



Those to Serve

Sunday 11-01-2009

Sunday Morning Worship:

Announcements..... Frankie Sargent
Song Leader..... Randy Eubanks
Opening Prayer..... Grady Duncan
Closing Prayer..... Sid Charlton

Month of NOVEMBER 2009

Sunday Morning Lord's Table

South Side:

Rance Robison
George O'Neal
Richard Hargrove

North Side:

Weldon Miller
Wayne Charlton
Ronnie Stewart

Sunday Evening Lord's Table

Frankie Sargent Tim Jones

Sunday Evening Worship:

Announcements..... Frankie Sargent
Song Leader..... Royce Armstrong
Opening PM Prayer..... Rance Robison
Closing PM Prayer..... David Neal

Serving Wednesday Night—Nov. 04- 2009

Announcements..... Frankie Sargent
Song Leader..... Daniel McCary
First Prayer..... Jim Duncan
Closing Prayer..... Jody Sparks

*If you plan to be out of town or are not physically able to serve, please call someone to take your place. or call the church office.

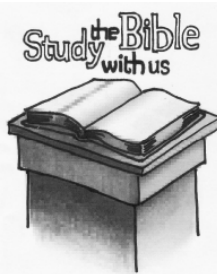
Attendance for the week of 10-25-2009

Table with 2 columns: Activity and Attendance/Amount. Includes Bible Classes (93), Morning Worship (143), Evening Worship (104), Tuesday Ladies Class (11), Wednesday Night (99), Regular Contribution (\$4,088.64), and New Construction Fund Contributions (\$180.00).

Averages To Date This Year

Table with 2 columns: Activity and Average/Amount. Includes Bible Classes (100), Morning Worship (140), Evening Worship (99), Tuesday Ladies Class (12), Wednesday Night (94), Regular Contribution (\$4,299.12), and New Construction Fund Contributions to date (\$78,404.00).

PLEASE NOTE: This bulletin is formatted Friday morning each week. Any news items or articles you wish included must be submitted to the Editor no later than Thursday Night. You may call Rhodney Freeman at 903-572-1181 (home) or 903-572-1136 (Office)



Today's Sermons

AM: Counter-Cultural Submission
Kris Groda, Preaching

PM: "Maximize the Message, Not the Messenger"
Kris Groda, Preaching

North Jefferson Church of Christ
P.O. Box 963
Mt. Pleasant, TX 75456



Address Correction Requested

Assembly Times

Sunday

Bible Classes9:00AM
Worship10:00AM
..... 6:00PM

Tuesday

Ladies Bible Class ..10:00AM
(September—May)

Wednesday

Bible Classes7:00PM

Church Office:
903.572.1136

Elders

Gene Campbell
Weldon Miller
Wayne Pickrel

Deacons

Grady Duncan
Jim Duncan
Jerry Freeman
Bob Hedges
Rance Robison
Hal Roper

Gospel Preacher

Kris Groda

Secretary

Rhodney Freeman

Website:
www.njcofc.com

Email:
njcofc@sbcglobal.net

North Jefferson Messenger

As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him" Proverbs 25:13

Volume 11 No. 37

Founded on the Word—Focused on the World

November 08, 2009

"You've Got the Cart Before the Horse!"

Jack H. Williams

I can remember a number of times in my life when I did things without thinking and my father would say to me, "Son, you've got the cart before the horse!" What he meant was that I was going at things a bit backward. Those words still echo in my mind sometimes when I look at what I have done and realize I have gone at things wrong. The other day as I was reading an article in the Reader's Digest it made me think how so many Christians today have "got the cart before the horse" when it comes to confronting unchristian attitudes and actions in this world. In the Reader's Digest of August, 1997 in an article entitled "The Global War On Christians" we are told:

"The collapse of the Soviet Union and its Eastern European Client states shook China's leaders who noted the church's role in fostering the collapse. According to a Puebla Program report, China's state-run press, referring to Christianity, proclaimed, "If China does not want such a scene to be repeated in its land, it must strangle the baby while it is still in the manger."

