

GROW IN GRACE NEWSLETTER

PLEASE USE the Grow in Grace Newsletter for your own spiritual growth; and **AS A RESOURCE** to help equip you to MINISTER to others! **Volume 47, No. 32, August 16, 2022** / Southside Baptist Church / 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 JESUS CHRIST!”***

SPREADING the GOSPEL in our local MISSION FIELD!

“... **Andrew... first findeth his own brother** Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. **And he brought him to Jesus...** The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me... **Philip findeth Nathaniel**, and saith unto him, We have found Him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” (John 1:40b-45)

Genuine Christianity is all about RELATIONSHIPS! The primary relationship is, of course, a personal, saving relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. **The next vital relationship** is that of fellowship in the body of Christ— specifically of being together **in a local church** with other brothers and sisters in Christ. (Acts 1 & 2; 1 Cor. 12; Eph. 4)

It is primarily in a local church CONTEXT that we are able to carry out the various ‘one to another’ ***this-is-what-love-looks-like*** ministries which are stated over 50 times in the Epistles. In the Christian Home and in the local assembly of saints in Christ, Christ is our exalted HEAD and we are ‘serving members’ in His Body of which He is the Head; and in His Body **we are to live in submission one to another and LOVING one another**, in the fear of God— **this is NOT optional!** (Eph. 5:21)

AS AN OVERFLOW of these primary relationships we are called and motivated by the indwelling compelling of the Holy Spirit to move out into our world to advance the cause of Christ! **AND we see in the Word of God** the Gospel OFTEN ADVANCES along lines of relationships, **EVEN as we see here:**

[1] **Andrew** went to Peter; [2] **Philip**, to Nathaniel; [3] **The woman at the well**, back to her city; [4] **Cornelius** went to his household; [5] **The Philippian jailer**, to his household; [6] **The demonic of the Gadarenes** now sitting at the feet of Jesus, fully clothed and in his right mind was told by Jesus to go back to his home people and to tell them what great things the LORD had done for him— **O my, what a simple but powerful strategy!**

Indeed, if something good or bad happens to us— among the first people we want to tell is family, friends, and close associates. It is normal for life to unfold in the context of **relationships**. Therefore, look at the circles below. These are called **Concentric Circles**, because all of the circles are related to and have a specific connection to the first circle. **These Concentric Circles illustrate the normal experience of relationships.**

Jesus told the disciples,

“You shall be my witnesses in [1] Jerusalem; [2] Judea; [3] Samaria and [4] to the uttermost part of the earth.”

WITNESSES— that is, we are to demonstrate by our lives real evidence of Christ in our lives to the people in our world, starting with those closest to home— this is the ‘music’ of the gospel which makes the

gospel tracts, sermons,

Bible Studies, etc, all the more believable!



REALITY: All too often we have hidden ruptured and/or strained relationships in our Bible believing Christian churches and homes **and/or** just plain **WORLDLINESS** that hinders the spread of the Gospel of Christ!

This is one reason that we find it easy to **jump past** family, relatives, friends, neighbors, business or work associates, and even acquaintances and **go to Person X to evangelize!**

We run out to “Person X” and we give them the gospel or a tract; and then, we run back to the safety of our Rabbit Holes— places where we are isolated from the world!

Person X may be in the high crime streets of a big city or in a third world, poverty stricken country, or in a rescue mission or jail — **we go to them!** We evangelize. We come home. We tell others about our efforts. We go back to our business, job, home, church and/or daily routines; and every so often we repeat the cycle. Others will commend us for being willing to ‘go to the streets’ or to a foreign land and minister for a few hours, days or even weeks. So, we feel good. We are **EVANGELIZING** the world! **Now there is no doubt about it—** Person X needs the Gospel and they are a part of the world that we are called upon to evangelize! **Ministry to Person X is valid and needed!**

BUT WHY is it that all too often we do not GO TO THE FOLKS IN CIRCLES 2-6? Well, it could be because they know us! They know our salty language, lustful looks, greedy grasping, anger, business deceit, gossip, etc. They see how we are at work or at school or in our home. **THUS:** We might need to, first of all, ask for their forgiveness or give forgiveness— which if that is what we need to do— just do it! That is powerful witnessing!

ANOTHER REALITY: With Person X, we don't have to deal with our 'hang-ups' ... OR THEIRS... and we can 'love them and leave them!' We make a 'quick trip' to a third world country, (Or even stay 45 days as I have!), but then we come home. Again, yes, there is need and a place for such endeavors. **But frankly, such labors** are usually simple and easy as compared to witnessing to those in circles 2-6!

With 'Third World' type missions/evangelism right in our own town, or with outreach efforts toward neighbors just down the street— it's different and far more difficult! Why? How so? Again, the folks around us KNOW us— warts and all! BUT ALSO, with ministry in Circles 2-6, it's week after week, month after month, year after year.

Ministering to those in Circles 2-6 is much like the ministry of the career missionary. We are there for the long haul— planting, watering, praying, and waiting for the LORD to give the increase! We can't leave them!

