



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 43, No. 33, August 23 , 2016 / Southside Baptist Church & Christian School / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / The Grow in Grace Newsletter is **a weekly Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church. It is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), 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."***

THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST UNVEILED in the Local Church!

The Christ-like spirit of the church is a most tangible thing. When we gather for services you can sense it; **and most importantly each one of us makes it happen.** This spirit, of which we speak, is the product of the Holy Spirit— shining through smiles, greetings, conversations, attitudes, and so much more.

THERE IS the kind courtesy of our greeting one another. **THERE IS** the warm handclasp of friendly interest. **THERE IS** the heartfelt participating in a Sunday School Class, a Prayer Service, or a Worship Service. **THERE IS**, in the Worship Service, the centering of our attention upon our primary business of the hour, the worship of God—

For we gather to give HIM praise and adoration and honor. We gather to give Him ourselves and our gifts, talents, and offerings. We gather to give united hearts crying out—"Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done; Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory! Amen!" We gather to sit at HIS FEET and to receive HIS WORD. We commit ourselves to heed HIS Word; AND TO GO OUT into the world to MANIFEST CHRIST!

MOREOVER, as to the SPIRIT of our local church family— **we NEVER SPEAK OF THE CHURCH as "they"...it is always "we" or "us" or "our."** WHEN there are times when the spirit of the church is not high and

fine, we never blame "they" or "them" or 'him' or 'her' ...rather, WE SEARCH OUR OWN HEARTS. And we stand ready to repent of our own failures; and ready to contribute needed forgiveness, godliness, purity, joy, faith, hope, and love. We stand eager and ready to help and serve.

WE REFUSE TO think evil, or speak evil, or to listen to evil about our brothers and sisters. Moreover, we are not merely those who are willing to serve IF ALL GOES according to our personal liking; RATHER, we are the LORD'S SERVANTS and will be found at our duty posts in all the seasons of life.

MOREOVER, the Christ revealing Spirit of the Church IS SEEN AS WE all refuse to be side-tracked from the powerful everyday ways that God delights to use us to build up His Kingdom: THEREFORE,

1. I CAN AND WILL BE FOUND PRAYING for the rule and reign of God in and through us in our individual lives, in our homes, at our work places, and especially in the midst of our church family.

2. I CAN AND WILL BE FOUND TALKING UP my brothers and sisters and not talking them down. I refuse to do satan's work of fault-finding, accusing, back-biting, slandering, tale bearing, or discord sowing. RATHER, I choose to do Christ's work of loving, blessing, praying for, and doing good.

3. I CAN AND WILL CHOOSE TO SPEAK words which reveal patience and kindness and encouragement. If I see a brother or sister overtaken in a fault, I will choose to go to them privately and in humility to seek to be Christ's agent of healing. FURTHERMORE, I CHOOSE to speak well of my brothers and sisters.

4. I CAN AND WILL CHOOSE TO SPEAK WELL of the Body of Christ to which the Holy Spirit has joined me. There is so much to give thanks for as we look at the various works of God's grace in the midst of the saints of our fellowship of believers. Because it is a glorious testimony to my Savior, the LORD JESUS CHRIST, I will speak well of the local church to which He has joined me. Nothing of the work that Christ is yet to complete in that local body of saints is godly grounds to deny or minimize the amazing grace of God already done and being done.

5. I CHOOSE NOT to persecute JESUS! Living in the fear of God, I

remember that the words and attitudes I manifest toward my brothers and sisters reveal words and attitudes I am, in fact, manifesting toward Jesus! I may sing and preach and testify loudly and have a reputation of being a great spokesperson for Jesus. But what I say and do toward another Christian, reveals the reality of what I have just said and done to Jesus. (Acts 9:4-5) When I or when any of us participate in satan's work of fault-finding, accusing, back-biting, slandering, tale bearing, and/or discord sowing, and evil speaking against another Christian, or against a local Bible-believing church, or against our spouse— WE ARE PERSECUTING JESUS!

