

GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 38, **No.31, July 31**, 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, August 5. 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.

SPREAD THE GOSPEL BY LIFE AND LIPS!

"Come, see a man who told me all the things I ever did...!" (John 4:29)

JESUS: "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men!"

Mis·sion·ar·y... defined as, 1. A person sent by a church into an area to carry on evangelism or other activities... **2.** A person strongly in favor of a program, set of principles, etc., who attempts to persuade or convert others. **3.** A person who is sent on a mission.

While the word 'missionary' is not a word found in the Bible, it is a good word that communicates something of the activity and calling of Christians. MANY want to limit the word to refer only to an élite few who believe they have a 'special call'... a vocational call to take the gospel to a far away country. They feel if the term 'missionary' is used to refer to all genuine Christians, that the work of missions will be diluted. **IN REALITY THE OPPOSITE IS TRUE!** Because churches view 'missionaries' as 'them and not us'— all we need to do is to pray for 'them' and send money to support 'them!' We don't need a 'missionary mindset'. We are not living on a mission field. We are not SENT out into our mission field to evangelize! Thus, many 'vocational missionaries' have not functioned as missionaries prior to going to a mission field to be a missionary! This also translates to the local church, in

that the rank and file members consider local OUTREACH EFFORTS to be the task of the élite few.

Every Christian at Southside is a God-called Missionary to the masses of lost souls in your/our “Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the utter most parts of the earth!” In the early church, when persecution came, all the Christians scattered PREACHING the gospel! (Acts 8:1-4) **Every Christian at Southside** lives around/works around masses of people who are blinded by sin, self, satan, society, money, immoral pleasures, cults, harlot churches and more. **QUESTION: “Do I have a missionary mindset about the mission field in which I live and work?”** (Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 5:14-21) **REALITY: If I am not being a missionary on the mission field where I now live— why should anyone send me to a far off nation to do there what I don’t do here? Moreover, to be a missionary OVER THERE... requires FAR MORE than a mere seminary degree!!**

Every Christian at Southside— It is the will of God as revealed in the Word of God for all Christians to PREACH CHRIST! ***“How beautiful are the feet of those who bring and give forth the glad tidings of the Gospel”*** and how useful in the kingdom of Christ are those who SERVE CHRIST as they serve one another! **Let it increasingly be so in our midst!**

BUT HOW CAN I / HOW CAN WE GO FORWARD IN EVANGELIZING OUR WORLD?

I. EVANGELIZE BY TESTIFYING OF WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR YOUR SOUL!

Psalm 22:22, 25— I will declare thy name unto my brethren: **in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee. My praise shall be of thee in the great congregation:** I will pay my vows before them that fear him. **Psalm 35:18—** I will give thee thanks **in the great congregation:** I will praise thee among much people.

NOTE: Yes, even a Sunday School Class and/or a Sunday Morning CONGREGATION IS A MISSION FIELD! Thus, testifying of the LORD’S work in your life **not only gives** honor to God, it not only BUILDS UP/ENCOURAGES fellow believers; **but it is also a powerful witness** to the lost who are present!

IMAGINE THE IMPACT THE FOLLOWING PRACTICE WILL MAKE... when before Sunday School, between Sunday School and the Worship hour, after the worship hour, during lunch **and/or DURING the Early Afternoon Service— testimonies like these are shared:**

“This week... or today... or from Daily Bible reading, or from the Sunday School lesson or from the preached Word of God, etc.—

GOD SPOKE TO ME!” “God spoke to me today **convicting.....** God spoke to me today **encouraging.....** God spoke to me today **instructing.....** God spoke to me

today **rebuking/correcting.....**" "GOD SPOKE TO ME TODAY and brought me from death to life..."

SINCE SUCH POWERFUL OPPORTUNITIES ARE PRESENT! THEREFORE, when we READ/STUDY the Word of God and/or when we participate in a group Bible Study and/or when we sit under the sound of the preaching of the Word of God we must be asking ourselves questions like: Is there a sin to confess? Are there promises to claim? Are there commands of God to obey? Are there examples to follow? Is there error to avoid? Is there truth to believe? Is there PRAISE and THANKSGIVING to give to God?

From what we glean, we have good news to TESTIFY in the midst of the Congregation:

Psalm 35:18— I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people. **Psalm 66:16— Come and hear, all you who fear God, **and I will declare what He has done for my soul.****

The Awesome Power of Positive Testimonies!

