



GMAF Newsletters – 2002

By

Mark McGee

Introduction

Grace Martial Arts Fellowship began in 1990, went online with a website in 1995 and began publishing newsletters to the Christian martial arts community in 1998.

Because of the quality of information found in those early newsletter articles and the fact they are no longer available online, we've decided to re-publish many of them in the coming weeks and months. Our hope is that a new generation of Christian martial artists will be blessed by the wisdom of those who were on the path before them.

GMAF NEWSLETTER March-April 2002

Welcome to the GMAF Newsletter! We pray it will encourage you in your Martial Arts and Outreach for Christ.

Thoughts from the Master

“Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.” Jesus Christ

“And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.” The Apostle Paul

Wisdom Notes

“The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inward parts of the belly.” Solomon

“Concerns about Internal Arts”

by

Sensei Mark McGee

The Number One question I receive month after month is about Chi, Yin/ Yang and Internal Martial Arts. Christians are concerned about what to do with them. I had my own concerns for many years. I thought it might be helpful to share answers to a couple of the questions I've received during the last month.

Q: “I was wondering if you can probably explain to me whether qi is some cultic idea, or a scientific, biological or physical reality that resides in the human body. And perhaps you can help me to look out for things to avoid in martial arts today. Thanks!”

A: The closest thing I can find to the Chinese idea of Chi is the Breath of Life that God gave humans and animals. We know that breath is necessary for life. We die if we don't breathe. The Oriental concept of the breath (chi) has some differences to

what we learn about breath and life in God's Word. Christians don't need to go further than what the Bible supports. Things to look out for in martial arts is anything that opposes God's Word. Martial arts don't have to be "Christian" to be okay to learn and practice. We buy food and clothing and cars without considering whether it's "Christian" food or "Christian" clothing or "Christian" cars. We don't need to go overboard, but we should be sure that nothing we learn or practice opposes a practice of Christianity.

Q: "I thoroughly enjoyed the T'ai Chi – it is the concept of Chi and Yin/Yang I am not sure about ... How does this reconcile with Christianity? I assume that you are saying it is possible to learn T'ai Chi without touching on this, provided you have a Christian teacher?"

A: T'ai Chi as a martial art and healthcare exercise is not in opposition to Christian principles or values. I have found tremendous insights to God's plan for our lives inside the art and exercise. What you should be wary of is someone of

another faith expressing their religious views during the teaching and practice of T'ai Chi.

T'ai Chi is an exercise and martial art that is steeped in the history and philosophy of China. Many of the people who developed T'ai Chi were Taoists and Buddhists. They wove their philosophy into the fabric of T'ai Chi.

Anyone who learns T'ai Chi will have to learn something about Chi and Yin/ Yang. What I've done is research the Bible to see what God says about these things. Chinese view Chi as the breath of life and internal energy. The Bible speaks often about the breath of life and the energy it gives to sustain life. Chinese view Yin/Yang as the balance of all things in the universe. God also speaks often about the balance of all things in the universe. We can address most issues in T'ai Chi from a Biblical basis.

I'm fortunate that my T'ai Chi instructor is a strong Christian. His teacher was a Chinese Christian (Master Li died 20 years ago). Master Xavier and I teach T'ai Chi from a Christian perspective. If you can find a Christian teacher, it will be easier for you. If you can't, study your Bible carefully and compare all things you learn about T'ai Chi with Scripture.

“The Game of Life”

How Can We Serve the Lord?

by

Pastor Robert Xavier

God gives us many gifts with which we may serve Him. These gifts are from the Holy Spirit within us. They work together with the gifts of other members of the Body of Christ to form a solid representation of Christ. In this way we are interdependent with the family of God to adequately serve Him. If we all had the same gift, we would not be complete as a Body. For example, if everyone in the Body had the gift of healing, but no one had the gift of discernment, we would be raising up a people who were physically healthy but very foolish! Each individual has a

particular set of gifts which the Lord imparts to him for a particular reason, and sometimes for a particular season as well.

These gifts are discovered and developed in our walk of faith in Christ, and are experienced simply by releasing Him to do His will through us. They range from the simplicity of serving the Lord by washing the dishes, to miracles like the raising of the dead! Each is valid and vital to the functioning of the whole Body of Christ.

“For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that shewth mercy, with cheerfulness.” Romans 12:4-8

Christian service grows out of the experience of being a part of the Body of Christ, as we grow in our relationships with God upwardly, ourselves inwardly and others outwardly.

GMAF NEWSLETTER May-June 2002

Welcome to the GMAF Newsletter! We pray it will encourage you in your Martial Arts and Outreach for Christ.

Thoughts from the Master

“If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.”

