(Pillows, bedding and towels provided)

Mail Registration to:

GALA RETREAT

P.O. Box 2173

Independence, MO 64055

For more information: Contact Chuck Hewitt, (816) 616-5883, mikechuckh@gmail.com



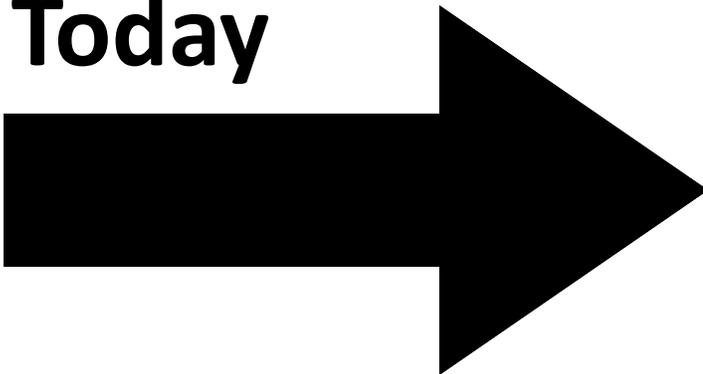
February 2012

P.O. Box 2173
Independence, MO 64055

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG
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KANSAS CITY MO
PERMIT #321

Join, Or Renew Your Membership Today



2012 GALA Membership

Name(s): _____

E-mail: _____

YES; send me the newsletter by e-mail

Address: _____

City,State,Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Membership Level (U.S. dollars):

Individual(\$25) Family(\$40)

Limited Income(\$10)

I would like to make an additional contribution to advance GALA's outreach and educational goals:

\$50 \$100 \$200 or \$ _____

Contributions to GALA are tax deductible.

Please return to: **P.O. Box 2173
Independence, MO 64055**