

GMAU Journal

Volume 14 Issue 2 April 2000

GMAU Event Calendar

- 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 Clinic: St. Johnsbury, VT, July 28 & 29. Contact Mr. Stephen Jones by writing him at 566 Stannard Mt. Road, Danville, VT 05828, or call: (802) 748-3844.
 - October 2000 -
- 1st Annual Australian Regional Clinic: Maryborough, QLD, Australia, October 13 & 14. Contact Chris Foley at: chris@foleytruscott.com.au
 - July 2001-

• 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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We encourage outside contribution. If you wish to submit an article or training tip for consideration, please send a DOS diskette or typed/printed copy (ASCII text on DOS diskette or E-MAIL are PREFERRED) along with your phone #, address, and a little bit about yourself to:

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FEATURE ARTICLE

The World's First Martial Arts Ministry?

by Michael L. McClure

In the 1950's Bob Jones University had an evangelistic team called the "Judo Gentlemen" who traveled giving demonstrations of their art along with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In the 1960's a young man named Mike Crain began Judo and Karate for Christ. Mike was used to inspire many others to similar ministries. I thought for a long time that these were probably the first people to use the martial arts as an avenue of Christian outreach and ministry. But some time ago I came across a book titled: Knight of the Snows, The Story of Wilfred Grenfell by R.G. Martin, copyright 1966, Grenfell Association of Great Britain and Ireland, Hope House, 43 Gt. Peter Street, London.

This book is the biography of Grenfell who was a British missionary-physician to the fishermen of the Labradour coast in the later 19th century. Grenfell came to Christ during one of D.L. Moody's meetings in England in where C.T. Studd was giving his own testimony. Studd was, at the time, one of the most famous "cricketers" in England. He later became one of history's most famous missionaries. I found the following extremely interesting (pages 20 & 21 of the aforementioned book):

"...he [Grenfell] started to teach a class of boys in the Sunday School, and on week evenings he

invited them to his lodgings where he taught them boxing and other manly sports. They were thrilled by the Sunday School teacher who was so good at the things they were interested in this of low truscott.com.au South America Unfortunately, the minister did not understand boys very well.

`Mr. Grenfell,' he said one Sunday, `I don't like the boys being taught boxing; it is a rough sport, and I cannot have one of my teachers encouraging it.'

`But, sir,' expostulated Grenfell, `it is very good for them. It makes them learn self-control and they have to keep off the drink. Besides, when they lose, they learn how to take defeat; and, when they win, they see how to treat their opponents decently.'

But he was, however, adamant, and Grenfell had to give up the Sunday School class, though he did not stop helping the boys. Through sports and camps and cruises in an old fishing shack which they called the Roysterer up and down the Thames estuary, besides talks together in the evenings, he showed many lads how to live fine Christian lives even in so difficult a place as East London."

While Grenfell's pastor seems to have been a bit shortsighted in this area and while we are wise to use many different avenues of approach for spreading the gospel, we must remember not to compromise our Lord's holiness nor our own testimony for Him. Studd, who was used to win Grenfell, got Grenfell's attention because of his sports skill. However he won Grenfell to Christ because of his testimony for the Savior. On pages 18 & 19 of the book we read of the meeting wherein Grenfell was saved: "So he stayed, and when the hymn was finished the leader, who was Mr. Moody, did

speak, and was so lively and interesting in what he said about Jesus Christ and how He helps us to live a Christian life, that Grenfell decided to come again and made up his mind to do so on the night when two famous cricketers, the brothers Studd, were announced as speakers. If first-class cricketers were followers of Jesus Christ there must be more in Christianity than he had imagined. Grenfell was gripped by the way the two men spoke.

`Now,' said Mr. C.T. Studd as he finished his address, `if there is anyone here in the tent tonight who intends to try to follow Jesus Christ, let him stand up and nail his colours to the mast!'

`Whew!' thought Grenfell, `what a plucky kid; he'll have a rough time from his friends when he gets back to his ship.'

And then another thought came into his head. If that boy can do it, why shouldn't I?' And he suited his action to his thought; stood upon his

feet alongside the boy and swore himself in as a servant of Jesus Christ.'"

In Ezekiel 22:26 God says of Israel: "The priests have violated my law, and have profaned my holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they showed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my Sabbaths, an I an profaned among them." In our endeavors to use the martial arts to reach out to men, women and young people, let us remember to be men of valour and women of virtue. Let us remember to put a difference between the holy and profane. Let's preach the difference between the unclean and the clean. While we live in the age of grace, and thank God for it, let's not forget that

He is holy. Our martial arts are a tool for ministry but not the end of that ministry itself. Our Christian character must be our loudest Kiai. Our dedication to and testimony for Him must be first and we must remember that martial arts are temporal; our faith is eternal.

Dr. Wilfed Grenfell lived the rest of his life reaching souls for Jesus Christ. His boxing class (circa 1885) is the earliest Christian martial arts ministry that I have come to know about. If any one knows of an earlier one I shall be glad to stand corrected. In the mean time, isn't it great to know that what we are doing has such and old and rich heritage? Even when opposition comes to your ministry, "...be ye steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." I Corinthians 15:58

About the author: Dr. Michael L. McClure, LHD, is the Founder/Chief instructor of Men of Valour Ministries and the Valour School of Self Defense, Delray Beach, FL.. He holds a $\mathbf{4}^{\text{th}}$ degree black belt in Kung

Regional Clinics Available

As we enter a new millennium, we will see the GMAU expand overseas. This year we will be offering a clinic in Australia and in 2001 we will add another clinic in Japan. Instructors and students are urged to arrange their schedule so that they are able to participate in at least one clinic in 2000. For contact points for our clinics, check out our website at: www.gmau.org

Lewistown, Montana - May 19&20, 2000 - Rocky Mountain Regional

St. Johnsbury, Vermont - July 28&29, 2000 - Northeastern Regional

Marysborough, QLD, Australia - October 13&14, 2000 - Pacific Rim South Regional

Palm Beach, Fl.--March 2 & 3, 2001

Southeastern Regional

Hokkaido, Japan - Summer, 2001 - Pacific Rim North Regional

13th Annual GMAU Southeastern Regional Martial Arts Clinic

On March 3rd and 4th, the Gospel Karate Team hosted the 13th Annual Clinic at Berean Baptist Church in West Palm Beach Fl. At 8 am. Friday, Black Belt testing began with an hour long written exam. The physical exam went from 9 am until 2 PM. I am pleased to announce that Frank Garquilo earned his Shodan Black Belt and Matt Clough earned his Shodan-Ho Black Belt. Our thanks to the testing board of: Christian Phillips, Prof. John Eidsmoe, Dr. Haralson, Pastor McClure, Scott Hoffer, John Wilcox, Scott Gilbert, and Jim Hernandez Sr.

