



**GROW  
IN  
GRACE**  
NEWSLETTER

**Volume 44, No. 24, June 13 , 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."***

## **FATHERS! PREACH THE GOSPEL TO YOUR FAMILIES!**

**Matthew 28:19-20**— “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”—  
**Christian: As we are going**, we are to give ourselves to making, marking and maturing disciples! The Holy Spirit empowers such endeavors! (Matt. 28:18, 20b; Acts 1:8)

**Deuteronomy 6:4-9**— “Hear, O Israel: **[HEAR, O SOUTHSIDE DADS, GRANDADS!]** The LORD our God is one LORD: **And thou shalt** love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be **in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children**, and shalt talk of them **when** thou sittest in thine house, and **when** thou walkest by the way, **and when** thou liest down, **and when** thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.”

— **Christian Fathers: Disciple-making BEGINS AT HOME and is centered in the home and is to be led by DADS!**

**Ephesians 6:4— “Fathers,** do not irritate and provoke your children to anger [do not exasperate them to resentment], but rear them [tenderly] **in the training and discipline and the counsel and admonition of the Lord.”** (Amplified Bible)— **Christian Fathers:** The call to make disciples BEGINS AT HOME! (**Mothers also:** Prov. 1:8; 6:20; 31:1)

### **The Greatest Untapped Evangelistic Opportunity Before the Modern Church!** *Edited from Scott Brown*

I believe that we are involved in the greatest evangelistic opportunity before the church today. I am talking about the salvation of millions of children under the evangelistic and discipleship ministry of fathers and mothers in the home. This is not the only mission field, but it is perhaps the most neglected mission field before the church in our day.

**The Bible calls fathers to preach the gospel to their children every day,** when they “sit in their house, when they walk by the way, when they lie down and when they rise up” (Deuteronomy 6:7). This kind of instruction gives children a true understanding of the gospel.

### **Consider the Evangelistic Impact**

Think of the evangelistic impact this would have in our generation. **It is a father’s calling** in life to pass on the knowledge of God to the next generation. **A father is commanded** to expose his children day after day, to the greatness of God, the perfections of His ways, and the great stories that explain the character and nature of God. **Daily,** he praises God with hundreds of words and practical principles. **Day after day,** his children observe him as he personally delights in the Word. **They watch him** as he places himself under its wonderful teaching. **They see** how their daddy is comforted and confronted by it and is changed before their eyes. **They see** how good and mighty God is and how foolish it is to turn away from Him. **They have seen,** time after time, how their father might have been discouraged or confused, but the lamp of the Word made everything clear. **This kind of earthly father** stands with his Father in Heaven and calls out, “Today if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion” (Hebrews 3:7-11).

**He cries out, day after day,** explaining the principles and stories that glorify the kindnesses of God, His wrath toward sinners, and His vanquishing power over all things. **Under this kind of loving and happy ministry,** the children hear the whole counsel of God from Genesis to Revelation. **They see** the flow of history from God's perspective. **They hear** of the great doctrines of the faith which have sustained humble people from one generation to the next. **They observe** the mighty hand of God working against all human odds. **They see** the beginning and the end of history and where they themselves stand in its stream. They know who wins the battle. They know that nothing can stand against the Lord.

**How different this is, compared to sending them to an evangelistic crusade or a concert to see if they might be saved.**

Often a young person will go to a Christian concert and walk down the aisle or make a profession of faith, without really being saved. They might go forward because they had an emotional response or a guilty conscience or because a friend went down. **But it was not because they really understood the gospel.**

This is why so few who "make decisions" at evangelistic meetings ever continue in a normal Christian life. One reason is that they never had the kind of background understanding of sin or repentance or the specifics of the life they were turning toward. They were like the seeds that fell on the shallow soil, which sprouted up and died away because they had no root in themselves.

**This is why we have so many young people walking down aisles thinking they have been saved, when in fact they just took a walk.** They really had no idea what they were doing, or what the call really was all about. We have many people in our churches who "walked an aisle," "accepted Christ into their hearts," but never really understood much about the context and content of the Gospel. **For many, the Gospel has often been trivialized and reduced to "accepting Christ". A detailed understanding of the Gospel is exactly what a daily diet of a father's Gospel-teaching gives. It gives both the**

**context and content that is necessary to become a *true* follower of Christ.**

**Also, consider how different this is compared to sending them to Sunday school class and youth group once per week to see if they might be saved.**

If a father engages his children in gospel teaching six days a week for eighteen years, there will be **5,616 opportunities** to speak of the goodness of God. If he sends his child to Sunday school for eighteen years, there will be 936 opportunities for him to hear of the goodness of God. If they go to Sunday school for a lifetime (to age 70) they will only have 3,640 opportunities. This means that God would have a father give his child more teaching by age eighteen, than he will get in the modern church in a lifetime. **But if these children had been under the daily evangelistic and discipleship ministry of their fathers**, they would more likely understand why they had given their hearts to the Lord. They would have understood the love of God in all of its detail.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The local church is to be a GATHERING OF MOMS AND DADS, [God's YOUTH DIRECTORS!] who will team up to help and encourage one another in DISCIPLING THE NEXT GENERATION— but never for 'farm out' their God-given calling to anyone else.

**Rebellion against God's Clear Commands to Fathers: GOD HAS NOT COMMANDED FATHERS** to send their children to concerts and evangelistic crusades where they only get a small understanding of the gospel. **He has commanded that** they would be teaching their children and caring for their souls diligently day by day. The sad reality of fathers' lives in modern churches is that they are satisfied with Sunday schools and concerts and evangelistic crusades,... but they reject God's undeniable commands to personally teach their children daily. This is outright rebellion against the Lord and against His clear commands. **Unfortunately, the rebellion continues because they usually feel like they are faithful fathers:** Fathers often feel great about it because they define exemplary fatherhood **as going to the kids' recitals and games and getting them into a good Sunday school or youth group.** In order to rescue this lost generation of children in Christian

homes from hell, we must first help fathers understand what God has commanded. We must speak clearly of what God has commanded so that they do not miss this opportunity...

