



GMAU Journal

Volume 14 Issue 1
January 2000

GMAU Event Calendar

- July 2001-

- March 2000 -

- 13th Annual GMAU Southeastern Regional Martial Arts Clinic: West Palm Beach, FL, March 3 & 4. Contact Larry Phillips at philipswpb@aol.com

- May 2000 -

- 2nd Annual Rocky Mountain States Regional Clinic: Lewistown, MT, May 19 & 20. Contact Dr. Kent Haralson at haralson@lewistown.net, or write to 129 Sunset St., Lewistown, MT 59457.

- July 2000 -

- 5th Annual Northeastern Regional Martial Arts Clinic: St. Johnsbury, VT, July 28 & 29. Contact Mr. Stephen Jones by writing him at RFD #2, Box 149, St. Johnsbury, VT, 05819 or call (802) 748-3844.

- September 2000 -

- 2nd Annual Mideastern Regional: Indianapolis, Indiana, September 22 & 23. Contact Johnny Russell at jrrussel@iupui.edu

- October 2000 -

- 1st Annual Australian Regional Martial Arts Clinic: Maryborough, QLD, Australia, October 13 & 14. Contact Chris Foley at chris@foleytruscott.com.au

- 1st Annual Pacific Rim North Regional Clinic: Japan, July 10-12 (Weds. - Fri.) Contact John R. Himes at yohane@eolas-net.ne.jp

The GMAU Journal is a quarterly, non-profit publication designed as a channel of communication between GMAU members and other Christian martial artists.

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GMAU Newsletter
C/O Larry Phillips
584 Santa Clara Trail
Wellington, FL 33414

World-Wide Web Site: <http://www.gmau.org>

<i>Chairman</i>	Dr. Kent Haralson	kharalson@gmau.org
<i>President</i>	Scott Hoffer	scotth@gmau.org
<i>Editor in Chief</i>	Larry Phillips	editor@gmau.org
<i>Production Editor</i>	Robyn Haralson	robyn@gmau.org

For more information about the GMAU or schools in your area, contact your regional representative:

<u>Region</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Southwestern U.S.	Keith D. Yates	Keith_Yates@dts.edu
Mideastern U.S.	Johnny R. Russell	jrrussel@iupui.edu
Florida & Georgia	Larry Phillips	philipswpb@aol.com
Northeastern U.S.	Stephen W. Jones	sugarridgevt@juno.com
Eastern U.S.	C. Scott Gilbert	scottg@juno.com
Southcentral U.S.	John A. Eidsmoe	eidsmoeja@juno.com
North Pacific Rim	John R. Himes	johnrhimes@msn.com
South Pacific Rim	Chris Foley	chris@foleytruscott.com.au
South America	Phil Lewis	

Feature Article...

CONTACT, CAPTURE, CONTROL

by Phil Lewis

Those of us who are familiar with "buruku" blocking, or "soft-fist" blocking, know that it involves the three "C"s": "Contact", "Capture", and "Control". The martial arts practitioner uses a natural, circular movement to make contact with the opponents incoming strike, to capture, and then to flow right into a "control", or a "lock". The sequence is natural, and logical. Once the control of the opponent is gained, it is most often followed through with a take-down, or throw of some kind. We as Christian martial artists can learn some valuable lessons by the comparison of these principles to Satan's strategy against us.

First, you can't capture what you can't touch. If you prevent the Enemy from making contact with you, you are safe. In self defense we always emphasize prevention: be alert, avoid alleys, walk with someone, seek higher ground, etc. If we are alert to the Enemy's strategy and our weaknesses, avoid places where we would easily be tempted, walk with other Christians in close fellowship, and continually seek the higher ground of God's presence, we will greatly diminish the chance of being "grabbed" by Satan.

However, because of our own nature, as well as the world around us, we *will* come in contact with the Enemy's schemes, etc. I've often heard this advice given to lighter, quicker, fighters who depend on striking, or kicking: "don't let your opponent get a hold of you!" A smaller opponent may want to break contact immediately, so he won't be captured and thrown. lewisline@juno.com Satan is more powerful than we are, in and of ourselves. The moment he makes contact with us, whether through the eyes, the ears, or even our own thoughts, we need to break contact. We all know the outcome of King David's not breaking away from what he saw on the rooftop. He looked, lusted, and lost it!

You see, Satan will always move in for the kill (Jn:10:10: The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:). Through your choice to yield to temptation, you are captured. Then Satan will move in to control, and to "bind" you with your sin (see Prov. 5:22); finally, he will "cast" you down and destroy you. He won't be satisfied until he adds that last "C" to the formula. But God uses the same strategy to give you a defense and freedom.

In II Corinthians 10:4-5 we read that "... the weapons of our warfare are...mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;". Our goal is to cast down the Enemy's thoughts, schemes, and lies, and to align our thought life with that of Christ (for ultimately, the battle begins in the mind). And this "renewing of the mind" (Rom. 12:2) will be possible only through the use of the "weapons" God gives us.

The "Sword of the Spirit", or our Bible, is our primary offensive weapon. But we must make "contact" between it and our thoughts (or the Enemy's schemes) in order to bring them into "captivity", and to then "cast" them down. That is why we must sit under good preaching of the Word, study and meditate on the Word, and be "doers of the Word" (Rom. 10:14,17; 2Tim. 2:15; Ps. 1; Joshua 1:8; James 1:22). We are told to "resist the devil" (James 4:7). Our Lord did so by speaking God's Word. In John 17:17 Jesus says that we are sanctified by the Word.

And one could go on. But also notice that before we "resist the devil", we are told to "submit" to God. And in verse 8 we are told to "draw nigh to God". Contact must be made, ultimately, with God.

We, as true Christians, believe in a personal relationship with God through Jesus, and in the Holy Spirit. Through our acknowledging Him in praise and worship, and praying "without ceasing", we enter boldly into His presence. Jesus said "the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

The result of being in His presence is that His Word becomes true life to us. It changes us. Jesus told us to "abide" in Him (John 15:4). And we are told to be "strong in the power of His might" (Eph. 6:10). 2Cor:3:18 states "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." And Psalm 91:1 says "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." Clearly, we can see that maintaining a close, and intimate "contact", or relationship with God, is what gives us

strength, changes us, and protects us.

So next time the Enemy tries to put a hold on you, make contact with the Lord, bring the thoughts into captivity, and cast down the Enemy's lies. Jn:8:36: "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." And remember: Even if you do fall, Prov:24:16 states, "For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again:" and 1John 1:9 states "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

About the author: Soke Phil Lewis is the founder of Tora Karano Shinsei Kenpo, and is an ordained minister and missionary to Brazil. He is currently raising support to return to Brazil by March of 2000. Please pray for him and his family. The new "Book of Daniel" Kata tape is now available for a \$25 donation. Contact him at lewisline@juno.com, or at House of Grace Ministries 6537 27th Way N. St. Pete, FL 33702.

Recent GMAU Promotions



Rank Awards:

John Eidsmoe	Alabama
1 st Dan	Tae Kwan Do

New Members:

Engam Pame	India
Joseph Cantarino	Tennessee

New School:

Dynamic Martial Arts	Rochester, MN
(Sara Van Driest)	

..DOJO & EVANGELIST UPDATE...

