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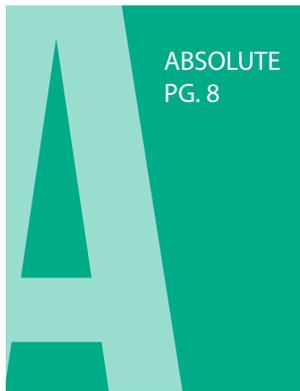
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IN THIS ISSUE

In your hand you hold a piece of PCG history. Since 1919 this publication has served as the official voice of the Pentecostal Church of God. In 1927 this publication was renamed *The Pentecostal Messenger*. Over the past 90 years The Messenger has taken on various looks, styles, and formats while always staying true to the mission. What exactly is that mission? The mission of the PM is simple:

To impart the message of Jesus Christ, strengthen believers, resource the church, and promote the essential values of the PCG.

- absolute: We hold to God's Word as our absolute belief. (Luke 1:1; John 17:17)
- connected: We are connected together as the body of Christ. (1 Cor. 1:10)
- global: We are committed to the global advancement of the gospel. (Acts 1:8)
- relevant: We will strive to be relevant in reaching our generation. (Acts 13:36)

You now hold the latest redesign of the PM. Hours of diligent work have been dedicated to this redesign, in an attempt to bring you the best publication possible.

Some new features include:

- New Sections: absolute, connected, global, and relevant (reinforcing our essential values).
- New Columns: we have added two new columns, including a guest writer column
- New Content: designed to be informative and resourceful
- New Size: paving the way for digital publication and distribution

We hope you enjoy the latest reformat of the PM. We would love to hear some feedback from you! Let us know what you think.

We can be reached by:

- Facebook: [facebook.com/pentecostalmessenger](https://www.facebook.com/pentecostalmessenger)
- Twitter: @pcgmessenger
- Email: Communications@pcg.org

—PM

UPCOMING EVENTS



March

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MARCH 1, 2013:

Registration opens for General convention. Register at gc.pcg.org



May

18

MAY 19–26, 2013:

Impact Missions Adventures Iraq



June

26

JUNE 26–JULY 2, 2013:

General Convention



July

22

JULY 22–28, 2013:

United Kingdom PCG Convention

COOKIES FOR CHRISTMAS

Volunteers from Full Gospel Church preparing 365 dozen cookies



The Westville Correctional Facility, located in Westville, Indiana, is a state-operated prison for adult males. The facility's sections contain three levels of security. The average daily population is approximately 3,300.

Each year Westville Correctional Facility hosts a Christmas party for the inmates. During the Christmas season various Christian-based prison ministries and their local churches are asked to help provide cookies for the inmates' Christmas party. In 2011 the Full Gospel Church of Michigan City, Indiana supplied 300 dozen cookies. Keith Blacksten, a Prison Fellowship Ministry volunteer and a member of the Full Gospel Church, delivered 300 cookies. The gift was received with great appreciation and thankfulness.

In 2012 Dick Brooks, the director of Prison Fellowship Ministry at the Westville Correctional Facility, asked Full Gospel Church if they could once again help supply cookies. Not wanting to let them down, the Full Gospel Church members stepped up

to the plate and made 365 dozen cookies. (That's a lot of dough!)

Rev. Dennis Pickens, pastor of Full Gospel Church and an ordained minister of the

Pentecostal Church of God, preaches at the prison on Monday nights. During one of the services, Pastor Pickens recalls a testimony of one of the offenders, who said, "It's not just the tasty treats, but there are a lot of guys in here that never have any family communications; and to know that there are people who are thinking of us really means a lot, especially at Christmas time."

Pastor Pickens was inspired by a writing on the wall at the prison chapel that said, "I was in prison and you came unto me," a reference made by Jesus in Matthew 25. He is thankful to be blessed with members who are willing to fulfill the teachings of the Master and demonstrate real Christmas spirit. 📧

DREAM DANCER

In 2010 as Sydney Williams watched "The Nutcracker" for the first time, she pointed at Clara and said, "I want to do that." After two years of praying and hard work, Sydney made history as being the first African American girl to star as young Clara at the Indianapolis School of Ballet production of "The Nutcracker."

"I felt so happy when I found out I was playing the lead role. I was so happy that I screamed. I hugged my dad, my sister, and my little brothers. I felt like I made it," said Sydney. Sydney has danced since she was 18 months old, participating in many dance activities, including winning the dance category in Indiana's Kids Talent Expo two years in a row.

Sydney and her family attend Bethel Family Worship Center in Indianapolis, IN, pastored by Pastor Russell and Bev Hylton. Sydney and her mother, Kimberly Williams, share a common achievement. Ms. Kimberly was the first African American Miss Clovis, which is a preliminary of Miss California and Miss America.

The night she won, people walked out after her name was announced. "I know the pressure that comes along with being the first to accomplish something. I was happy that she was chosen, but worried about the pressure. My husband and I just want her to do what she does best, which is dance," Ms. Kimberly explained. "Sydney is a very sweet girl inside and out. She loves God, her family, and dance," said Ms. Kimberly. 📧



Sydney performing at Encounter Conference 2013



ENCOUNTER CONFERENCE

1.11-12 HUNGER 2013

The Encounter Conference for young leaders took place on Friday, January 11 and Saturday, January 12, 2013. Leaders from 12 different states were encouraged to “Hunger” after God in a way they had never hungered before.

The weekend was kicked off with passionate and energetic worship by the SOS (Spirit of St. Louis) Church worship team led by Mike Skiles, followed by a message given by NYD Joe Skiles. He challenged students, ministers, and bishops to hunger and thirst after righteousness according to Matthew 5:6.

Next ILD Director Randy Lawrence Jr. spoke on the importance of remaining hungry, and warned against the dangers of a spirit with no appetite. The afternoon session brought in a panel of leaders to take on the questions of both those in attendance and those “tweeting” in over live stream. Pastors Russell Hylton and Eric Scott of Bethel Family Worship Center in Indianapolis, IN, and National Youth Directors Joe and Teena Skiles gave wisdom to those listening as they answered questions, such as “How can I grow my youth?” and “How can I be a leader as the youngest person in my youth group?”

Keynote speaker Adam McCain brought forth a message about Multi-Generational Ministry. Tom Skiles, pastor of SOS Church, taught on Saturday morning the importance of those who were formerly prodigal sons and daughters reaching out to the LOST prodigal sons and daughters. Then Adam McCain took the stage for the last session teaching

on the importance of Faith, Hope, and Love.

While what I stated above is a report of what physically happened over the weekend, the truly incredible things are what spiritually happened. While I can’t speak to the experience of others, I can honestly say that the presence of God came and rested on the Encounter Conference and did not once relent. I watched as people fell to their knees for their Creator with a hunger that sent pangs through the spirit and refused to be satisfied by anything else. I saw a generation, my generation, that refused to be called fatherless, kneel in the presence of a Heavenly Father. I saw a generation that wasn’t lost, but desired, above all, revival. I watched as leaders poured through the doors having driven ten or more hours just to have an encounter with God. I didn’t see a generation that evades responsibility, or that has no respect for their Pentecostal heritage, but a generation with a craving to be used by God, willing to be forged by fire, and desiring to take up the mantle of those that have gone before them.

Encounter Conference was not just a youth conference; it was a glimpse into the bright and vibrant future of the Pentecostal Church of God. There were moments where age didn’t matter, experience didn’t matter, education didn’t matter, because we all stood together as prodigal sons and daughters rejoicing because we once were lost but now we are found.

The real report is about people having an encounter; and that we did. I sat in the video booth and watched with tears rolling down my face as young and old stood together with a desire to shake the pillars of heaven. I saw current pastors empowering future pastors. I saw district bishops crying out to God for the young leaders of this organization. If you didn’t make it to Encounter Conference 2013, then plan for 2014. It’s not another youth service; it’s not another camp meeting; it is an encounter with the Creator, a Creator that loves us. 📺

Josh Rogers is a Minister and Graphic Designer for the Pentecostal Church of God and a member of the editorial staff for *The Pentecostal Messenger*. Follow him on Twitter @josroge

WHO'S ON FIRST ROW?



Two friends are talking as they enter the sanctuary. The following is their

conversation.

"There are a lot of new people in church; even the front row is filled. I remember when people who came in late had to sit up front, maybe as close as the fifth row."

"Yeah, now church is so full you have to get here early to sit in the back. There are so many people I will never learn their names. Who's on the front row?"

"Yes, it is. And behind him is, What, and I Don't Know is next to him."

"Do you know their names?"

"I just told you their names."

"Who's on the front row?"

"Who."

"On the front row?"

"Who."

"The person sitting on the end of the front row, who is it?"

