

# GROW IN GRACE

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 38, **No.29, July 17**, 2012 / Southside Baptist Church & Christian School / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / **"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Saviour JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."** (2 Peter 3:18)

**SOUTHSIDERS: Prayerfully, study in advance and bring this COPY to SUNDAY SCHOOL, July 22. At the end of class, please GATHER** some 'bullet-points' of truth that STOOD OUT as really important from the class time. **Write them down and bring them to the 1PM EARLY AFTERNOON SERVICE** to share. **ALSO** include any QUESTIONS you would like to ask. **PRIMARY GOALS FROM THIS LESSON:**

**1. To see** Biblical revelations about our Mission Field! **2. To embrace** our God-given role as Ambassadors for Christ! **3. To ask,** "What is God-given strategy for evangelistic outreach!"

### **Ambassadors for Christ in 2012 and Beyond!**

*For if a man is in Christ he becomes a new person altogether—the past is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new. All this is God's doing, for he has reconciled us to himself through Jesus Christ; **and he has made us agents of the reconciliation.** God was in Christ personally reconciling the world to Himself — not counting their sins against them —and **has commissioned us with the message of reconciliation. We are now Christ's ambassadors,** as though God were appealing direct to you through us. As his personal representatives we say, "Make your peace with God."~~ Phillips paraphrase of 2 Cor. 5:17-20*

### **I. CONDITIONS ON OUR MISSION FIELD!**

**1. THE NATURAL BENT OF HUMANS HEARTS:** 2 Timothy 3:1-5— *This know also, that **in the LAST DAYS** perilous times shall come. For **men shall be** lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, high minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: **from such turn away.***

**2. MANY ANTICHRISTS:** 1 John 2:18— *Little children, it is the LAST TIME: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is THE LAST TIME.*

**3. MOCKERS, SCORNERS and SCOFFERS with sensual PASSIONS:** Jude 1:17-19 — *But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; How that **they told you there should be mockers in THE LAST TIME**, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. **These be they** who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.*

#### **4. SPECIFIC WORDS FROM JESUS ABOUT CONDITIONS ON OUR MISSION FIELD**

**Matthew 24:4-5: DECEPTION-** There have been, are and will be false prophets, false religions and false Messiahs who DECEIVE MANY— **Take HEED!**

**Matthew 24:6-7: WAR-** A mark of the entire age will be war and more war, escalating to WORLD WARS.

**Matthew 24:7: Famines, diseases and earthquakes** in many places.

**BIBLICAL REALITY:** Wars, famines, diseases and earthquakes DO NOT demonstrate that we are near the end of the end times! JESUS SAYS in Matthew 24: 6 & 8— **'The end is not yet... these are the beginnings of sorrows...'** Again, all these things SPAN the entire ENDTIME from Christ's return to heaven to His return back to earth!

**Matthew 24:9-10: PERSECUTION-** hatred of true Christians... BETRAYAL of Christians... Martyrdom! This has been, is and will be reality in the Last Days, until the return of Christ!

**Matthew 24:10-13:** Many PROFESSING CHRISTIANS **leave the faith**. Many of these will likely join the HARLOT WORLD CHURCH and betray true saints!

**Matthew 24:11-12: More and more False Prophets. BEWARE:** They come in sheep's clothing but are ravening wolves! (Matt. 7:15) They appear (2 Cor. 11:13-15) as 'ministers of righteousness.'

[Note: Regardless of the timing of 'end-time' events, the situations Jesus set forth in Matthew 24, have been and are reality, in varying degrees and at different times.]

**5. SPECIFIC REALITY ABOUT SOUTHSIDE'S IMMEDIATE MISSION FIELD OF GALLATIN AND SUMNER COUNTY:** [Some of the statistics are dated. However, I know of no reason to believe that there has been any significant change from what will be seen below.]