Jesus Christ

“But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.” The Apostle Paul

Wisdom Notes

“It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.” King David

“When Times Are Tough”

by

Mark McGee (GMAF Director)

Many members of GMAF have been going through tough times the past several months. Some are ill. Others have family members who need surgery. A few have lost jobs. Some are facing persecution. I appreciate your e-mails asking for prayer. We are praying for you during these tough times.

The Apostles knew about tough times. They wrote often about how God’s children can face trouble and opposition. God did not leave us defenseless.

“Now the just shall live by faith ... Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Hebrews 10:38 – 11:1

The writer to the Hebrews made a bold statement to his readers. He wrote that the “just” will live by “faith” and “faith” is the “substance” of things hoped for and the “evidence” of things not seen. Every Christian knows that “faith” is necessary for salvation (“For by grace are ye saved through faith”), but many of us forget that “faith” is how we are supposed to live on Earth. Living by “faith” is not strange or unusual. It is the normal Christian life. We don’t depend completely on God for eternal life, then depend completely or even partially on ourselves for this life on earth. The just live by “faith.”

As examples, the writer mentions Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sara, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab, Gedeon, Barak, Samson, Jephthae, David, Samuel and the Prophets. Through faith these people “subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the

edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise. God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect. Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Let's get a few word definitions to help us understand what God means here. "Faith" is *pistis*. It is a "firm persuasion based on hearing." We are firmly persuaded by what we hear. We are convinced without doubt because we know the One Who tells us is True.

"Substance" is *hupostasis*. It means "reality, assurance, essence, substance, foundation, guarantee." In Hebrews 1:3, Jesus Christ is called the *charakter tes hupostasis* of God. He is the "representation of the reality" of God's Character. When you see Christ, you see the God and His Character. Christ could be seen, heard and felt. He was real to His disciples. He is the Reality of God. So it is with things in our life. The "faith" we have in Christ is our "reality," our "substance," our "guarantee."

Faith is the reality "of things hoped for" (*elpizomenon*). This is what we "expect with desire." We have many passions in life. It may be a person, a belief, a job, opportunities to help others, things. Faith is the reality of whatever we expect with desire. Faith means that what we hope for is "reality."

Faith is also “the evidence of things not seen.” “Evidence” is *elegchos* . It is the “proof by test.” The word was used of truthful evidence against the accused that led to a conviction and reproof. “Things not seen” is *pragmaton ou blepomenon*. It means things that can’t be seen by the eyes. Faith is the “proof” of things we cannot see with our physical eyes.

If we are facing tough times and have great hope that things will improve to our liking, what do we do? We believe God. We have faith. It is the reality of things we hope for. It is the proof of what we cannot see.

“Faith” is delightful and difficult, easy and hard at the same time. We are human. That means we are imperfect and needy. We make mistakes. We mess up. We hurt and feel things deeply. We worry. We care deeply. We want so much for things to be better than they are. What does God give us to deal with all these concerns? “Faith.” We believe what He says. We ask, then listen. We don’t lose heart.

How do we live a “faith-life?” We keep believing God’s Word. We keep walking forward, one step at a time. We cast our cares on Christ because He cares for us. We pray instead of worry. We have faith because the faith God placed in our heart and mind at the moment of salvation is the “substance” and “evidence” we need to get through the tough times. It is more than enough.

“We Are Here For Such A Time As This”

by

Master Joseph Lumpkin

In our training we learn the hard way about the necessity of timing. Balance, timing, technique, and breath make up the four crucial ingredients of martial arts. God expects us to have the same four-point focus in our ministry as our martial training: balance, timing, technique, and breath.

God wants us to have timing. If our timing is not correct in our martial art we get hit or kicked, or we will not be in the right place to do the technique. We practice our timing in our martial

arts over and over again, looking for any sign of imperfection. Yet, in our lives we virtually ignore the timing. Many times we have no sense of what is happening around us and what part we play in the grand plan unfolding. One never knows why God chose for us to be at a place in a certain time, but we can be sure it is to do two things: Love His people and spread His name.

Timing is an amazing thing. A word spoken in season will take root even if the person has heard the same message a thousand times. Work done in God's time yields a thousand fold when compared to the same work done in our time. Like a crop planted in the wrong season, our hard work gives little result if not done in the proper time. We can work hard or we can work in God's season and reap the harvest. The Lord puts us in the situation he wants us in when it comes to helping people and doing His work. We never have to worry about our timing if we trust God and we understand that we have been put here for such a time as this. We need not run all over the globe trying to find our place. God will place us where he wants

us. We will be invited to do His work in His time and in the place he wants us. God wants us to have His timing.