"Yes, it is Who."

"Who?"

"Who."

"Why are you asking me? I'm asking you who is on the front row?"

"That's his name—Who."

"What's whose name?"

"No, What is behind Who."

"When the usher takes up the offering, who gives the tithe?"

"Absolutely."

"Who?"

"Right."

"Who gives it?"

"Of course, he is a new member and a regular tither, and his wife too."

"Whose wife?"

"That's right; they joined the church together."

"What's the guy's name on the end of the front row?"

"No, What's on the second row and I Don't Know is next to him."

"I'm not asking you who's on the second row!"

"Who's on the front row!"

"The church has a new worship leader. Is she good?"

"Yes."

"What's her name?"

"Why."

"Well, I just thought I would ask!"

"Well, I just told you!"

"Who's preaching now?"

"Who's on the front row?"

"I Don't know."

"He is on the second row next to What."

"I don't know what!"

"Come on let me introduce you."

"I don't care!"

"I Don't Care left our church a long time ago. That's when we started to grow."

Forgive the parody of Abbot and Costello. Apologies to those of you were expecting something much more spiritual. Just wanted to make a few points:

- It is not important to my worship experience that I know everyone in the service. In growing churches a vibrant experience with the

Continued on PG. 21

Charles Scott is the General Bishop of the Pentecostal Church of God and author of the book *Storms Don't Bother Me*. Follow him on Twitter @generalbishop.

A LOOK INTO THE PAST

We believe in the biblical principle of honor. As we move forward in the area of publications, we celebrate the heritage of the *PM*. Below is a glimpse into our past from March 1973.

BIG BUSINESS IN BIBLE BUMPER STICKERS

Two million bumper stickers will be printed this year, according to figures gathered by some producers in the current fad of wearing one's piety on his sleeve. Another two million or so Jesus T-shirts, Jesus buttons, Jesus posters, Jesus shoulder patches, Jesus decals, Jesus watches, Jesus bracelets, Jesus pins, Jesus cups and the like will be manufactured by half a dozen major firms.

The religious accoutrements for autos, homes and wardrobes are being purchased by people of many denominations in the West and East as well as in the South, according to a special report to the New York Times.

The item estimated that at least another two million such religious items will be produced for use in Key 73, the continent-wide, interdenominational evangelism program operating under the theme, "Calling Our Continent to Christ."

Young people today are not embarrassed to discuss and dis-

play their religious beliefs, the report stated, quoting Robert Hubinger, vice president of the Cross Publishing Company, Kenilworth, N. J. He said that youthful attitude is being carried over into the American mainstream and will mean a continued market for religious display items.

The report described the approximately 200 different bumper sticker messages as reflecting a fundamentalist perspective, "the predominant mood of the American religious scene." The three top-selling stickers introduced in the late sixties are variations of, "Honk if you know Jesus," "Our God is not dead—sorry about yours," and "Smile, God loves you." Many others copy advertising slogans.

The boom is traced to Elden W. Ferm, a traveling salesman in Florida who left his employer in 1969 to begin producing bumper stickers. His newest entry into the market is, "I'm headed for the promised land, see you there—J. C."

MARCH, 1973

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P.L.A.s Make Pajama Donation To Hoa Khan Children's Hospital



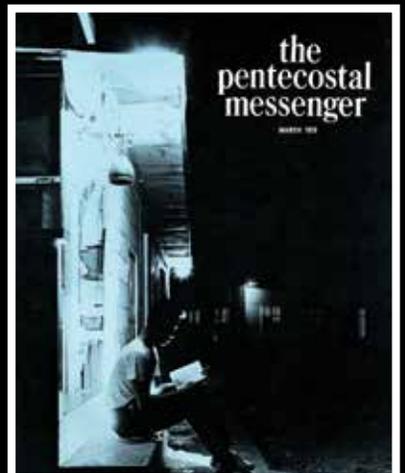
General P.L.A. President Edith M. Heard (right) and Ferrell Semler, Secretary, are shown admiring the large shipment of children's pajamas that are being packed for mailing to the Hoa Khan Children's Hospital in DaNang, South Vietnam. The Pentecostal Ladies Auxiliary is an associate of the National Association of Evangelicals, which is the sponsor of the hospital. The women donate different items to the hospital each year, such as medicine, equipment and clothing. This year the P.L.A.s have collected 520 pairs of pajamas for the hospital. Many Districts cooperated in this effort, and there seemed to be a special enthusiasm originated with the idea of extending our missions arm in this direction. Thank you for excellent cooperation!

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THE PENTECOSTAL MESSENGER

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MARCH 1973



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MARCH 1973

EFFECTIVE OUTREACHES



The term “Outreach” means, “the extending of services or assistance beyond current or unusual limits.” The American College Dictionary defines it as “reaching out.” The Great Commission defines it as “going and making.” In the commission given to Adam and Eve in Genesis 1:28, God said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it.” Each definition of outreach indicates there must be an effort on our part to go forth, to reach out to people who are in need of something they don’t have but need. Effective outreach happens as we:

FIRST: WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT EVERY PERSON IS A DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH. Every person, according to Psalm 139, was “fearfully and wonderfully made,” and “chosen in Him before the foundation of the world” (Ephesians 1:4), and “called with a holy calling . . . according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before time began” (2 Timothy 1:9). You and I and the worst of the worst of sinners all have the potential of being something special—a diamond—but the rough has to be removed by the blood of Jesus Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit.

I’ve heard it said, “hate the sin, but love the sinner.” We, however, seldom apply it equally to everyone. The fact is, Christ died for the sinner, even the sinner of whom you and I don’t approve. Perhaps, instead of making statements, passing laws, and boycotting stores, the most effective way to combat “their” sin is to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and to love our neighbor—yes, the drug addict, liar, child molester, porn addict—as ourselves. Let’s not forget, Christ loved sinners so much that he was willing to be beaten, ridiculed, and nailed to the cross where He died. We’re all diamonds in the rough, but most people just aren’t aware of the power of God’s Word or the Holy Spirit to make them into a new creation, so we must tell them.

SECOND: PURSUE THE MORE EXCELLENT WAY. Jesus said, “Nevertheless I tell you truth; it is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the Comforter (Holy Spirit) will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you” (John 16:7). I find this striking, “Now, I tell you the truth.” It’s like Christ is saying, “Pay attention, guys; you need

to hear this. You will need the Holy Spirit.” In John 14, 15 and 16 He gets to the core of what He wants these men to understand about the purpose and need of the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-17; 14:25-26; 15:26; 16:7-14).

Paul continues the topic of the Holy Spirit by emphasizing the need of the gifts of the Spirit, the fruit of the Spirit, and being led by the Spirit. Then he says, let me tell you what is really important, and what will change the world and insure the effectiveness of any outreach. He says in 1 Cor. 12:31, “But from your heart you should want the best gifts. Now I will show you even a better way” (NLV). He writes his famous “love chapter,” and in it he reminds us that without LOVE, nothing else matters.

Christ was effective in all He did because He loved people. Without this love, Christ would have been ineffective. “God’s love **has been poured out in our hearts** through the Holy Spirit” (Romans 5:5, GWT). Let’s ask our Helper, the Holy Spirit, to do to us whatever is necessary for us to manifest this love. God’s love is a motivator that will enable us to love the sinner and reach out to those in need. ☒

Loyd Naten is the General Secretary of the Pentecostal Church of God and former World Missions Director.



PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD

AFRICA

CONFERENCE

AUGUST 28–31, 2013

For the first time ever Pentecostal Church of God Pastors and leaders from all across the continent of Africa will join together in Nairobi, Kenya, as The Pentecostal Church of God hosts the Africa Convention. Please prayerfully consider what contribution you or your church can make to assist the African Pentecostal Church of God leaders to attend this conference. Your contributions will be a blessing to those who otherwise may not be able to attend.

For more information contact:

World Missions– 817.554.5900 ext 341 or worldmissions@pcg.org

OUTREACH



OUTREACH.

WHAT DOES IS IT MEAN?

HOW DOES IT APPLY TO THE CHURCH?

WHERE DOES THE WORD COME FROM?

The Church, more than any other institution in the world, does not exist solely for the sake of its membership. The Church exists to be the salt of the earth, the light of the world, the redeeming factor in a dying society. Everything we do must be for the purpose of “reaching out” to others for Jesus Christ.