The clinic began Friday evening at 6 PM and finished Saturday at 3pm. We had 25 Black Belt from all over the United States. There were over 50 students representing six Christian Schools. There were twenty-six class sessions, including legal issues, Filipino Escrima, Aikido, cane basics, swords, sparring, and devotions. Our heartfelt thanks to the instructors: Jim Hernandez Sr., Orville Osbourne, John Eidsmoe, Christian Phillips, Rick Merrell, Scott Gilbert, Sherry McGregor, Pastor Mike McClure, John Wilcox, Pastor Kent Haralson, Scott Hoffer, and Matt Clough.

At the banquet Saturday evening we were all challenged by Scott Gilbert, may we all be 100% committed to our Lord. Jim Hernandez Sr., on behalf of the instructors, awarded certificates for: Determination to Rich Reinhold and Ed Lakeland, Etiquette to Frank Sauter, Diligence to Octavius McGill, and Fighting Spirit to

Jesse Hernandez. Dr. Haralson awarded the Black Belt Presentations to Matt Clough and Frank Garquilo. Ed Lakeman and Mark LaPark received their Asst. Dojo Instructors Certification. evening ended with a super demonstration from the demo team lead by Jim Hernandez Sr. Two days after the clinic, I received a note from a mother of a student from another school. Her son came to the clinic and Mom checked us out in the course of the weekend. She didn't note the excellent classes or the super content, or the many challenges we received, but she notes " the character and humility that I observe in the instructors was commendable." May we always be known for those traits. My thanks to all those who worked so hard to make this years clinic a super success.

The Questions Of The Judo Chop

By Stephen Jones

Almost everyone who has been in the Martial Arts for any length of time has heard this term, but we all know that there is no such thing right! Then why is this term so wide spread throughout the United States? The answer is quite simple. In the late 1930's with the everincreasing threat of war it was clear that the US armed forces needed to improve their hand to hand fighting. The four manuals on such were based on WWI and the Spanish American War experiences. Two men stepped forward to fill this void. Former Heavyweight boxing champ Jack Dempsey and collegiate wresting champ, jujitsu expert Bernard J. Cosneck. They developed an eclectic mix of wrestling, boxing and jujitsu and named their creation "American Combat Judo". Their first paper was printed in 1942 with books following. This combat style was taught to special forces and hundreds if

not thousands of young service men who after the war went back to their homes all over the country. The hand techniques they taught? The fist, the extended knuckle (Phoenix Eye), The Palm heel and of course the Judo Chop. As the son of one of these service men I learned the Judo chop several years before I ever heard the word Karate and now you know!

Make Plans For The Trip Of A Lifetime!

By Michael McClure

I am currently working on group travel arrangements for those who would wish to go to the GMAU regional clinic in Japan in July of 2001. While things are still in the planning stages, I am working with Sifu John Himes (our host) in Japan and with a travel agency in the U.S. Currently it appears that air fare could be as low as \$700.00 per person. That price is not written in stone and it could be as much as \$1,100.00. We are working to get the lowest price possible. In addition, those wishing to attend should plan on about \$200.00 for accommodations and a small amount for the clinic itself (there are expenses which Sifu Himes will need to have covered).

Those attending will have the added privilege of gaining insight into Japanese culture and history. We will also be able to have an evangelistic outreach to some of the Japanese people. In addition to all of this, each person who attends this clinic will be able, for the rest of their lives, to legitimately say: "I studied martial arts in Japan".

Keep reading the GMAU Journal for more information on the trip or contact Sifu Himes in Japan, or myself, via e-mail: westpark1@juno.com

Grandmaster Johnny Pachivas

Born: May 3, 1926
Passed on to the Next Life: Feb. 14, 2000

By Johnny R.

Russell

In this day we sing and shout "Oh Death, where is your victory?! Oh Death, where is your sting?!" I Corinthians 15:55

Hanshi has been transported on the wings of angels to Heaven to live forever with our Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus.

Grandmaster John Athanas Pachivas had been a student of the martial arts for nearly sixty years and began teaching to the general public in the early 1950's. Pachivas was the highest-ranking person (10th degree Black Belt) in Shuri-ryu karatedo in the world; title of Grandmaster. He was also the highest ranked American in Okinawan Kobudo. Grandmaster Pachivas also possessed Master degrees in Judo, Jiu Jitsu, Kempo, Aikido, and Shotokan.

Pachivas served as the Executive Director of the United States Karate Association-International, with membership in 41 countries and all 50 states. The United States Karate Association was started in 1948 by the late Grandmaster of Shuri Ryu, O'Sensei Robert Trias, (see more pictures HERE). Under Grandmaster Trias, Pachivas was the highest ranked Chief Instructor and received the highest title within the organization, the title of Hanshi.

The son of Greek immigrants, Pachivas grew up in St. Louis, Missouri, where his father was the proprietor of one of the finest and

foremost Greek restaurants in downtown St. Louis. Upon completion of high school, Pachivas was offered 23 full scholarships from universities across the United States in football, baseball and basketball. While in college, Pachivas became an honored All-American. Since the time Pachivas began his formal training in the wrestling arts in 1938, he has been inducted into every major martial arts hall of fame worldwide and most recently was inaugurated into the Greek Hellenic A.H.E.P.A. Hall of Fame. Until his death, Grandmaster Pachivas continued to be a vibrant and exciting teacher. He reminded us that hard physical training never stops.

The passing of our master instructor is a heart-wrenching occasion. We are torn because while we will miss him dearly, our loss is Heaven's gain. For those who place their faith and trust in Christ, Hanshi's passing is not a final goodbye; instead, it is merely a temporary separation until the time we too are called to our Eternal Home where all of God's children will spend eternity.

