

# GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 38, **No.30, July 24**, 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 29. 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 GOAL FROM THIS LESSON: To see and embrace SPECIFIC strategies for LIVING and SHARING the GOSPEL in our local MISSION FIELD.**

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## **LIVING, SHARING and SPREADING the GOSPEL in our local MISSION FIELD!**

"... **Andrew... first findeth his own brother** Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. **And he brought him to Jesus...** The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me... **Philip findeth Nathaniel**, and saith unto him, We have found Him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." (John 1:40b-45)

**Genuine Christianity is all about RELATIONSHIPS!** The primary relationship is, of course, a personal, saving relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. **The next vital relationship** is that of fellowship in the body of Christ— specifically of being together **in a local church** with other brothers and sisters in Christ. (Acts 1 & 2; 1 Cor. 12; Eph. 4)

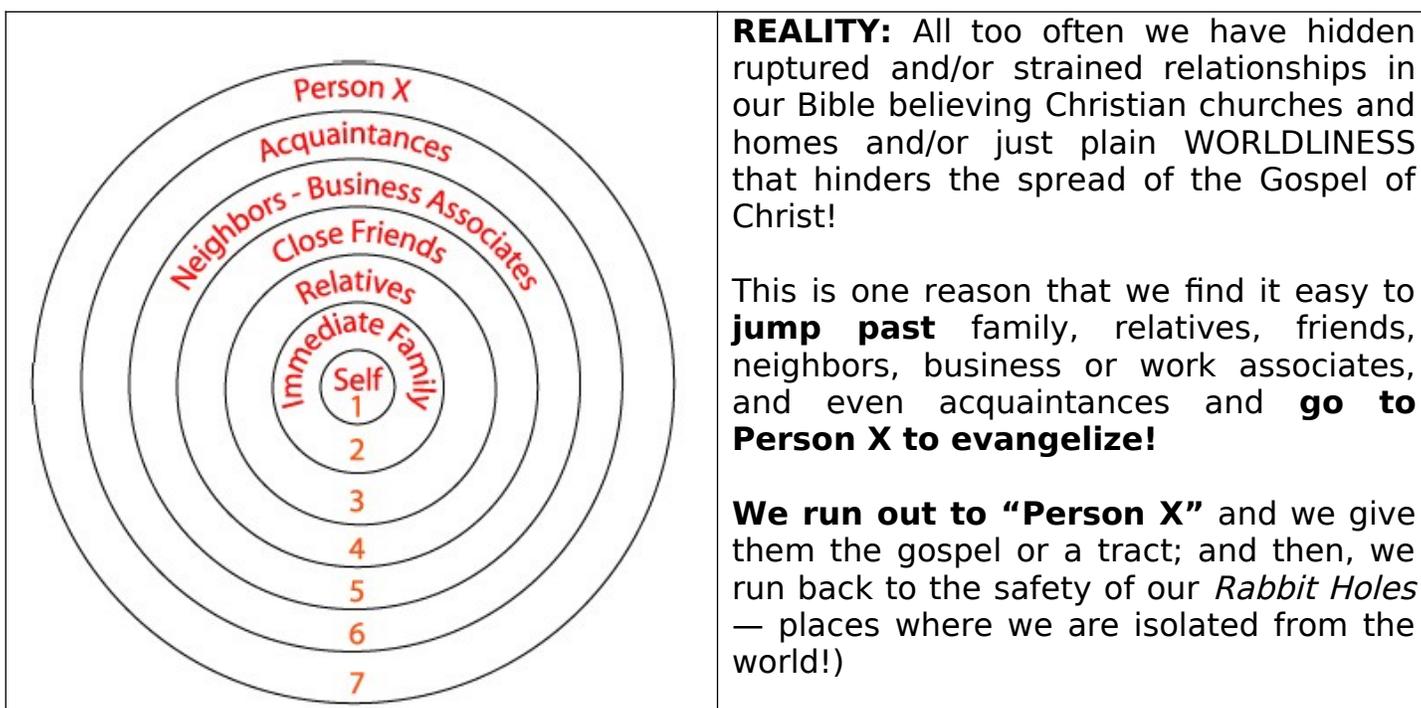
**It is primarily in a local church CONTEXT that** we are able to carry out the various 'one to another' ***this-is-what-love-looks-like*** ministries which are stated over 50 times in the Epistles. In the Christian Home and in the local assembly of saints in Christ, Christ is our exalted HEAD and we are 'serving members' in His Body of which He is the Head; and in His Body **we are to live in submission one to another** in the fear of God— **this is NOT optional!** (Eph. 5:21)

**AS AN OVERFLOW of these primary relationships** we are called and motivated by the indwelling compelling of the Holy Spirit to move out into our world to advance the cause of Christ! **As we see in the Word of God** the Gospel advancing along lines of relationships:

