

From the Preacher's Pen... By now you've heard some comments being made about various books and DVDs that we are going to make available for reaching out to people in our community. And you are going to be hearing more as the new year progresses. The obvious question is: Why?

The answer is simple. We can put ads in the newspaper, mail out nice brochures and generic invitations to the "Occupant" and perhaps reach a person or two. But when you and I *personally* invite or talk with or share something with someone they are *much more likely* to respond.

There are those in our congregation that are constantly reaching out to friends, neighbors and others they meet to invite them to attend a worship assembly, to study the Bible, to think about Godly things. That's all it takes, that's all that evangelism really is; sowing the seed! More than any tool, more than any technique, more than any other thing, the secret to evangelism is you and me.

Consider just how far reaching this all is as we think for a moment about...

Putting the "Personal" Back in Evangelism

Evangelism, telling the Good News of Jesus Christ, is the primary job of Christians here on this earth. Perhaps because it is so important, it is also the focus of some of the greatest nonsense perpetrated on Christians.

Literally thousands of books are written claiming to show us the only truly successful way to evangelize, and a comparable number of teachers will come teach us their own guaranteed way to "double the size of your church in just 10 weeks" or other similar nonsense. Nonsense? Surely all those catchy titles and great preachers (I know they are great because most of them will tell you how great they are and how superior their method is to anyone else!) couldn't be wrong, could they?

Let me suggest something for you to consider. Every problem that the New Testament church has ever had from the days of the New Testament right up to the struggles congregations have in 21st century America has been the direct result of someone trying to improve on what God has already said! Every single time another book is written explaining the greatest technique that we've all missed, I wonder how many more souls will be lost.

Why would I say such a thing? How could I possibly fail to appreciate all the improvements and good ideas out there? I'm glad you asked! Let me show you by way of a preacher and a book that I do have respect for...

Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. Now for

this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you. (2 Peter 1:1-11)

Hopefully you see the point. To teach what God wants us to do and to be, is to teach God's word! To tell the *Good News* the best and most successful way is to follow God's instruction book! To be right about what we say, what we do, what we call things, how we worship, how we lead our lives, how and what we teach our children and countless other things, we just need to follow our Savior and His word.

To God's people coming out of years of bondage and idol worship, God taught them His word and demanded that they both follow it themselves and teach it to their children in order to have life, health, prosperity and a future! (cf. Exodus 12, Deuteronomy 4). And Peter (along

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Opportunities to worship, study & serve:

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY 10 AM

WORSHIP 11 AM

EVENING WORSHIP 6 PM

WEDNESDAY 7 PM

THURSDAY LADIES' BIBLE CLASS 10 AM

Congregational Potluck 3rd Sunday
each month after morning worship
(except June, July & August)

Welcome to all!
We are glad you are here!

Enter to Worship...
Leave to Serve


Welcome to our visitors today! We hope & pray you'll be blessed by your time with us & will join us again soon!

Our Prayer List: Keep the following in prayer this week as you "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17): Nora McNeil, Matthew Odom, Heather Ries, Hunter Shirley, Rene Turner, Ruth West, Everett Martin, Anna Mae Hardin, the Najera family, Bill Hall, Reta Wallace, Jim Holder, Kristi Martin, Wally Myers, Cindy Turpin, Millie Cunningham, Michael Hill & family and...

Our Missionaries: Jack Farber and Aaron Knotts and families.

Previously Announced Family & Friends: Robin & Marc Estabrook (Julie Evan's sister & nephew), David Reffner (Flora Doster's grandson with MS), Art Stoneking & wife (friends of Carl Catozzi, cancer), Jeremiah Haller (Flora Doster's grandson), Annette (Cindy Turpin's sister), Cole Myers (grandson of friend of Myers), Sheila Simpson, Lillian Wilhite & Mirlene Smith (relatives of Lynn Shirley), Teresa Acosta, Rosemary Glasier (Crystal Mora-Landroth's mother), John Hoover's relatives with personal difficulties, Shelly Cooper (friend of Carl Catozzi), Lucas Espinoza (Brian Campbell's friend), Kaesha Raffterfer (Gene Pinkston's cousin, cancer), Chuck Keels (friend of Grubbs with cancer), Terri Fillipski (cancer, Julie Evans' cousin).

Special Requests: WBS & WEI Bible study students; Kevin & Nancy Chambers & World Christian Broadcasting; Judy Hagner, son Preston, daughter Angela & son James. Brandi Schroeder (Flora Doster's granddaughter with MS); Dallas Purcella's mother; Paulina's father (Arnold); Julie's father; Laurel's father.

 **OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL:** Nate Panka (Cleo Wise's grandson); Javier Najera; Fernando Najera, Frank Torres (Javier's brother & cousin); Eric Shirley; Trevor Farrow (Allen's son); Scott Hoover (John's son); Ariel Gomez; Paul Sipes & April Belovedstone (Sue Wolfe's son & daughter); Robert Strickland (Cleo Wise's grand-nephew); Ismael Lopez; Robinson Goldman (Cindy Turpin's son-in-law); Destanie Aragon; Nathan Bagley.

New: Jason: son of Carl Catozzi in need of prayers; Dr. Yanni: friend of John Hoover with cancer; Susan Fowler: friend of Bob & Sherry Harrison with MS; Michelle Harrison: daughter of Bob & Sherry, spiritual struggles; Michael Lightheart: son-in-law of Flora Doster, health problems; Jimmy Handtegen: friend of David Davis following a stroke; Derwin Jackson & family: with his job; Sean & Vickie: Carl Catozzi's friends with struggles in their lives; Terri Hoover: John's daughter-in-law with serious health issues; Monica Lopez: George Mora's aunt with breast cancer; Jacob Shirley: struggles; Rhett Booher: Gary & Toni Pierce's grandson: Traumatic Brain Injury while in the Army; Ray Stephenson family: youngest son's cancer has spread; John Mark: in Afghanistan in danger for his faith; Jimmy Davis: friend of Mike Evans with melanoma; Adele Fink: recovering from colon cancer; George Ponter: Brian Campbell's cousin with multiple struggles; Amy Vestal: lupus and intestinal problems; Anna Price: via Kimberlee Myers; Chuck Hedrick family: with

multiple health problems; Kathy Gonzalez: grandmother of Heavyn & Tatum with cancer.