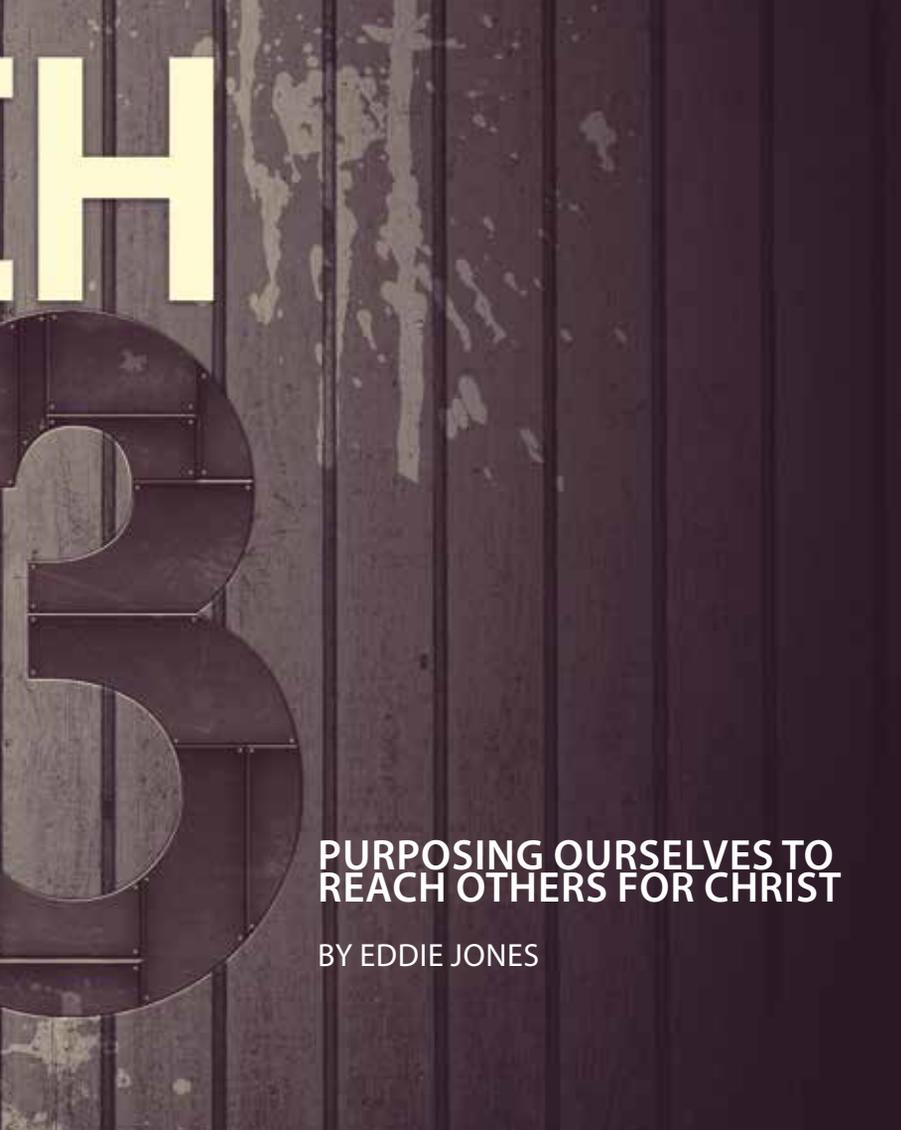
George Barna wrote about the growing church:

“These were people who were passionate about outreach. . . . They saw every event in their lives as having a hand in better enabling them to reach out to others for Christ. They looked upon life as an opportunity to serve God.”

Most church people see Outreach as a “program” that can be operated to reach out to the community two-three times per year. Many times teaching on why our church needs to do Outreach is necessary. In some instances, church attendees’ mindsets have to be retrained to even think about Outreach. Why is this? Jesus spoke clearly to His disciples about their role as followers of Jesus. Since He spoke so clearly, why do we sometimes have to be encouraged, retrained, convinced, or even challenged to reach out?

The following words of Jesus give a complete direction about who we are to be:

“One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, great crowds pressed in on him to listen to the word of God. He noticed two empty boats at the water’s edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. Stepping



PURPOSING OURSELVES TO REACH OTHERS FOR CHRIST

BY EDDIE JONES

into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, its owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there.

“When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, ‘Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish.’

“‘Master,’ Simon replied, ‘we worked hard all last night and didn’t catch a thing. But if you say so, I’ll let the nets down again.’ And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking.

“When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, ‘Oh, Lord, please leave me—I’m too much of a sinner to be around you.’ For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him. His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed. Jesus replied to Simon, ‘Don’t be afraid! From now on you’ll be fishing for people.’ And as soon as they landed,

they left everything and followed Jesus” (Luke 5:1-11, NLT).

As His disciples, we are called to be “fishers of men.” More often than not, the followers of Jesus miss out on this discipleship principle. We have become so accustomed to “doing church” and having our needs met by God that we forget our calling.

Human nature has caused us to be concerned about one thing—ME. We attend church seeking for ME. We give input about what the church is doing or not doing for ME. We want the church to meet MY needs and have things I enjoy. When a congregation is in love with itself, consumed with self-preservation, it’s unlikely to count the cost and take steps to reach out to the lost. But when God’s people truly love others, so much that they hurt over their lost condition, they will do whatever it takes for those they love to experience the love of God. As we listen to the voice of Jesus telling us to “Love your neighbor as yourself,” it compels us to look beyond the walls of the church. Love, inspired by the Spirit of God, propels us out of our comfort zones and into the world.

We modern day believers easily become disillusioned and forget what being a follower of Jesus is all about. We become disillusioned to the reason why the Church exists . . . about what we as disciples are supposed to be. This very indifference has caused reaching out to the lost to become a “program” of outreach, rather than a lifestyle of fishing for lost men and women to which Jesus Himself called us.

This disillusionment can easily happen in the church without us even realizing it. This is not a new problem. Although the disciples followed Jesus day by day, they still became disillusioned by what He was doing, who He was talking to, and how He spent His time with people that were not believers. They murmured and questioned Jesus. For example, the children were held at bay by the disciples. Jesus said, “Suffer the children to come to me.” When Jesus spoke to the woman at the well, His disciples were thinking, “What in the world is He doing? He knows we don’t speak to Samaritans.”

Becoming disillusioned about what it means to be a follower of Jesus causes the church to become self-centered. We try to correct it by beginning an outreach program. Outreach is not a program. Reaching out to others should be the lifestyle of Jesus followers. Jesus continually displayed and lived out this example to us. He was always touching the lives of people outside the walls of the church. I absolutely love the following story of Jesus “reaching

OUTREACH 2013

out” to people: Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other

disreputable sinners. But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, ‘Why does your teacher eat with such scum?’ When Jesus heard this, he said, ‘Healthy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do.’ Then he added, ‘Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices. For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.’” (Matthew 9: 10-13, NLT).

This is a classic example of Jesus’ lifestyle of reaching out. The Pharisees separated themselves from such people and questioned why Jesus was even associating with such “scum.” They were indifferent to who Jesus was and what His purpose on earth was. Jesus continually modeled a lifestyle of reaching out to people.

Luke 19 tells us, “One day as Jesus was passing through Jericho, He came in contact with Zacchaeus, a crooked tax collector and notorious sinner. The crowd was very displeased because Jesus decided to go to His house.” Reaching out was simply how He lived His life.

WHEN YOU THINK OF OUTREACH, WHAT COMES TO MIND?

.....
An event, a location, a program, or do you actually think about reaching out. Outreach is such a huge part of being a follower of Jesus. Choose reaching out as your lifestyle, rather than waiting for an event, a location, or a program scheduled by the local church. I continually pray that God will show me people who need to be reached out to. This lifestyle should be in our DNA as followers of Jesus. If you have drifted from that DNA, becoming disillusioned about what it means to be a follower of Jesus, begin today to live your life on purpose by always being ready to reach out. Make it your lifestyle, not just a program.

I have met with leadership teams of several churches and find that many churches can confidently say, “We believe and hold to the Word of God. We believe the gospel, love people, and want to reach out, but when it comes to the idea of change, people seem to hit a brick wall. They want to reach out, but fear the cost of even suggesting change to the congregation. They love people outside of the church, but not enough to risk incurring the wrath of members who like things just the way they are. They believe the Bible is true, but they are not willing to

take up their crosses, deny themselves, and follow Jesus into a lost and broken world.

Cultivating a culture of organic outreach in your congregation requires making strategic changes to orient your vision and mission around the Great Commission. Outreach can’t be only the work of a committee or just a yearly weekend emphasis. It’s not enough to give money to missionaries and pray for others to reach the world. Outreach must be woven into the culture of a church, into every aspect of its life and ministry. Outreach must be in the DNA. Only when a church grafts evangelistic passion into every ministry will outreach become more than just another program. This is the only way it will become the DNA of the local church. But this won’t happen if you want things to stay the same.

OUTREACH DEMANDS CHANGE.

CHANGE REQUIRES SACRIFICE.