Mail from GMAU schools and evangelists.

Guardian Kempo - Spring Valley, CA

The Guardian Kempo Academy of Christian Martial Arts has a new home. Soke Scot Conway and Sensei Wendy Conover, both students of the College of Christian Martial Arts along with a dedicated team of Christian Martial Artists, had the grand opening of their new school on November 1, 1999. The school is located in Spring Valley, California, near San Diego. Soke Conway can be reached at SokeScot@aol.com.

-Scott

Conway

Ishi-Ryoku Jutsu - Maryborough, Australia

This was our last grading for 1999. We tested 12 students, ranging from yellow to brown belts. As usual the competition in the kickboxing and grappling divisions was fierce. By next May (God willing) we will have 3 Black Belts, having graded our first student (started from white belt) to Black belt in September. We had a wonderful opportunity to share with the parents of our students the difference between a Christian and an Eastern philosophy of Martial Arts, and the concept of mercy being strength under control. With a vast improvement in our new students and the usual high standard from our seniors, this was a very satisfying grading.

We look forward in anticipation to 2000, and all that The Lord has in store for us, including our inaugural clinic in October.

-Chris

Foley

Christian Karate Plus - St. Johnsbury, VT

Basic self defense courses were recently held in both St. Johnsbury and Websterville with 40 beginners receiving their certificates. This class is a prerequisite for joining the regular class. A husband and wife received Christ as savior. The Websterville Christian School is now accepting our Karate Program as a credit class for Physical Education.

Recent promotions:

St. Johnsbury Dojo: Rosemary Lasell 6th Green, Zachary Kadamus 7th Gold, Diana Kadamus 8th Gold Jacob Kadamus 8th Gold, Martha Girard 9th White.

Websterville Dojo: Dan Newhall 7th Gold, Caroline Newhall 7th Gold, Rebekah Newhall 7th Gold, Seth Waite 7th Gold, Caleb Waite 7th Gold, Melanie Saia 7th Gold, Nick Rode 7th Gold, Dan Rode 7th Gold, Ethan Persons 8th Gold.

-Stephen

Jones

Reno, Nevada

We continue to run 80+ regular students each week, with new members trickling in as some trickle out. We did just promote 21 students to their 3rd kyu (orange belt) and I see some potential black belts there. Pastor and I are excited at the discipleship model of the martial arts program. Our local martial arts community is meeting once a month, under the leadership of Hanshi Alexander Archie (9th Dan, Goju Shorei). This group includes just about every Dojo in the Carson/Reno/Tahoe area and the training sessions generally run about 35 blackbelt instructors. Our church dojo, because of its size (3,000+ sq. ft. of mats), has had the opportunity to host a couple of these monthly sessions. Hanshi Archie has asked that we open and close all sessions in prayer and has given me the opportunity to lead these prayers.

I pray that our influence will draw these other instructors into a relationship with our Savior. God has opened so many doors here and I give thanks for the opportunity to use the gifts He has given me to "plant, till and perhaps, harvest, on His behalf".

Schaller

-Kevin

The Master's Warriors Club - Lewistown, MT The Master's Warriors Club of Emmanuel Baptist Church reports a registration of 40 students in their classes. They rejoice in that three more new students placed their faith and trust in the work of Jesus Christ on the cross for their eternal salvation. It has also been exciting to see two of their students follow the Lord in believer's baptism this past three months. In the past quarter, the devotional teaching time has focused upon:

- Judges 6 & 7 - Gideon the Black Belt
- Several waza, or traditional techniques and their Biblical examples such as hyoshi (timing), sudori (passing), chusin (centering) and harai (clearing the center).

Special teaching time with the purple belts is being spent on improving their ability to defend their faith against several standard arguments. These include 18 questions that are also included as a part of their brown belt examination. Recent promotions in the class include: Deanna McKennett, Johanna Isackson, Shane Parker (green tip on yellow belt); Georgianna Estell (green belt); and Michael Moore (purple belt).

Plans are gearing up for our team to host their 2nd Annual Rocky

Mountain GMAU Regional Clinic. Special instructors planning to attend include Dr. Charles Owens, Scott Hoffer, Doug Haralson, Sara VanDriest, and Kendra Kilpatrick. Black belts from Vermont and Alabama have also indicated tentative plans to attend.

Kent Haralson

-Pastor

Valour School of Self Defense-Delray Beach, FL

The Valour School of Self Defense reports these recent rank promotions:

Cal Gill, Anthony, Jonathan and Harvey Johnson all earned their 10th level white sash; Christopher Cooper was promoted to 9th level white sash; and Andrew Ammer to 7th level gold sash.

The Valour School of Self Defense has been blessed with a 40% growth since last August! The school, which is a co-operative ministry of The West Park Baptist Church and Men of Valour Ministries, Inc., has been extremely busy during the fall season. September 17 & 18, Dr. Michael McClure was privileged to be one of the speakers on the program at the "Meeting of the Masters" (GMAU regional clinic) hosted by Master Johnny Russell in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Students from the school also participated in the Semi-annual Segei Bushido Ryu forms tournament hosted by Sensei Larry Phillips and Gospel Karate Team of Berean Baptist Church in West Palm Beach.

On October 23, The Valour School hosted a Martial Arts Seminar/Fellowship which saw 13 black belts and 43 "kyu rank" students in attendance. There were also a number of people who "just came to watch". The Black Belts were: Shihan Mitchell Mandel and

his daughter, Sensei Nikki Mandel, along with two other Black Belts from their Martial Arts Academy in Lantana, Florida; Renshi Luis Walker, Chief Instructor of the Saizen Goju Ryu Karate Academy of Clewiston, Florida; Master Phil Lewis (GMAU regional representative) who came over, with his family, from St. Petersburg, Florida; Sensei's Rick, Dave and Katie Merrell of the Russian Martial Arts in North Palm Beach, Florida; Sensei Larry Phillips (GMAU regional representative); Jim Hernandez and Sensei Hill who came to teach AIKIDO; and Sensei Orville Osbourne.

Shihan Mandel was the featured instructor and taught sessions on "Energy Stretching", "Introduction to the short stick" and "Self Defense" from various view points. Sensei Phillips did a beautiful job of incorporating the Scripture into his teaching, Sensei Osbourne taught the students how to "fly", Sensei Mandel taught the long staff and the Merrells gave a popular seminar on Russian knife fighting. The full day of instruction was followed by a cook-out and fellowship time which was enjoyed by many of those who came to the seminar. The gospel was presented by Dr. McClure at the closing ceremonies.

On October 31, the students from the school gave a gospel demonstration at the annual King's Kids Kandy Crusade (an evangelistic "Halloween alternative") hosted by the West Park Baptist Church. On November 6 & 7 the students gave two demonstrations in front of hundreds of people at the Delray Beach Garlic Festival (yes, you read it correctly). Although this was a secular event, the students quoted Scripture and were able to pass out literature.