Sue Wolfe; LaVerne Jackson's mother; Celeste Wallace: health problems; Sandra Watson, Sue Shepperd & Elzie Shirley: Lynn's family with illnesses; Ed Baum; Chuck Hedrick; Ray Stephenson.

Thomas Vestal: Amy's cousin having head surgery February 5.

Steve McDonald: Jean Grubbs granddaughter's husband, tests.

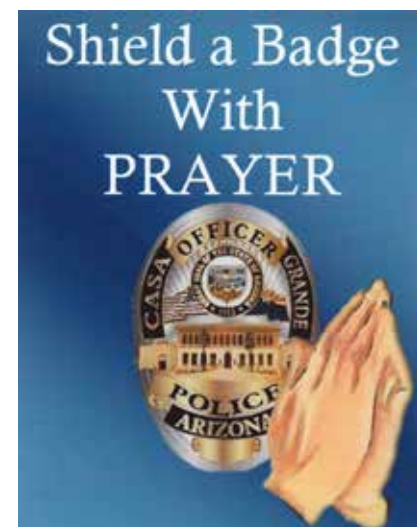
Larry West: in ICU with complications from diabetes & infections.

Jerry Odom: recovering from a stroke.

Also Our New Christians, those travelling and especially those with spiritual struggles.

New Teen Bible Classes begin Wednesday night & next Sunday morning. Don't miss out!!!

NO MEN'S TRAINING CLASS TODAY



Upcoming Events...

Monthly Singing: **TODAY** at 2:30 here.

Men's Business Meeting: January 14 after evening worship.

Potluck: January 21 — Group #4 [Laverne Jackson's group] set-up, serve & clean-up

5th Wednesday Prayer & Song Meeting: January 31.

with Jesus, Paul and the rest of the New Testament) reminds us that this is still true today and for all time!

"Personal" evangelism is not another class or method or book or some preacher's secret. "Personal" evangelism is nothing more than teaching and encouraging each other, teaching our children, conversing with our families, friends and neighbors about the eternally important things (cf. Acts 8:4). "Personal" evangelism is personally living like God's child!

Evangelism is listening to what God tells us and then sharing that same message with others. Every child of God does just that if they are serving the Lord. Yes, there are good tools (and we are going to be talking about them and using them this year!) to open doors, to get people started in learning the word of God. But in the end, it is all up to you. No one else can do your job of telling those you know and meet.

For each one of us the essential ingredient is our love for God! "Hear, O Israel! Jehovah is our God, Jehovah is one! You shall love Jehovah your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." (Deuteronomy 6:4-8)

Do you love the Lord enough to share the Good News? Let's determine to make our new year one of living like who we are called by God to be, a new year of encouraging and loving one another that we might share that eternal Good News!

— Lester P. Bagley



Singing Here Today!!!

We host the monthly singing at 2:30 pm.

Refresh yourself with brothers & sisters in Christ. We have plenty of cookies, etc. for afterwards so come praise the Lord in song!

Monday with the Master

Ages 10 through college & parents meet after worship this morning to plan a special activity January 5!

New Year's Eve Party... Food, Games... Young & Old!



Beginning after Evening Worship, TONIGHT!

Join the fun in our fellowship hall & bring finger foods & games to join in a good time.

Last Week: 5+ Pew-Packers



Be "in the picture" every week!

✓ Checkup ✓

How are we doing?

Attendance Last Week:

Sunday Morning Bible Class = 53

Sunday Morning Worship = 105

Sunday Evening Worship = 46

Wednesday Evening = 41

Giving

2018 Weekly Budget = \$3,015.00

Contribution Last Week = \$1,784.00

Church of Christ
805 East Racine Place
Casa Grande, AZ 85122

Postage

TO:

Privileged to Serve

Sunday Morning December 31

Adult Bible Class: • *Acts of the Apostles* Lester Bagley
Announcements: TBA
Song Leader:..... Curt Odom
Prayer:.....Allen Farrow
Serve Communion:....Paul Ries, Tom Haney, Bill Hall, John Hoover, George Mora
Sermon: • *Our Inheritance*..... Lester Bagley
Closing Prayer:Bill Hall

Count Contribution: Curt Odom & Max Compton

Sunday Evening December 31

Song Leader:..... Curt Odom
Prayer:..... Kim Myers
Sermon: •Charlie Stephenson
Serve Communion:.....Bill Hall
Closing Prayer: John Hoover

Wednesday Evening January 3

Song Leader:.....TBA
Prayer:.....TBA
Devo:.....Lester Bagley
Closing Prayer:TBA

Anniversaries



January 1: *Lester & Lou Bagley*
January 15: *David & Joan Davis*
January 17: *L.Z. & Lynn Shirley*
January 20: *Will & Alexandra Beyer*
January 22: *Gary & Toni Pierce*
January 25: *Allen & Brenda Farrow*

Birthdays



January 1: *Zack Davis*
January 2: *Ricki Hill*
January 3: *Flora Doster – Catrina Campbell*
January 4: *Lynda Roberts*
January 5: *Freddy Hernandez – Jacob Odom*
January 5: *Camille Hartfield – Amy Powell*
January 7: *John Hill*