He expects balance. An unbalanced Christian is a detriment to the salvation of others. We should be loving and caring. We should be balanced between heaven and the world. We should understand that people need comfort and friendship here before they will be open to our words about salvation. Condemnation, hate, judging, or confrontations yield nothing but pain and distance. They are acts of hateful, ignorant people. We must lead by example, by trust, and by love, not by force, manipulation, threats, or coercion. We must have balance in our ministry.

We must have technique. We must know how to pray. We should understand how to listen for God's instructions. We must know how to listen to others and have compassion. So many times it is in the telling of the story that people begin to heal. Sometimes the story must be told many times and the person comforted and prayed for many times before healing

begins. We must know the Word in order to teach the word. We must have technique.

We must have breath. Breath is the most important thing in life. It is the thing we die most quickly without. Breath is the Spirit of God. God breathed in to Adam and he became a living soul. God inspires us. The word inspires means that God breathes in to us. We must have the spirit of the Living God. We must have the Holy Spirit. We must have breath. Without the spirit of God in us we can not know his timing, we can not have his loving balance, nor can we hear his instructions or understand his Word. Without balance, timing, technique, and breath we are poor warriors for God or self.

“The Game of Life” Home Base

by

Master Robert Xavier

“For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.” 2 Corinthians 5:1

As the Scriptures say, this earthly tent, our bodies, will die. However, we will live in a building made by God, eternal in the heavens. Our stay here in this world is only temporary. We must understand our life here is intended to prepare us for life in the hereafter.

Our whole outlook on life changes, our motives, our value system, our goals and our purpose, as we begin to understand what the Lord has prepared for us in Heaven. God has given us a picture of heaven in the following Scriptures:

- “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.”
- “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake, which burns with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

Perspectives On Heaven – The Natural Man

- The natural man is blinded into believing he will gain entrance to heaven based upon his good performance while here on earth.
- He ran those bases alright, but he never really touched any of them, and when he stands before the Great Umpire, he will not have much of an excuse. Sadly enough, most of the human race will face this Day without proper preparation, when salvation could have been theirs as a free gift.
- No one will accidentally slip and fall into hell. They will climb into it, over every barrier God places in their paths in an effort to turn them around.

The Carnal Christian

- The carnal Christian does not understand that eternity is affected by the choices he makes today. Often he will choose to meet his natural needs by his own means, not submitting to the Lord's plan for his life.

- His growth will be stunted by his disobedience and self-centeredness and, as a result, many of the souls which he could have led to the Lord have been unable to see Jesus in his life.
- Although the promise of all his tears, mourning, pain and sorrow being wiped away still remains, he will suffer loss, indescribable loss, when he realizes he has wasted his life, as he sees it burning away.

“According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one’s work will become manifest; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer

loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.” 1 Corinthians 3:10-15

The Spiritual Christian

- The spiritual Christian takes the gift of salvation very seriously. He/ she grows as the Lord provides, and serves as the Lord leads. They are not ashamed at the Lord's coming. There is no fear of home base. They look forward to home with great expectancy, knowing they will be totally free from the presence of sins' many afflictions and adversities to live with the Lord's blessings forever.

GMAF NEWSLETTER July-August 2002

Welcome to the GMAF Newsletter! We pray it will encourage you in your Martial Arts and Outreach for Christ.

Thoughts from the Master

“And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying, Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall

say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.”
Jesus Christ

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in
heavenly places in Christ.” The Apostle Paul*

Wisdom Notes

*“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the
ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in
the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the
LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And
he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that
bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not
wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.” King
David*

“Blessed”

by

Mark McGee

(GMAF Director)

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in

heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.”

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to

bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.”

“Bendito el Dios y Padre del Señor nuestro Jesucristo, el cual nos bendijo con toda bendición espiritual en lugares celestiales en Cristo: Según nos escogió en él antes de la fundación del mundo, para que fuésemos santos y sin mancha delante de él en amor; Habiéndonos predestinado para ser adoptados hijos por Jesucristo á sí mismo, según el puro afecto de su voluntad, Para alabanza de la gloria de su gracia, con la cual nos hizo aceptos en el Amado: En el cual tenemos redención por su sangre, la remisión de pecados por las riquezas de su gracia, Que sobreabundó en nosotros en toda sabiduría é inteligencia; Descubriéndonos el misterio de su voluntad, según su beneplácito, que se había propuesto en sí mismo, De reunir todas las cosas en Cristo, en la

dispensación del cumplimiento de los tiempos, así las que están en los cielos, como las que están en la tierra: En él digo, en quien asimismo tuvimos suerte, habiendo sido predestinados conforme al propósito del que hace todas las cosas según el consejo de su voluntad, Para que seamos para alabanza de su gloria, nosotros que antes esperamos en Cristo.”