Dr. McClure has also been able to do a number of evangelistic demonstrations at the Faith Christian School in Margate, Florida this fall. He will be speaking (without a martial arts demonstration) to the students and faculty of Pensacola Christian College on December 3. Dr. McClure is the Pastor of West Park Baptist Church, the founder and chief instructor of the Valour School of Self Defense and the Junior High and High School Bible teacher at Faith Christian School. The full curriculum of the Valour School of Self Defense is available in a book entitled "The Skilled Man" which includes the philosophy, history, principles techniques and forms of the "kung fu from a Christian perspective" system taught by Dr. McClure at the school. He is also available for evangelistic demonstrations. Contact: Dr. Michael L. McClure: 4845 Lincoln Road, Delray Beach, Florida 33445 or (561) 496-3928 or e-mail at westpark1@juno.com or valour2@juno.com

-Pastor

Michael McClure

EBT Karate League - Sioux Falls, SD

Jim Sickmeyer, our former Dojo Sensei, has moved to Worthington, MN (52 miles east) to plant a new church, "Worthington Baptist Temple". He has purchased a warehouse building with large areas where he plans to start a Karate club. These two clubs (Sioux Falls and Worthington) will be under the Kirisuto Shinsei Ji Ei Budo Ryu. Soke Ronald L. Tottingham promoted missionary Bill Richards, who lives in the area of Stuttgart, Germany, to 5th degree black belt in March. Richards' son, Seth, (his star pupil) is the All-Germany in Karate specializing in Shotokan. Seth is presently on deputation in the US to raise support to return to

Germany as a missionary, like his father. The Richards' family is a good example of Christian Martial Artists, as well as Christian Soldiers, carrying out God's great commission.

-Ronald Tottingham/
John C. Bennett

Christian Martial Arts - Olivehurst, CA

The Church is running well and we see the desire of the elderly to find things for the children of this neighborhood. The past few years between reconstructive knee surgery and lower back problems, the Lord has rekindled my desire once again to be a tool for a community where nothing is available. At First Baptist we are going to make a difference.

Pray for us as we begin our Martial Arts Ministry - Christian Martial Arts Academy. We just did a mass flyer to local churches and placed them in the mail. We covet your prayers and support. If we have a good response then we will start class in January after the new year (but informally we will begin training as soon as we have a couple that want to start). We are also scheduling meetings with our local Sheriff Dept. and Recreation Center.

-Michael P. Jurna,
mjurna@mako.com

Gospel Karate Team - West Palm Beach, FL

During August testing, Crystal Fenner earned her White belt and Frank Sauter earned his Green belt. In the September test session, Brandon Sauter earned his Yellow belt. In November, Jason Woodruff and Joel McGill earned a purple tip.

We were blessed in August to have Phil Lewis come and do a mini-clinic for us during class. Brother Lewis is not only a Martial Artist, but also a Pastor, missionary to South America, a husband, father and devoted Christian. He was a blessing and we learned a great deal.

On Saturday the 25th of September we held the 8th Biannual Forms Tournament at Berean Baptist Church. A total of four schools sent 41 students. They performed two katas before a panel of judges and could earn certificates, ribbons, medals or a trophy. Earning Medals were: Melissa Wren, Jesse Hernandez, Amanda McClure, Jerry Bell, Marsy Honarbakhsh, and Chris Brooks. Judging the students was not an easy task. Our thanks to the judges, Pastor Mike McClure, Pastor Rick Merrell, Sensei Christian Phillips, Sensei Ed Olds, Sensei Alline Olds, Sensei Ray Askew, Sensei Katie Merrell, Sensei Jim Sturgis, and Sensei Frank Garguilo. Totaling up the scores were: Janny Phillips, Carol Wallace, and Chris Henry. Our thanks to the judges and score keepers. Sensei Orville Osbourne has done an excellent job hosting and managing the Forms Tournaments. He can be reached at orvilleo@adelphia.net or 561-795-1525 .

-Larry
Phillips

Keichu-Do - Santa Maria, CA

God is doing wonderful things in our Keichu-Do Outreach Ministry. We have several non-Christians praying for the first time in years, and for some the first time ever. We have a father who is a Muslim, his wife is Catholic their two children are attending both Religious practices. However on the up side, all four are praying and agreeing " in Jesus

Christ Holy name" after prayers. So that is a start.

Our Ministry welcomes all people, Christian or not, to hear the Word of God. We have over 100 students, enrolled, and as long as some are coming to the Lord and accepting Christ as their Savior, we hope to continue being used by God as a tool to reach the lost and to serve those who just love the sport itself. Keep us in prayer as warriors in God's army, we are at war continually. One thing I would really love is for everyone in the GMAU to read our web site. Then please make a comment what you liked or disliked. We would like some feed back, as to how we can improve what we are doing. Our website is:

<http://www.oakknolls.com/keichumain.html>

-Pastor Karl W. Marx Sr., keichu-do-1@juno.com

School of Righteousness - Anniston, AL
Our school ("The School of Righteousness" - chartered by KiDo'Kyo Christian Tae Kwon Do Assn. & U.S. Jung Moo Kwan Assn.) sponsored by my pastorate (FBC Saks) resumed classes in September after a five year absence due to insurance problems regarding liability coverage of MA classes. God has blessed it with 39 enrollees, 25 of whom received rank advancement in November. There have been five professions of faith to date in the class - all individuals whom I have been privileged to baptize - and two families who became acquainted with the church through this ministry have joined the church to date. I have been named the U.S. Jung Moo Kwan representative by my retired master instructor, 8th Dan Wan Yung Chung, who brought the style to the U.S. in 1970. Interestingly, "Jung Moo Kwan" means "teaching

righteousness through martial arts in the hall of discipline."

Toward that end, I have begun writing a training manual and producing training videos on the Jung Moo Kwan style of Tae Kwon Do (of the sorim mit soryong yu Korean karate, more familiarly known by its Japanese terminology - shorin ryu and shorei ryu/Korean versions.) Both manual and videos are scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2000. Jung Moo Kwan is not sport Taekwondo. My "KiDo'Kyo TKD" is based upon the Jung Moo Kwan style with the addition of required Bible Study and Discipleship programs as part of rank advancement.

-Charles

Owens



Dynamic Martial Arts - Rochester, MN

We have much to be thankful for in MN, as the last few months have been exciting. A new school was started in Rochester, MN, led by Sara (Lawson) Van Driest and her husband Steve. There are currently 12 students. It was great to watch as the first round of students tested for their white belts. Please pray for this new class, as most of the students have never had any positive exposure to Christianity.

Dynamic Martial Arts/Solid Impact Karate -Twin Cities, MN

In Minneapolis, Dynamic Martial Arts and Solid Impact Karate continue in ministry. As long-standing classes, the students show greater and greater mastery of their art, as well as growth in their relationships with each other, and most importantly, with God. We are thankful for the opportunity God has given us to be a positive force in their lives.

-Sara

VanDriest

A Peak at the Past and the Future

**by Dr. Ron
Tottenham**

It is a great honor to be Chairman Emeritus of the GMAU. Recently, as I was reading Dr. Haralson's overview of growth history, I was brought back in time to some very exciting and good memories about the creative days of the GMAU.

I was privileged to Co-Found the GMAU in 1985 with Dr. Kent Haralson, my friend of several years. In those days he held an annual clinic in Rochester, Minnesota (since 1980) in the spring. I had begun my martial arts (MA) study in 1963 while in the Marines and was a still active MA student and a pastor, but knew of no one who was a Christian and a martial artist. While attending a seminar for pastors in the East in 1980 I "accidentally" ran across someone who, in passing conversation, mentioned some active martial artists he had heard of. I got a name and contacted Dr. Haralson, then attended his clinic with my son and several from my church, as we had a karate school similar to that in Rochester.

