

# GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

**Volume 39, No.23, June 4, 2013** / Southside Baptist Church & Christian School / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / ***The Grow in Grace Newsletter***— a weekly Bible Study, plus news notes, designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church. It is sent forth to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide who receive the Newsletter), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. **"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Saviour JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."**

## **ESSENTIALS for Southside— Jesus our only Head!**

As we set forth foundational Biblical **truth and practices for Southside**— let each of us read, ponder, pray, ADJUST, and YIELD to the Word of God! {**SIXTEEN FOUNDATIONAL ESSENTIALS FOR CHURCH LIFE AND MINISTRY**}

**THE LORD JESUS CHRIST is our only Head!** As a local congregation we exist to worship Him, to make Him known, and to do whatever He desires as He builds His church in His wisdom and power. **JESUS** is our Head; we are a part of His body. **JESUS** is worthy of undiluted worship and worthy to receive all glory and honor. **JESUS** is the source of our life; and as our HEAD, He is the decision-maker— whatever He says in His Word goes! **MOREOVER, the LORD JESUS CHRIST and His gospel of sovereign and free grace is the attraction in Biblical Christianity. This good news is to be lived and proclaimed!**

**THE ATTRACTION/LOYALTY factor** for those redeemed by the blood of the LAMB and who are led by and PLACED in a local church by the Holy Spirit **is not** denominational loyalty, **it is not** family and friends loyalty, **it is not** loyalty to a pastor, **it is not even** loyalty to a set of good doctrines, **it is not** because of certain 'programs' provided for the kids or youth, **it is not** spell-binding dramatic or musical productions, **it is not** comedy, etc. — **RATHER,**

## **THE ATTRACTION/LOYALTY FACTOR is Jesus Christ!**

**The Churches of the New Testament** used the GOSPEL ALONE/CHRIST ALONE to arrest the attention of the lost and bring them to salvation. **MOREOVER,** they relied on the GOSPEL ALONE/CHRIST ALONE to hold the new converts in commitment and to build churches.

**REMEMBER:** The lost, the unsaved in that era of time were just as dead in sin as sinners are today. The unsaved in New Testament times had their own religion; they had their gods of sex, sports, and selfishness. Indeed, the Holy Spirit moved Paul to

remind the new Christians in Ephesus of who they were and what they were like before salvation. **This, of course, would also tell them (and us!) the spiritual condition of their (our!) mission field:**

***“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.”*** (NKJV)

SUCH ONES do not naturally have any interest in **Jesus Christ as Saviour and LORD**. Most folk — then and now — believe that they are basically good— so they do not naturally own the need of Jesus as Saviour; and they certainly are not standing in line to bow to His LORDSHIP!

**QUESTION: How do you reach your ‘target audience’ when they naturally have zero interest in what you are going to offer them?**

**TODAY, THE COMMON ANSWER given by church leaders and church consultants goes something like this...** (What follows IS FROM one of them!) ***“What do people buy?*** - The important thing to remember here is that people do not buy products and services. People buy benefits; they buy what a product will do for them... ***Modified and applied to the church:*** People will come to your church for what it will do for them. Make certain that in your marketing efforts you describe, in detail, what the advantages and benefits are from attendance. This is done best by promoting a particular sermon series such as a series focusing on improve marriages, clean-up financial pressures, bridge a gap between parents and children, and many other key areas of life. ***Why do people buy?*** - People buy to fulfill a need!

There are 4 basic needs that drive buying decisions:

- **Physical Needs** (The need to fix a problem in their life.) - **Social Needs** (The need to belong to something.) - **Ego Needs** (The need to feel important.) - **Spiritual Needs** (The need to connect and help others.) ***Modified and applied to the church:*** People will come to your church to fulfill a need. Make certain in your marketing efforts that you describe how your church can fulfill a need in their life."

**NOTE: Of course, this consultant guru says nothing about sin!** Is there anything wrong with good teaching on family and financial issues? NO! The Bible is the primary source for sound teaching on such subjects. However, such is not the core message of the Bible!

**JESUS DID NOT LEAVE HEAVEN AND GO TO THE CROSS FOR THE ABOVE 4 ITEMS WHICH FOLKS WANT TO BUY!** (See Ephesians 2:1-10) Jesus came to confront, to deal with sin. He came to save His people from their sin. He came to pay their/OUR sin debt.