A Meal for the Mind



Where Have All the Leaders Gone?

By Dr. Kent

Haralson

When I was a child in the early fifties, my neighborhood friends and I spent many happy hours playing "Follow the Leader." Each of us would vie for the position of leader. When it was my turn, I had great fun leading the human marching column as we zigzagged up and down concrete sidewalks, through daisy-studded, stamp-sized backyards, down the

creek bank and back to our starting point by the big pine tree.

As I look back on those days, what impresses me most is the great sense of responsibility with which each of us children assumed the role of leader. To be the leader was no small thing. Each child instinctively knew that, when it was his or her turn to lead, the success and well being of the entire group depended largely on the leader's ability to lead. The child who led knew instinctively that to lead the group actually meant to protect its best interests by keeping it safe en route to its destination. In short, he or she knew that to lead meant to serve.

This concept of servanthood is foreign to much of what is called leadership today. On the contrary, far too many so-called leaders of our day are more interested in serving their own agendas than in serving those under their authority. Yet they proclaim the exact

opposite. Jesus had a harsh word for such as these. He called them "whited sepulchers" (Matt. 23:27), hypocrites who pretended to be what they were not.

The hallmark of true leadership indeed, its very essence - is servanthood. In describing a leader, Jesus said, "whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister [servant]" (Matt 20:26). A servant is one who serves. A true leader, therefore, will serve those whom he leads by putting their needs and well being above his own. This principle applies whether the person is the leader of a family, a corporation, a dojo or of a nation. With this would also come an attitude of submission, especially to spiritual authority. Yet, so many martial arts "leaders" are not even members of churches, let alone active in ministry in them.

Unfortunately, America has seen a rapid decline in true leadership over the past thirty years. The consequences of this decline have been devastating in terms of our nation's military security, economic stability, family fiber and societal strength. Lack of leadership has resulted in broken homes, a weakened foreign policy, and the largest budget deficit in the history of our country.

Moreover, not only has there been a decline in the quality of leadership; there has also been a decline in the quality of vision. Their first responsibility of leadership is vision. The second responsibility is impartation of that vision. But vision has a value system, and it is the value system of vision that will determine whether vision builds or whether it destroys. If you are a sensei or "leader" of your own system, what is your vision? What is your plan to impart that to others? What is your value system? Is it written down and communicable? When the value system of vision derives from the value system of absolute truth as expressed in the Bible, vision will produce individual and societal well being. It will produce a dojo with a sense of purpose and direction. When the value system of vision does not, vision will produce individual and societal malaise. Those of us in positions of leadership have, as a group, failed both in leadership and in vision. We have strayed from the principles of leadership and vision on which our country was founded, and we have, instead implemented a quality of leadership and a quality of vision diametrically opposed to those principles. The consequences have been nothing short of disastrous.

Only as we return to servanthood and to a vision based on God's

revealed truth can we restore our nation to its former greatness. Out of our renewed servanthood and our renewed vision there will then emerge a new generation of leaders worthy of the name. May it start with your dojo.

ONWARD, CHRISTIAN SOLDIER!

Know the Rules of Engagement

by John Eidsmoe

Last May at the Rocky Mountain Karate Clinic in Montana I had the chance to do some sparring. thought I was doing pretty well, when suddenly I found myself on the receiving end of a fist to the face! Why hadn't I blocked it? my own school, the American Tae Kwon Do Foundation, kicks to the head are allowed, but not hand strikes. I'm used to quarding my face against kicks, but not against fists. But this Clinic follows the rules of Seigi Bushido Ryu, which does allow hand strikes to the face. So whose fault was it? of course! (Isn't it always?) had failed to learn the rules of engagement before I entered the sparring.

As Christians, we are engaged in the defense of our faith in the public arena. At school, on the university campus, on radio talk shows, in our community association, and many other places, the subject of religion/values arises frequently. We are then called upon to "be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh of you a reason of the hope that is in you," (I Peter 3:15) and to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." (Jude 3)

Sometimes Christians are afraid to stand up and speak up for what we believe -- fear of ridicule, fear of being shunned, fear of reprisals, fear of being confounded by arguments we cannot refute. But God gives us courage, and the martial arts are a tool He can use to develop courage in us. (But that's a subject for another column.)

Sometimes Christians are bold to speak out, but we are ineffective because we don't know the Rules of Engagement. Some of the Rules of Engagement are known as simple etiquette. We have our protocol in the martial arts, and behind most of our protocol is respect for authority and respect for each other. Outside the martial arts Dojo, Americans usually aren't expected to bow to one another. But simple courtesy, respect and consideration for others expected everywhere. Another Rule of Engagement is known as the First Amendment. Adopted in 1789 as part of the Bill of Rights, the First Amendment does not contain the words "separation of church and state." It says, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." The First Amendment places some restrictions on religious expression in public, but it also protects your right to express yourself -- even on a religious subject. For example, a public school may not require that the Bible be read as an act of religious worship. But it may offer a course in which the Bible is taught for its value in history, literature, law, government, and culture.

And if public schools allow some student groups to meet, like the Chess Club or the Spanish Club, they have to allow student

religious groups like Youth for Christ to meet on the same basis. (There's an idea! How about a Gospel Martial Arts Union chapter in your high school?)

And while you do not have the right to impose your views on others, you have the same right as others to express your views -- and religious views are no exception.

Freedom is in some ways a two-edged sword. To have freedom for ourselves, we sometimes have to put up with things we don't like. Remember -- showing charity for others does not mean you think their views are true, only that they are entitled to respect.

More on the Rules of Engagement in future columns.

Water and It's Importance For Vibrant Health

By Jay Sutliffe, M.S.

Although water is seen as a vital component to life, we often take for granted it's important functions. Often times we can scurry through the day without the slightest remembrance of our need to take in water. Yet throughout the day our body was continually reminding us of its desire to have some water. Like the time we sought to have a bowel movement and we ended up laboring to do so. Our body was telling us that water is absorbed through the stomach lining but reabsorbed back into the system in the large intestine to help move unabsorbed mater though.

