



**GROW  
IN  
GRACE**  
NEWSLETTER

**Volume 44, No.16, April 18 , 2017** / 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; and 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."***

**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 ALL Christians.***

MANY limit the word 'Missionary' to refer only to an élite few who have or believe they have a 'special call'... a vocational call to take the gospel to an Over Seas, Far Away country. MANY protest that if the term 'missionary' is used to refer to all genuine Christians— the work of missions will be diluted.

**IN REALITY THE OPPOSITE IS TRUE!** Because churches commonly view 'missionaries' as ***'them and not us'***— therefore all we need to do is to pray for *'them'* and send money to support *'them!'* **In the common view, we 'rank and file' Christians are 'not missionaries—**

***therefore, we do not need a 'missionary mindset'***— because, after all, we are not living on a mission field; and we are not SENT out into a mission field to evangelize! **Therefore**, (an additional reality is that), many 'vocational missionaries' have never served or functioned as missionaries prior to going to a mission field to serve as a missionary!

**REALITY: 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 New Testament church,**

(1) The Christianity of ALL THE NEW CHRISTIANS in Acts 2, was the contributing SETTING in which THE LORD ADDED new Christians, daily!

(2) **In the New Testament church**, when persecution came, all the Christians scattered PREACHING the gospel! (Acts 8:1-4)

(3) ***These 'every day' non-vocational 'missionaries' scattered to Antioch, where they were graced to not only 'start' a local church... but also,***

(4) Servant leadership was so developed there that the Holy Spirit directed Saul (Paul) and Barnabas to embark on the first 'vocational missionary' journey! (Acts 13:1-4)

THE 'EVERYBODY IS A MISSIONARY MIND-SET of the Jerusalem Church BIRTHED MISSIONS, ultimately, to the ends of the earth!

**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. **“Do I have a missionary**

**mindset about the mission field in which I live and work?”** (Matt. 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? To be a missionary OVER THERE... requires FAR MORE than a mere Bible School, or Seminary degree, and learning a language!!*

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!**

SO 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:** Testifying of the LORD'S work in our lives **not only gives** honor to God, it not only BUILDS UP/ENCOURAGES fellow believers; **but it is also a powerful witness** to the lost!

**CONSIDER 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; and/or in a home group; and/or at the work place— WE SHARE testimonies like these:**

***“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 **convicting...** God spoke to me **encouraging...** God spoke to me **instructing...** God spoke to me **rebuking/correcting...** GOD SPOKE TO ME 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; and/or in the presence of a watching/listening world:**

**\*\* 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.*

**\*\* Psalm 77:11-12—** "I will remember the works of the LORD... I will meditate also of all thy works, **and talk of** all thy doings."

**\*\* Acts 4:20— The early disciples of Jesus said,** "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."

**\*\* John 4:29— 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...!"

**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.

**HAS GOD GRACIOUSLY BLESSED YOU in some way** through the ministry of Southside Baptist Church? **Let us NOT BE ASHAMED of Christ our HEAD nor of that portion of CHRIST'S BODY, (the local assembly), to which CHRIST has joined us!**

**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!!?

**EVANGELIZING THE LOST WILL NEVER GET TO A PLACE OF CENTRALIZED IMPORTANCE AND PRIORITY IN OUR LIVES UNTIL OR UNLESS WE ARE 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 canceled, **WE MUST** reach out to people with the gospel of Christ. **Unless** Christ coming back for His own has been canceled, **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? It was certainly true in the New Testament era:** (1) The woman at the well went back to her home town and told them about her encounter with Jesus. (2) Andrew first found his brother. (3) Cornelius went to his family; and so it goes. ***The gospel advances along lines of relationships!*** *Tell a friend about Jesus! MANIFEST THE CHARACTER OF JESUS IN THEIR MIDST! 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!' (Titus 2:10)

**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!**

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

## **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.

**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**— Studies in the Gospel of Luke! ... NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, *April 25, 2017* @ 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! *{STUDYING the Epistle of First John}* AT THE back of Church building... Come in under the drive-thru awning, walk forward, coffee & biscuits WAITING!

Sunday Services For APRIL 23, 30

**Sunday, April 23:** 9:30am - Sunday School // 10:45am - Worship Service // **NO NOON MEAL**

# **EVENING HOME GROUPS**

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**April 30:** 9:30am - Sunday School // 10:45am - Worship Service

*Noon Covered Dish meal*

**5:30pm - 7:30pm FAITHFUL MEN'S MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP/STUDY/EQUIPPING**