The Psalmist said, "I will remember the works of the LORD... I will meditate also of all thy works, **and talk of** all thy doings." (Psalm 77:11-12)

The early disciples of Jesus said, "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." (Acts 4:20) **The Woman at the Well,** after her saving encounter with Jesus Christ, went into her town proclaiming, "**Come, see a man who** told me all the things I ever did...!" (John 4:29)

Positive, God-honoring testimonies are powerful instruments in the hands of God to,

- (1) Encourage our own hearts, (2) Lift up the spirits of other saints and
- (3) Bring others to Christ!

REALITY: Our hearts and minds are continually filled with thoughts of some sort. Negative, doubting, unbelieving thoughts discourage us and can bring us down into pits of despair. **Psalm 73 is a powerful example of such, as well as showing the way out!**

The Psalmist began to THINK about the prosperity of the wicked. The more he let his mind run with these thoughts, the more despondent he became. He was beginning to conclude that it was but a vain and useless thing to live for God's honor. But thankfully, he realized that if he opened his mouth and spoke all of his murmuring that many of God's children would be led astray! **So he kept his mouth shut!** (Ps. 73:15-16)

And he made a choice to "go to church" and hear the Word of God. (Ps. 73:17) There he was reminded of the present fears and of the dreadful later end of every person

who is not saved. He was also freshly envisioned of the abundant blessings that he possessed as God's redeemed child. Psalm 73, concludes with **a commitment to DECLARE God's works!**

Psalm 40 and Psalm 51 powerfully demonstrate that when we give testimonies of praise for God's Amazing Grace dealings with us— the lost **and** the saved will **"...see it...and shall trust in the LORD...and sinners shall be converted unto God!"** (Ps. 40:1-3; 51:12-15)

Truly one of the most effective tools God has given us for encouragement and for EVANGELISM is the power of godly, positive testimony. It is very encouraging, faith-building, and Kingdom-building **to speak well** of God, **to speak well** of one another in Christ, and **to speak well** of the local church to which God has joined you.

EXAMPLE: HAS GOD GRACIOUSLY BLESSED YOU in some way through the ministry of Southside Baptist Church and/or through the ministry of Southside Christian _____ School?

If so, tell it! Speak it! Write it! Tell the Good news! Your story may be short and simple. It may be longer and more detailed. But only God knows just how powerful and how far will be the godly influence of your "SPEAKING WELL" TESTIMONY!

HOW CAN I / HOW CAN WE GO FORWARD IN EVANGELIZING OUR WORLD?

II. Witnessing/Evangelizing— must or ought to!?!?

WHEN WE THINK OF THE LOST MASSES IN GALLATIN AND SUMNER COUNTY— IS THERE A GOD-INITIATED, EXCITING 'MUST' THAT BEGINS TO GRIP OUR SOULS... or a whining, begrudging 'OUGHT TO!'????

REALITY: EVANGELIZING THE LOST WILL NEVER GET TO A PLACE OF CENTRALIZED IMPORTANCE AND PRIORITY IN OUR LIVES UNTIL OR UNLESS WE AM GRIPPED WITH A GOD-INITIATED, EXCITING 'MUST!'

Unless God was mistaken in His own concern for people, **WE MUST** reach out to people with the gospel of Christ. **Unless** God's revelation of Himself in Christ was a meaningless gesture, **WE MUST** reach out to people with the gospel of Christ.

Unless Jesus Christ blundered when He birthed the New Testament Church and gave the Church the Great Commission, **WE MUST** reach out to people with the gospel of Christ. **Unless** the early Christians were only misguided zealots, **WE MUST** reach out to people with the gospel of Christ. **Unless** the early disciples misunderstood what Jesus told them to do, **WE MUST** reach out to people with the gospel of Christ.

Unless people are no longer lost, **WE MUST** reach out to people with the gospel of Christ. **Unless** people are no longer in bondage to sin, self and satan, **WE MUST** reach out to people with the gospel of Christ. **Unless** witnessing is only an exercise in futility, **WE MUST** reach out to people with the gospel of Christ.

Unless the Holy Spirit no longer convicts the lost of their sin and doom, **WE MUST** reach out to people with the gospel of Christ. **Unless** the penalty for sin is no longer eternity in hell, **WE MUST** reach out to people with the gospel of Christ. **Unless** man's sinful nature has been completely eradicated, **WE MUST** reach out to people with the gospel of Christ. **Unless** the Gospel of Christ is no longer the Good News of salvation, **WE MUST** reach out to people with the gospel of Christ.

Unless the Gospel is no longer the power of God unto salvation to those who believe, regardless of their race, **WE MUST** reach out to people with the gospel of Christ. **Unless** there is no longer 'joy in heaven' when even one sinner repents, **WE MUST** reach out to people with the gospel of Christ.