SACRIFICE MEANS WE MUST BE MORE LIKE JESUS!

.....
As we consider outreach, we must consider why? What is our motivation? Why do we want to do outreach? For some, outreach has become the new buzzword of the church. It seems to be the latest and greatest thing that is cool for churches to do. It is a must to clarify why we do what we do. The motivation must be LOVE. Jesus continually reached out to people because He loved them. The ultimate question for us should be, why are we doing what we do? Is the real motivation love, or is it something else? Do we expect something in return? If yes, then it is useless. Should we be concerned with the latest buzzword or program that is spotlighting the church?

“Outreach must be woven into the culture of a church, into every aspect of its life and ministry. Outreach must be in the DNA.”



Absolutely not.

The total motivation of why we do what we do is simple—LOVE. Although love is great, it is still not enough. We have a mission. As Christians we call it the “Great ComMission” in Matthew 28:19. Love is not enough; we should also do it out of obedience—obedience to the mission that Jesus gave to us: “Go and make disciples.”

It is sometimes easy to want to help others in need, such as giving to dig a well in a country where there is no clean water, or buy food to help hungry children. All those are great needs that tug on our hearts to reach out to others. We must never forget that we have much more to offer while meeting others’ physical needs. We have experienced a life-change that has forever changed our destiny. The life-changing message of Jesus is the motivation of reaching out to others. In the midst of being caught up in a whirlwind of emotions while meeting the needs of people, we must keep in mind why we do what we do.

The establishment of the New Testament church is very clear in its purpose; therefore, it easily identifies what we should do as followers of Jesus.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8; NLT).

WITNESS: TO SHARE WHAT WE HAVE EXPERIENCED

Have we spent so much time trying to relive the upper room experience that we have denied why the Holy Spirit was given? The Holy Spirit was given not to feel something, but to accomplish the Mission. We know that mission as the Great ComMission. The Book of Acts demonstrates it plainly: it is the power to witness, telling people about Jesus wherever you go—it is reaching out!

The Messenger theme this month is designed to help us take a look at our heart for Outreach. What is the condition of our hearts for reaching those far from God? Do we witness? Do we tell people about Jesus everywhere we go? Can others see Jesus in our lifestyle? Do we ask our churches to have a program of outreach, or do we teach them it should be a lifestyle such as Jesus lived out everyday. If we are followers of Jesus, then we must do the same. Is there a relentless love for the lost of our cities and communities?

There is love for God, but our love for the lost is weak. If this is a picture of your church, be honest and admit it. You might have a map on a wall somewhere with several pins showing where you send money to support missionaries. You might do an event or two each year that “spiritual seekers” are welcome to attend. You might even try to be friendly if a visitor happens to wander into your church on a Sunday morning. But honestly, your passion for outreach is gone. Your church lacks a desperate love for God that will drive you into the world with His good news. You are nice to people who visit your church, but you don’t go out of your way to reach those who are far from God. You send money overseas, but you don’t engage the mission field right next door. If this describes your congregation, you need to fall in love with God all over again.

Change the DNA of the house today. Immediately, begin to make

outreach more than a program; make it a lifestyle as followers of Jesus.

Many churches love God and want to be faithful to His love for lost people. They launch outreach program after outreach program and initiative after initiative. Church members grow tired and exhausted as the congregation jumps into the latest evangelistic fads.

Outreach is not “organic” in a church like this. Instead, it feels fabricated and inauthentic. While the motives are right, the practice of outreach is so forced that it fails to bear much fruit. Churches like this often experience frustration when they try lots of programs but never find something that works. They invest lots of money and time, and they genuinely love God, but lost people rarely come to know and embrace Jesus.

These churches need to love God enough to slow down. If they want to establish an organic culture of outreach that permeates the church’s DNA, they need to do less to accomplish more. Better yet, they need to channel their energy, time, and resources into a sustainable approach to church-wide evangelism.

The first and most critical step a church needs to take to move toward a healthy outreach is to develop a growing love for God. In the Book of Revelation, Jesus says to the church of Ephesus, “You have forsaken your first love.” Whenever our love for God ceases to be first place in our hearts, our vision for reaching out grows dim.

Jesus made this clear when he taught his disciples that the first and most important of all the commandments is to “love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” This is not just our calling as individual followers of Christ; it is our calling as a church. If we forget our first love, our collective heart will grow cold, and nothing that we do will have the impact we desire.

Loving God does not begin with our own efforts. Loving God is based on the awareness that God was passionately seeking us long before we ever sought him. In the letter of 1 John, we find a powerful lesson on the love of God. We learn, first and foremost, that God is love. His love for us allows us to become children of God. The depth of the Father’s love was revealed when he sent His only Son to this earth to die in our place, on the Cross, for our sins. As we are grounded in God’s love for us, and as we learn to walk in His love, we will continue to grow in our love for people that are far from God.

Outreach isn’t a program, or method, or something you memorize. Outreach is a natural way of connecting with others spiritually and helping others

“Loving God does not begin with our own efforts. Loving God is based on the awareness that God was passionately seeking us long before we ever sought him.”

connect with God through the lifestyle you live everyday. Here are three ways that display that our lifestyle is centered on outreach:

RECKLESS GENEROSITY

We get so excited about the new band or the new restaurant that we find, we tell everyone we know about it. Why is it that we are so quiet talking about things that really matter?

We need to be reckless with our generosity, grace, care, and love for others!

In Luke 8:5, the farmer generously threw seeds all around him. Rather than being stingy or even “strategic” with where he planted the seeds, he threw the seeds in all types of different soils. This was not the norm! We aren’t smart enough or discerning enough to know if someone is spiritually open or closed, we should share the love of God with everyone. People are eager for a spiritual connection. Too often we are too self-absorbed to see them and help them.

PASSIONATE LOVE REFLECTING THE VERY HEART OF GOD

When we aren’t sure of what to do, we should pray to God asking Him to help us love Him, love the church, and love people. Connecting deeply with God propels us outwards to love and serve others.

In 1 John 4:11 we read, “Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.” When we are overwhelmed with the love of God and a love

for people, we cannot help but SERVE others.

A HUMBLE AWARENESS OF OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH GOD

God cares more for the people around us than we do. He is pursuing the people around us with His love and He is allowing us the opportunity to partner with Him in love. “I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow” 1 Cor. 3:6, NLT).

We should never try to make people change. Instead, we should love and serve people, knowing that when they want to change, God can and will transform them.”

If your church is struggling to invest in reaching your community and the world, ask yourself this question: are we a church that is on fire with a passion for God? If reaching out to others has been pushed to the back burner (or off the stove entirely), it probably won’t help to throw in an outreach or two. You need to start by turning up the heat, a passionate desire for loving God.

Maybe your church has lost its first love. Remember, God so loved the world that he gave His only Son.

Love gives. And when a congregation’s heart pounds hard for God, we give ourselves—our time, resources, and lives—to love others.

Outreach is not a sprint; it’s a marathon.

Outreach is not a fad; it’s the fabric of a healthy church.

Outreach is not a program; it’s the natural fruit of a church that loves God.

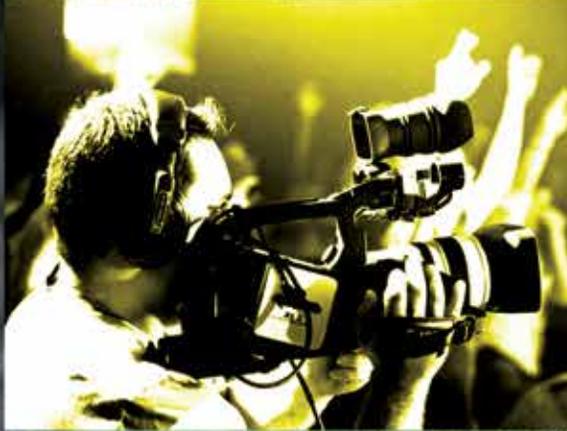
Outreach is a lifestyle displayed by our Savior, Jesus.

Be a follower of Jesus! 📧

Eddie Jones is the pastor of Christian Life Center located in Rolla, MO. Follow him on Twitter @eddieljones

IMPACT

PCG STUDENT MINISTRIES



The **Impact Internship** is an exciting and unique way for God to impact your journey. If you are at a place where you have committed your life and talents to God and hunger for more then you are invited to join us for an adventure of a lifetime. This Summer internship provides a place for God to do above and beyond anything you could think or imagine in your life. Ages 16 & up.

**THE INVITATION HAS BEEN MADE.
ARE YOU GOING TO ACCEPT?**

complete details at www.impactym.com

MOVING A COMMUNITY UPWARD

BY ERIC SCOTT

THE HEARTBEAT OF THE OUTREACH EFFORTS OF BETHEL FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER'S UPWARDS SPORTS MINISTRY IS TO SPREAD THE LOVE OF JESUS THROUGH THE SIMPLEST OF THINGS—A GAME.