**NEVERTHELESS, another guru** (Mega-church pastor, Andy Stanley) in, *Deep and Wide: Creating Churches Unchurched People Love to Attend*, declares: "**People are far more interested in what works than what's true.** I hate to burst your bubble, but virtually **nobody in your church is on a truth quest... They are on happiness quests...** That's the way it is. **It's pointless to resist. If you try, you will end up with a little congregation...** I would rather you face the reality of the world we live in and adjust your sails. **Culture is like the wind. You can't stop it.** You shouldn't spit in it. But, if like a good sailor you will **adjust your sails...** If people are more interested in being happy, then play to that. **Jesus did...**" (Kindle 1216-1234)

**COMMENT: Stanley is correct about culture:** The multitudes are on a happiness quest, including most professing Christians. **They have little or no interest in TRUTH.** They do like experiences. It matters not if the experiences do not square with Biblical truth. However, Stanley shows his colors as a compromising Pastor Aaron (Exodus 32) at best or as a wretched false pastor at worst (Jeremiah 5:30-31; 6:13-14; 14:13-14) when he claims that Jesus adjusted His sails to give the people what they wanted. That is a LIE. (John 6:51-66)

**By the way, Stanley has a defective view of the Word of God.** He recently proclaimed: *"The foundation of our faith is not the Scripture. The foundation of our faith is not the infallibility of the Bible... The Scriptures are simply a collection of ancient documents... when I deal with Adam and Eve, I am quick to say, "Hey this is one of those odd stories" This is that story you heard growing up about two naked people running around in the garden, and who can believe that? There are many creation myths..." Stanley also states that, "... it appears to me that He [Jesus] believed that they [Adam and Eve] were actually historical figures, and if He believed that they were historical then I believe..."*

**RESPONSE:** Stanley denies the Word of God in Genesis and yet claims to believe it because Jesus 'appears' to have believed Genesis. **Beware of deceived/deceiving ones who, like politicians, have mastered the art of 'speaking out of both sides of their mouths!'** JESUS was quite clear in His belief of Genesis: John 5:47-47. All Scripture is God-breathed: 2 Timothy 3:15-17.

**REALITY:** If one wants to be involved in building a Broadway Harlot Church of the World— then forget truth, adjust your sails, and give folks what they want. **Compromising Aarons and multitudes of false prophets have always been and are today highly successful people pleasers.** (Jeremiah 5:31)

**HOWEVER, if you are among those who are NOT CALLED to build, to grow a church; but, rather, you are called to JOIN JESUS as He builds HIS CHURCH—** in that case, there remains a question before us:

**QUESTION: How do you reach your 'target audience' when they naturally have zero interest in what you are going to offer them?**

**THE FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH: IT IS CRITICAL to understand the TRUE nature of the 'audience'—**

*“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.” (NKJV)*

**WITH THAT REAL TRUTH ABOUT OUR 'PROSPECT LIST'— What is the METHOD of JESUS (The HEAD) in building HIS CHURCH from the above 'prospect' list?**

*But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

**1. THE HARVEST REQUIRES THE ACTIVITY OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, OUR HEAD, WHO HAS PROMISED— "I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH...!"**

**2. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE HEAD OF HIS CHURCH, ORDAINS OF THOSE ALREADY SAVED THAT WE LIVE AND PREACH THE GOSPEL: We plant, we water; and He gives the increase.**

By walking in His steps and manifesting His life we make him 'visible' to a watching world. JESUS CHRIST is the character-pattern against which everything we do is to be evaluated. Let us develop a passion to grow in His likeness and yieldedness so that He is UNGREIVED in revealing His love and holiness in us and through us. He is the Head; we are an expression of His Body. He is the Good Shepherd; we are His Flock. He is the Vine; we are His Branches. **Without Him we can do nothing; through Him we can do all things!**

**Grace to all in Christ! James Bell / [www.southsidegallatin.org](http://www.southsidegallatin.org)**

**SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES for JUNE!**

**LADIES SUMMER BIBLE FELLOWSHIPS: 6/18; 7/16; 8/13— Cindy Bell teaching!**

**1. WEDNESDAYS: PRAYER SERVICE at 7:00PM! / YOUTH: Wednesdays, 6-8pm @ Southside Church building!**

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

3. **Saturdays @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study**

## **SUNDAY SCHEDULE FOR MAY JUNE 9, 16, 23, 30**

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

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

3. **Noon Fellowship Meal {Covered Dish} - [Third Sunday, Lord's Supper @ 1pm]**

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

### **ADDITIONAL NOTE FOR June 16—**

During the Morning Worship service we will **HONOR FATHERS**... and we encourage the giving of GIDEON BIBLES in honor of Fathers.

During the 1pm service we plan to observe the **LORD'S SUPPER**...