“Béni soit Dieu, le Père de notre Seigneur Jésus Christ, qui nous a bénis de toute sortes de bénédictions spirituelles dans les lieux célestes en Christ! En lui Dieu nous a élus avant la fondation du monde, pour que nous soyons saints et irrépréhensibles devant lui, nous ayant prédestinés dans son amour à être ses enfants d’adoption par Jésus Christ, selon le bon plaisir de sa volonté, à la louange de la gloire de sa grâce qu’il nous a accordée en son bien-aimé. En lui nous avons la rédemption par son sang, la rémission des péchés, selon la richesse de sa grâce, que Dieu a répandue abondamment sur nous par toute espèce de sagesse et d’intelligence, nous faisant connaître le mystère de sa volonté, selon le bienveillant

dessein qu'il avait formé en lui-même, pour le mettre à exécution lorsque les temps seraient accomplis, de réunir toutes choses en Christ, celles qui sont dans les cieux et celles qui sont sur la terre. En lui nous sommes aussi devenus héritiers, ayant été prédestinés suivant la résolution de celui qui opère toutes choses d'après le conseil de sa volonté, afin que nous servions à la louange de sa gloire, nous qui d'avance avons espéré en Christ."

No matter what version or language, the truth is Christians are blessed. We are a special people uniquely loved and blessed by God.

“The Ultimate Self Defense”

by

Phil Lewis

In the world of Martial Arts(Karate, Kung fu, etc.) the “ultimate” self-defense would be one considered 100% effective against the most deadly attack, and applicable to any person using it. But no amount of proficiency in any of these fighting arts would serve as a defense against the most deadly attack of all. This assault destroys the very inward being of man. The Bible calls it sin. Why is it so dangerous?

1. IT ATTACKS EVERYONE

ROM. 3:23 – “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” ROM. 3:10 – “There is none righteous, no, not one.”

2. ITS BLOW IS MORTAL

ROM. 6:23 – “For the wages of sin is death...”

PSALM 9:17 – “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.” – The result is death, not only physically, but spiritually and eternally.

3. YOU ARE DEFENSELESS

ROMANS 3:20 – “Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.” – Religion and good works cannot solve the problem of your sin.

BUT THE ULTIMATE SELF-DEFENSE HAS ALREADY BEEN PROVIDED FOR YOU:

ROM. 5:8 – “But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

ROM. 6:23 – “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Jesus, the Son of God, took that mortal blow for you and me. He paid the price for sin, having never sinned Himself. Now He offers His righteousness to you in place of your sin. What a trade!

II Cor. 5:21 – “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.” This is the great love God has for you! So, what do you do?

APPLY THIS ULTIMATE SELF-DEFENSE: TALK TO GOD...

1. REPENT OF YOUR SIN AND ASK GOD TO FORGIVE YOU.

ACTS 3:19 – “Repent(turn from sin to God) ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out...”

ROM. 10:13 – “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

2. BELIEVE AND RECEIVE.

John 1:12 -“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become

the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name”

Rom. 10:9 – “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”

3. MAKE THIS DECISION TODAY.

HEBREWS 3:15 – “Today, if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.”

JOHN 3:36 – “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

Win this victory over sin and death today and take this step. Accept Jesus Christ as your only Lord and Saviour. Make Him your Master.

“A Thought and an Ego Check”

by

Master Joseph Lumpkin

(Karate for Christ International)

Let me begin by saying that I alone am responsible for anything you read here and all hate mail or plaudits should be sent by return e-mail. No other member or advisor should be help responsible.

I have been personally disturbed at the growth in numbers of those who are claiming the title of Soke. I have also been taken aback by the number of 9th and 10th dans that are younger than 40 years of age. I believe we stand to lose credibility by letting our pride cloud our vision. Christian Martial arts should reflect the best of the arts, of the people, and of the Lord. Our standards should be kept high. Let me take a moment to bring into focus some wisdom from my 30 years of training, and from the greater seats of wisdom that Karl Marx and Mark Barlow offer. (These are men who run national

systems that are recognized with whom I have voiced my concerns).

1) To be a Soke / founder you must have a system that has made an impact and has a following. This is not one school in your own town. It is a growing, expanding, usable system.

2) The system must be unique. To take an established system and change the names of a few or even all of the techniques does not constitute a new system. It constitutes plagiarism

3) If you paid someone to recognize your system you have just thrown your money away. Some rubber stamp does not make you a Soke. Anyone who would sell you a sokeship is himself invalid in the MA community or is at least considered to be VERY much out of line. I believe that to be established as a founder you should seek the approval of 3 or more established heads.

4) Sokeship is a big responsibility. It is not some badge of honor. It is a pain in theneck and has attached to it the responsibility of the direction of a system with the welfare of hundreds of students at stake. If you want a title, call yourself “grand poobah” and don’t play with the welfare of students.

