

Remember in Prayer:

The Sick:

James Tanksley is at home after having surgery on an abscess on his foot.

Katherine Kenning, who was scheduled to undergo knee replacement surgery this week, had to cancel the surgery because she was involved in a car wreck. A driver near her home hit her, however, she sustained no apparent injuries.

Continue to remember others recovering from sickness, surgery and those dealing with cancer or chronic illness including:

Dennis Blanton, Xenna Gooch, Ronald Miller (Larry's father), Carolyn Lowder, Wayne Reeves (Debra Baham's father), Burton Brown (Bettye's brother), Lucille Hall (Ethel Wohlrahe's mother) and Pansy Hensley.

News & Notes:

--**Group 3** will meet today in the Library after the morning service.

--If you can help in **preparing the Lord's Supper**, please sign up on the list on the bulletin board in the lobby.

--We are sorry to announce that due to scheduling difficulties and extenuating circumstances, we will not be able to have our **VBS Saturday** this summer. Check the bulletin board in the lobby for area Vacation Bible Schools, and be watching for our announcements for next year!

Anger

1. Which king became so angry with his son he hurled a spear at him? 1 Sam 20:30-33
2. Which king was so angry because the man he had told to curse his enemies, blessed them three times instead? Numbers 24:10
3. When God abandoned his plan to destroy Nineveh, which prophet became angry?
4. When a man refused to sell him a vineyard, which king became so angry he went to bed without eating? 1 Kings 21:1-4
5. Which king, angered because his nightmare could not be interpreted, ordered the execution of all the wise men in Babylon? Daniel 2:1-12

Answers: 1. Saul; 2. Balak; 3. Jonah (Jonah 3:1-10; 4:1) 4. Ahab; 5. Nebuchadnezzar

ELDERS: Doug Driver
Johnny Felker
DEACONS: Ralph Brown
Mark Claypool



Service Times

SUNDAY
Bible Study—9:00 am
Worship—9:55 am & 6:00 pm

WEDNESDAY
Bible Study 7:00 pm

Perry Heights Weekly Bulletin

Perry Heights church of Christ
423 Donelson Pike
Nashville, TN 37214
(615) 883-3118

*"...let us consider how we may encourage one another"
Heb. 10:24*

July 12, 2009

The Gospel Flows Via Relationships

The New Testament reveals with clarity that the gospel flows best when it moves naturally through relationships. You and I go about daily establishing and re-establishing horizontal relations with family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, business associates, etc. And to those who see us with regularity, we become a walking, talking, and living example of what Christianity is (or isn't). Those people know us and they know if our faith is the real deal or a phony facade.

The truth is - before people will embrace something, they must see that it has done something life-changing for you.

Blunt question: Would you buy "hair restorer" from a bald guy? (I have a follicle challenged friend who reminds me that they don't put marble tops on cheap furniture!) But seriously, if a bald salesman knocked on your door selling "Acme Hair Restorer - Guaranteed to Grow Hair in Ten Days!" - would you buy? No. The question said or unsaid would be: "If your product is so great, why hasn't it worked for you?"

Did you ever think that maybe one reason we don't convert more people to Christ is because they haven't seen Christ work in us. God expects us to be different; to show people that we have a hope, a drive, a mood, and an attitude far better than those around us. Our friends must see the difference and it is in that difference that the gospel finds receptivity (1 Peter 2:9).

From House to House: We have developed the notion (based on Acts 5:42 and Acts 20:20) that "house to house" evangelism occurs like a census taker walking the streets of the subdivision knocking on every door. I'm not so sure. 1 Timothy 5:13 provides the best commentary on what "house to house" actually means - *"At the same time they also learn to be idle, as they go around from house to house; and not merely idle, but also gossips and busybodies..."*

How does gossip go "house to house?" Simple. I park my car at the end of a street and commence knocking on the first door - Did you hear what I heard about Mary Jo Brown?" Finding an unreceptive audience from the homeowner, I proceed to the next house with the same query. And ditto for every house on the street. You know gossip doesn't work

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The _____ of being fruitful by teaching others

And God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be _____ and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it..." (Gen. 1:27-28)

You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear _____, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you. (Jn. 15:16)

And the word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to _____ greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith. (Ac. 6:7)

And I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented thus far) in order that I might obtain some _____ among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles. (Rom. 1:13)

But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean _____ labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. (Phil. 1:22)

Finding _____ to be fruitful in teaching others (Jn. 4:32-38)

Teaching others is _____.

"My _____ is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work.

Teaching others is _____.

"Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, that they are _____ for harvest."

Teaching others is _____.

"Already he who reaps is receiving _____, and is gathering fruit for life eternal; that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together."

Teaching others is _____.

"For in this case the saying is true, 'One sows, and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; _____ have labored, and _____ have entered into their labor."

Let us strive to be like the person described in Psalm 1: *"And he will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers. (Ps. 1:1-3)*

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that way. Gossip goes "house to house" through relationships; through people you know. Here it is: you show me how gossip goes house to house and I'll show you how the gospel goes house to house! The Good News works most efficiently when it is shared first with people we know.

House to House Examples: --John 1:40-42a...Andrew, upon finding the Christ, turned first to his own brother. Before approaching strangers, he approached one with whom he had a relationship.

--John 1:43-45...Phillip found someone he knew (Nathanael) and shared his enthusiasm over Jesus.

--John 4:26, 28-30, 39...The Samaritan woman went back to town (her town) and shared her excitement with neighbors.

--Acts 10:24...Cornelius calls together his "*relatives and close friends*" to assemble and hear the gospel preached.

--Mark 5:19...The previously demon-possessed man is told by Jesus to "*go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you.*"

In each example, the message of Christ flowed first through relationships. It re-emphasizes the truth that the ones with whom we are likely to have the greatest influence are the people with whom we already have influence!

Person "X": Where do many churches center their efforts to reach the lost? Person "X". We knock on the door of Person "X", mail flyers to Person "X", preach on the radio to Person "X", etc. Is there anything wrong with that? No. For one thing it shows the community that the church is alive and serious about its work. But here is the problem - I don't have to put anything on the line with Person "X". Personal evangelism happens when we get excited about souls to the point that we open our mouth and speak to persons we know. We build relationships with neighbors, the PTA, business associates, friends, etc. And through things shared in common, relationships form. And sooner or later the Lord opens a door of opportunity. And that is when you and I had better be ready.

"Let me share a scripture with you that I read last week..." "You need to worship with us this Sunday..." "You know, the one thing missing in your life is what used to be missing in mine..." How easy the gospel flows when it flows through relationships.

In a survey of new Christians, 87% said they had first been invited/encouraged by a friend. Someone they knew had taken the initiative. That's impressive. More than that, it's New Testament personal evangelism.

--Wilson Adams, *Biblical Insights (edited)*