**Observations and data from many different sources is proclaiming the fact that we are losing the next generation:**

**Dawson MacAlister**, national youth ministry specialist, says that 90% of kids in active high school youth groups do not go to church by the time they are sophomores in college (*The Present Future* by Reggie McNeal, Jossey-Bass).

**Data from the Southern Baptist Convention** indicate that currently we are losing 70-88% of our youth after their freshman year in college. 70% of teenagers involved in church youth groups stop attending church within two years of their high school graduation.

The Southern Baptist Council on Family Life reported that 88% of the children in evangelical homes leave church at the age of 18. (T.C. Pinkney, Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, Nashville, Tennessee, September 18, 2001... Sixteen years later, there is no indication of improvement).

Thom Rainer, while a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary launched a survey that he hoped would tell him if people understood the gospel. He surveyed asking the following question: ***“Do you know for certain that if you die today, what would you say to God if He asked you why He should let you into His heaven?”*** The following percentages of people answered in a way that would indicate they were born again: **Those Who Understand the Gospel by Age Group**

Born before 1946	65%
Born between 1946 and 1964	35%
Born between 1965 and 1976	15%
<b>Born between 1976 and 1994</b>	<b>4%</b>

(Source: *The Present Future* by Reggie McNeal.)

REALITY: A growing number of people are leaving the institutional church, either never making a confession of faith or giving up on it.

## **Consider the Enormous Leverage of Fathers for Evangelism**

The Baptist Press reported that **if a child is the first** person in the household to become a Christian, there is a 3.5 percent probability everyone in the household will follow. **If the mother is first**, there is a 17 percent chance everyone else in the household will follow. **If the father is first**, there is a 93% probability that everyone else in the house will follow.

**Pray for an Uprising of Men:** I believe that a recovery of biblical fatherhood is the greatest and most neglected evangelistic opportunity in the church today. It is not the only legitimate evangelistic opportunity, but it is the most neglected. ***Imagine an uprising of men who preach the gospel daily to their children.***

While the church in the twenty-first century is losing the next generation of children to worldliness, **we are encouraging fathers to return to the biblical role of the head of the household to preach the gospel and to make disciples of all of the children in the household.**

**THE IMPORTANT BOTTOM LINE:** “It is a father’s calling in life to pass on the knowledge of God to the next generation. **A father is commanded** to expose his children day after day, to the greatness of God, the perfections of His ways, and the great stories that explain the character and nature of God. Daily, he praises God with hundreds of words and practical principles. **Day after day, his children observe him as he personally delights in the Word.** They watch him as he places himself under its wonderful teaching. They see how their daddy is comforted and confronted by it and is changed before their eyes. They see how good and mighty God is and how foolish it is to turn away from Him. They have seen, time after time, how their father might have been

discouraged or confused, **but the lamp of the Word made everything clear.**" (Scott Brown)

## **AND DAY BY DAY... THEY SEE THEIR DADDY LOVE THEIR MOTHER AS CHRIST LOVES THE CHURCH!**

**Mike Yaconelli, a big time leader with *Youth Specialties*, wrote an article entitled *The Failure of Youth Ministry*. It caused such a stink, he had to write an apology! That is sad, because why should he have to apologize for telling the truth? **Here is a quote from his article:****

"Almost every study out there shows that **when it comes to moral behavior, there's no difference between secular and Christian students.** They drink as much, fornicate as much, have oral sex as much, and party as much. Why? Youth ministry doesn't have any staying power. **Young people flock to Christian concerts, cheer Jesus at large events, and work on service projects.**

Unfortunately, it's not because of Jesus; it's because they're young!

In spite of all the dazzling super stars of youth ministry, the amazing array of YS [Youth Specialty] products, the thousands of youth ministry training events, nothing much has changed... So let's be honest. **Youth ministry as an experiment has failed... if we want to see young people have a faith that lasts,** then we have to completely change the way we do youth ministry in America. I wonder if any of us has the courage to try."

**MOREOVER, as to churches, certainly in Baptist Churches MOST 'converts' and baptisms are of children.** By the hundreds of thousands they are '**led' through prayers, pronounced as 'saved'** by pastors and evangelists and then baptized. This looks 'good' on religious reports! It is granted that children can be genuinely saved.

**However, the great majority of present day 'conversions' are not the "Acts 2: 37-42"/"2 Timothy 3:15" variety!** They give forth no evidence of life. Having bypassed Holy Spirit conviction, repentance and new birth, most modern 'converts' SOON follow their hearts **which were and REMAIN wed to the world's 'hog-pens'**— 2 Peter 2:22!

DADS, PARENTS— YOU must proclaim/teach the gospel to everyone in YOUR households and by your lifestyle give your CHILDREN a 1000 reasons to believe the gospel of Christ.

**Fulfilling the Great Commission begins at home!**

## **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, *June 20, 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, JUNE 18:** 9:30am - Sunday School // 10:45am - Worship Service; LORD'S SUPPER // **NO MEAL** // Evening Home Groups

**\*\* Sunday Services, JUNE 25:** 9:30am - Sunday School // 10:45am - Worship Service // **NOON MEAL**



5:30pm - 7:30pm  
FELLOWSHIP/STUDY/EQUIPPING

FAITHFUL

MEN'S

MONTHLY