They are learning your style to protect, defend, and improve. If it can not be used for that or you cannot teach to that level, you are endangering lives.

5) There is a difference between rank and Sokeship. Just because you are a founder does not make you a 10th dan. Most reputable organizations use one of two main requirements for rank. Some require about 2- 3 years for the lower ranks, 3 – 4 years between mid ranks, and 4 – 5 years between higher ranks and all of these are minimums. Some require as many years between dans as the rank itself. This means that it would take 2 to 3 years to get a 2nd dan, 3 to 4 years to get a 3rd dan, 4 to 5 years to get a 4th dan... So if you reached your 1st degree at the age of 16, which is the youngest many schools would give a shodan, you would be 18 at 2nd, 21 at 3rd, 25 at 4th, 30 at 5th, 36 at 6th, 43 at 7th, 51 at 8th, 60 at 9th, 70 at 10th using the strictest rankings. Using the other common systems it would take to age 19 for 2nd, 22 for 3rd, 26 for 4th, 30 for 5th, 34 for 6th, 38 for 7th, 42 for 8th, 47 for 9th, 52 for 10th, and again I repeat, this is an absolute minimum. (I believe the time should increase between ranks as rank increases.) Now, these are approximations and may vary

by a few years (but I can't see them being off any much). Based on these stats, it does not take a mathematician to see that to claim a rank of 9th or 10th dan at the age of 25 or even 35 is incorrect. Soke / founder means you have the highest rank in the system but that rank does not have to be the highest available. As far as the style goes, sokeship makes rank a non-issue. Other requirements for sokeship should be: Stability, the wisdom that comes with age, 36 to 40 years of age absolute minimum, Black belts in at least 2 styles, at least a 6th dan in any one style. A unique and applicable system, a documented system, a number of schools teaching the style...

6) If you have a calling on your life, that calling, be it teacher, pastor, or caregiver will always trump your rank. The moment you begin to believe that your rank is an issue, you have lost sight of your true calling. I am sure there are some who are called to be strictly in the MA ministry. I believe I am, but my calling to pastor Karate for Christ will always come above what rank I happen to have. Look at sokeship in a Christian art as servant-hood. The only time rank becomes an issue is when you make it one. We drag with us the burdens of those under us. We are called to minister, not lord over anyone. We are

called to be gracious, slow to anger, compassionate, wise, and well balanced. We are called to have the strength of a man, the heart of a woman, and the mind of Christ. We are called to be helpers and counselors. I had rather be called teacher a thousand times than “Soke” once. The power of the position is in the ability to teach and lead. That is where lives are changed because it is there we can introduce others to Christ.

I am calling on our members to examine motives and abilities. Stay away from those who would blind you with flattery. Do not “buy into” the Sokeship for money trick. The people who would take your money and give you a paper are NOT legitimate. They themselves are charlatans.

Do not hold council with fools. You yourself may become one. Work for the Lord. Treat those under you as if they were your brothers and sisters.

You are no more than the least one of them.

Rank is sometimes equivalent to scars, breaks, and arthritis. (Certainly, in my case it is equivalent to stiffness, and loss of memory.)

Remember that we were better technicians at the age of 28 than at 38 or 48, so it is obvious that rank and strength or speed are not equal.

Here are the common requirements for anyone who seeks sokeship. These requirements were taken from various secular web sites. Shouldn't our requirements be at least as strict?

1. One must be of high character and morals with no criminal records. Any letters of character reference from a high ranking Police Officer from your home town, Priest, Pastor or Minister may be submitted along with the application but is not required.
2. One must have at least a grade of Godan, 5th Dan / Degree Black belt or it's equivalent. A copy of all certification (All prior grades as well) must be supplied for examination.
3. Must have at least twenty (20) years in the Black Belt grade or it's equivalent.

4. Must hold at least one additional Godan, 5th Degree Black Belt grade or it's equivalent in another art.
5. Must hold at least two additional Black Belt grades in different arts, systems or ways then the above.

- 2....Must have documented proof of 20 years or more in the martial arts. .. (This means active study under high ranking instructor (s))
- 3....Must be free from criminal record. (* serious record)
- 4....Must have "earned through study" the rank of master (5th dan or equal) in a valid martial art system with traceable lineage.
- 5....Must have also earned (* not honorary or cross ranks !) the blackbelt rank in at least two (2) other valid martial arts. (or equal !)
- 6....Must supply complete resume.
- 7....Must supply list of references to support claims.
- 8....Must agree to assist in background investigation of martial arts background.
- 9....Must agree to formally demonstrate / present new art before the board of examiners.