In the next few years our team never missed a single year. In these years together Dr. Haralson and I began to feel that there was a need to form an organization such as the GMAU; therefore, with the endorsement of other Christian martial artists who had attended this clinic over the years, such as Charles Owens, Clement Reidner, Scott Hoffer, etc., the Gospel Martial Arts Union was officially

formed in 1986. Dr. Haralson had developed the clinic concept very successfully and by 1988 I had published the first book known to be written on the subject of "Christian" Martial Arts. We had a dream only in those days and not too much to hang it on. Back in those days "Christian" martial artists required much defending as it seemed a strange idea. There were only a handful of martial artists who professed Christianity and continued to practice the arts.

Today, nearly 15 years later, there is a small army of us. We had a dream, as I said, and in these 15 years many have voluntarily helped to make that dream for a Gospel Martial Arts Union happen. Much of this "happening" has come about by computer technology communication and publications. Our original dream has now become a reality, and due to your help and support, has grown beyond our original vision. To be honest, I don't think we could have envisioned 15 years ago how the GMAU would or could grow, or how it would draw Christian martial artists out in the open as it has. Dr. Haralson's clinics have actually put the GMAU in the public, and allowed the public to come view our quality of the arts. Our vital difference has always been in philosophy - philosophy of approach. Philosophy of God being the "original" Father of both the physical and spiritual self-defense. That has been woven into the very fabric of the GMAU since day one.

I am proud to be the Chairman Emeritus and hold a lifetime membership in the GMAU. I want to applaud you who have helped make the GMAU a name well-known and well-revered...actually now, "globally."

About the author: Dr. Ron Tottingham is the senior pastor of Empire Baptist Temple in Sioux Falls, SD. He is an 8th degree black belt and the founder/soke of Kiritsu. He is also the President of Great Plains Baptist College and Divinity School. The College of Christian Martial Arts is a division of this school.

Sparring; part two

by Sherry McGregor

In this segment I would like to discuss why some martial artists have great form and technique standing in a line doing drills but they have problems transferring this to sparring or street fighting. There are several aspects to consider here. First we will tackle the physical aspect and then the much avoided mental aspect. While there is great value in doing line drills to learn good technique, regular line drills are not enough, and this is where many dojos begin and end their technique and combination training. By line drills I am referring to standing in a line in class and throwing the techniques or combinations that the instructor calls out. There are several things you can do to enable yourself to better transfer the form in your technique to sparring; one of those is to do moving drills while throwing your kicks, punches and combinations.

Performing moving drills in a straight line helps some, but then we always tell our students to side step and circle when they fight. I have found that if you want students to do this then use practice drills that teach them to use techniques while on the move circling and sidestepping. Simple, but many times overlooked.

Footwork in itself is not easy, and many people are not taught simple drills to help them just move more gracefully in combat. Your footing is so important in fighting - bad footing can cause you to lose balance, get hit, miss

the timing you need, or not be able to apply a technique. Boxing can teach us much about footwork drills I have even learned a few from football, and nothing beats a good old jump rope. I require my students to jump rope. I have found very few things that improve coordination and get someone out of the flatfooted habit than this, while getting them in great shape. After a few weeks of jumping rope, I see a great improvement in fighting skill. This footwork problem is the biggest factor in why a technique does not look as good in most people during sparring as in standing in class. On the move it is much more difficult to set the footing for the technique up properly. You can also do drills with a partner going up and down a floor with one throwing a straight in technique first then the other sidestepping and reacting with a combination. These drills should help improve the physical aspect of this problem greatly.

Now on to the mental end of things. There are two main factors here I want to work on: The fact that there are so many more things to think about while sparring, and the fear factor.

Some people have a problem with the fact that when they spar now they have much more to think about than just the form of their technique. They have to think about moving, keeping their guard up, blocking, what the other person is doing, and timing. That's a lot to process. We can help people with this by building slowly from throwing a single technique, to moving with it, and partner drills and so on. If you see a student having a hard time with this in sparring then go back and spend more time with these drills, maybe building slower than before. Some people can process quicker naturally, others don't have this ability. This does not

mean that those who process slower are mentally incapable it just means they learn differently and you may have to teach differently to help them. I do believe and have seen that anyone, even the mentally handicapped, can improve with the right cultivation.

The other point is the fear factor. Many people are simply afraid of getting hit. Let's face it, it can hurt and many of us as instructors are just used to it. We tell people to suck it up and get tough. While every student does need to develop some toughness, as instructors it is not helpful to any student to just toss them in the ring and say "do it." This would be like giving your fifteen year old the car and saying "you've seen us drive all this time now just be tough and do it." Right. There are ways to work students up to sparring slowly with light tapping drills where they do combinations and lightly touch.

With these drills it is important to match students up carefully. Consider the size, age, gender and disposition of students. Of these the most important is disposition - you should not put an aggressive person with one who is displaying fear. Neither do you want to put two very timid people together. I watch students carefully and pray for God's wisdom in helping me with this.

Here is another drill I like - it helps to work students up to sparring and can also help those of higher ranks improve their skills. You need a stationary line of students and a moving line. The stationary line is going to throw a technique when a student comes in front of them and the moving line will react with a block and counter as soon as they see it coming. Then move to the side to the next stationary attacker. This drill

works many aspects, movement, techniques, timing and reaction timing, spotting a target, and distance. It is a great drill.

About the author: Sherry McGregor is an 8th Dan in Shorin-ryu karate and a US Karate competition team member. She can be contacted at Mckick1@aol.com or at 407-737-3507.



Points of Interest

- Kevin Schaller operates a dojo in the Carson City, NV area. He hosted a Master's Seminar on Saturday, November 13th as a fundraising benefit for a local public benefit charity (Thanksgiving food drive). He obtained the services of 8 master rank instructors and several area instructors. There will be a program for children, adult kyu rank and a separate dan rank class schedule. It was an all day affair with four sessions. The event was held at the Ormsby House casino in Carson City, Nevada. If you have questions or further interest regarding the tremendous work that Kevin is doing in the "West" drop him an e-mail at: kschaller@nanosecond.com
- Congratulations are in order to Sensei Christian Phillips of Wellington Florida. He and his lovely wife are now expecting their fourth child. The new bundle is scheduled to arrive next June and will join their other three children Daniel,

David and Eden in a very Christ-centered home.

- On the college front, Scot Conway and Wendy Conover just completed their 4 credit "Martial Arts Evangelism" course. We were very impressed with the quality and quantity of work that both of these students submitted for this course (book reports, in excess of 70 pages of course work, and video tapes). Wendy is pursuing her B.S. (has 10 credits completed in addition to her transfer credits). Mr. Conway is a lawyer (and serves on the board of ACMA) and is pursuing his Ph.D.

Calvin Riggins just submitted his course work for the 3-credit course (Bushido - The Philosophy of the Warrior). Mr. Riggins is in the armed forces and has already completed 13 credits towards his B.S. degree. We have received and are processing the application of Mr. Mike Sutherland for work towards his B.S. (awaiting one more college transcript).