(1) **Andrew** went to Peter; (2) **Philip**, to Nathaniel; (3) **The woman at the well**, back to her city; (4) **Cornelius** went to his household; (5) **The Philippian jailer**, to his household; (6) **The demonic of the Gadarenes** now sitting at the feet of Jesus, fully clothed and in his right mind was told by Jesus to go back to his home people and to tell them what great things the LORD had done for him— **O my, what a simple but powerful strategy!**

**Indeed, if something good or bad happens to us**— among the first people we want to tell is family, friends and close associates. It is normal for life to unfold in the context of relationships. Therefore, look at the circles below. These are called **Concentric Circles**, because all of the circles are related to and have a specific connection to the first circle. **These Concentric Circles illustrate the normal experience of relationships.**

***Jesus told the disciples, “You shall be my witnesses in [1] Jerusalem; [2] Judea; [3] Samaria and [4] to the uttermost part of the earth.” WITNESSES— that is, we are to demonstrate by our lives real evidence of Christ in our lives to the people in our world, starting with those closest to home— this is the ‘music’ of the gospel which makes the gospel tracts, sermons, Bible Studies, etc, all the more believable!***



**Person X may be in** the high crime streets of a big city or in a third world, poverty stricken country, or in a rescue mission or jail— **we go to them!** We evangelize. We come home. We tell others about our efforts. We go back to our business, job, home,

church and/or daily routines; and every so often we repeat the cycle. Others will commend us for being willing to 'go to the streets' or to a foreign land and minister for a few hours, days or even weeks. So, we feel good. We are EVANGELIZING the world! **Now there is no doubt about it—** Person X needs the Gospel and they are a part of the world that we are called upon to evangelize! **Ministry to Person X is valid and needed!**

**BUT WHY is it that all too often we do not GO TO THE FOLKS IN CIRCLES 2-6?**

**Well, it could be because they know us! They know our salty language, lustful looks, greedy grasping, anger, business deceit, gossip, etc.** They see how we are at work or at school or in our home. **THUS:** We might need to, first of all, ask for their forgiveness or give forgiveness— which if that is what we need to do— just do it! That is powerful witnessing!

**ANOTHER REALITY: With Person X, we don't have to deal with our 'hang-ups' ... OR THEIRS... and we can 'love them and leave them!'** We make a 'quick trip' to a third world country, (Or even stay 45 days as I have!), but then we come home. Again, yes, there is need and a place for such endeavors. **But frankly, such labors** are usually simple and easy as compared to witnessing to those in circles 2-6!

**With 'Third World' type missions/evangelism right in our own town, or with outreach efforts toward neighbors just down the street— it's different and far more difficult! Why? How so?**

Again, the folks around us KNOW us— warts and all! BUT ALSO, with ministry in Circles 2-6, it's week after week, month after month, year after year. Ministering to those in Circles 2-6 is much like the ministry of the career missionary. We are there for the long haul— planting, watering, praying, and waiting for the LORD to give the increase! We can't leave them!

We can't just do Sunday School... or Youth or Children's ministry... or ministry to a neighbor or to a co-worker once or twice a year. Rather, we minister to them week after week and year after year— or at least maintain availability to minister, being alert for the next opportunity... as we continue to pray and agonize for their souls!

We can't just 'walk by on the other side' nor can we 'love them and leave them'— leaving the hard work of 'on-going follow up' ministries to others. **To folks in our Circles 2-6, we are THEIR career missionaries! We are their full-time Ministers, etc.** Thus, at times we have to stop and give sacrificially of ourselves and our time... you know... just like the Good Samaritan!

**HAVE WE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED THIS—** If we minister to someone in our local Jail, **are we not also obligated** to pray, think, plan, prepare as to how we can continue to minister to them when they get out?

**If** we find an ‘open door’ with a family, with an individual— **do we not have to be prepared** to follow-up week after week and even beyond?

If at Church services, we discover a need in someone or that a visitor is present— **doesn’t the S.S. class or you as a member have** opportunity/responsibility for follow-up ministry?

**OR... are we... AM I** content to just do ‘rabbit-hole’ evangelism... **or to do NO evangelism or other outreach ministries?**

Over the years a good number of dear ones have told me that they felt **it was so much easier to minister the Gospel in this particular foreign land or that one.** “God is obviously at work in such and such place or nation— that’s where I want to be!” In contrast, they proclaim that gospel ministry can be so hard here in America. Besides, Americans have already heard the gospel.

**But here is some larger reality:**

**If we were the actual ones living in and ministering in that ‘third world’ country or in a big city Rescue Mission every day, 365 days a year and year after year— we would not think it easy and we would see and experience their intense spiritual warfare!**

Years back I had spent 2 weeks in India, and then one month; but it was not until I had later spent 45 days in India that I began to feel just a little of what it would be like to be called to minister in India 365 days a year!