We can't just do Sunday School... or Youth or Children's ministry... or ministry to a neighbor... or to a co-worker once or twice a year. Rather, we minister to them week after week and year after year— or at least maintain availability to minister, being alert for the next opportunity... as we continue to pray and agonize for their souls!

We can't just 'walk by on the other side' nor can we 'love them and leave them'— leaving the hard work of 'on-going follow up'

ministries to others. **To folks in our Circles 2-6, we are THEIR career missionaries! We are their full-time Ministers, etc.**

TRAGIC REALITY: this is why many folk are looking for a church to merely attend; and not one where they will be equipped to labor for the Master!

IN OUR 'CIRCLES 2-6, we MAY have to stop and give sacrificially of ourselves and our time... you know... just like the Good Samaritan!

HAVE WE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED THIS— if we find an 'open door' with a family, with an individual— **do we not have to be prepared** to follow-up week after week and even beyond?

If at Sunday School or at Church services, we discover a need in someone or that a visitor is present— **doesn't the S.S. class or you as a member have** opportunity/responsibility for follow-up ministry?

OR, are we, AM I content to just do 'rabbit-hole' evangelism; or to do NO evangelism or other outreach ministries?

Over the years a good number of dear ones have told me that they felt **it was so much easier to minister the Gospel in this particular foreign land or that one.** "God is obviously at work in such and such place or nation— that's where I want to be!" In contrast, they proclaim that gospel ministry can be so hard here in America. Besides, Americans have already heard the gospel.

But here is some larger reality:

If we were the actual ones living in and ministering in that 'third world' country or in a big city Rescue Mission every day, 365 days a year and year after year— we would not think it easy and we would see and experience the intense spiritual blindness and warfare in those mission fields!

Years back I had spent 2 weeks in India, and then one month; but it was not until I had later spent 45 days in India that I began to feel just a little of what it would be like to be called to minister in India 365 days a year! **All of those Indians were in my Person X! But all who were Person X to me— those same folk were the people of Circles 2-6 to the Indian pastors and gospel workers— 365 days a year.** They did not get to LEAVE after 45 days and, thus, get out from under the daily load of evangelizing folks in Circles 2-6!

On three different occasions I, along with others, walked the streets of major cities in India all day for a week at a time, passing out tracts and doing street preaching. In years past, a number of our folk have done good ministry in Mexico or at the Jail, or Rescue Mission. **These are all ministries to our Person X group. Praise the LORD!**

But our 'Person X' group is the Rescue Mission's workers' or India's pastors' and churches' and/or the Mexico pastor's and their Christian worker's Person 2-6 Group! That's where most of the real work is done. Yes, we can have a valid ministry to Person X, especially IF or when we leave them connected to local churches and ministries. **But as any real farmer knows— he must do more than scatter a bunch of seed and then leave town!**

Yes, whatever we do among Person X is a 'piece of cake!'... when compared to the labor required from the native pastors or from the Rescue Mission Staff!... THIS REALITY SHOULD ENVISION OUR PRAYING FOR MISSIONARIES and NATIVE PASTORS, ETC.

BUT, again, the PRIMARY QUESTION for us is— WHO IS GOING TO TAKE THE GOSPEL TO THOSE IN OUR '2-6' WORLD? And the answer is that I MUST! AND SO MUST YOU!

But, we protest: “The people in my “2 to 6” world are not responsive to the gospel!” ... And, “it’s so hard...” and “what if it requires me to spend time with them every week...?”

YOU KNOW: It is amazing the amount of time we spend **EVERY WEEK on STUFF that does not have ETERNITY written on it! ... but we hold back on spending quality and quantity time with SOULS who do have eternity written on them!**

WE MUST REMEMBER: Many a great harvest has come after a number of apparent crop failures! Let us keep planting, watering. God will give the increase! **Second**, we are called to be faithful. For 100 years or more, Noah worked on building an ARK and **PREACHING RIGHTEOUSNESS** and living a **GRACE-FILLED** life **BEFORE** a people who would ultimately be destroyed! **BUT NOAH KEPT ON PREACHING!** We are, likewise, called to be faithful!

Third, look in the Bible— very often God has His servants in ‘gospel-hardened’ places! Just ask Noah! And then remember, that Jesus says that the last days will be like the days of Noah!

Fourth, beware of modeling after the apparent success methods of the entertainment oriented religious harlot! Our lost world does not need **PLAY ACTING** visuals! **They need REAL VISUALS—** **Christians who genuinely love and forgive, who are manifesting joy and hope in trials and tribulations, who manifest the COMPASSION of Jesus and who are walking in holiness.**

Fifth, A MASTER KEY: With the folks in our “2-6” world, life tumbles in for all of them. They have both good and ‘bad’ things that happen to them. **And the same things happen to saints in Christ!** They do not have resources to help them deal with the trials and troubles. BUT WE DO!

As they WITNESS you winning the battle over bitterness, revenge, hate, fear, and resentments— the Gospel is being seen in

Circles 2-6! **The MUSIC of the gospel is flowing from you. You are making them 'THIRSTY' and HUNGRY for good news, for GRACE to handle life! You are being the LIGHT of the world... salt and light!** Thus, when life does tumble in, we often have FRESH OPPORTUNITIES... or “points of contact” to sow seeds of kindness and love! Love is, after all, meeting real needs.