- Congratulations to Dr. John Eidsmoe, our Southern Regional Representative on earning his 1st Dan - Decided in Tae Kwon Do. Both he and his son earned this rank together.
- Larry Phillips, head Sensei of the dojo in West Palm Beach, FL and a member of the GMAU Board of Governors, reported a successful forms tournament on Sept. 25 with four schools represented and over 50 students.

The format of this event is in keeping with the philosophy of the GMAU. We desire that Christ be exalted. One of the natural enemies of the spirit is the flesh. We would encourage schools to avoid things that

unnecessarily feed the flesh. The traditional secular tournaments have competitions in two categories: forms and fighting. In each case, there is a winner and loser. In each case it is generally "physical" talent that is being rewarded. We generally avoid fighting contests in that they exalt the flesh and are not realistic (in terms of training for real self-defense). I would suggest forms tournaments, where each student is rated by a panel of judges on how well they present themselves and how well they perform. Each student can receive either a certificate, a ribbon, a medal or a trophy. But, everyone "wins." Everyone competes only against themselves as they strive for mastery.

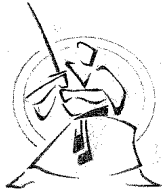
You could contact Sensei Phillips (3rd dan) or Sensei Osbourne for more details or for copies of the scoring sheets.

- On October 13, Dr. Haralson had a 35 minute interview with a reporter for the Wall Street Journal who was doing an article on using the martial arts as ministries in local churches. It is encouraging to see the increased acceptance of this very powerful outreach tool by more and more churches. It also develops the kind of character that produces better Christians in the individual churches.
- Shidoshi Johnny Russell (6th Dan and Master Instructor) of Indianapolis, IN has created a website for the Christian Martial Arts Fellowship. Check it out at: <http://php.iupui.edu/~jrrussel/>

Several good pictures, nice balance of spiritual, mental and physical and information on the Meeting of the Masters 2000, the 2nd annual Mideastern Regional

Clinic to be held in September next year.

- In the latest newsletter from Master Instructor Keith Yates' organization (A-Ka-To - American Karate & Tae Kwon Do Organization) there are some interesting articles and nice pictures of Keith and Martial arts legend Joe Lewis. Keith was a part of the ACMA (American Council on the Martial Arts) 1st Instructor Certification effort held at the world famous Cooper Institute. Keith is the Southwestern Regional Rep for the Gospel Martial Arts Union. He can be reached at Keith_Yates@dts.edu



- Did you notice the 11/99 issue of the magazine Tae Kwon Do Times? In its Martial Arts News section, it carried an article on the "First Martial Art Hall of Fame Museum in Texas" where our own Keith Yates was mentioned with several other dignitaries (Jhoon Rhee, Pat Burtleson, Allen Steen, Skipper Mullins and Chuck Norris). Keith is the President of A-Ka-To and is also the GMAU Southwestern Regional Representative.
- On Saturday, Oct. 23, Dr. Michael McClure hosted a Martial Arts Seminar/Fellowship at his church in Delray Beach, FL. Speakers were: Larry Phillips: "Escalating Self Defense"; Orville Osbourne: "Flying", Jim Hernandez "Aikido", Mitchell Mandel: "Energy Stretching", "Self Defense from various view points" and "Introduction to Stick Fighting" (Arnis), Phil Lewis: "Wing Chun Hand Trapping", Nikki Mandel: "Bo Staff" & Rick Merrill: "Russian Knife Fighting". In all there were 13 Black Belts present and 34 students. The gospel was also presented at the end of the seminar. Mike is on the board of Governors for the GMAU.
- Our Pacific Rim North Regional Representative John Himes has firmed up the dates for the 1st GMAU Regional clinic to be held in Japan. He is working in conjunction with Tom Tierney of the Japan Bible Home which will host the event on July 10-12, 2001 (Wed-Fri.). This would also be an ideal opportunity for sightseeing, canoeing and hiking in that part of God's creation. Sifu Himes has invited Dr. McClure and several other instructors for this kick-off clinic. For more information, contact John Himes at yohane@eolas-net.ne.jp
- Mr. Mike Sutherland has been accepted into the B.S. Program for the College of Christian Martial Arts. He is a martial artist from the Sterling, VA area.
- Master Instructor Scott Gilbert was interviewed this week by a radio talk station. He was confronted by one of the 3 major misconceptions that people who do not know their Bible have regarding the martial arts. Scott, a law student at Regent University, set them straight. Scott is also the GMAU Eastern Seaboard Regional Representative. Feeling the call of the Lord, he has decided to make "Karate for Christ" (formerly "Kicks for Christ") his full-time vocation and the Lord is really blessing his decision with students and fruit. He has major outreach to home-schooler as well as public

school groups. As an aside, Scott will be getting married this coming January in Orlando.

Master Instructor Chris Foley has announced the planting of Tiaro Community Church. This new church will hold its first public services on Feb. 6 of next year. Chris, our Pacific Rim - South Regional Representative, was ordained to the Gospel Ministry one year ago and has been seeking the Lord's will and direction regarding church planting. We rejoice with this decision and assure him of our continued prayers. He has set up a website for the church at:

www.foleytruscott.com.au/tiarochurch/index.html

- Two weeks ago Dr. Haralson and members of the Evangelism Explosion outreach team of Emmanuel Baptist church witnessed to a new student and she accepted Christ. This Monday night they paid a visit to the mother of this student. After sharing Christ with her for an hour, she also placed her faith and trust in the Lord Jesus. Both she and her daughter will be in church this Sunday and plan to come forward for baptism. Are you seeking opportunities to share the Gospel with your students? Don't neglect the greater call that each of us has. Use the martial arts to bring others into the kingdom.

**USKA & GMAU Sponsor
MEETING OF THE MASTERS 1999
Indianapolis, Indiana**

Grandmaster Johnny Pachivas of the United State Karate Association and Dr. Kent Haralson of the Gospel Martial Arts Union co-sponsored a weekend of seminars in Indianapolis the weekend of September 17 & 18 at

College Park Baptist Church. This first-ever event was well attended by just over eighty martial artists from throughout the United States. It was hosted by Shidoshi Johnny Russell of the Christian Martial Arts Fellowship. The USKA is most likely the most recognized karate association in the US, dating back into the 1940's with Robert Trias. With the passing of Robert Trias, the USKA has been run by Hanshi Pachivas. Hanshi Pachivas and three other of Robert Trias' early students were present this weekend. All four are Christians and it was a very special time of learning and fellowship.