How about the tiredness we feel as the day wears on? The body may have been telling us that our oxygen carrying capacity of our blood was diminished due to insufficient fluid intake. Since we were not supplying adequate oxygen to the brain and other tissues, we began to fatigue and feel tired. How about those blemishes that have begun to appear on our skin? May it be the body saying that there is a build-up of toxins in the system that are not being flushed out since there is inadequate water intake? Maybe so. There are just a few examples of how our body seeks to inform us throughout the day that we need regular intake of just plain old water.

But how can you get in the habit of taking in regular amounts of fluid? Since we do not have humps for storing water like a camel, we have the need to take in fluids on a regular schedule. It is good to drink a couple of glasses in the morning before breakfast to help your body wake up and clear out yesterday's impurities. Many recommend you drink eight glasses of water a day, and more when it is hot.

To see if you're drinking enough water, drink until your urine is a pale yellow color, and seek to maintain that throughout the day. (This will be extremely difficult if you are taking a water-soluble supplement). Yet another way is to take your weight, divide it in half and drink that many ounces of water a day. For example if you weight 160 pounds, you would need to drink 80 ounces or 10 eight-ounce glasses of water a day. That may sound like a lot, but you will experience fewer headaches, better regulated blood pressure, more energy, muscles will be less sore after exercise, less chance of kidney stones, less kidney and bladder infections, and a clearer mind! If that sounds good, why not have a glass of water.

Since water is lost normally through our lungs, skin, urine and intestines, we may not be aware that throughout the day we are losing water from the body. Be

regular about fluid intake.

Outside of getting water through drinking water, some foods, especially fruits, contain large amounts of water. For example, did you know that lettuce is 96% water, even more than fruit juice - that is 90% water!

It is good to avoid drinking with meals because of the dilution of enzymes, thus slowing down the digestion process. Although digestion is not necessary to process water, the body has an order that it deals with items taken into the stomach. Water, much easier to process, is taken care of first and then food is digested. If liquid is taken with meals, the actual digestion of food may take hours longer to process. Therefore, it is better to avoid drinking for half an hour before a meal and for a couple of hours after a meal.

The key to abundant health always revolves around working in harmony with the body rather than working against it. By understanding that we are continually losing fluids throughout the day, we will then begin to understand that we need to be consistent about taking fluids in regularly. By following the simple principle of regular fluid intake throughout the day, we will most assuredly see and feel the difference in our daily activities as we begin to have more energy, metabolize and digest food more efficiently and also eliminate the waste materials from our bodies more efficiently. May we take the water of life freely!

About the Author: Jay Sutliffe works at the Black Hills Wellness Center in Hermosa, SD. 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.

CONTROVERSIAL EXERCISES

Are You Hurting or Helping Your Students?

by Keith D. Yates

Recently I went through the first American Council on Martial Artists' Instructor Certification Program held at the world famous Cooper

Institute for Aerobic Research in Dallas. This is an excellent, although kind of expensive (\$300), program. I encourage you to check it out. Among the many things I personally learned was that some exercises that I have been doing for years COULD lead to injury.

Now I will grant you that there is some dispute over these exercises with many longtime practitioners and even some fitness experts saying they have done certain moves for years with no detrimental effects. However since exercise science has proven that there CAN be harmful effects for SOME people, it is important that fitness professionals and martial arts instructors take a conservative position and utilize only the safest exercise routines.

After all, the purpose of exercise in any sport, martial arts included, is to enhance overall health and maximize sports related effectiveness. An instructor must take into account factors such as pre-existing medical conditions, the age, sex, and prior fitness level of his or her students. Things like improper body alignment, locking of joints, hyperextension and compression of certain body structures can lead to a higher risk of orthopedic injuries.

I have been asked to do a series of articles for Martial Arts Professional magazine on this topic. But I wanted you, the readers of the GMAU Newsletter, to be among the first to benefit from these findings so I am also giving you a look at these "controversial exercises."

STANDING TOE TOUCHES

Here is one that martial artists have been doing for decades. Students are to stand with their feet either together or spread apart. Then they are instructed to lean forward until their fingers touch their toes. Some instructors demand that students try to place their palms flat on the floor - a great stretch for the hamstrings to be sure.

The problem is that the weight of the flexed and leaning torso could put too much stress on the lumbar ligaments of the spine and on the sciatic nerve. In extreme cases the spinal discs could even herniate or rupture due to the extra stress. This is especially dangerous for students with prior back problems.

A simpler and safer alternative is to lie on your back and bring your knee up to your chest. Then hold the leg with both hands behind the knee and extend and straighten the leg. Hold that stretch for up to thirty seconds. Do both legs. The fact that the lower back is supported on the floor relieves the stress that can result from standing toe touches.

It is necessary to point out here that any exercise/stretching routine begin with a ten to fifteen minute period of warm ups. This is needed to get the blood flowing through the muscles (which actually increases their temperature—hence the term "warm up"). This also serves to increase certain chemical and nerve-impulse reactions in the body thereby reducing the chance of injury.

Remember that many if not most

people can do the so-called "controversial exercises" with little problem. However, it is the unexpected that martial artists are trained to be prepared for. Unexpected injuries need not take us by surprise. We should also be prepared to modify our methods of teaching and training if it can be proven that there are safer ways for our students and ourselves.

About the Author: Keith D. Yates, M.A., is a veteran martial arts teacher who earned his first black belt in 1968. He served for several years on the Physical Education faculty at Southern Methodist University in Dallas where he introduced the first martial arts for credit program in the Southwest in 1971. He is the GMAU Southwestern Representative.

THE GMAU IS MOVING AGAIN!

Update those address books! We are again moving our international headquarters! As of March 16th, the GMAU's new address will be:

GMAU Headquarters 3475 Neil Ave. South Afton, MN 55001

Please make sure all correspondence from April 1, 2000 forward is sent to this address!