10....Must agree to be placed on two-year probationary period.

11....Must agree to accept the rank issued by the WHC board of directors.

12....Must agree to only advertise ranks and arts registered with the WHC, Inc. (* note : WHC members are not permitted to break their arts into sun- branches and issue separate ranks in these sub-branches.)

13....Must agree to only advertise grandmaster status in the art one earned a master ranking in (* note : The only way one can create a new branch / version of a martial art is by first mastering an existing art, then, using additional techniques, ideas, concepts found in the other two additional arts where blackbelts were earned, the person can then create a modified version of the art first mastered.)

GMAF NEWSLETTER September-October 2002

Welcome to the GMAF Newsletter! We pray it will encourage you in your Martial Arts and Outreach for Christ.

Thoughts from the Master

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life...I am the living bread which cometh down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.” Jesus Christ

“For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead: that in all things he might have the pre-eminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should

all fulness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.” The Apostle Paul

Wisdom Notes

“In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death.” King Solomon

“Jesus”

by

Sensei Mark McGee

I’ve had lots of ideas about what to write for the newsletter this month, but none seemed to be what God had in mind. Then, just days from our publishing deadline, it hit me. I was writing to a dear Christian friend who had asked how our move to Tampa had gone. I responded with the normal stuff about moving and our new jobs. I almost sent the message when I felt prompted to write one more paragraph.

“The most important part of our life is Jesus. There has never been and never will be anyone like Jesus. He is our heart and soul. He is the Love of our lives. He has given us eternal life and meaning beyond words. I can’t say enough or write enough about Him. He is Wonderful, the Almighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.”

That is what God placed on my heart to write this month:
Jesus.

Life can be very complicated. We think this and think that. We say this and say that. We go here and go there. We do this thing and that thing. We meet this person and that person. We work, we eat, we sleep, we go to church, we play. We’re busy, busy, busy.

Pause for a moment and boil down everything you think, feel and do as a Christian. What is the center of a Christian’s life? What is the core of your existence? What is our most basic focus as Christians? Very simply, it’s Jesus. If we don’t have Jesus, we don’t have life. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Jesus made it even simpler than that when He said, "I am." Jesus is our I Am. He is our Life, our Hope, our Dreams, our Path to Heaven. He is the Bread of Life. Jesus is our Alpha and Omega. Our lives began with Him and will continue with Him throughout Eternity.

Even though I was raised in a Christian home, I turned to a variety of worldly philosophies as a teenager and young man. One of those was atheism. I can't explain what my heart and mind felt when I placed my faith and trust in Jesus 31 years ago. The feeling is still there and has grown because of the abundance of His Love and Grace toward me. Jesus touched my life in a way that no one else could. He immediately became my best friend and closest confidant. I can tell Him anything. He listens, then speaks softly and powerfully to me about what's right and wrong, what's good and bad, what's helpful and hurtful. Jesus truly lights my way in this dark world. The songs I love most are the ones about Jesus and His Love and Grace. Those are the songs that bring tears to our eyes and a lump to our throat. Songs like Amazing Grace and More about Jesus.

“Amazing Grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now I’m found, was blind, but now I see. Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; How precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed. Thru many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come; Tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home. When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun; We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise, than when we first begun.”

“More about Jesus I would know, more of His grace to others show; More of His saving fullness see, more of His love, who died for me. More, more about Jesus, More, more about Jesus; More of His saving fullness see, more of His love, who died for me.”

Songs like Wonderful Grace of Jesus, Jesus Paid It All, At Calvary and My Burdens Rolled Away.

“Wonderful grace of Jesus, Greater than all my sin; How shall my tongue describe it, Where shall its praise begin? Taking away my burden, Setting my spirit free; For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me. Wonderful grace of Jesus, Reaching to all the lost; By it I have been pardoned, Saved to the uttermost, Chains have been torn asunder, Giving me liberty; For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me. Wonderful grace of Jesus, Reaching the most defiled, By its transforming power, Making him God’s dear child, Purchasing peace and heaven, For all eternity; And the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me. Wonderful the matchless grace of Jesus, Deeper than the mighty rolling sea, Higher than the mountain, sparkling like a fountain, All sufficient grace for even me, Broader than the scope of my transgressions, Greater far than all my sin and shame, O magnify the precious name of Jesus, Praise His name!”

“For nothing good have I Whereby Thy grace to claim; I’ll wash my garment white in the blood of Calv’ry’s Lamb. Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe; Sin had left a crimson stain; He washed it white as snow.”

“O the love that drew salvation’s plan! O the grace that brought it down to man! O the mighty gulf that God did span at Calvary! Mercy there was great, and grace was free; Pardon there was multiplied to me; There my burdened soul found liberty at Calvary.”