Unless the call of God to be 'co-laborers' with Him for the souls of men has been cancelled, **WE MUST** reach out to people with the gospel of Christ. **Unless** Christ coming back for His own has been cancelled, **WE MUST** reach out to people with the gospel of Christ. **Unless** we have not personally experienced saving faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and LORD, **WE MUST** reach out to people with the gospel of Christ. (These 'UNLESSES' edited from John T. Sizemore) **OK, SO WHERE AM I? (Mark one) —** __ I must! __ I ought! __ I don't really care!

IS IT NOT OBVIOUS THAT WE MUST reach out to people with the gospel of Christ?!

III. WHO IS PROVEN TO BE EFFECTIVE IN EVANGELIZING?

As to 'who,' variations of the following statistics have been given many times. But every chart I have ever seen is fundamentally the same, with just a few differences in % points. **The chart tells 'WHO' has the greatest potential in reaching the lost with the Gospel!**

Some years back Dr. Wynne Arn did a national survey, asking individuals of all walks of life, of various creeds, color and denominational backgrounds, **"WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO UNITE WITH THE PARTICULAR CHURCH TO WHICH YOU ARE JOINED?"** Here are the very revealing statistics:

6% - 8%.....Were 'walk-ins', usually from the same denomination.
2% - 3%.....Because of various 'ministries' the church has.

3% - 4%.....Special needs, such as a death or a marriage.

3% - 4%.....Sunday School Outreach ministries.

1% - 2%.....Visitation Ministries.

05%.....A City-wide Crusade.

8% - 12%.....Especially liked the pastor.

70% - 80%.....**INVITED BY FRIENDS AND/OR RELATIVES!**

1. If the same survey were to be done today, a few different categories would no doubt be factors: Music/Worship Styles. Seeker Friendly. Major Holiday Productions. Few seem to be guided by TRUTH, by faithfulness to the pure Word of God. **Likewise, few seem to be guided by faithfulness to pure Gospel.**

2. HOWEVER, SUCH A SURVEY would once again show that by far, FRIENDS AND FAMILY have the greatest impact upon a family coming to Christ and/or choosing to visit and/or be a part of a congregation. **Have you not noticed just how much of life moves along lines of relationships?**

3. It was certainly true in the New Testament era: The woman at the well went back to her home town and told them about her encounter with Jesus. Andrew first found his brother. Cornelius went to his family; and so it goes.

The gospel advances along lines of relationships! Tell a friend about Jesus! Make a new friend and tell him/her about Jesus! Tell a friend! Make a new friend! Tell a friend of God's blessings in and through Southsiders. Make a friend and do the same!

ALL THE MASSES WHO NEED TO KNOW CHRIST— most must first SEE JESUS in and through us! They must witness love and forgiveness and purity and integrity and kindness and faith and hope... We must let our LIGHT SHINE so that they may see our good works and glorify our Heavenly Father! We must exhibit conduct that 'adorns the doctrine of God our Savior in all things!' (Titus2:10)

EARLIER in this article we stated: IS IT NOT OBVIOUS THAT WE MUST reach out to people with the gospel of Christ?! BUT HOW? AND WHO? We have seen the "who"— It's all of us missionaries; and especially by being a friend, telling a friend, making a friend!

BUT HOW SHALL WE REACH FOLKS WITH THE GOSPEL?

How? We adorn the gospel by holiness, purity, righteousness, love, forgiveness, kindness, generosity, good works, peace, patience, self-control, faith, hope and joy in

the Holy Spirit! Such ‘fragrance’ of Christ makes the WORDS OF THE GOSPEL come alive! Such ‘fragrance’ is the GOSPEL SET TO MUSIC! Such ‘music’ makes the WORDS of the gospel more BELIEVABLE— for folks are SEEING the GOOD NEWS we are telling them! **BY SUCH LIVING WE ‘LIFT UP JESUS!’ AND IF WE WILL ‘LIFT UP JESUS’— HE WILL DRAW MEN, WOMEN, YOUTH, AND CHILDREN OF EVERY RACE, TRIBE, AND CULTURE UNTO TO HIMSELF!**

Grace to all! 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 August 5, 12

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

(NOTE: LORD’S SUPPER, 8/12!)

AUGUST 19— A FULL DAY OF JOHN MAKAY, of Creation Research Teaching! He will be teaching at 9:30am & 10:45am // NO MEAL AT CHURCH // John will continue teaching at 4pm; Coffee/snack break at 5:30pm; teaching at 6pm

AUGUST 26— SOUTHERN BAPTIST MISSIONS CELEBRATION! We will have a Missionary during the Sunday School hour, during the morning worship, and during the early afternoon service. (We WILL have our normal Fellowship Covered-Dish Lunch)

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR SCS— AUGUST 8, at 8am

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?

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