**In 2000**, Summer County population was over 130,000. **(In 2011** there were a little over 166,000) **In 2000, Over 55%** of the population stated that they had no religious affiliation. **In 2000** there were a little over 40,000 folks (about 31%) **who claimed to belong** to some sort of religious group. **In 2000, the total number claiming to**

**attend** some sort of religious meeting, including all religions, cults, etc., was **a little under 20,000.**

**In other words, on any given weekend, ONLY about 15%-16% of folks in Sumner County were/are attending any sort of religious service.**

Again, include all of the folks who are in man-made religions and/or they are in cults and/or in the 'rank liberal' churches— today, **how many folks in Sumner County are attending religious services? *Assuming a 15,000 increase in the last 12 years, for 2012 we will say that there are at least 35,000 folks attending some sort of religious service.*** (This is likely a generous number!) HOW MANY of the 35,000 are genuine Christians?

**LET'S BE MORE THAN GENEROUS and say that 75% of all the Sumner County folks attending religious services on a given weekend are saved, Bible-believing Christians—** that would be about 26,250 out of a population of 166,000... or 16%!

**Bottom lines:**

**1.** In other words, in our immediate Mission Field of Gallatin and Sumner County **OVER 80%** of the residents are presently DEAD IN THEIR SINS and on the way to an eternal HELL!

**2.** Gallatin now has a population of a little over 30,000. Thus, if Gallatin is similar to all of Sumner County, then 16%, [BUT LET'S ASSUME 20%... or around 6,000 folks], attend some sort of religious services; and if 75% are genuine Christians, there would be approximately 4,500 Christians in Gallatin.

**3.** Again about 80% of our neighbors are DEAD IN THEIR SINS, lost, and on the way to a Christ-less eternity.

**Note:** Even if the researchers missed a bunch of folk... and, so we assume 30% attend and 75% of those are genuine believers.

**We are still looking at only around 6,700 believers with 70% of the population LOST!**

**SO, THIS IS OUR MISSION FIELD:** **1.** We live in a SIN DARKENED, satan-deceived mission field. **2.** Yes, we can say that there are church buildings on every corner! **3.** Probably MOST of the homes have a Bible. **4.** Doubtless, a great majority of them have had some Christian heritage in their past. **But that does not change the reality that about 70% to 80% of our neighbors are dead in their sins!**

**WHICH DEADNESS IS WORSE?**

**1. The deadness of** the masses on some foreign field who have never even heard the name of Christ and who are enslaved to the powerful deceptions of either Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and/or enslaved to the local witch doctor?

**2. OR... the deadness of** the masses in Sumner County and/or Gallatin who have many FALSE teachings and concepts of Jesus blasted to them via Television, AND WHO WORSHIP THE gods of sex and money and sports and houses and lands and eating and drinking and yet believe that they are on the way to heaven?

**RESPONSE: I DON'T KNOW! But I believe DEAD IS DEAD!**

**3. We would do well to remember** that Jesus warns that it is hard for rich people to be saved. (Matthew 19:23-26) By world standards, even our poor neighbors are rich.

**Is the bondage of the witch doctor in Haiti deeper than the bondage of the love of money?** I'm not sure. BUT THIS I KNOW— **in either case it is BONDAGE**, deception and deadness in sin. And in either case the only hope and the great need is the power of God unto salvation, THE GOSPEL of our LORD Jesus Christ!

**IN GALLATIN, WE LIVE IN THE MIDST OF 'NICE', SIN-DARKENED, FLESH-FEEDING, SATAN-DECEIVED MULTITUDES OF THE WALKING DEAD!**

**1.** Should we care? Should we care enough to take action?

**2. ALSO: Should we care that IN OUR MISSION FIELD**, about 80-90% of all the children that grow up in the evangelical and fundamental churches of America... LEAVE HOME AND GO OUT AND MARCH IN STEP WITH THE SIN-DARKENED, FLESH-FEEDING, SATAN-DECEIVED DEAD?