Photo Source: http://www.westsidebaptist.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/IMG_30331.jpg

One day, while watching their daughter, Kaitlyn, participate in a basketball game at an area church, a dream was birthed in the heart of Pastors Russell and Beverly Hylton of Bethel Family Worship Center in Indianapolis, IN. They each saw an opportunity to connect with families within their community and share the gospel message through the use of an unusual medium: sports. On their way home from the game, Russell and Beverly shared with one another that, should their church ever be blessed with the necessary facilities, they would one day use basketball and sports as a tool to reach their community.

Over the next few years, BFWC would experience much growth. Crowds eventually grew so large that the leadership of the church began exploring the church's options for new facilities that could accommodate the needs of their growing congregation. After much searching and time spent in prayer, a beautiful church campus was located and purchased only 1.4 miles away from BFWC's existing property. In the summer of 2008, the congregation of Bethel Family Worship Center moved to its brand new campus at 24 S. Lynhurst Drive in Indianapolis. This new property would come with more than enough space, FOR THE TIME BEING! Plans are already in place for expansion as BFWC continues to reach Indianapolis with the good news of Jesus Christ. To

God be the glory!

Once the move and subsequent renovation was completed, God began to remind Pastor Hylton and his wife, Beverly, of the dream that had been planted in their hearts during their daughter's basketball game many years before. The new BFWC campus would house a full-size gymnasium, which would be the perfect facility from which to base a thriving sports ministry. Pastor and First Lady Hylton began to pray about how God could use their new campus to reach the families of their community through a dynamic sports ministry. Little did they know that while they were praying, God was raising up a leader within the house to lead this ministry.

One day, a gentleman in the congregation named Andy Carpenter asked Pastor Hylton if he could share something about which God had been speaking to him. Andy and his wife, Lisa, had been attending BFWC for quite some time, and had been praying about how they could be more involved in their church. Andy works as a football coach at one of the high schools in the area. He began to share his dream with Pastor Hylton to start and lead an Upward Sports League at BFWC. Upon hearing this, Pastor Hylton's spirit leaped, knowing that God was at work and prayers were being answered.

Upward Sports is a community outreach program that has grown into the largest Christian-based sports league for children in the world. In the 2012 season, nearly 550,000 children in grades K-6 participated in basketball, soccer, flag-football, or cheerleading through one of over 5,000 leagues and camps. By providing a fun sports experience based on healthy competition, Upward Sports Leagues help kids develop skills for the sports arena and values for life. Upward Sports uses the universal language of sports to connect with kids at a critical age and help them discover and build athletic skills, values, self-confidence, and a life-long love of the game. (Source: www.upward.org)

In the fall of 2008, BFWC launched its first season of Upward basketball and cheerleading. Beginning with a team of only 20 volunteers, they opened the league to only 2nd and 3rd grade children. The idea was to start with that age group so the church could get a feel for how the program operated. When the season began, 60 children were registered for basketball and cheerleading.

Since those humble beginnings in 2008, BFWC has seen its program grow tremendously. The group of people that started as a team of only 20 volunteers has grown into an army of over 100 strong. Furthermore, the league that began with only

60 children in 2nd and 3rd grade has now boomed to over 220 children ages 4 years old to 6th grade. Something that started as a simple dream in the heart of a pastor, watching his daughter play basketball, has now been fulfilled in the form of children playing basketball in the gymnasium at his church. In 2011 the sports ministry at BFWC expanded and now offers a Flag-Football league as well. Using the field on the church's campus, BFWC has found yet another avenue to use every square inch of their campus for the advancement of the kingdom of God.

When BFWC launched its sports ministry, what really began was a commitment to use the resources with which God had entrusted them as a tool to reach their community. Instead of using their facilities for just the people inside the church, they've opened them up for the world outside of the church. In doing so, the church has been exposed to individuals who don't always possess an understanding for what it means to have a reverence for the house of God. However, according to Pastor Hylton, that's just fine with him.

"Upward Sports uses the universal language of sports to connect with kids at a critical age and help them discover and build athletic skills, values, self-confidence, and a life-long love of the game."





During a recent conversation regarding the Upward Sports Ministry at BFWC, Pastor Hylton was asked how the church had adapted to opening its doors to unchurched people, knowing that it could lead to potential wear and tear on their facilities. “We’re the Church; this is just a building,” said Pastor Hylton. “I would rather wear this building out with students and children and families coming through the door who don’t yet

“Since 2008 well over 50 people have made BFWC their home church as a direct result of the Upward Sports Ministry.”

know Christ than to have people come to church once a week on a Sunday morning in a clean environment.” Pastor Hylton’s favorite story to illustrate this point is what he often refers to as “the Cigarette Story.”

During one of the first basketball seasons at BFWC, as unchurched people began to attend the games and the practices, one of Bethel’s Upward volunteers, Lisa Carpenter (who is also the wife of Director Andy

Carpenter) noticed that people had been smoking outside one of the main entrances to the building. This naturally resulted in there being a collection of cigarette butts by one of the most trafficked entrances to the church. Sis. Lisa was so concerned that someone may get mad or offended at the sight of cigarette butts on the ground at the church, so she frantically began sweeping and cleaning up the mess. Pastor Hylton saw her working feverishly and walked up to her. Before he could even say a word, she immediately began apologizing and expressing her remorse over the fact that people had been smoking on the church property. Pastor Hylton smiled at Lisa

and said, “I would rather have cigarette butts on the ground than no people at all walking through the doors. Those

cigarettes are just proof that people who need Jesus are here at our church!” This perspective has infiltrated the DNA of Bethel Family Worship Center to the point that cleaning up a mess is no longer viewed as a burden, but rather a privilege, because it’s proof that lost people are walking through the doors.

The heartbeat of the outreach efforts of Bethel Family Worship Center’s Upwards Sports Ministry is to spread the love of Jesus through the simplest of things—a game. Each Saturday during basketball season, thousands of people pour onto the BFWC Campus to watch their children play or cheer for a game, but something much more significant is going

on whether they realize it or not. During halftime of every game, a member of BFWC’s leadership team comes to center court to share a half-time devotion with the audience. This opportunity is used to share a message of hope with everyone in attendance. In that moment, seeds are planted that eventually will result in people coming to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Family members may arrive with the intention of watching their child play a basketball game, or to hear their daughter cheer, but in reality, they’re really being brought in to hear about Jesus and to be shown the love of God. This is outreach!

The children who participate in Upward are the highlight of the program. They are the reason the program exists. The focus of the game is not on the scoreboard, but on the individual child. The motto of Upward is, “Every child plays, every child learns, and every child wins.” BFWC is putting that philosophy into practice every week. Each child plays the same amount of time in each game, whether they score the most points or not! Each child is treated like they are an NBA superstar when they run through the tunnel

and onto the court and have their name announced by the public address announcer. Each child feels important. Each child is important.

Because of the way BFWC's program has grown, it has required the enlistment of more volunteers. What could be viewed as a challenge has become a new opportunity for BFWC to reach people who don't currently attend their church. Many of the referees and coaches who volunteer in the league are parents of children who don't attend BFWC. During the final celebration ceremony of the season in 2012, one of those volunteer coaches came forward to accept Christ for the first time!

Since 2008 well over 50 people have made BFWC their home church as a direct result of the Upward Sports Ministry. On Super Bowl Sunday of 2012, a single mother and her three children were together after accepting Christ as a direct result of the children playing basketball at Upward! Every Saturday, Vanessa Crow volunteers as a faithful member of BFWC; however, she first came to watch her son Dylan play basketball. Stories like these could continue for hours, all because one church was willing to find an unusual way to use their resources for the gospel's sake.

Now in its fifth season, the Upward Sports Ministry

at Bethel Family Worship Center is now more committed than ever to using this program to make a difference in their community. BFWC has experienced their registration numbers increase in each season, and believe God for an even greater harvest of souls in 2013.

Perhaps you are reading this story of one church's desire to use their resources to impact their community and have questions of how you could do the same. Bethel Family Worship Center gladly extends to you an invitation to contact them for ways your church can employ a similar strategy in your community. For more information on Bethel Family Worship Center's Upward Sports Ministry, email them at sportsministry@bfwc.net.

Also, for more information regarding the Upward Program, visit www.upward.org/connect. ☒

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Eric Scott is the Family Life Pastor of Bethel Family Worship Center located in Indianapolis, IN. Follow him on Twitter @pastoreric23

WHO'S ON FIRST ROW?