Imagine that! The last great stronghold of communism and they realize the danger to its system of Christian principles in the hearts and minds of its people! When are we going to wake up and realize the same? Now I am not saying we should not take part in activities which promote efforts to improve society, such can be beneficial to all. But how often have we seen such efforts take precedence over the work of the church—the salvation of souls (Luke 19:10; Ephesians 3:10-11). How sad it is to see the efforts of many in the church in such things as pro-family movements; anti-abortion; anti-evolution; antigambling and the like and then fail to be even more zealous in the "pro-salvation" movement of the church—evangelism. Imagine if the zeal we have seen in these areas, the massive funds channeled to these efforts were to be put into evangelism. Some have seemingly failed to realize that a society that is zealous for the family, opposed to drugs, op-

posed to gambling, opposed to immorality . . . is still lost if they are not in Christ! Salvation is not found in "good works" of a society but is found in Christ (Ephesians 1:3, 7) and the "good works" that glorify God are the product of a heart that is thus converted to Him. Some say, "Well, we have to change society in these things so the gospel can be received." But God never said such. Note the following Bible teachings on how God dealt with "social ills":

- God dealt with slavery by appealing to the Christian heart (Philemon 15,16).
God dealt with immorality by appealing to one's past conversion to Christ (Romans 6) and the fact that the child of God is a "temple of the Holy Ghost" and is "bought with a price" (1 Corinthians 6:18-20).
God dealt with such things that would control the Christian (such as drugs) by appealing to the fact that as Christians we should do only those things lawful, expedient and which do not enslave us (1 Corinthians 6:12).
God dealt with social disorder by appealing to the Christian's respect for powers ordained of God (Romans 13:1-7).
God dealt with the family as it ought to be by appealing to Christians to pattern their family after the family of God of which they were members—the Christ and His bride, the church (Ephesians 5:22-33).

What are we to conclude from such passages? If we wish to make lasting and effective changes in any society we must change the hearts of those in that society. Jesus said, "If a man love me, he will keep my words . . . he that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings . . ." (John 14:23-24). Let's do what we can to better society by every scriptural means available. But let's put our zeal, our support, our monies into taking the soul saving, heart changing gospel to the lost and dying world. When we change the members of society, we will change the ills of society. To emphasize otherwise is to "get the cart before the horse."



Do's and Don'ts for Young Ministers



By Kris Groda

Up until now, I have not really considered sharing literature or instructional information received about the Preacher/Congregation relationship. I have gone to preaching school, read books, and attended seminars that were designed to help the preacher develop and maintain a good rapport with his local congregation. However, it never occurred to me to share those insights with the congregation or considered that their might possibly by a reciprocal benefit.

So, in this article I will share some suggested "Do's and Don'ts" from a Tennessee Gospel Preacher—Paul Rogers.

1. Have a stated time to begin and close each service! (*Can you believe I am sharing this with you?? SKG*).
2. Let the whole tone of the service be one of joyful triumph and gladness. (*Even when preaching hard things, SKG*).
3. Have the most beautiful congregational singing possible, worshipful, enthusiastic, and joyful.
4. Teach the people to pray publicly, with forethought and feeling.
5. Maintain proper pulpit decorum, not flippant, careless, slumping, talking, or inattentive.
6. Receive those who respond to the invitation happily and personally.
7. Baptize beautifully, reverently, and deliberately, gently lowering the candidate into the water.
8. Be a prodigious reader of every good thing.
9. Look like a preacher, not like a bum. Be neat, clean, and appropriately dressed, avoiding extremes, sloppiness and loud colors.
10. Beware of mannerism and peculiarities that

11. Avoid allusion to many commentaries and reference works.
 12. Seek correct grammar and pronunciation. Remember that the audience includes highly educated people.
 13. Preach to the needs, interests, sorrows, hopes, and trials of people.
 14. Be well-prepared and make as little use of notes as possible.
 15. Make proper use of both logic and emotion.
 16. Make a schedule each morning of the day's activities.
 17. Delegate work and responsibility to others.
 18. Beware of being a plagiarist who permits others to do his studying for him.
 19. Keep good reading material on your bedside table, in the den, and on the car seat.
- This was only 19 of 100 items for consideration. More thoughts to come in this Preacher/Congregation relationship series.