**3. ALSO REMEMBER: In God's plan, we do not get to 'pick and choose'**— we are commissioned to take the gospel to our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the utter most parts of the World! (Acts 1:7-8; Matthew 28:19-20)

**4. FURTHER REALITY: If we do not take the gospel to our immediate world of Gallatin and Sumner County— (1)** over time we will have LESS AND LESS believers available to be called to be sent as missionaries to the ends of the earth **and (2)** LESS AND LESS believers to pray for the foreign missionaries **and (3)** less and less believers to give funds to support those already in foreign lands! These are just a few of the far reaching CONSEQUENCES if we do not EFFECTIVELY EVANGELIZE in Gallatin and Sumner County!

## **II. DIVINE EQUIPMENT FOR AMBASSADORS OF CHRIST!**

**1. We have the GOSPEL and the POWER of the HOLY SPIRIT!**

Romans 1:16: ***For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.***

*Acts 1:7-8: And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. **But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.***

**2. Matthew 24:12-13: AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST POSSESS ENDURING FAITH!** A mark of genuine faith is ENDURANCE! NO TURNING BACK! **Even so, in New Testament times, there were already MANY who were ‘falling away’— 1 John 2:18-19. So, why do many fall away?— Matt. 13:19-22!**

**CRITICAL QUESTION:** What, who is it that keeps any and all genuine Christians from becoming ‘antichrist’? → 1 John 2:18-**20**; Jude 24

**3. Matthew 28:19-20: The Great Commission and the SPECIAL PRESENCE OF JESUS with His disciples [HIS AMBASSADORS!] lasts all the way until the END OF THE WORLD! (Matthew 28:19-20)**

In the midst of such a world, as described in Matthew 24:1-13, the GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD will be preached unto all the world... and only when that is fully accomplished will the end come! (Matthew 24:14)

**BIG QUESTION: Such a world as described in Matthew 24:1-13— in such a world as that, it would be useless to evangelize— right?**

The world is getting worse and worse! MAYBE Christians SHOULD bar the doors; Concentrate on holy huddles; and/or try to ‘save the American way’ by politics; etc.— RIGHT?

**ACTUALLY in Luke 10:2-3 Jesus says,**

**1.** The harvest is GREAT; **2.** The laborers are few; **3.** PRAY that the LORD of the harvest would send forth laborers; **4. GO your way, BEHOLD I SEND YOU as lambs among the wolves!** (Matt. 10:16-28) [**Sent as ‘defenseless’ lambs!**]

**In John 4:34-38, Jesus says,** that we are to look on the fields of the world; they are white ALREADY to harvest! **SOW! REAP!**

Let us be reminded that we are told in **Luke 19:10**, “The Son of Man is come to SEEK and to save the lost!”

In the parable of the Great Supper, (Luke 14), **the Master’s servants are instructed** to go, find, bring the poor, the lame, the blind... **they are instructed** to

go to the highways and urge people to come in to the great feast! The teaching of Scripture is that when the GREAT COMMISSION IS COMPLETED— only then will the end come!

**Therefore, there are still souls to rescue, SOULS to save!**

**THUS: The real question for us AS A CONGREGATION is this:**

1. WILL WE BE A SOUL RESCUING LIGHTHOUSE OR JUST A RELIGIOUS CLUB?

**2. WILL WE BE CONTENT TO HAVE CHURCH FOR JUST ME AND MINE?**

**3. OR DO WE HAVE A GROWING PASSION TO TRULY ‘HAVE CHURCH’—**

(1) TO WORSHIP GOD;

(2) TO BUILD UP THE SAINTS; AND

(3) TO TAKE THE GOSPEL TO THE LOST?