## **SUNDAY SCHEDULE FOR MAY JUNE 23**

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

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

3. **Noon Fellowship Meal {Covered Dish}**

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

NOTE: JUNE 23— DURING THE 1PM EARLY AFTERNOON SERVICE:

**A church family Conversation II** This is a re-scheduled FOLLOW UP on our Recent Church-wide CONVERSATION. There were several important matters we did not get to discuss.

## **SUNDAY SCHEDULE FOR MAY JUNE 30**

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

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

3. **Noon Fellowship Meal {Covered Dish}**

**NO Early afternoon 1:00pm service.... See below:**



*The Creation Guy* John Mackay

**Yes, once again we will be very blessed to have 'The Creation Guy, John Mackay in our midst, June 30, beginning at 4:30pm:**

**WHERE: Southside Baptist Church**

**WHEN: June 30, 2013 @ 4:30pm-5:30pm and at 6:00pm-7:00pm**

**Contact: Southside Baptist Church, 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, Tennessee / Call: 615-452-5951**

**TOPICS: GOD'S DESIGN! THE EYES HAVE IT! SKEPTICS HAVE LOST THE PLOT!**

See the living and fossil evidence this man has collected which he uses to demolish the atheists in debates around the planet.

**HOW TO DEFEAT AGGRESSIVE ATHEISM!** Based on Darwinian Evolution, modern atheists are dominating politics, literature, sport and education, and using them to attack Christianity across the globe. Find out how to expose them from a man who defeats them worldwide.

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SPECIAL NOTE TO THOSE BEYOND THE SOUTHSIDE CHURCH FAMILY:

1. I would hope and assume that you are actively involved in the support of Foreign Missions.
2. Do you PERSONALLY KNOW a missionary? If not... be sure you read the following... then ask yourself: HOW CAN I GET TO PERSONALLY KNOW MISSIONARIES in and through the local church to which the Holy Spirit has joined me?
3. Find out. Do it!
4. OPEN YOUR HEART AND EYES TO THOSE whom the LORD MAY WANT TO RAISE UP AND SEND FORTH from your local church!
5. By all means do not judge... WHO WILL BE NEXT! Please listen to these testimonies. Be blessed and encouraged in FAITH as what God can do!

[HERE IS THE AMAZING GRACE BACKGROUND OF **ODELL SUMMER: Odell Summer: Program # 2979 and 2980** [http://www.unshackled.org/listen\\_08.html](http://www.unshackled.org/listen_08.html)]

## **June 2013— Prayer Update from Odell and Beth Summer**

### **Serving the LORD JESUS CHRIST as Missionaries in Thailand!**



Thank you all for praying me through the last week. In the last 8 days I have preached 5 times; and only twice did I use the same message— and the preaching was all in the Thai language! The messages were not eloquently spoken; but none the less they were spoken. Huu, the new believer I have been meeting with, came to Kathy's Home for church on Sunday. I ask him how much of it did he understand... and he said 80%! So I still have much work to do.

I am still a great ways off from being fluent in Thai. That is my goal. **THEREFORE, please keep praying for me to CONTINUE to advance in understanding and in speaking Thai.** Why is this so vital? LET ME ILLUSTRATE IT THIS WAY: I want to make the best of every opportunity God gives me to cry, "Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world!" HOWEVER, when trying to speak/preach in Thai, because the language is so different— it is easy for the words to come out as, "behold the sins of the world that takes away the Lamb of God." **See how important your prayers are?!** I truly rejoice that God has given me a real 'day-in- and-day-out' **opportunity to put in to practice 1 Cor. 2:1-5:**

And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. <sup>2</sup> For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. <sup>3</sup> And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup> And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: <sup>5</sup> That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

**MORE PRAYER REQUESTS:** I also prepared and taught 5 hours of English in the middle of that 8 day stretch. Please keep the opportunity God has given to teach English in a government high school before the Lord in your prayers as well.

Please keep praying for the health of our three boys.

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now.

-- In Christ Jesus, Odell Gal 6:14, Beth Phil 4:6, 7, Josh, Titus and Caleb Summer  
Face Book Page [Odell-and-Beth-Summer-Missionary-Updates](#)

[NOTE FROM SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH, GALLATIN, TENNESSEE: If there are those receiving this letter that the LORD impresses the call to financially support the Summer Family in their missionary labors in Thailand— one way to do that is via Southside. Make checks to Southside Baptist. FOR: Odell and Beth Summer. Send to P.O. Box 1594, Gallatin, TN 37066. The Church Secretary will send you a receipt. Feel free to ask any questions you may have. Send to James Bell, [jwillie123@aol.com](mailto:jwillie123@aol.com)]



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

**Southside Christian School** Please call us at: 615-452-5951