Recent GMAU Promotions



Rank Awards:		
Desiree Rauch	4 th Kyu	Lewistown, MT
Bethany Estell	8 th Kyu	Lewistown, MT
DJ Johnson	8 th Kyu	Lewistown, MT
Camilla Schoyen	10 th Kyu	Lewistown, MT
Hannah Estell	10 th Kyu	Lewistown, MT
Brittany Hair	10 th Kyu	Lewistown, MT
Sara Hair	10 th Kyu	Lewistown, MT
Sherry Peterson	10 th Kyu	Lewistown, MT
Georgianna Estell	6 th Kyu	Lewistown, MT
Michael Moore	4 th Kyu	Lewistown, MT
Scott Weisenburg	$10^{th} Kyu$	Lewistown, MT

Athena Cook	$10^{th} Kyu$	Lewistown, MT		
Jova Cook	10 th Kyu	Lewistown, MT		
Bobbisue Isackson	6 th Kyu	Lewistown, MT		
Joshua McKennett	4 th Kyu	Lewistown, MT		
Logan Butcher	10 th Kyu	Lewistown, MT		
Frank Garguilo	1 st Black	Lewistown, MT		
Matt Clough	1 st Black	Lewistown, MT		
John Wilcox		Melbourne, FL		
Corey Stern	10 th Kyu	Delray Beach, FL		
Christopher Cooper	8 th Kyu	Delray Beach, FL		
New Members:				
Dr. Joseph Kappes	5 th Black	Freeman, MI		
Tom Boyer	2 nd Black	Holt, MI		
Mary White	1 st Black	Grand Ledge, MI		
New Instructors:				
Dr. Joseph Kappes	5 th Black	Freeman, MI		

..DOJO & EVANGELISTS UPDATE.. Mail from GMAU schools and evangelists.

Cariri Kenpo club of the Liga Evangelica Das Artes Marciais -Brazil

The club is doing well. Prof. Lewis hopes to test 4 students for their brown belts in the next couple months. It is good to be back in Brazil.

-Phil

Lewis

The Master's Warriors Club - Lewistown, MT

The Master's Warriors Club of Emmanuel Baptist Church reports a registration of 33 students in their classes. They rejoice in that two 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 three of their students follow the Lord in believers baptism this past three months.

In the past quarter, the devotional teaching time has focused upon several waza, or traditional

techniques and their Biblical examples such as icho no hyoshi (rhythm), munenmuso (free of though), kochiku (posturing), ryote (both hands / styles) obiyakashi appearances) and minari (appearing). Recent promotions in the class include: Logan Butcher, Ted Hair, Vincent Annable and Kyle Lachio (white belt), Bobbisue Isackson and Jayson Brand (green belt) and Joshua McKennett (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, Dwight Keaffer, Dr. John Eidsmoe, and Kendra Kilpatrick. Dr. Eidsmoe will be the keynote banquet speaker and Dr. Owens will be presenting his self-defense seminar to the instructors present at the clinic. Flyers were mailed to over 70 black belts in the western portion of the country and there have already been several inquiries.

-Dr. Kent

Haralson

Christian Karate Plus - St. Johnsbury, VT

The 5th annual G.M.A.U. North Eastern regional clinic will be held July 28 & 29, 2000 in St. Johnsbury, VT. Dr. Michael McClure, Mr. Larry Phillips and several other great teachers will be in attendance.

For information, contact Stephen Jones via mail at 566 Stannard Mt. Rd, Danville VT 05828, by phone: 802 - 748- 2318, or via e-mail at sugarridgeVT@juno.com

-Stephen Jones

EBT Team - Sioux Falls, SD Empire Baptist Karate League and Self-Defense has undergone some minor adjustments as of late. One adjustment involves definition of a new class format, which has helped to make the class flow much more efficiently.

The new class format is as follows:

- 10 minutes Open (Prayer), Stretch, and Warm up (routine)
- 10 minutes Simple Basic Drills (continuous movement, repetition, and variety)
- 15 minutes Kata (beginning at lowest level and advancing focusing where needed)
- 20 minutes Special Event (main focus of class instruction)
- 5 minutes Warm down and Dismiss (Prayer)

Throughout the class, various aspects of our style are reviewed, such as relevant scriptures; class motto; five elements of our style; the name of our style (Kirisuto Shinsei Ji Ei Budo) and its meaning (Christ, a new way or path of selfdefense martial art). The goal of each class is to promote Christ likeness in all that we are and in all that we do. Each class is geared toward advancing to the next level of promotion. We use the martial arts as a means to exercise our bodies, as well as to illustrate and practice scriptural principles in sport. After the first hour of class, we have (optional) 30 minutes of open forum practice for upper level belts. During this time, upper belts (blue, brown, and black) help one another improve areas of weakness, teach/learn new techniques and use of various weapons. By each of us specializing in various aspects of martial arts that interest us, we are able to increase our learning of the martial arts.

Congratulations to the following

students for their recent promotions:

Jay Smith - Orange Belt

Greggory Bennett - Provisional
Black Belt
Nolan Ruby - Provisional Black Belt
Denise Pankratz - Brown Belt
w/stripe
Kurt Smith - Green Belt w/stripe
Justin Pankratz - Green Belt

Several others will be testing at our testing in March. We have a steady student body of 30 and a very good spirit.

-Pastor Ron Tottingham/Sensei John C. Bennett

Gospel Karate Team - West Palm Beach, FL

Congratulations to Ryan Bassaragh, who earned his white belt in January.

On January 22nd the Gospel Karate Team hosted the 9th Semi annual Forms Tournament at Berean Baptist Church. With five schools participating, there were 45 students and 11 Black Belts. We started at 9:30am and by noon, 16 students had earned certificates, 23 a Blue Ribbon, 2 a Metal and one a Trophy. Winning the metals were: Matt Clough and Amanda McClure. The trophy was earned by Melissa Wren. Our thanks to the judges: Pastor McClure, Frank Garguilo Jr., Ed Olds, Jim Hernandez Sr., Mark Olds, Pastor Merrell, Alline Olds, Christian Phillips. And a big thanks to the official score keepers who kept it all going, Linda Henry, Roxanne Daniels, Susan James, Jannie Phillips, and Carol Wallace.

On March 3rd and 4th we hosted the 13th Annual GMAU Southeastern Regional Martial Arts Clinic. Please article on page 3.

-Larry Phillips

Christian Martial Arts -

Olivehurst, CA

Grace and Peace from Olivehurst California.