Thus, real '2-6' evangelism/missions/witnessing starts with how I treat my wife, my family, MY CHURCH FAMILY, those closest to me, those who are neighbors, those I work around and/or those I may casually meet in the town/county where I live.

Real '2-6' evangelism/missions/witnessing starts with being a congregation that loves, that forgives, and that seeks to live holy and pure! Real 2-6- evangelism CONTINUES as we TELL what great things God has done and is doing for us— (1) **Andrew went to Peter; (2) **Philip**, to Nathaniel; (3) **The woman at the well**, back to her city; (4) **Cornelius** went to his household; (5) **The Philippian jailer**, to his household;**

(6) **The demonic of the Gadarenes** now sitting at the feet of Jesus, fully clothed and in his right mind was told by Jesus to go back to his home people and to tell them what great things the LORD had done for him!

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(7) AND THIS WEEK... I WILL BE GOING TO _____?

IF WE CANNOT OR IF WE REFUSE TO manifest love, forgiveness and holiness in these settings— **we become guilty of hypocrisy; we grieve the Holy Spirit; and ZEAL for TELLING the gospel shuts down!**

Psalm 51 prescribes great healing medicine for this common spiritual disease! (Some of the concepts for this article are edited from and the diagram is from *Concentric Circles of Concern*, by W. Oscar Thompson, Jr.)

Great Grace to All! James Bell / www.southsidegallatin.org

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

SUNDAY SERVICES: AUGUST 21, 28 / 2022

1. * Sunday School at 9:30am:** Nursery, Children's classes, Youth, and Adult classes.

2. * WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:45am!**

ADDITIONAL SUNDAY SERVICES:

1. 8/21/22 ... AFTER the MORNING service: THE LORD'S TABLE

2. 8/28/22 ... FOURTH SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE at 5PM. (Adam, Bradley, and others give specific preparation for this Service.... and, this month, **Ken Smith** scheduled to preach.)

EVERY SATURDAY*** 8:00 AM, — Men's Bible Study! (*Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Sausage Biscuits are available!*)
[**NEW STUDY IN JEREMIAH... 8/13/22**]

***** NEXT Ladies Bible Study, AUGUST 30, @ 11:00 AM**

TUESDAYS: WEEKLY Youth Group Meeting, ages 12 and up ... Tuesdays a 7:15pm... at Jaden and Rhi's home...

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS:

6:30pm— come in back 'double doors' under the Drive Thru awning! ** Adult Prayer Service

**** Young FAMILIES Prayer Service [ADAM or Jaden weekly communicate as to LOCATION]**

***** LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD BY MAIL or by ONLINE GIVING:**

SUCH funds, (if checks), make out to Southside Baptist) — MAIL TO: Southside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1594, Gallatin, TN 37066/ OR...

TO GIVE via ONLINE GIVING:
<https://southsidebaptist.breezechms.com/give/online>

HEALTH REMINDERS as to CHURCH SERVICES AND as to Responding with WISDOM and NOT fear IN SEEKING TO KEEP AS HEALTHY AS WE CAN— SO AS TO BE ACTIVE IN THE KINGDOM BUSINESS OF THE LORD!

1. IF YOU ARE SICK... [OR if you are in a state of high immune deficiency or if (at home or work) you are caring for one who is sick; or if you have • Fever; • Coughing; • Chills; • Headache; • Sore throat; etc.], Please stay home! [A GUIDE— IF WITH WHAT YOU HAVE, YOU WOULD GO TO WORK, THEN COME AND GATHER WITH THE SAINTS!]

2. WHEN YOU COME ... you may or may not choose to wear a mask... WE CONTINUE to encourage FREEDOM as to ‘social distancing’... masks ... vaccine choices, etc. — PLEASE HONOR THE LORD, by continuing to give sensitivity and respect one to another.

3. In addition to carefulness, good hydration, good nutrition, and sleep— ALSO: SEEK TO BUILD UP A STRONG IMMUNE SYSTEM! I PERSONALLY TAKE ELDERBERRY, VITAMIN C, E, ZINC, GINGER, VITAMIN D, Quercetin, a good multi-vitamin that includes fiber... And Ivermectin. LET each of us DO OUR PART IN personal hygiene — please wash your hands with SOAP; and use nearby SANITIZER.

4. HERE IS AN EDUCATIONAL resource from ... FROM Doctors who successfully treat covid-19 patients! => <https://breggin.com/covid-19-home-treatment/> ////

Peter McCullough, MD, BRIEF. EXCELLENT:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAHi3lX3oGM>

The PDF booklet: A Guide to Home-Based COVID Treatment can be downloaded ... **focus is on PREVENTION and early treatment:** [COVID Treatment - Truth for Health Foundation](https://www.truthforhealth.org/patientguide/patient-treatment-guide/)<https://www.truthforhealth.org/patientguide/patient-treatment-guide/>