**LET’S BE HONEST: OUR PRIORITIES, GET TIME, EFFORT AND RESOURCES**

**— ALL ELSE GET EXCUSES!**

**Acts 1:6-8: To live and to give the GOSPEL in our kind of world will take POWER beyond us! To be found faithful and NOT among those who turn back in the day of adversity, will take power beyond us!**

As we saw in Matthew 24:10-12, 1 John 2:18-19 and Matthew 13:19-22— during the last days, many FALL AWAY. **The Apostle Paul wept about this tragic reality: Phil. 2:21; 3:18-19**

**BUT AGAIN, HERE’S GREAT NEWS:** Christians are possessed with POWER from God to endure, to overcome and even to be BOLD with the Gospel! [Matt.28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Romans 1:16; 5:1-5]

**In the light of these realities do you think we AS A CONGREGATION should be content to just continue throughout WITH the STATUS QUO?**

**SOUTHSIDE: We Have a GOD-GIVEN CALLING! 2 Corinthians 5:17-21**

*For if a man is in Christ he becomes a new person altogether—the past is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new. All this is God’s doing, for he has reconciled us to himself through Jesus Christ; **and he has made us agents of the reconciliation.** God was in Christ personally reconciling the world to Himself — not counting their sins against them —and **has commissioned us with the message of reconciliation. We are now Christ’s ambassadors,** as though God were appealing direct to you through us. As his personal representatives we say, “Make your peace with God.”~~ Phillips paraphrase of 2 Cor. 5:17-20*

### III. SOUTHSIDE: We Must Embrace GOD-GIVEN Methods! HERE ARE SOME FOUNDATIONAL METHODS REQUIRED FOR BIBLICAL EVANGELISM:

1. **By LOVING one another**, all men shall know that we are Christ's true disciples. John 13:34-35

2. **HOLY LIVING:** We must not BLASPHEME the Gospel... but rather we must ADORN the gospel! Titus 2:1-14

3. **We must reject all** of the WORKS OF THE FLESH and SEEK TO ALWAYS BE A CHANNEL FOR THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: Gal. 5:19-25

4. **We must DISCOVER and utilize the power of GOOD WORKS BEFORE MEN— for such glorifies our Father who is in heaven! (Matthew 5:14-16)**

5. WE MUST GIVE GOD THE LORD'S DAY... NOT MERELY THE LORD'S MORNING... BUT THE LORD'S DAY! Isaiah 58: 13-14— <sup>13</sup> "Keep the Sabbath day holy. **Don't pursue your own interests on that day, but enjoy the Sabbath and speak of it with delight as the LORD's holy day.** Honor the Sabbath in everything you do on that day, **and don't follow your own desires or talk idly.** (NLT) [WE MUST GIVE GOD SACRED TIME for Kingdom worship and work!]

### **6. WE must CEASE merely attending church... totally!**

You can attend a ball game... AND WHEN YOU DO— YOU CHEER ON... OR YOU BLAST AND/OR YOU 'PLAY MONDAY MORNING QUARTERBACK'... YOU CRITIQUE... BUT YOU DO NOT GET IN THE GAME AND HELP WIN THE GAME! **YOU ARE A SPECTATOR!**

MULTITUDES TREAT THE LOCAL CHURCH THAT WAY!

**In the church of Jesus Christ there is NO PLACE for spectator Christians!** (Eph 4:11-16) RATHER: WE ASSEMBLE TO

1. WORSHIP GOD.

2. TO ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER.

3. TO BE FURTHER EQUIPPED TO SEEK TO WIN THE LOST... and/or to further minister to the lost... WE MUST HEED THE GREAT COMMISSION!

**The words of Jesus in Luke 10:2→ "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his**

**harvest field." GO... I send you...** Yet, how do we find unchurched, lost people to whom we can minister? What can we do? Where do we begin?"

**ANOTHER REALITY TO FACE TODAY— most folks sitting in the pews do not know any lost people and no not seem to have any way to make connection with lost people in their community. We live in one community and work many miles away. We live in neighborhoods but do not know most of our neighbors.**

**{Surely one thing we must do in the coming WEEKS AND MONTHS is to take some positive steps to REACH OUT to our neighbors!}**

The Biblical reality IS that the lost are not called to come to us but JESUS commands us to GO TO THEM! As Jesus has said, *"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord ... to send out workers into his harvest..."*

***GO... I AM SENDING YOU!"*** (Luke 10:2)

***"FOLLOW ME! AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN!"***

Grace to one and all! James Bell

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## **SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES!**

**1. WEDNESDAYS: PRAYER SERVICE at 7:00PM!**

**2. YOUTH: Wednesdays, 6-8pm** @ Adam and Bethany's home; Fellowship, snacks, Study. Jaden Allen and the Troutts will guide the teens through **'DO HARD THINGS'** by Alex and Brett Harris.