6. I CAN AND WILL BE FOUND READY, TRUE AND FAITHFUL so that I am a contributing, building up member of the Body of Christ to which I am joined. I choose to give full proof of my own faith in and love for JESUS by my faithful contributions to the building up of the Body of Christ. In the midst of the crookedness of this present world, I will walk uprightly in all my dealings with both saints and sinners.

7. IN THE LOCAL BODY OF SAINTS AT SOUTHSIDE, I may be a "little toe" or an "arm" or an "ear" or "a hand"...or I may not feel sure as to what my gifts are. However, I know that we are all built up by the streams of grace that God has ordained to flow through one to another, (Ephesians 4: 11-16; 1 Corinthians 12). Thus, I embrace all of the many "**One To Another**" commands of my LORD, on behalf of my brothers and sisters.

8. I WILL CHOOSE TO OPEN MY EYES TO THE HARVEST, for souls are perishing. Some time ago, 10,000 active Christians were asked this question:

"Who or what was responsible for your coming to Christ and the church you attend?" Here is how they replied:

2%-- I had a special need. 4%-- I just decided to. 6%-- I liked the pastor.
 ½ of 1%-- I attended a revival service.

78%-- A friend or relative influenced and invited me.

9½%-- All other reasons.

Therefore, let us each and every one go out into our daily world and live holy and humbly, and live lovingly and forgivingly, and live to give kindness and hope, and live to be a blessing to others... **THUS, CREATING**

ENTRANCE WAYS so as to be empowered to influence and invite others to Christ and to the local assembly where God has us worshipping.

For it is the will of God that when we bring folks to our Sunday School classes and Worship Services that they will be able to experience, to see the GOSPEL we have been telling them about!

9. ALL OF THE ABOVE IS 'WELL AND GOOD'... BUT THERE ARE GREAT NEEDS IN OUR FELLOWSHIP.... Yes, and there will always be both needs and blessings. I NEED TO BE CAREFUL OF MY FOCUS!

JIM SMITH and RON JONES!

Jim Smith 'went to church' one Sunday morning. He heard the organist miss a note during the prelude, and he winced. He saw a teenager talking when everybody was supposed to be bowed in prayer. He felt like the usher was watching to see what he placed in the offering plate and it made him boil. He caught the preacher making a slip of the tongue, 5 ...times during the sermon.

Jim Smith slipped out the side door during the closing hymn and muttered to himself, "I'll never be back to that church... they don't know how to worship... they are amateurs..."

Ron Jones 'went to church' one Sunday morning; and he heard the organist play A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD... and it thrilled his soul. He was glad the church was taking a special offering for missions. And the sermon convicted him of sin he had long excused... and he had opportunity to have someone pray with him and promise to stay with him through the upcoming battles... He walked out of that service blessed, refreshed and revived...

Jim Smith and Ron Jones, actually went to the same church on the same Sunday morning— **EACH FOUND WHAT HE WAS LOOKING FOR!**

1. ONE CAME AS A SPECTATOR... A CRITIC... AND FOUND FAULT... and went home worse than he came.

2. THE OTHER CAME WITH A HUNGRY, TEACHABLE HEART; AND WENT HOME FILLED, EQUIPPED, AND MOTIVATED FOR MINISTRY!

And how shall it be for me this coming LORD'S DAY?

NOTE: In Biblical reality, 'Church' is not something you can attend! You can attend a ball game, but not church.

CHURCH IS WHAT THOSE IN CHRIST ARE! Thus, a congregation GATHERS... and they SCATTER back into the world! **GATHER** to Worship God and help build up one another in the faith. **SCATTER** out into the world to make Christ VISIBLE, to live and proclaim the gospel to a lost world! **In the above 'story'— Jim Smith** 'went to church'... **while Ron Jones** gathered with others for worship and edification.

AGAIN, WHAT SHALL I DO?

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) "Come ye and hear, all ye that fear God, and **I will declare what He hath done for my soul.**" (Psalm 66:16)

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! **(3) Help bring** others to Christ!