Liquor Election Results

The Lord has blessed the people of Mt. Pleasant and Titus County with a great victory! David has slain the giant with trust and prayers to the one who is in control of all things. May we give Him the glory.

The final results are as follows: Proposition 1: 490 votes "For" (29.91%) and 1148 votes "Against" (70.09%). Proposition 2: 575 votes "For" (35.45%) and 1047 votes "Against" (64.56%).

Your dedication and commitment to a just cause resulted in great teamwork that has demonstrated the strength of those who care.

With gifts of \$5.00 to \$1,000.00 in monetary contribution it all added up. But even those who were not able or for whatever reason did not give monetarily, they gave moral support, encouraged others to vote and expressed their positive convictions for a town they love and wanted to keep on loving.

As Gordon Nelms said, "Mt. Pleasant is a great community." It is a great community because we care. Let's be sure we keep on caring! May we never let our guard down and allow things to invade our home town.....the hub of Northeast Texas!



Prayer List: Justin Barker, Rachel Barker, Doris Bell, Billy Campbell, Gene Campbell, Suzanne Charlton, Jim Duncan, Barbara Duncan, Irene Duncan, Patsy Duncan, Wade Miller, Wayne Pickrel, Thelma Reed, Bud Roach, Julia Terrell

Also: Carolyn (Katy) Cabell, Mary Jo Lee, Janice Lineberger, Ruby McFarland, Kent Stephenson, Charles Whitney

Congregational Shut-Ins:

Home: Doris Bell, **Pleasant Springs Assisted Living:** Annah Brown, **Home:** Irene Duncan, **Villa Assisted Living:** Georgia Lide, **Omaha Healthcare Center:** Alice Lovelady

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

Bible Bowl Practice Test today at 5pm Acts 5-8

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING TONIGHT FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE. All the men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

Area Wide Bible Bowl is Monday night at 7pm Come one, come all!

REMINDER ... AND THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT ... Grady is updating our church directory. Check the list on the round table in the foyer to be certain your information is correct. Mailing address, physical addresses and phone numbers. **The list should be completed no later than December 20** for printing in January. Thank you for your help in this project!

TV Worth Watching

"Give Me the Bible" Can be seen Sundays: 7AM NBC 56 out of Tyler, TX and On Dish Network 9407 Sunday's at 9AM and 1PM; Tuesdays at 11AM; & Friday at 2PM

"Give Me the Bible can be seen on the Web: **Gospel Broadcasting Network** www.gbntv.org on Sunday's at 9AM

And **The Crockett Road church of Christ Web Site** Video On Demand:

www.crockettroadchurchofchrist.org/missionsoutreach/givemethebible.html

HEALTH UPDATES:

Billye Campbell has been making a progressive recovery (at home) following her recent surgery.

Julia Terrell is now in Room 423 Continual Care Unit at the Tyler hospital. **No update on her condition.**

Wayne Pickrel is back at home but still not feeling too good. Keep this family in your prayers.

Bud Roach has a new mailing address. See below:

J. P. "Bud" Roach
Emeritus at Creek Side
2000 West Spring Creek Parkway
Room 104
Plano, Texas 75023

Be sure to send cards to let him know we have not forgotten him.

Mailing address for Jon McCain. If you send a card or letter to him be sure you only use BLACK INK.

PFC McCAIN, JONATHAN
C.O. E 701st MP BN
840 Colorado Avenue Unit #56 2PLT
Fort Leonard
Wood, MO 65473