**2. Thursdays @ 6:30pm: OUTREACH VISITATION**

**3. EVERY SATURDAY @ 8:00am: Men's Fellowship and Bible Study**

## **Sunday Schedule for JULY 22, 29**

**1. 9:30am-** Sunday School.

**2. 10:45am-** Morning Worship / Children's Church

**3. Noon Fellowship 'Covered Dish' Meal.**

**4. 1:00pm- Early Afternoon Service**

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**Southside Christian School has a purposed focus—** to team up with Christian families who desire Christian Education. A three-legged stool requires all three legs to be of the same length for the stool to function properly. In a similar fashion, **children need the Home, the Church and the School to model and teach the same philosophy of life.**

**QUESTION: Is it wise** for a child to spend 7-8 hours per day, 180 days a year for 12 or more years in a school system that does not support and encourage Christian faith values?

**Thus, when enrolling children in a School, we encourage parents to ask questions like:**

- 1) What is the philosophy of the curriculum?
- 2) Who are the Teachers and what is their philosophy of life and lifestyle?
- 3) Will your child be placed in classrooms with students who live in and who are already indoctrinated with the evils of a degenerating culture?

**Southside Christian School— grades, K4 & K5 through 12 (For 2012-2013)**

**K-4/K-5 Reading Development classes are** for students who will be age 4 by August 1, 2012 and students who are already age 5.

**Our phonics based K-4 and K-5 classes** are individualized and designed for a variety of learners. Every child is different. Children's coordination development does not mature at the same time. Thus, each prospective student is given a **Reading Readiness 'Assessment'** and then prescribed the appropriate class.

**1. Kindergarten with Ace and Christi (reading readiness)** is based on a complete scope and sequence of concepts and skills needed to prepare a child to be ready to read. This full-year program is designed for **children who test "NOT ready to read"** on the *ABCs of A.C.E. Reading Readiness Test*.

This has nothing to do with IQ. It has to do with where the child is in the development of motor skills and maturity. Most 4 year olds and some 5s will start in this class. It is in the best interest of the child to be placed according to their present mental development.

**The curriculum is filled** with Bible and animal pictures, coordination development activities, and full-color picture stories encourage a love for reading. The program is intended to foster quick learning of the phonetic sounds for all letters so that when the student is ready to learn to read, he/she will do so. Students will also learn social skills, the wonders of God's world, and the reality of God's love.

**The Kindergarten with Ace and Christi (reading readiness)** class prepares students for the **ABCs with Ace and Christi program (learning-to-read)**. It enables the child to develop the skills, master the concepts, and achieve the level of

physical development necessary for success in reading. It lays a solid foundation on which to build the rest of a child's education.

**2. ABCs with Ace and Christi: Students, who test and** demonstrate their reading readiness, are forwarded in the curriculum into our **ABCs with Ace and Christi reading to learn program**. This is a lively and phonetically based curriculum which features cartoon characters, songs, poems, displays and character-building activities. Especially after the first 18 weeks, **students in this class experience more and more freedom to advance according to their individual speed.**

**3.** The *Presenting Accelerated Christian Education* video will give a comprehensive overview of the **Accelerated Christian Education (ACE)** system of education which we utilize at Southside Christian School, (SCS). The video will explain core concepts and procedures in a SCS classroom— **especially in grades 1-12.**

**CLICK HERE: <http://www.aceministries.com/curriculum/?content=presentingACE>**

**Southside Christian School, K4/K5 - Grade 12 Call: 615-452-5951**