Our hearts and minds are continually filled with thoughts of some sort. Negative, doubting, unbelieving thoughts discourage us and bring us down into pits of despair. **Psalm 73 is a powerful example:** The Psalmist began to THINK about the apparent 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!** However, he did not stop at that!

He made a choice to "go to church" and hear the Word of God. 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. Thankfully, Psalm 73, concludes with a powerful testimony of praise to God.

By the way, as Psalm 40 and Psalm 51 so powerfully demonstrate, 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!**"

Truly one of the most effective tools God has given us for encouragement and for seeing the Kingdom of God built up is the power of godly, positive testimony.

It is very encouraging, faith-building, and Kingdom-building...

(1) TO speak well of God;

(2) TO speak well of one another in Christ, and

(3) TO speak well of the local church to which God has joined you.

(Suggestion: If you are not directly involved in the following ministries, then Personalize the following to the local church to which you are joined!)

Presently and/or in the past— HAS GOD GRACIOUSLY BLESSED YOU in some way through the ministry of Southside Baptist Church; or through Southside Christian School; or through Southside Counseling; and/or through the Grow in Grace Newsletter?

If so, PLEASE 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!

PLEASE write and share your own "Speaking Well" Testimony! Please email it to me! And/or please post it on FB! To God Be the GLORY!

The desire is in no way to exalt ourselves... but simply to REJOICE in what the LORD has done and/or is doing! **AN Example from last year:**

Greetings to Pastor and Mrs. Bell; and all the saints at Southside,

Thank you from the bottom of hearts for the blessing you have been on our family. You have ministered to our family in countless ways and we are forever grateful. After moving to Tennessee our family struggled for almost a year to find a church home. After hearing the first message at Southside and meeting the people, we knew God had answered our prayers and provided that long awaited church family.

We are thankful for the message that is preached each week, whether by Brother Bell or other Godly men from within this congregation. Sadly, real Biblical preaching has become the exception today, not the rule expected of those who call themselves Christians.

In addition to solid teaching, we were blessed to find fellowship with Christians whose lives reflected their commitment to Christ. By this we will be known: that we have love, one for another.

Whether lived out in acts of service to others, dedicated time in teaching, work in prison ministry, attending to the children within the school or church family, or simply letting the fruits of the spirit be exhibited in their daily witness in the face of cancers, family tragedies, or other trying events, we've seen Christ in action here at Southside.

~~ Love and Blessings, Byron, Wendy, Kaitlin, and Allie

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

MONDAYS: Jail Ministry— First and Second Monday of each month at 7:30pm. Questions? Contact Mike Munday at 615-681-7533

TUESDAYS: Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care nursing home. Meet at the front door at 5:30PM. Contact Bradley at 615-804-3054.

WEDNESDAYS: ☐ **6:30pm— Children** Ministry/activities; ☐ **6:30pm— Youth** Activities and Bible Study— (For both of these... enter via double doors by gym)

☐ **6:30pm— Wednesday CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE...** Come in side entrance, iron steps... meet in Ladies Sunday School Room

LADIES BIBLE STUDY— Meets EVERY OTHER TUESDAY: **The Epistle of James**

NEXT: August 30 @ 11:00am; Cindy Bell teaching. [Front door open at 10:45 till 11:05am; or come in Iron Steps side entrance!]

MEN: EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study! {Study in **ROMANS**}... **Come to back of Church building... Come in under the drive-thru** awning... walk forward... till you smell the coffee!

SUNDAY SERVICES, AUGUST: 28

9:30am- Sunday School

10:45am- Worship Service / Children's Church

NOON 'Covered-dish' Lunch / 1:00pm Service

5:30pm-7:30pm—

FAITHFUL

MEN'S

FELLOWSHIP/STUDY/EQUIPPING

SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL— *Uniting Church, Home, and School in CHRIST!*

For the 2016-2017 school term we are offering Second through Twelfth grades. Children need the Home, the Church, and the School to

model and teach the same basic philosophy of life. ***Children are like young plants in a garden***— *they must be protected.*

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