The Christian Martial Arts Academy has now been officially opened 30 days and we are running 30 students in three classes. Majority are non-church and a field of harvest at our doorstep. Pray that the Lord of the Harvest can use us to bring in the sheaves. My Sensei has begun to teach our adult class, Judan Hanshi Roy Hobbs. Not only is he respected in the MA community, he is a brother in Christ. We are slowly building our website; it contains a bio on Sensei Hobbs for those wanting to know more about him:

http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Crete/1232/CMAA01.htm

- Pastor Miguel Jurna, Sensei, mjurna@mako.com

Valour School of Self Defense - Delray Beach, FL

A cooperative ministry of Men of Valour Ministries, Inc. and the West Park Baptist Church of Delray Beach, Florida reports another very busy quarter. The number of students actively attending classes has doubled! The school now has an enrollment of 129 students with an average class attendance of 40. The school has expanded from one weekly class to 4. Students from the school attended the Segei Bushido Ryu Forms Tournament in West Palm Beach hosted by Sensei Larry Phillips and Sensei Orville Osbourne during January with Christopher Lewis and Andrew Ammer receiving ribbons and Amanda McClure receiving a medal. When this issue is published the class will have participated in the 7th Annual Open Tournament hosted by the Shihan Mitchel Mandel and the Martial Arts Academy of Lantana, FL on February 27 and the Southeastern Regional GMAU Clinic in West Palm

Beach, FL, hosted by Sensei Larry Phillips on March 3 & 4.

The following students have received rank promotions during this quarter:
10th level white: Calvin Gill,
Anthony Lee Johnson, Harvey Lee Johnson, Jonathan Lee Johnson,
Alcadio Rincon, Jr.
9th level white: Patrick Curran,
Calvin Gill, Christopher Lewis
7th level Gold: Andrew Ammer
1st level Brown: Amanda McClure
1st level black (cross ranking):
Stephen Jones.

In February, I had the privilege sitting between "Judo" George Britch and Shidoshi Johnny Russell at the "home going" memorial services (some would call it a funeral) for Hanshi John A. Pachivas. Also present were Dave Merrill, Sherry McGregor, Gordon Garland, and a list of "Who's Who" of the South Florida martial arts community. The services were appropriate and impressive. The gospel was clearly given to the hundreds of people who attended.

I first met Hanshi Pachivas more than 20 years ago at tournaments here in South Florida and his name is still well known among martial artists of this area. Last September I met him again at the GMAU clinic which Shidoshi Russell hosted in Indianapolis. I remarked to several people that the man I met in Indianapolis was a very changed man from the one I knew at tournaments all those years ago. Hanshi Pachivas had had many health problems in recent years and at least one person thought that was the change I was referring to. It wasn't. I was speaking of the fact that the man I met at the Indianapolis clinic was a man who had been born again. His testimony was clear and his entire demeanor reflected it. While he was (and rightfully so) honored in February

for his accomplishments in the martial arts, civic and social work, his friendship to others and his influence upon a multitude of people he was also, and I think more importantly, honored for his faith.

The day is coming when all of us

will come to the end of the road, for such is the way of all flesh. When that day comes we will leave our martial arts behind us and all that we will have is our faith in Jesus Christ what we have done in service for Him. May it then be said of all of us: "He fought a good fight, he finished his course, he kept the faith." May we also hear our Lord

say: "Well done, thou good and

faithful servant, enter thou into

-Dr. Michael L. McClure, Sifu Member: Board of Governors, GMAU

Keichu-Do - Santa Maria, CA

the joy of thy Lord."

The Keichu-Do Christian Outreach Ministry located here in California, will be flying to Australia in April on a missionary trip, accompanied by Keichu students from other Californiabased Ministries. Pastor Karl W. Marx,

the founder of Keichu-Do which translated means "Devoting one's self entirely to Jesus Christ" will be accompanied by his students World Champions Jeff Martinez, Daniel and David Sanchez, their aunt Rose Sanchez, and other students from various Keichu Schools located in California.

-Karl W. Marx

Points of Interest

Some news and tidbits from around the globe from your fellow Christian Martial Artists.....

Randy Young in Michigan
The 2 weeks prior to breaking for
the holidays, they had a couple of
regular classes, a
promotional exam and their annual
sparring tournament. As a result,
he was able to
present the Gospel to 100 people
(students and visitors.) During the
last regular class before the
break, he presented the Gospel to a
group of students and two responded
and were saved.

Sara VanDriest in Rochester, MN
Sara and her husband Steve are
expecting a new arrival this June.
This will be the first
child for Steve and Sara and will
surely provide additional challenge
to their life, their Dojo and her
studies at Mayo Clinic Medical
School.

Christian Phillips in West Palm Beach, FL
Christian and his lovely wife Janny are also expecting in June (4th child ... on their way to the full quiver)... found out it is a boy-child and have picked out the name Caleb for it. Not sure if that is the influence of Johnny Russell (his son is also named Caleb) on their life or a favorite Biblical character... Christian teaches the children's martial arts class at Berean Baptist Church.

Johnny Russell in Indianapolis, IN
They had 77 students this past week
for their opening class at the
College Park location.
The inner city after-school
programs resume classes in
February. Two other community
centers will be transporting their
kids over to join Pastor Mel's
groups. Pastor Mel reports
that they have just received \$2000
in grant moneys from the Lilly
Endowment to continue
running their karate summer camp
programs.

Joseph Kappes in Kansas City, MO
This medical doctor and grandfather
5th degree karate black belt has
been reading much of the GMAU
literature for the past several
months. He is now pursuing
membership and the possibility of
chartering a school. He has 30
years of extensive JKA martial arts
experience and has been a Christian
for 23 years.

Scott Conway in San Diego, CA The start up of martial arts classes this January, his legal profession (JD), his position on the board of ACMA (American Council of the Martial Arts) and his labor of love teaching an adult Bible study for his church have not stopped him from continuing his pursuit of his Ph.D. He completed yet another unit of work in the "Fundamental Principles of Technique" graduate level course through the College of Christian Martial Arts this past week.

Feb. 6 marked the initial service of Tiaro Community Church. Pastor Foley will be bi-vocational as he runs his financial management and consultant business and also plants this new church. Chris was ordained to the

Chris Foley in Marysborough, QLD,

Australia

year ago after an extensive evaluation by four Baptist pastors who are also active in leadership roles in the GMAU.