Attendees were blessed with instruction, coaching and fellowship with:

- Grandmaster Johnny Pachivas (10th Degree Black Belt - North Miami Beach, Florida) - age 73 - Director of the United States Karate Association International, and Patriarch of the Pachivas Pankration, Hanshi of Okinawan Kobudo
- Dr. Karl Marx (10th Degree Black Belt - Santa Maria, California) - age 63 - Soke of Keichu-Do, and Executive Director of Calvary Chapel International Ministries
- Dr. Kent Haralson (9th Degree Black Belt Lewistown, Montana) - Soke Of Seigi Bushido Ryu, and Chairman of the Gospel Martial Arts Union
- Master Douglas Grose (9th Degree Black Belt - Peoria, Illinois) - age 72 - Executive Director and President of the American Jiu Jitsu & Karate Association
- Kyoshi George Brich (8th Degree Black Belt - St. Louis, Missouri) -age 79 - Judo and Jiu Jitsu expert, and Sage of the Pachivas Pankration

- Sherry McGregor (8th Degree Black Belt - Orlando, Florida) - Shorin-Ryu Karate, national and world kumite/kata champion, and Instructor of Pachivas Pankration
- Kyoshi Gordon Garland (7th Degree Black Belt - Tucson, Arizona) - age 74 - weapons expert and master weapons maker, and Instructor of Pachivas Pankration
- Shidoshi Johnny Russell (6th Degree Black Belt - Indianapolis, Indiana) - Director of the Christian Martial Arts Fellowship, and Chief Instructor of the Pachivas Pankration
- Phil Lewis (6th Degree Black Belt - Brazil, South America) - Tiger Circle of Self-Defense; Modern Arnis and Filipino Stick Fighting champion
- Mr. Michael McClure (4th Degree Black Belt - Delray Beach, Florida) - Chinese Kung Fu pioneer, Director of Valor Ministries
- Deb Knapp (4th Degree Black Belt - Fishers, Indiana) - AAU national body building champion and professional nutritionist
- Scott Hoffer (3rd Degree Black Belt - Twin Cities, Minnesota) - President and director of day-to-day operations of the GMAU
- David Merrell (3rd Degree Black Belt - West Palm Beach, Florida) - Russian Martial Art

Friday evening following two clinics, a number of kyu and black belt fighters participated in the Pachivas Pankration Competition. Fighters could enter two levels of competition: Tuite Grappling (no striking/no kicking; victory through submission) and Full-Contact (striking/kicking; victory through submission, K.O. or T.K.O).

Denzil Tuttle (Green belt) of Indianapolis, Indiana was named Kyu Rank Division Champion (Grappling) after fighting in four 3 round matches. John Hodges (4th degree black belt) of Clio, Michigan was named the Black Belt Division Champion (Grappling) after fighting in four 3-round matches. Division Champions Tuttle and Hodges then fought 3 rounds to determine an Overall Grappling Champion, however, neither competitor could secure a submission during the final rounds.

The Full-Contact fighters then took the center-ring. After 5 grueling matches, John Hodges was named Full-Contact Champion for the Pachivas Pankration after defeating David Merrell of West Palm Beach, FL.

This was a once in a lifetime experience. The spiritual tenor of the weekend was exceptional and Christ was exalted. Dr. McClure challenged those in attendance twice with devotional materials. Dr. Haralson spoke at the closing banquet. Four people responded to place their faith and trust in Christ.

During the closing banquet, Hanshi Pachivas recognized three individuals with rank advancements through the USKA:

- Johnny Russell to 6th dan, Shuri Ryu, and Pankration
- Gordon Garland to 7th dan, Shuri Ryu
- Kent Haralson to a 9th dan, USKA sanctioned style-head of Seigi Bushido Ryu

Hanshi Pachivas and Soke Marx were presented with honorary degrees in Biblical Studies from Yeshua Bible College for their contribution to the arts by President Ron Shively (Founder of Karate for Christ).

Shidoshi Russell and his ministry team did an excellent job hosting this, their first clinic. Every detail was cared for, and they went out of their way to make the stay a pleasant one for the instructors and students. Make plans now to attend "Meeting of the Masters 2000" in September of next year!



Lessons From History

Phillips by *Larry*

As we enter the new year we should be mindful that God can use anything for his purpose. 'For we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose', (Romans 8:28). A couple of brothers knew that in 1903. After many failures, the Wright Brother flew the first power-driven airplane. They just believed that God would use everything to his purpose.

Another believed: After being sold into slavery twice, falsely accused of rape, thrown into prison for years, Joseph said 'But God has sent me..' (Genesis 45:7). God can use failures, disappointments, errors, even the sin of others to accomplish his purpose. Remember

that this new year, as 1999 slides in history.

THE VIEW FROM MT. FUJI ***A Linguistic Look at Ki***

by John R. Himes

The first game of the 1999 Japan Series is beginning and I'm rooting for the Hawks. Their manager, Sadaharu Oh, is a walking inspiration. A Chinese-Japanese, he holds the record for home runs for all of professional baseball at 868 dingers. Part of his original training regime was swinging a samurai sword!

Okay, Noguchi, the Dragon's pitcher, is glaring at Muramatsu, the Hawks batter. The announcer says, "Kiai ga haitte iru, ne," which means, "He's got his 'kiai' into it, doesn't he?" The average American martial artist will be surprised that the word "kiai", usually translated as "spirit shout", is very commonly used in all of Japanese culture, not just the martial arts. The word literally means "ki meeting," and only the martial arts use this word for a shout. It normally means concentration or perhaps energetic style. I have heard lovely Christian ladies at camp relay races saying, "Put your kiai into it!" In a recent TV program showcasing young singers, one voice teacher used the same phrase for her girl's solo!

I had a great feeling of culture shock in 1981 when I learned how to say "How are you?" from my tutor. The phrase is, "Ogenki desu ka?" meaning, "Do you have your original ki?" The truth is, as I learned later at the prestigious Tokyo School of the Japanese Language, there are many Japanese idioms and compound words with the Chinese character "ki" in them. "Put out your ki" means, "Be careful." "It becomes ki" means, "It bothers me." "Don't make it ki" means, "Don't let it bother you." The list goes on.

Think linguistically. Most Western martial artists think of ki as some kind of special internal energy. Are they right? Let's learn what Japanese dictionaries say about ki. The huge Kenkyusha's New Japanese-English Dictionary (4th Edition; Tokyo, 1974), edited by Koh Matsuda has for its definitions: "(1) spirit; (a) mind; (a) heart. (2) a mind; an intention; will. (3) one's feelings; a mood; (a) humor; (a) frame of mind. (4) a nature; (a) disposition. (5) care; precaution; attention. (6) atmosphere; gas; vapor. (7) ether; essence; spirit; breath. (8) flavor; savor; smell; fume." Well, that didn't sound too good for the internal energy theory, did it? Let's try a strictly Japanese dictionary, then. I have no time to translate the entire page of tiny Japanese script so I'll cut to the chase. The first definition says, "A changing, flowing natural phenomenon. Or, the substance that causes that natural phenomenon." (Kokugo Daijiten, Shogakukan Publ.; Tokyo, 1982, p. 602) The sub-definition (3) states, "The universal energy (or spirit) that causes all things to grow."

Now we're getting somewhere, right? Wrong! That definition is actually a Taoist concept from China that never got far in Japan. The truth is almost all Japanese I've used the term "Taoist" with were ignorant of that philosophy. The same is true of the idea of ki as a specific kind of internal energy. The Japanese don't think of it that way, but more as a general force of life developed by hard practice and positive attitude. But don't Japanese martial artists think differently than the actual citizen? Sorry, but very seldom is that true. None of the four books in Japanese on Karate that I have discuss ki at all except for brief mentions of kiai.