Continued from PG. 8

Presence of God is absolutely necessary. In growing churches, there is more emphasis on the One who sits on the throne than who is sitting in the pew.

- It is not a requirement to sit by someone I know in order to learn more from the Word of God. In growing churches, a relevant message from God's Word is absolutely necessary.

- It is not essential to be married or have children to go to church. People who are single can love Jesus. A growing church knows that the largest segment of society is single, and most single people are not Christians. In a growing church, integrating singles into the corporate Body is essential.

- It is not compulsory to diminish the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit in order to make people feel comfortable. In growing churches, there is a culture of conviction and repentance.

- It is not necessary to become the culture to be a healthy growing church. It is absolutely necessary that the Church is a countercultural community

expressing citizenship in the kingdom of God. The growing church expresses devotion to Jesus Christ by living in obedience to His Word. The growing church does not support missions; the growing church lives missions. The growing church is passionate about each generation and the legacy of faith. The growing church knows that countercultural lifestyle attracts people to Jesus Christ.

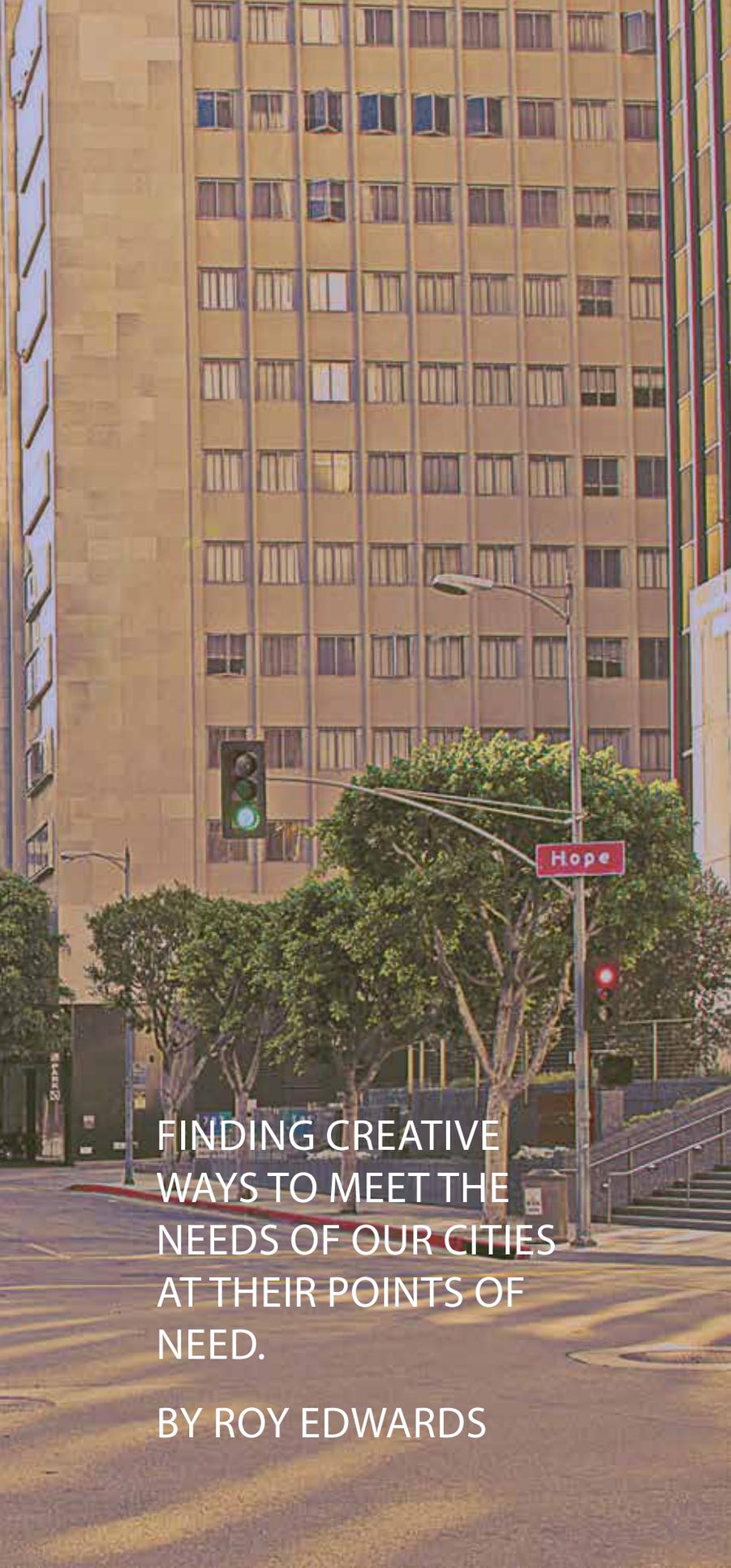
- It is not central to enjoy church or be entertained in a growing church. It is central that each person has a personal encounter with the Holy Spirit.

- It is not crucial to have all the answers. The growing church gets messy sometimes, and not everyone is perfect. In a growing church it is permissible and people are encouraged to ask hard questions. In a growing church the gospel is held as timeless truth and eternal principles for living.

You may not care for my parody or agree with these points, but one thing is certain: a church cannot grow until I Don't Care leaves. Hopefully, we see that eye to eye. ☒

REACHING
our

CITY



FINDING CREATIVE
WAYS TO MEET THE
NEEDS OF OUR CITIES
AT THEIR POINTS OF
NEED.

BY ROY EDWARDS

When I think of reaching our community, I don't focus on how we can draw a big crowd, but on how we can make an impact for the glory of God. How can

we coordinate a community-wide event, win souls for Christ, and see the tangible results of people becoming disciples?

Drawing a crowd, for most of us, is not difficult. In fact, the saying, "If you have food, you will get a crowd," rings true. That, to me, sounds like an opportunity for the church to take those opportunities to serve the city and to begin to speak into the lives of those who might not otherwise darken the door of the church. All God needs is a chance to show up in a real and significant way.

So we, Glad Tidings Church in Casa Grande, AZ, began to strategize, "Ok, God, what can we do in our city to make a difference, draw a crowd, and have You show up? How can we make an impact in Casa Grande and see change happen in the lives of these people we want to reach?" Then it happened; it was simple.

For years we have done an event for our church children and youth. We supplied backpacks filled with school supplies. In 2011 we gave out 32 backpacks and it was a great time. We decided what we would do in 2012 is open it up to the city and give out 200 backpacks and school supplies, and feed the recipients, as well. We knew we needed to make an opportunity for God to show up big! We planned and strategized; we handed out 2,000 flyers, put it on Facebook, placed it on Twitter, ran ads in the newspapers, and shared the vision with our church.

The day the event took place, it was to start at 10 a.m. I drove to the church both nervous and excited, and I prayed, "God, here is an opportunity for You to show up!" I didn't know if we would have 10 or 500 people show up; I just didn't know. I got to the church at 7 a.m. to pray and get final preparations



“Maybe God is asking you to find a creative way to reach them by meeting them at their point of need.”

opportunity to show up!

My team looked at the crowd, and we didn’t want them to go away empty-handed. So I did what any pastor would do. I requested an offering from the church members, and ran to Wal-Mart and bought all the backpacks I could. Meanwhile, the games and fun continued for all. After the program, I spoke a simple gospel message of hope and love. At the end of the day, we had blessed city residents with 386 backpacks, 500 Bibles, and 152 men, women, and children gave their lives to Jesus! You see, my friend, we just had to create an opportunity to allow Jesus to show up, and He always does! We just need to make an opportunity for Jesus to connect to the unbeliever.

I’ll be honest, that event was easy to do, and we were giving away something free. But the work was just getting ready to begin. We followed up with letters, email, and phone calls with those who had accepted Jesus. We invited them to service the next week, and we volunteered to pick them up in our newly acquired buses. That next week we had over 30 new folks to pick up that had been to our back to school bash! Since then, our children’s ministry has exploded and outgrown the children’s facilities. Many families have come since then and have given their lives to Jesus.

As a result of this event, we birthed a feeding program to the poor and homeless in our city. We have also distributed shoes to the needy children in the area. We have expanded our bus routes and reach into



our city. We have also begun a feeding program to the needy children in the city and we serve just fewer than 500 meals a month out of our church, as a direct result of that one back-to-school event. Local businesses have heard what has happened in our church and some now support us financially and also donate thousands of loaves of bread for us to distribute weekly. Understand, what we did was simple. We saw a need in our city and filled it. We spoke a simple message

complete; and there was already a line at the front doors! Families had been camped out since 4:30 a.m. that morning. The lines grew and grew. We lost count at 800 people. We were shocked . . . and we only had 200 backpacks. This was God’s

that Jesus loved them and had a great plan for their lives, and God showed up!

