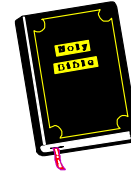


WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



“every disciple that is perfect, shall be as his master.” Luke 6:40b

EVANGELISM — THE LIFE-BLOOD OF THE CHURCH

Perhaps there is not a greater need in the church of our Lord today than the need for a greater emphasis upon evangelism. This need can best be realized when we understand that evangelism is in a very real sense the "life-blood" of the church, i.e., **it is the activity which causes the church to thrive and grow.** In the absence of evangelism there can be no church growth.

Evangelism is the work of converting souls to Christ. Jesus taught that it would be through the work of evangelism that His word would be spread. He said to His apostles, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," (Mark 16:15) and "Go ye therefore and teach all nations..." (Matthew 28:19). The fruits of evangelism are recorded in the book of Acts: "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized...and believers were the more added to the Lord...the number of the disciples was multiplied...the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly..." (Acts 2:41; 5:14; 6:1,7).

Unfortunately, many seem to have the idea that evangelism is that work done by the preacher in the pulpit when the church is assembled. However, when we look to the pattern for church growth in the book of Acts, we find that evangelism was not limited to the worship assembly. The church met primarily for worship and edification and then scattered to do its evangelizing. They “**went everywhere preaching the word**” (Acts 8:4). They assembled for worship, instruction, and fellowship and then went out to teach and win souls to Christ. That pattern is evident throughout the book of Acts.

Those responsible for evangelizing are Christians. It is not the "preacher's work," or the "elder's work;" but rather, it is the work of each Christian. Each Christian should ask, "What am I doing to evangelize?" "Am I looking for and using opportunities to lead a soul to Christ?" If you believe that you are limited by a lack of ability, consider the following methods of evangelism: enrolling friends and relatives in a Bible Correspondence Course; talking to someone about Christ and His church; showing interest in another by sending them an article on a biblical topic such as baptism, salvation, etc.; inviting your neighbor, relative, friend, postman, pharmacist, etc. to worship with you; - **(Continued on page 3)**

Obedience is one way to ...
Choose the Straight Gate in 2008

www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org B606 South Carolina 2/3/2008

VOLUME 34, NUMBER 5 February 3, 2008

RECORDS 1/27/2008
Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 49
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 92
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 59
Wed 7 PM Bible Study: 46
CONTRIBUTION: \$2164

SERMONS 2/3/2008

AM: Jerry Manning
ARCHERY ANYONE?
PM: Jerry Manning
CHRISTIAN COMPOSURE

“And every man that hath this hope in him
purifieth himself, even as he is pure.” - 1 John 3:3

A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!

www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org

SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study
Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study
Office Phone (803) 794-5320
Nursery provided

Bible Classes for all ages

LADIES CLASS

Tuesdays (except 1st) 10 AM

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Beryl Parks, Nina Ruth Meadows (Marcella Klieves' mother), Jack and Elma Berrier, Nathaniel Manning (Jerry and Lynn's grandson), Lynn Drago (Jerry's sister) and Phyllis Johnson.
- Pray for **Sherry Heflin**, at Heartland Assisted Living Center, she wants to obey the Gospel but is being hindered.
- **Margie Banks** is recovering from carpal tunnel surgery she had last week.
- **Dianne Mann** is recovering from rotor cuff surgery.
- **Jeremy McGill**, a missionary in China was attacked and seriously injured by an elephant.
- **Bunny Baroody** is very ill at Heartland nursing home.
- **Myrtle Matthews**, Vernicia's sister-in-law, is to have hip replacement surgery.
- Remember **Jan Kelleher**, **Gene and Evalina Lowe**, **Anna Porter**, the **Dillard**s, **Ron Banks** and **Eddie Sheppard** as they all continue to fight illness.
- **Anna Porter** requests prayers for **Stevie Hutchinson** who has the flu and his wife **Melissa** whose baby is due anytime now. Anna hopes to visit them shortly.
- Remember **Brent and Suzanne Adkins** as **Brent**, an Army drill instructor is working very, very long hours.
- **Jerry** requests prayers for his sister, **Lynn Drago** who is gravely ill with cancer, that she obey the Gospel.
- Remember all these and brother **Manning** and his bible studies at LCDC and Heartland assisted living center in your prayers.

“Our soul waiteth for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.” - Psalm 33:20

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **SAVE THE DATE!** Our **Fall Gospel Meeting** is scheduled Sun-Wed, **Sep 14-17, 2008** with **Billy Bland**, well known Gospel preacher and instructor at MSOP.
- **SAVE THE DATE!** **Ladies Day at West Columbia**, Saturday **April 12, 2008**.
- **CAROLINA MEN'S FELLOWSHIP Rockhill, SC**, Saturday March 8, 2008
- **State Wide Bible Bowl** at St. Andrew's Road church of Christ, Saturday February 23. West Columbia Teens and Pre-Teens are defending champions.
- A **NURSERY ATTENDANT** is on call each Sunday to help with infants. See the **USHER** for assistance.
- **Elgene Sanders** is looking for a used car.

“Look not every man on his own things,
but every man also on the things of others.” - Philippians 2:4

Watching out for each other is one way to ...
Choose the Straight Gate in 2008

EVANGELISM—(Continued from Page 1) ... asking a friend if they would study the Bible with you; giving someone a tract; planting a thought in someone's mind which may blossom in time; doing a good deed for someone who is not a Christian (as their heart softens perhaps you can study the Bible with them or persuade them to come to worship with you); on and on we could go with examples of methods of personal evangelism.

Friend, if we wait for the lost to come to us or to the church building we are not likely to win anyone to Christ. Someone must show enough interest in a lost person to talk to him or her about their soul and that someone is the Christian. If we lift up our eyes and look around us we will see great numbers of people in need of salvation. Let us pray that our God will use us and grant unto us doors of opportunity to reach the lost. **Let us be busy sowing the seed of the kingdom and as we do so, God will give the increase** (1 Corinthians 3:6).

- Jimmy Ferguson, minister, Nettleton church of Christ, Jonesboro AR

**“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts:
and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you
a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:” - 1 Peter 3:15**

**Are you ready? It's up to you to ...
Choose the Straight Gate in 2008**

GOSSIP—SPEAKING THINGS YOU OUGHT NOT

In ancient Greece (469 - 399 BC), Socrates was widely lauded for his wisdom. One day the great philosopher came upon an acquaintance who ran up to him excitedly and said, "Socrates, do you know what I just heard about one of your students?"

"Wait a moment," Socrates replied. "Before you tell me I'd like you to pass a little test. It's called the Test of Three." "Three?" "That's right," Socrates continued "Before you talk to me about my student let's take a moment to test what you're going to say. The first test is Truth. Have you made absolutely sure that what you are about to tell me is true?"

"No," the man said, "actually I just heard about it." "All right," said Socrates. "So you don't really know if it's true or not. Now let's try the second test, the test of Goodness. Is what you are about to tell me about my student something good?"

"No, on the contrary..." "So," Socrates continued, "you want to tell me something bad about him even though you're not certain it's true?" The man shrugged, a little embarrassed.

Socrates continued. "You may still pass though, because there is a third test - the filter of Usefulness. Is what you want to tell me about my student going to be useful to me?"

"No, not really." "Well," concluded Socrates, "if what you want to tell me is neither True nor Good nor even Useful, why tell it to me at all?"

The man left, ashamed. [don't you be—on judgment day!]

**“And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house;
and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies,
speaking things which they ought not.” 1 Timothy 5:13**