Gospel ministry a little over a

Rick Merrell in West Palm Beach, FL Rick has stepped aside for the pastoral position of Palm Bible Chapel. He has poured years of labor and love into the church and brought it to the point where it is now time for the next stage of church leadership to take over. Rick is currently seeking the

Lord's direction in his life. He has also undergone extensive medical rehab work on his hip and would appreciate your prayers.

Dr. Kent Haralson in Lewistown, MT The dojo had the joy of seeing yet another new student accept Jesus as his Lord and Savior. That is now 25 students who have been saved through this ministry in the first two years

Ray Askew in North Palm Beach
Another young man was ushered into
the Kingdom of God through Ray's
dojo in North Palm Beach a week
ago. One of his 11 year-old
students used the Scripture memory
and soul-winning methods required
for rank advancement to share the
gospel with a friend of his, who
accepted Christ.

Charles Owens in Alabama
Charles writes that his class is
maintaining a solid attendance of
55. He is putting a demo team
together.

Connie Brown in Graceville, FL
Connie, wife of Sensei Gary Brown
who runs the Grace Karate Team in
Graceville, FL has been undergoing
some pretty harrowing medical
experiences. Was loosing eyesight
and steadiness on her feet and
weakness in hands. Underwent a
spinal tap and lumbar puncture
with some relief. Will most likely
be going to Mayo Clinic specialists
in Jacksonville, FL. Your
prayers for this family would be
appreciated.

Pat Russo in New Jersey
Pat is a martial artist in New
Jersey and has written several
articles for magazines. Both his
wife and 16-year old son have been
sick for quite some time, and it's
been very stressful and draining on
the family. Maria has struggled
with an advanced case of Lyme's
Disease for years,
along with Fibromyalgia. While she

takes antibiotics, the doctors don't really seem to know how to help her, as it went undetected for so long. And recently, his son has developed problems with swelling in his chest wall that causes extreme pain. It took a while for the doctors to pinpoint the problem with him, they thought it was his heart, reflux, or an ulcer. He's taking anti-inflammatories now, but he's still having problems, some of which I think is anxiety. Please pray for this GMAU family.

John Wilcox

Sensei Wilcox was promoted in February to the rank and title of SOKE by Dr. Rod Sacharnoski of Juko Kai International. After five years of intensive examination, scrutiny, and review Mr. Wilcox was informed that the style he created was in fact a legitimate Ju Jutsu system and was certified by both Japan and Okinawa. In a special ceremony Sensei Wilcox was promoted and given the title of 10th dan of Seigi Bushido Ryu Ju Jutsu, which means "the way of the righteous warrior" (name used by permission).

GMAU CHARTER CLUBS

Over the years, we have had the joy of chartering 27 clubs under the GMAU banner. Here is a listing of those clubs. Those that are bolded are currently active with their charters in good standing at the GMAU. Has your charter lapsed? Would you like to move in the direction of having your Dojo under the GMAU umbrella? Drop our administrative director, Robyn, a note and she can get you pointed in the right direction

(robynh@gmau.org

- Dr. Kent Haralson, Chairman - GMAU

Club

$\frac{\text{Location}}{\text{Exp.}} \frac{\text{Instructor}}{\text{Date}}$

- 1. Gospel Budo Club Sioux Falls, SD John Bennett 12/87
- 3. Baptist TKD Academy Yauco, PR Carlos N P Collado 1989
- 4. Shiloh Kyokai Karate Club Asbury, NJ John Gaddy III 1990
- 5. Men of Valor Ministry Delray Beach, FL Mike McClure 03/01
- 6. Bethlehem Martial Arts Club Kalamazoo, MI Reba Vickery 01/92
- 8. Baptist TaeKwonDo San
 Juanito, Mexico Eleazar Batrez
 Cruz 06/90
- 9. Bible Baptist Karate Club Minot, ND Daniel Clegg 09/91
- 10. Christian Martial Arts Academy Marysville, CA Mike Josna 03/92
- 11. WSP Self-Defense Systems Rawlins, WY Scott Bailey 02/95
- 12. Decatur Christian Karate Club Decatur, AL Owen Workman 04/00
- 13. Juneau Martial Arts Studio Juneau, AK Dan Graves 07/00

To Compete or Not Compete, That is the question

- 14. Gospel Karate Team Waldoboro, ME Sheryl Olson 04/96
- 15. Christian Karate Plus St.
 Johnsbury, VT Stephen Jones
 02/01
- 16. Christian Karate Academy Springdale, AR Jeff Payne 06/96
- 17. Christian Martial Arts
 Marysville, CA Michael Jurna
 07/00
- 18. Faith Aikido Club Sarasota, FL Mark Horton 02/97
- 19. Mission Defensive Martial Arts Fairview, IL Thomas Howanic 02/98
- 20. Christian Martial Arts Fellow. Indianapolis, IN Johnny Russell 03/00
- 21. GRACE Karate Team
 Graceville, FL Gary Brown
 02/00
- 22. Warrior Martial Arts N. Palm Bch, FL Rick Merrell 08/00
- 23. Gospel Karate Team West Palm Beach, FL Larry Phillips 03/00
- 24. Kicks for Christ Virginia Beach, VA Scott Gilbert 03/01
- 25. The Master's Warriors Lewistown, MT Kent Haralson 03/01

by Sherry McGregor

Is a commonly asked question, "What good does competition do, if any?"
"Do I have to compete to be a good martial artist?" There are good and

bad points to competing; let's take a look at them.

The study of martial arts should prepare us for combat, at least that is the main focus in my training and the way I train my students. It also does many other things in the process, like foster growth as a person, help us learn to overcome obstacles, persevere, be patient, work with others, control our emotions - I could go on and on. My point is this: if we are preparing ourselves for combat, can competing under rules, when there are no rules on the street, help us? I believe the answer is yes.