We look at outreach differently now. We simply want to serve, and for God to come and minister to our neighbors’ spiritual needs as we supply their physical needs. As we plan our future outreaches for this spring, summer, and fall, our prayer is simple: “God we want to reach our city. That’s Your heart. Help us prepare, plan, and strategize. But we will do it all in vain, unless You show up. Help us to make an impact, fill a need, and provide an opportunity for You to show up, for You are the hope they so desperately need.”

When we look to reach out in our city, we also look at what other houses of faith are doing. We don’t want to duplicate a ministry. If at all possible, we want to partner with them, come alongside of them, and be a blessing to serve with them. Our heart is to do something new, or something not being done, and do that with excellence.

I encourage you to look around in your city and find a need. Maybe in your town you have folks who need food, clothes, or shoes. Maybe God is asking you to find a creative way to reach them by meeting them at their point of need. Maybe your city, like ours, has a homeless problem. Go to them and make a hot lunch and serve them, if possible. Give them an opportunity to accept Jesus as their Savior, and then offer to bring them to church on Sunday.

Reaching your community doesn’t have to cost a lot of money. Feeding 800 people and giving backpacks and school supplies to our community cost the church about \$2,000. Feeding the homeless costs about \$50 each time we serve them. Sometimes we offer barbecue for city-wide events. All that costs is the gas and the barbecue, and it’s a great way to serve the city, and a great way to meet new people and allow God to minister to them through us. It is all about getting to be where the people are, meeting their needs, and allowing God to touch them right where they are. Most of the people at our back-to-school bash would never come to church on their own on a Sunday, but once they experienced our heart to serve them, the walls were broken down. All of a sudden, church wasn’t so bad after all! Find a need in your city, take it to the Lord, give Him an opportunity to show up, and then serve. ☑

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Roy Edwards is the Senior Pastor of Glad Tidings Church in Casa Grande AZ. Follow him on Twitter @pastorroye



Have a Heart
for a Child

The Gayle Owens Memorial
Fund for Children

Together we can make a difference in the life of a child! When you give to the National Missions "Have a Heart for a Child" Campaign, you are helping send an under privileged child to one of our Summer Youth Camps, purchasing back-to-school clothing and supplies and providing Christmas gifts and food but most importantly you are investing in the lives of our children!



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Phone: 871.554.5900 ext. 400

Please receive a generous offering
During March
to send children to camp.





JOE SKILES

Friday Night Service



JEANNE MAYO

Saturday Night Service



CHARLES SCOTT

Sunday Morning Service



DANIEL DAVIS

Sunday Morning Service



DR. JACK HAYFORD

Honor Luncheon

PENTECOSTA CHURCH OF

GENERAL CONVENTION

ARLINGTON

TEXAS

JUNE 26

WALK WITH GOD
AUGUST 2013



STON
- July 2013

JOHN PARISH
Breakout Sessions



RHONDA DAVIS
Breakout Sessions



VERNELL INGLE
Breakout Sessions



SHERLOCK BALLY
Breakout Sessions



JOHN RHODES
Sunday Night Service





WOMEN WITH A MISSION

Ahikam Children's Home in Poptun, Guatemala.

In the city of Poptun, Guatemala, approximately 70 percent of girls between the ages of 10 and 19 have been molested by a friend or family member. Many of these girls are forced to live on the streets, some of them pregnant due to the molestation by family members. All of these girls were abandoned by those who should care for them. Seeing this travesty happening in their community, an amazing couple from a Pentecostal Church of God named Cony and Luis Paredes accepted their mission and opened their hearts and small home to these young girls. The mission became known as the Ahikam Girl's Home.

In June of 2011 the Women of the Pentecostal Church of God accepted their mission to partner with Ahikam Girls Home by building a facility to house these young girls whose lives had known only abuse and abandonment. By August of 2012 we had raised close to \$50,000 to complete that Mission! Ahikam has now expanded its reach to all children regardless of gender due to the tremendous need in the area. Children are now being sent to Ahikam from the Guatemalan Court System with absolutely NO FUNDING from the government.

The building project has faced several delays and set-backs, but under the leadership of our missionaries, Les and Charlene Melton, we are hopeful that the Ahikam Children's Home will be officially occupied in the near future. We will complete the mission!

On August of 2012 our mission brought a team of women and a few brave men from across the United States to Poptun and were met by

missionaries Les and Charlene Melton and daughter Rosalie. While there, we worked at the construction site and ministered to the children in their current rented facility. We ministered to Momma Cony and Papa Luis, giving them some much deserved time off; for Momma Cony, a day at the beauty shop. While in Guatemala we conducted workshops to teach the children various crafts, and we purchased much needed appliances, food, and supplies to care for their physical needs. We shared the love of Christ with each precious child and ministered to them both physically and spiritually. Our time in Guatemala concluded with a powerful community-wide dedication service at the construction site of the new Ahikam Children's Home. At the end of the service, the children displayed a table of the items they had made. Many items were purchased by those in attendance. I wish you could have seen their faces as people began to purchase these items!

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to provide your love, prayers, and continued financial support for these precious children of Ahikam. Join the mission; get connected to Empowered Women's Ministries. 

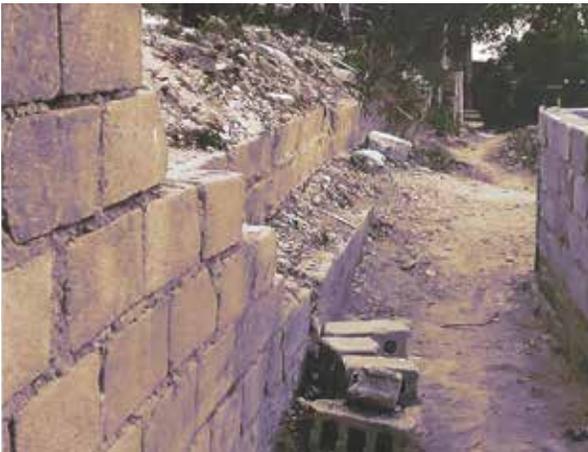
Empowered Women's Ministries exists to empower women to fulfill their God-ordained destinies. We are God's daughters and we will make a difference in our world in these last days. Follow Director Janice Scott on Twitter @JaniceLScott

MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT



HAITI

CAPITAL: PORT-AU-PRINCE | POPULATION: 9,719,932 | LANGUAGE: FRENCH, HAITIAN CREOLE



Perimeter wall in need of repairs.



WHERE?

Haiti

WHO?

Walter Stecher/Area Supervisor

WHEN?

On the field in Haiti since 2008

PRAY FOR:

Our pastors and leaders as they continue to rebuild their lives and property

FINANCIAL NEEDS:

Several urgent needs, greatest being to secure PCG compound by completing perimeter wall

Welcome to the Media Review section of *The Pentecostal Messenger*. It is our hope that this new section will help to deepen and enrich your walk with God. The following reviews are simply objective and informative.

The following is not an endorsement of the views, and opinions expressed by the presented materials and do not necessarily reflect those of the Pentecostal Church of God.

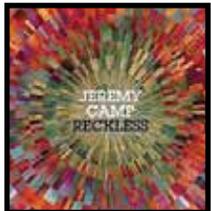
MUSIC

**Zion by Hillsong United**

Zion is Hillsong United's new 13-track album. Unlike their other albums, most of which are recorded live, Zion is the third in-studio album to be recorded. "The whole point of the album is to realize that God is doing His thing and He has already done it. He is establishing His Church and it's through us," said Joel Houston, lead vocalist of UNITED.

**Eye on It by Toby Mac**

TobyMac's adaptability and consistency has allowed him to debut another album emphasizing how his relationship with God has transformed his life and relationships. Eye On It reflects a broad range of music influences. TobyMac has received great success on his new album, debuting at No. 1 on Billboard's mainstream album chart.

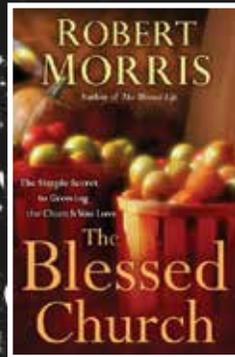
**Reckless by Jeremy Camp**

Jeremy Camp has developed his own unique style of music. Camp's newest album, Reckless, reflects his faith through the trial of personal loss. The album's songs and lyrics reflect his passion of who God is.