“I remember why my burdens rolled away, That had hindered me for years, night and day; As I sought the throne of grace, just a glimpse of Jesus’ face, And I knew that my burdens could not stay. Rolled away, rolled away, I am happy since my burdens rolled away; Rolled away, rolled away, I am happy since my burdens rolled away.”

These songs were written by people just like you and me. They were sinners lost and headed in the wrong direction. God reached down from Heaven, grabbed their hearts and turned them around. He showed them His Love and Grace and Mercy and Forgiveness. He showed them the Face of Jesus and they sang loud to declare their undying love for Him.

The Christian life is simple: it's about a personal relationship with Jesus. Christianity can become complicated given the multitude of voices clamoring to lead God's Church in one direction or another. But at its very core, the Christian Life is about you and me having a personal relationship with Christ. That's where it starts; that's where it ends. Everything between is what you and I decide to make of it. We can relax and enjoy Jesus or we can get caught up in all the clamor. I highly recommend Jesus.

"Jesus is all the world to me, My life, my joy, my all; He is my strength from day to day, Without Him I would fall. When I am sad to Him I go, No other one can cheer me so; When I am sad He makes me glad, He's my Friend."

“Martial Arts The Christian Way”

I'm excited to tell you about a new book about Christian martial arts! Wendy Williamson, a member of GMAF, has written a wonderful book that explains Christian involvement in martial arts. We've needed a book like this and I'm so thankful we finally do. It's a book you will enjoy reading and sharing with others. It's a book you'll use as a reference when you're teaching classes or answering people's questions about Christianity and the martial arts.

Grand Master Karl Marx, Founder of Keichu-Do the first Christian martial arts system in the United States, wrote this about Wendy's new book:

“I can use words like TREMENDOUS, WONDERFUL, FANTASTIC, however I prefer to challenge you and just say if you don't read this book, you cheat yourself and your mind... this book explains how martial arts and Christianity can and do complement each other, and I enjoyed reading it tremendously.”

Grand Master Joseph Lumpkin, President of Karate for Christ, wrote:

“In Martial Arts – The Christian Way, Wendy Williamson presents an exciting concept that strengthens children’s bodies, minds, and souls and help us to raise capable, disciplined, Christian leaders. If you are a parent, minister, or teacher, this book should be your constant reference.”

I agree completely! This is the book I will recommend to anyone who asks whether it’s right for Christians to practice the martial arts.

Wendy presents her information in a logical sequence. Chapter One is about Christian martial arts. Chapter Two gives a brief history of martial arts. Chapter Three is about martial arts forms and styles. Chapter Four is about the benefits of Christian martial arts. Chapter Five is about the teaching of Christian martial arts. Chapter Six is how to find a Christian martial arts school. The first appendix includes devotions, Bible studies and prayers for the teaching and ministry of young

people. The second appendix includes a directory of Christian martial arts schools and associations around the world. Several GMAF members have devotionals and studies included in the book and many GMAF schools and associations are listed.

I highly recommend “Martial Arts – The Christian Way” to you, your family, church and Christian martial arts class. You can learn more about how to order the new book at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

GMAF NEWSLETTER November-December 2002

Welcome to the GMAF Newsletter! We pray it will encourage you in your Martial Arts and Outreach for Christ.

Thoughts from the Master

“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” Jesus Christ

“For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake.” The Apostle Paul

Wisdom Notes

“My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; so that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for

understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.” King Solomon

“The Ministry of Preaching”

by

Sensei Mark McGee

Preaching is one of our primary ministries as Christians. We preach Jesus Christ the Lord and ourselves servants for Jesus' sake. The Greek word for “preach” in Mark 16:15 and 2 Corinthians 4:5 comes from the word *kerusso* . It means to be a herald, to proclaim, to preach. The word is sometimes translated “proclaim” and “publish” in the KJV of the Bible.

What do you think of when you hear the words “preach” and “preacher?” Do you think of someone standing in the pulpit of a church, in a large convention center or arena or under a tent “preaching” the Gospel of Christ? That person is doing the

work of preaching, but we must not limit ourselves to that image. What do you think of when you hear the word “ministry” and “minister”? Do you see a pastor, evangelist or missionary working fulltime in a church, organization or foreign land? That person is doing the work of the ministry, but don’t limit your concept of the ministry to that picture. The idea of a separation between clergy and laity has hurt the Body of Christ more than we know.

Every believer is a preacher and minister. We proclaim the Gospel of Christ and serve Him in the ministry every day, if we so choose. As Paul wrote the Corinthians: “But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost.” If we do not proclaim the Gospel of Christ, the message is hidden to those who are lost. God set into motion a phenomenal system for reaching the world for Himself. He saved millions of people through His Grace, changed their lives, gave them a powerful message that will change the lives of others and told them to preach, proclaim and publish that message.