The same is no doubt true for Judo, Kendo, Iaido, etc. I don't know

enough about Aikido to comment on it, except to say that its founder, Morihei Ueshiba, spent many years in China before founding his art, and therefore no doubt had his concept of ki from Taoism and possibly the Pa Kua style of internal kung fu. (The Power of Internal Martial Arts, by B. K. Frantzis. North Atlantic Books, Berkeley: 1998, p. 118.) According to B. K. Frantzis, who trained both under Ueshiba and in China, "In Japanese history, there was no martial art to compare to it, and no one else in Japan could do anything like it." (Frantzis, *ibid*)

To sum things up, Dr. Kent Haralson's definition is the best one I've seen of the Japanese view of ki: "The cumulative energy to be gained by developing the spiritual, mental and physical elements of the human being" (Ki/Chi Power and the Christian. GMAU, 1992, p. 36). I'll deal with the Chinese idea of ki (chi), which can be very different, in a future article. There is an application here for the Christian: "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment" (Mark 12:30). If your ki represents the cumulative energy of your life, then you need to commit it entirely to the Lord.

***It'll Probably Never Happen,
but ...***

by Dr. Charles Owens

I've been thinking about the Christian martial arts and Biblical models (of which there are many). But my focus has been on those 318 trained servants. I've also been thinking about Gichin Funakoshi and his Okinawan predecessors. Follow me for a moment.

1. The Okinawans took Chinese martial arts, subtracted the mysticism and Buddhism from them, adapted them for the common man and his abilities, and created a very powerful system of fighting.

2. They renamed practically every technique and form to fit the Okinawan culture.

3. When Funakoshi carried his Okinawan martial art to Japan, he did several things to adapt it to Japanese language and culture: a) techniques and kata were renamed to accommodate Japanese culture and language; b) belt colors for rank were added to make his art similar to Kano's Judo; c) he even changed the Kanji pronunciation to make it "empty-hand" - a change from "Okinawan hand" and "Chinese hand." Now why can't Christian martial artists do the same?

"Kanak" (chanakh) is the Hebrew root word used to describe the 318 fighting men born in Abraham's household (Gen. 14). Think about these men. These skilled warriors were charged with the responsibility of protecting the household that carried the promise of Christ. The level of their ability is seen in the success of their nighttime attack against an alliance of four armies. The Hebrew root literally means, "to train, to dedicate." It is seen only once in its noun form in Genesis 14, and only once in the verb form in Proverbs 22 - "train up a child in the way he should go." A deeper study of that word reveals that it implies complete training: spiritual, physical, and mental; and complete dedication and devotion - in the case of Genesis 14, an absolute devotion and dedication to the household of Abraham. Considering the economy of Abraham's day and what the Bible says about the household of Abraham, it is safe to assume that the "kaneek" (trained ones) were skilled in veterinary science, animal husbandry,

horticulture, business management, philosophy, theology, and fighting skills.

Wouldn't it be neat if Christian martial artists followed the example of two of our greatest historical mentors - Abraham and Funakoshi - and did some adapting of our own? Here are some things we could do to distinguish ourselves from the rest of the pack:

1. We could regroup and rename our techniques and forms to reflect Biblical words and phrases

a) Ephesians 6 terminology could be used to describe our defensive techniques

-the helmet of salvation = high blocks

-the breastplate of righteousness = middle blocks

-the girdle of truth = low blocks

b) Biblical references to "strengthened hands" could be used to describe hand techniques

c) "Swift feet" or "Hinds' feet" for kicking techniques

d) the "7 locks of Samson" to describe vital points

e) forms could be Biblically renamed with quoting the verse a part of the form -

i. The meaning of Heian/Pinan, "peace and safety," has boundless Biblical possibilities

ii. Bassai means "storming the gates." Sound Biblically familiar?

iii Tekki/Naifanchi means "battle horse." Get the picture?

2. A good name for the art would be "Kanak." Easy to spell (forward & backward), and very simple to write - even in Hebrew!

3. Techniques could be grouped into a Biblical number. Thirty-nine, in honor of David's mighty men, or 24 in honor of the 24 elders of the Revelation.

4. What about Biblical rank? Consider these Hebrew words:

- Lahag - "eager to study"
- Lamad - "skillful"
- Chaneeek - "trained one"
- Bene - "teacher"
- Sar - "head of class"
- Salliyt - "chiefmaster"
- Adon - "controller/owner/ruler"

Only 7 ranks - perhaps designated by some simple symbol on the sleeve of a tee-shirt or something.

I sure would like to see a unified, bonafide, Christian martial art. But it will probably never happen

Ask the Doctor

by John Evans,
M.D.

Q. Is drinking enough water really all that important?

A. Can you wash all the breakfast dishes in a quart of water? Sure you can. But it would be a lot easier in several quarts. It would also be easier to rinse the dishes well if you were not limited to one quart.

Your body can manage with a small amount of water intake, but it, too, would breathe a sigh of relief if it didn't have to work so hard on the conservation front. Your kidneys can struggle along with a few glasses of water daily, but there are potential side effects, and at time, significant problems. Not the least of which is kidney stones. If you have never had a kidney stone, consider yourself very fortunate. Kidney stones passing down the ureter would feel somewhat like trying to put your fist through your eye socket. So remember that rocks don't form readily in running water, and kidney stones won't form easily if you have an adequate water intake.

Think about what makes up your salivary juices. Of course, the major constituent is water. If you

don't have sufficient water intake, your saliva is thick and inspissated. Meaning that it does not mix readily with your food and begin the digestion in the mouth where it should. Then you do the next best thing and wash your food down with some readily available liquid. And this sets the stage for digestion.

Does it begin to look as though water is important? Now think for a moment about the medium that your red cells float in. Water. Now if you are quite depleted in water, your red cells are closer together and more likely to clot. So, is water important? You bet it is! Few things are as important as water. You can live several weeks without food, but not long without water.

How much water is necessary? Ideally, an adult should have 8 to 12 glasses of water daily. When should you drink your water? I like to begin the day with 2 glasses of hot water. How hot? Hot enough to keep from nauseating you, and cool enough so that you can drink it and not have to sip it. What is the value of doing this? The hot water produces a gastrocolic reflex and you will empty your bowels quickly. Put no liquids on your table at mealtime and our salivary glands will begin to function properly and digestion will begin in the mouth where it should begin. Three glasses between breakfast and lunch and three glasses in the afternoon. Two glasses after your light evening meal, and you are set for a much smoother operation system. You will not have to worry about developing kidney stones, and if you are on a high fiber diet, you will not have to worry about constipation.

Of course, you already know that Americans are the most constipated people in the face of the earth and spend more for laxatives you would

like to imagine. And with constipation comes hemorrhoids, diverticulosis, diverticulitis, appendicitis, hemorrhoidectomies, colectomies and appendectomies. Water and a high fiber diet would go a long way in preventing a lot of grief, pain and expense. So, my hat's off to water. I hope that you will take the water cure. It won't solve all your problems, but it is a good start, especially the first thing in the morning.

(Dr. John Evans is a staff doctor for the Christian Care Ministry. This article was reprinted from the June-July 1999 issue of *Helping One Another*, published by The Christian Care Ministry, PO Box 120099, West Melbourne, FL 32912-0099, by permission)

A Meal for the Mind



(Which World are You Living For?)