One advantage of competing is that you put yourself on the line. people train for years and rarely, if ever, test themselves. If we only fight against the same people in our own dojos all the time, we start knowing what to expect from them after a while. When competing in tournaments, you come up against people from many different styles of fighting, with different attitudes, different skill levels, different approaches to fighting, different levels of respect and courtesy. This allows competition to become a great educator, preparing you for the many different types of people you might meet on the street. If you are accustomed to confronting different fighters when you compete, and have learned not to let them shake your confidence (which takes time), then you have a greater advantage in self-defense. I think trying different competitions under different rules is the best and most challenging way to gain this type of education. One of my greatest challenges was having competed and won many awards in open style tournaments, then switching to AAU, a very traditional style tournament. I had to make many changes in my fighting

approach in order to win this type of competition.

I stuck it out, and eventually did win, but it takes courage to accept this challenge. Many people will not, preferring to stay in their training comfort zone. I challenge you to move outside your comfort zone in your training, as often as possible. When you get an area down and feel confident, don't stay there because it's comfortable. Find something that challenges you.

Are there any bad points to competition? Yes, a few, most of which depend on individual instructors. Competition is emphasized too much in some schools, as if competing were the only reason for training. I do not agree with that and believe if that is your only emphasis it can hinder your ability on the street. Some instructors, parents, and students themselves put to much importance on winning, being first place. We should instead focus on having learned and having bettered ourselves, and having been a witness for our Lord.

God has opened many doors for me to witness during tournaments, when you're in the heat of competition and you still act like a Christian, people notice. Clearly understand why you are competing and maintain control of your emotions. At times, it is easy to grow disappointed with some of the refereeing, and disgusted with the politics of some competitions. Sometimes it can be very disheartening. Keep your focus on growth, not winning, and the disagreeable actions of other won't impact you as much. With everything there should be balance, just as the Bible tells us. I feel you get more good than bad out of competition if you have a good supportive instructor to guide you.

This is one of my favorite quotes.

"No one can understand what it costs or means to be faithful unless they have tried to do that. The people on the periphery, cheering the winners, really have no comprehension of what it meant to be out there running those miles, (or fighting that fight). They thought it looked great, and they were impressed with people who could but they could not know inside what it feels like to put yourself on the line, to compete, to feel the pressure and the strain and the throb in your whole body. I think it's the same as being true with Jesus. Unless one has really tried to be faithful, really paid some price for faithfulness, one does not understand the cost or the great reward, the pain and the great joy." (Ann Kiemel Anderson, in the book I'm running to win) As Christians, God has called us to grow, not stagnate! Always strive to grow and learn; this should even be your goal when competing. Winning will follow as a result.

Sherry McGregor can be reached at Mckick1@aol.com or at 407-737-507. You can also go to http://www.midnightgx.com/karateclass

"The View From Mount Fuji"

The Chinese View Of Chi

by John R.

Himes

Get ready for a shock. The Chinese word "chi" ("gi" in Pinyan romanization, "ki" in Japanese) means "breath, air, vapor, flavor." (Chinese, by H. R. Williamson. Kent: Hodder and Stoughton Paperbacks, 1947. P. 41) Hmm, that's strange. I thought it meant inner strength, or maybe some unknown substance that flows through my body on meridians as yet undiscovered by Western science. At least those are the definitions given by the masters of various Asian martial arts.

Linguists often determine a word's exact meaning by its actual current usage by average people. Let's check the word "chi" out in the most commonly used Chinese Bible, the Union Version of 1919. We find there that, indeed, the Chinese character for chi occurs meaning "breath" in Gen. 2:7, "air" in Job 41:16, as part of a compound for "breath" in Acts 17:25, as part of a compound for "air" in 1 Cor. 9:26. This last compound word is used also in Japanese for "air", though a different character is normally used in Japanese for breath. It is obvious that the normal meaning of

chi is simply "air!"

So how in the world did chi/ki come to mean "inner power" in the martial arts? The only answer is that it came from Taoism (Daoism). This is a Chinese philosophy first expounded in the 4th century BC by Lao Tzu in his book, Tao Te Ching. However, "Taoism also developed on a popular level as a cult in which immortality was sought through magic and the use of various elixirs. Experimentation in alchemy gave way to the development, between the 3rd and 6th centuries, of various hygiene cults that sought to prolong life. These developed into a general hygiene system (called "chi kung"-JRH), still practiced, that stresses regular breathing and concentration to prevent disease and promote longevity." ("Taoism," Microsoft® Encarta® 97 Encyclopedia. © 1993-1996 Microsoft Corporation. [CD-ROM] All rights reserved.)

Again, Dr. Yang Jwing-Ming says, "Many Chinese believe that everything in the universe has its own energy fieldevery animal and plant, and even inanimate objects like rocks. Living things have a particularly strong energy field circulating through them." (Tai Chi Theory and Martial Power. Jamaica Plain, Mass.: YMAA

Publication Center, 1996. P. 27.)

So how did the term "chi" come to mean "inner strength" in some martial arts? The answer is that Taoists founded various Chinese martial arts, chief of these being the three so-called "internal arts" of Tai Chi Chuan, Pa Kua and Hsing I. These Taoist martial artists incorporated their view of air (chi) into their training. In particular, they believed that the air was filled with a special kind of energy that was the substance of the universe. If only they could tap this power they would be invincible! This is similar to the old, disproved notion that space was full of an unknown substance called "ether"!

How then does a Taoist martial artist tap into this chi energy? According to Robert Smith, "The chi is breathed in and combines with the ching in the tan-tien, thus creating heat. The inspired chi...thus becomes yuan-chi, an electrical substance, which travels through the blood vessels and enters the bone structure through the sacrum." (Chinese Boxing: Masters and Methods, Tokyo: Kodansha, 1974. P. 34) You get the picture: lots of mysticism is

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involved.

Many Chinese do not believe in the Taoist version of things. To them chi is simply air. For that matter, not all masters of the internal martial arts believe in chi. Robert Smith mentions one such man: "Chou (Chou Ch'i-Ch'un) believed differently about chi. He believed it was simply air, not energy. Skill and technique, not chi, were the important things." (Ibid, p. 84) Significantly, Smith also mentions several other teachers who believed in chi but taught that it only came through long and hard practice.

If you still believe that there is a mysterious internal energy that a martial artist can harness to increase his fighting ability, I do not condemn you for that. I simply urge you to acknowledge that this view comes from a Taoist worldview and not a Christian one. Please think through carefully the implications of your position. Please also remember the words of Paul to the Colossians: "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." (Col. 2:8)

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