MEDIA REVIEW
Media
REVIEW

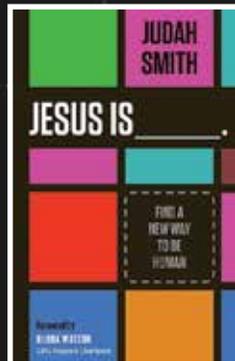


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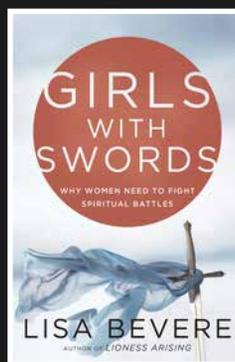
The Blessed Church by Robert Morris

What does an effective church look like? Pastor Robert Morris, pastor of Gateway Church in Dallas, TX, shares the qualities of how to make church “work” and how to enrich your church’s size and vision. Pastor Morris brings wisdom for cultivating growth through nurturing true biblical health in your spiritual communities. *The Blessed Church* celebrates the expanding role of the body of Christ starting with your church today.



Jesus is ____ . By Judah Smith

For new believers, life-long followers, the curious Judah Smith, pastor of The City Church in Seattle, WA, reveals the character of Jesus, illustrating the importance of Christ’s message to men and woman around the world in *Jesus is ____*. Smith writes with humor, passion, and conviction to lead readers to have a deep, lasting relationship with Jesus; to learn and grow from him. “Jesus is Life. Jesus is grace. Jesus is your friend. Jesus is a new and better way to be human.”



Girls with Swords by Lisa Bevere

“If there ever was a time for women to be armed, it’s now.” Lisa Bevere focuses on attacks of prejudice, sex trafficking, abuse, and “gendercide,” identifying who women might be in the future compared to who they have been in the past, in her new book *Girls with Swords*. Ms. Bevere writes that this is the time the enemy is seeking to disarm women on every level. Throughout her book, Ms. Bevere focuses on the imagery of swords, the Word of God, and the Cross. “It’s time women become the heros God created them to be, and stand . . . courageous, discerning, forgiving, and wise.”

DIFFERENT STROKES



Different strokes for different folks! Have you ever heard that saying before? If so, you know that it is often used to describe the reality that everyone is different.

What liberating and freeing fact! We didn't all come off of an assembly line looking and acting the same. We are God's custom design.

What image comes to mind when you think of the word "evangelism?" Does it evoke enthusiasm for reaching your friends and family members? Or does it overwhelm you with negative connotations? The stereotypical street preacher, megaphone in hand, blaring and bellowing out indictments about the end of the world? Or the "never say no" Mormon at your front door seeking to proselyte you?

The enemy of our soul has literally hindered the expansion of God's kingdom because we haven't realized that evangelism is not built upon a "megaphone in hand," but a commitment to strategically being ourselves in evangelism.

Simon Peter used a "confrontational" approach. On the Day of Pentecost he proclaimed the gospel with such boldness that he confronted his own people with crucifying the Messiah! He reached 3,000 for the Lord in one day. Some people in our world today won't come to Christ until someone like Peter confronts them with the gospel.

The Apostle Paul used an "intellectual" approach. Read any of his letters in the Bible, especially Romans, and you will see that he was a master at laying out a sound explanation concerning the truths of God. He was a master at crafting a road to Christ. In our educated society today, some people need to hear the gospel not only declared, but defined and defended.

The blind man used a "testimonial" approach. The blind man was effective just like Peter and Paul; yet, he refused confrontation like Peter and intellectualism like Paul. He simply spoke from experience and said, "One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see." How many people will come to Christ simply because someone is able to say, "I don't understand a lot of things, but one thing I do know; I once was blind, but now I see." They don't need confrontation or debate; they simply need a testimony.

The Samaritan woman used an "invitational" approach. When she experienced Christ, she immediately went to her town, loaded up her van, and brought a bunch of people to hear Jesus for themselves. Her

simple invitation brought salvation to her city. How many people in America would experience Christ if someone would just go to the special effort of inviting them to a credible life-giving church or outreach event?

Dorcas used a "service" approach. She was constantly performing loving acts of service to those who were in need in her community. In fact, her work was so special to God that when she died a premature death, God sent confrontational Peter to raise her from the dead and put her back into the evangelistic ministry. Although the service approach to evangelism tends to get less press than the others and is often longer in producing fruit, it is one of the most important of all evangelistic approaches. Dorcas is able to reach people that nobody else can reach.

Friend, your greatest asset in the kingdom of God is to strategically be yourself! You may preach it from the housetops like Peter. Or define and direct people into the Kingdom like Paul. Or draw people to the feet of the Master with your kindness and generosity like Dorcas. Or perhaps...you may simply reach people in your own unique way like none of the above. Remember, when it comes to evangelism, there are "different strokes for different folks"! 📧

Wayman Ming is the President of Harvest Impact Ministries. Follow him on Twitter @waymanming

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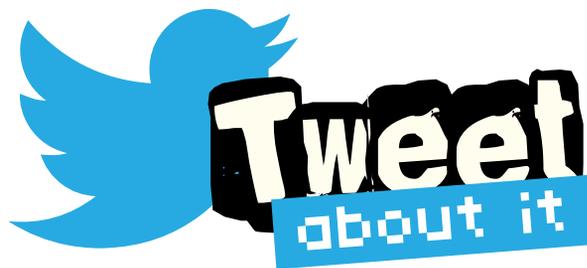
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Rev. Diane Griffin, Sectional Presbyter
73 Todd Road, Collinsville, MS 39325
662-609-1946

RELEVANT



TWEETS FROM AROUND THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY:

@Willie_George Ministry methods come & go but pulling people out of the gutter never goes out of style!

@LADreamCenter Find a need and fill it. That's how you start... #dreamcenter

@craiggroeschel We'll do anything short of sin to reach the lost. To reach people no one's reaching, we'll have to do things no one's doing.

@lecræe Christians love to hang with other Christians & pretend the lost world doesn't exist. Time to break camp reach the world. Josh.18

@MatthewBarnett: Outreach is really inreach! It changes us by redirecting our focus on others.

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THE PROBLEM WITH OUTREACH IS OUTREACH



The very use of the word “Outreach” (the act or process of reaching out) implies one thing: we are IN something. You can’t reach OUT of something, unless you are IN something.

Think about this: Why do we struggle with outreach? Why do we stand divided over methods of outreach? Why do we print publications with outreach methods? Because somewhere along the line we have shifted or moved IN to something that we now are struggling or feeling compelled to reach OUT of. Perhaps our focus has been on going to church, rather than being the Church. When “the Church” is a building or a place, rather than “you and me,” we are forced to create or delegate outreach. On the contrary, when we view ourselves as the Church, we realize that outreach, as we traditionally refer to it, is not a program, but rather our life. “Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, ‘This Man receives sinners and eats with them.’”— (Luke 15:1-2 NKJV)

Notice Jesus is living his life with the lost in mind. The Pharisees and scribes were focused on other things. They were IN something that Jesus was OUT of. This was not an outreach dinner. This was not a program. This was Jesus in real life setting the example for us on the priority of the lost. Jesus responds with three powerful parables, focusing on the priority of the lost. Notice his mindset: “Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it?”— (Luke 15:8 NKJV)

#1. Awareness (light a lamp). For too long we have forgotten the principle of all things lost. We all, at one time or another, were lost (Romans 3:23). Oh, but how easy it is to forget about the lost! We need the Holy Spirit to shine the light of his truth into our hearts so that we become aware of the lost. They are all around us, just turn the light on.

#2. Get Dirty (sweep the house). Something tells me this lady, sweeping the floor of her home, created quite the mess. Notice her willingness to get dirty and stir up some dust to find what was lost! I’m not suggesting to partake in the sin to reach the sinner; I’m just saying, don’t be afraid to roll up your sleeves and get a little dirty. Leave the 99 and reach the 1.

Randy Lawrence Jr. is the Impact Leadership Development Director, a part of the editorial staff for *The Pentecostal Messenger*, and currently leads the Communications team of the Pentecostal Church of God.

#3. Diligence (search carefully). We’ve lost our stamina in reaching the lost. Excuse the pun, but when it comes to “the lost,” no one is a “lost cause.” Who is it that you have written off that you need to diligently pursue? Maybe that foul-mouthed neighbor is your next deacon? Or maybe he *is* your deacon? No, I’m kidding! But you get the point: SEARCH DILIGENTLY!

A few weeks ago our family went shopping. With 3 young children, our trips to the mall are not for the faint of heart! My wife and I smiled as we watched our children innocently play a game of “tag” among the racks of clothing. In a split second the situation changed when our youngest daughter disappeared. We stopped everything and focused on one thing. We did things you don’t traditionally do in a store. We SHOUTED, RAN, PUSHED and SHOVED frantically searching for our daughter. At that moment, nothing else mattered but our child who was lost.

As a father, I’ll never forget that moment. Today, may outreach never become delegated to a person or program, but rather the life we live in pursuit of the lost.

To me, that is relevant. ☑

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