By Dr. Kent Haralson

In Ps. 24:3, we read, "Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?" The Psalmist says, "Who would like to have a share in everything that happens on the hill and everything that happens in the holy place?" Who wants to have a share in all the dynamics of secular power and all the dynamics of spiritual power in the future kingdom that will rule the earth? That is the Lord's call.

Remember the occasion in Matthew 20 when Mrs. Zebedee came to visit Jesus and brought her two sons, James and John? Jesus saw her coming and he knew what she wanted. Sure enough she said, "Lord, in the day of your glory, when you sit upon your throne, would you please arrange it so that my two sons, James and John, one shall sit at your right hand, and the other at your left hand, in that crowning David's coming?" You know, when you stop to think about it, that was a

noble request. Would to God that every parent would have that as their supreme ambition for their boys and their girls, that they might sit one at his right hand and one at his left hand in that glorious day. The Lord Jesus looked at her and said, "Sorry - request denied." He might have well added, "Ye see Mrs. Zebedee, that is not mine to give. That has to be earned." When will we learn as God's people that while God gives us unmerited salvation, and thank God that he does, He never gives unmerited rewards. Those have to be earned.

Here is the Lord's call. He asks, who wants to have a share in everything that will happen on planet earth in my glory, when I come back to reign? There are three things he will be looking for, found in verse 4.

1. Christlikeness of Life

"Who shall ascend ... who shall stand ..." Ps. 24:4, "He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart;"

Clean hands - the outward life; Clean heart - the inward life. God puts the hands and heart together because we do what we do because we are what we are.

2. Christlikeness of Longings

"Who shall ascend ... who shall stand ..." "He that hath ... not lifted up his soul unto vanity."

Who does that remind you of? It reminds me of King Solomon in his old age. God had just been to see him. He had just been down into the valley of Hinnom and had seen the abomination to Molech that Solomon had put there. That brazen thing. That thing of horror, with a hollow belly, inside of which they would build a fire until it glowed red and throbbed with heat. Then they would take their children, little boys and little girls and they would beat the drums until no one

could hear the children's screams and would put them on the red hot lap of Molech. And Solomon had put one of those things in Jerusalem. So God came to see Solomon for the third and last time. He said, "If it wasn't for David's sake, I'd do it right now. But for David's sake, I'll wait until you are dead. But, I'm going to tear your kingdom in pieces."

I see a shaken Solomon, as God leaves him. He reaches up to the shelf in the palace library, and pulls down a copy of the Hebrew Hymn Book. He turns the pages until he comes to the 39th Psalm where he reads, "Vanity... All is vanity." Then he wrote the book of Ecclesiastes, and that was his text, "Vanity of vanity sayeth the Preacher, all is vanity and vexation of spirit." That word translated, 'vanity', conveys the idea of chasing the wind, which is what he had been doing with his life. Years and years chasing the wind... Living for the wrong world, and it cost him an empire. And a crown. "Who shall ascend ... who shall stand ..." " He that hath ... not lifted up his soul unto vanity." Which world are you living for?

3. Christlikeness of Loyalty

"Who shall ascend ... who shall stand ..." "4 He that hath ... not sworn deceitfully."

God is looking for men, for women, for teens ... who having given their word, having made a promise, "Yes I'll do that... I'll teach that class... I'll be disciplined... I'll be faithful to you till death" will do what they said they would do. Having given their word, it would never occur to them not to do what they said they would do. Do what you said you would do, and do it promptly, cheerfully and conscientiously. That's the Lord's call. An invitation, not to sit in the White House, but an invitation

to have a share in all the dynamics of secular and spiritual power in that glorious magnificent day when Christ comes back and sits down here on his throne and reigns from the river unto the ends of the earth in that period of time that we call the Millennium. I would think that that would be very worth signing up for, don't you? Which world are you living for? Does it reflect in your schedule? In your dojo?



ONWARD, CHRISTIAN SOLDIER!

by John Eidsmoe

Let me pose a dilemma: Paragraph 3 of the Doctrinal Statement of the Gospel Martial Arts Union states, "We believe in the verbal-plenary inspiration of both the Old and New Testaments, as the actual Word of God. We also believe that they constitute the final authority for faith and practice for the Christian."

No problem so far? Here's the other point of the dilemma. Our Lord told us in Matthew 5:38-39, "Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth; "But I say unto you that ye resist not evil, but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also."

Now if the GMAU believes that the Bible is the authoritative Word of God, and the Bible teaches nonviolence and nonresistance, then how can the GMAU encourage participation in the martial arts? Isn't that a contradiction? Let me

make my position clear. If I believed that the Bible teaches pacifism and nonresistance, I would put away my black belt and get out of the martial arts. But is that really what Jesus meant in Matthew 5? Let's look at the passage in context.

A common principle of hermeneutics (the science of Bible interpretation) is, let Scripture interpret Scripture. When faced with two or more Bible passages that seem to conflict, we must harmonize them if possible. In other words, if by one interpretation two Bible passages contradict each other, and by another interpretation the two passages are in harmony, we are to follow the second interpretation.

If Jesus' words in Matthew 5:38-39 are interpreted to condemn all use of force and defense, they conflict with many other passages of Scripture: the numerous Old Testament passages which command military action, and Jesus' own act of driving the moneychangers out of the Temple, to name only a few. So what did Jesus really mean?

First, the command "An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth" is found in Exodus 21:23, Leviticus 24:20, and Deuteronomy 19:21. The command is given to rulers and judges for the punishment of criminals. It is called the Lex Talionis or Law of Like Punishment, and it means, "Let the punishment fit the crime." It is a humane and enlightened principle, in contrast with the practice by many pagan societies of death by hideous torture for sometimes trivial offenses.

Jesus did not contradict the principle. Rather, He told believers that while God has given civil rulers the power to avenge crime and punish criminals, He has not given that authority to

individual believers or other citizens. As individuals, we do not have the authority to avenge wrongs.

This does not mean we should not defend ourselves or others when under attack. If someone attacks you or someone else who needs your help, you have the right, and perhaps the duty, to use reasonable force to repel the attack.

But suppose that person punches you in the face and runs away. Now that he is gone, you are no longer under attack. You do not have the right to chase that person down and avenge yourself (or someone else). You might choose to call the police and press charges, but you should not take the law into your own hands when you are no longer in immediate danger. The courts, not the individual, have divine authority to avenge criminal behavior.

But didn't Jesus forbid even this when He told us to turn the other cheek? I don't think so. Jesus forbade returning insult for insult, not defending oneself or others against attack.

The INTERPRETER'S BIBLE states, "A blow on the right cheek was an insult -- with the back of the hand, so that the palm of the hand could return with a blow on the left cheek." (Vol. 7, p. 301). In the ancient Middle East, this double slap was the supreme insult. It was insulting, humiliating, and perhaps somewhat painful. But it did not place one in danger of serious injury. Jesus told us we should endure this kind of insult, and not respond with an insult of our own to "get even." But He did not mean that we may not defend ourselves or others when we are genuinely in danger of attack.

In fact, I believe Jesus would strongly disapprove of one who stood aside while an aggressor attacked a helpless person. I

believe He would say, "Greater love
hath no man than this, that a man

lay down his life for his friends."
(John 15:13)

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