**All of those Indians were in my Person X! But all who were Person X to me— those same folk were the people of Circles 2-6 to the Indian pastors and gospel workers— 365 days a year.** They did not get to LEAVE after 45 days and, thus, get out from under the daily load of evangelizing folks in Circles 2-6!

On three different occasions I, along with others, walked the streets of major cities in India all day for a week at a time, passing out tracts and doing street preaching. A number of our folk have done good ministry in Mexico or at the Jail or Rescue Mission. **These are all ministries to our Person X group. Praise the LORD!**

But our ‘Person X’ group is the Rescue Mission’s workers’ or India’s pastors’ and churches’ and/or the Mexico pastor’s and their Christian worker’s **Person 2-6 Group!**

**That’s where most of the real work is done.** Yes, we can have a valid ministry to Person X, especially IF or when we leave them connected to local churches and ministries. **But as any real farmer knows— he must do more than scatter a bunch of seed and then leave town!**

Yes, whatever we do among Person X is a ‘piece of cake!’... when compared to the labor required from the native pastors or from the Rescue Mission Staff!

**BUT, again, the PRIMARY QUESTION for us is— WHO IS GOING TO TAKE THE GOSPEL TO THOSE IN OUR '2-6' WORLD?**

**And the answer is that I MUST! AND SO MUST YOU! But, we protest:** “The people in my “2 to 6” world are not responsive to the gospel!” ... And, “it’s so hard...” and “what if it requires me to spend time with them every week...?”

**YOU KNOW: It is amazing the amount of time we spend EVERY WEEK on STUFF that does not have ETERNITY written on it!... but we hold back on spending quality and quantity time with SOULS who do have eternity written on them!**

**First,** we are poor judges as to what is really happening. Many a great harvest has come after a number of apparent crop failures! Let us keep planting, watering. God will give the increase!

**Second,** we are called to be faithful. For 100 years or more, Noah worked on building an ARK and PREACHING RIGHTEOUSNESS and living a GRACE-FILLED life BEFORE a people who would ultimately be destroyed! BUT NOAH KEPT ON PREACHING! We are, likewise, called to be faithful!

**Third, look in the Bible—** very often God has His servants in ‘gospel-hardened’ places! Just ask Noah! And then remember, that Jesus says that the last days will be like the days of Noah!

**Forth,** beware of modeling after the apparent success methods of the entertainment oriented religious harlot! Our lost world does not need PLAY ACTING visuals!

**They need REAL VISUALS— Christians who genuinely love and forgive, who are manifesting joy and hope in trials and tribulations, who manifest the COMPASSION of Jesus and who are walking in holiness.**

**Fifth, A MASTER KEY:** With the folks in our “2-6” world, life tumbles in for all of them. They have both good and ‘bad’ things that happen to them. **And the same things happen to saints in Christ!** They do not have resources to help them deal with the trials and troubles. BUT WE DO!

**As they WITNESS you winning the battle** over bitterness, revenge, hate, fear and resentments— the Gospel is being seen in Circles 2-6! **The MUSIC of the gospel is flowing from you. You are making them ‘THIRSTY’ and HUNGRY for good news, for GRACE to handle life! You are being the LIGHT of the world... salt and light!**

Thus, when life does tumble in, we often have FRESH OPPORTUNITIES... or “points of contact” to sow seeds of kindness and love! Love is, after all, meeting real needs.

**1. Thus, real '2-6' evangelism/missions/witnessing starts with how I treat my wife, my family, those closest to me, those who are neighbors, those I work around and/or those I may casually meet in the town/county where I live.**

**2. Real '2-6' evangelism/missions/witnessing starts with being a congregation that loves, that forgives, and that seeks to live holy and pure!**

**3. Real 2-6- evangelism CONTINUES as we TELL what great things God has done and is doing for us—**

(1) **Andrew** went to Peter;

(2) **Philip**, to Nathaniel;

(3) **The woman at the well**, back to her city;

(4) **Cornelius** went to his household;

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**O my, what a simple but powerful strategy!**

**(7)... AND THIS WEEK... I WILL BE GOING TO \_\_\_\_\_?**

IF WE CANNOT OR IF WE REFUSE TO manifest love, forgiveness and holiness in these settings— **we become guilty of hypocrisy; we grieve the Holy Spirit; and ZEAL for TELLING the gospel shuts down!**

**Psalm 51 prescribes great healing medicine for this common spiritual disease!** (Some of the oncepts for this article are edited from and the diagram is from *Concentric Circles of Concern*, by W. Oscar Thompson, Jr.)

**Great Grace to each and every one!** James Bell

## **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 are guiding 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 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**