We do have an enemy; someone who doesn't want us to become the mighty preachers God intends for us to be. "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." (2 Corinthians 4:3-7)

Notice the special wording in the Scripture: "hid" "lost" "blinded" "minds" "believe not" "light" "shine" "out of darkness" "knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" "treasure" "earthen vessels" "excellency of the power may be of God" "not of us." Satan, the god of this world, has blinded the minds of unbelievers. Satan does not want us to preach the glorious Gospel of Christ because it is light that would shine

unto the unbelievers. God commanded the light to shine out of darkness. That Gospel light has shined in our hearts “to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” How amazing! The “light of the knowledge of the glory of God” is in the face of Jesus Christ. That is our message. That is what we preach, proclaim and publish. “For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord.”

There’s nothing fancy about what we do. It’s very simple. We preach Christ Jesus the Lord. We tell people about Jesus, what He did for us and what He can do for them. The Gospel of Christ has been hidden to the lost for centuries because Christians have allowed it. Misunderstanding, fear and pride on the part of the Body of Christ and a stunning campaign on the part of Satan have kept the Gospel hidden to millions. It’s time for Christians to rise up and win that battle. Everything we need to succeed is within our reach.

Where do we begin? With humility. Some other key words in 2 Corinthians: “not ourselves” “earthen vessels” “not of us.” One of Satan’s schemes has been to use Christians’ pride in keeping the Gospel of Christ hidden from the lost. How many wonderful ministry opportunities have been lost to pride? The Bible tells us that God hates pride. Pride is a destroyer and brings disgrace. Pride breeds quarrels. Sound familiar? How many churches, how many ministries, how many missionary organizations, how many pastors, how many believers have been destroyed by pride? The ministry is not about “us;” it’s about Christ. We preach that He is Lord. We must humble our hearts and realize that the “treasure” of the Gospel is in “earthen vessels” for a specific purpose: “that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.” Our pride must always be in Jesus. We did nothing to earn our salvation. We did nothing to earn God’s Favor. Jesus suffered and died on the Cross to pay the penalty for our sins. He rose from the dead to give us eternal life. He forgave us our sins. And we did nothing to earn or deserve it. The “excellency of the power” is God’s, not ours. We glory in His Cross, not ourselves. We cannot and must not take personal pride in the Gospel. It is all

of God. He deserves all the praise. Begin with humility. It is not something that comes naturally to the flesh. Pride is deceitful. It can fool any of us. We must not allow pride to get a foothold in our lives. It will disgrace and destroy us. It's a daily battle for all believers.

Paul says something quite astonishing to the Corinthians in the same context about preaching Christ Jesus the Lord. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men." (2 Corinthians 5: 10-11) Look again at the words: "all appear" "judgment seat" "receive the things done" "in his body" "good or bad" "knowing the terror of the Lord" "we persuade men." Christians are headed in the same direction. The day is coming when we will leave our earthly home and go to our heavenly home. We have a common future. We will appear before Christ and listen to what He says about our life and ministry while we lived on earth. Christ will share the good and the bad with us. So how should that knowledge affect us now? "...we persuade men."

Christians know the future; unbelievers don't. Satan has blinded their minds "lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." That's where we come in. We preach the glorious Gospel of Christ to the lost.

We're going to share in this newsletter some of the things Christian martial artists are doing around the world to "preach" Jesus Christ to their students. We invite you to borrow any idea you read here and use it to help make a difference in the lives of the saved and the lost. This is our opportunity to "persuade men." If you have an idea you don't see listed in this newsletter, please send your idea to us and we'll share it with the fellowship in the next newsletter.

Please know that our prayers are with you as you preach Jesus Christ!

Martial Arts Ministry Ideas

These are some of the special things GMAF members are doing in their classes. We invite you to use anything you believe would help your ministry. As a Fellowship, our desire is to support and encourage you in your work for Christ.

- “We pray at the beginning and end of every class.”
- “Everyone bows to God first. We start with prayer. After we finish bowing to God, we bow to the teacher and each other. God comes first in our class.”
- “We memorize a different Scripture verse for each belt promotion. We discuss the meaning of the verse during classes. Students say the verse aloud as they memorize it.”
- “We share the Gospel message regularly in class. We want all the students to know that Jesus loves them.”
- “Each class is a new opportunity to show students how the Bible and martial arts have common principles: like rooting and grounding and protecting others.”

- “We use the Bible to teach English to the children. Many receive Christ.”
- “We applaud when a student quotes a Bible verse. It’s a positive reinforcement for learning God’s Word.”

Taking God’s Grace to the World!

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