

## News & Notes

Sunday, December 18, 2005

**Remember in Prayer:** M. B. Anthony; Al Alberson; Sandra Albertson; Melissa Bennett; Patricia Cash; Sally Etta Crawford; Lawrence Dawson; Tommy Dawson; Flora Estes; Gloria Fortner; Kelly Gamblin; Carrol Holmes; Christian Kennedy; Carolyn Jordan; Dot Kethum; Deliah Mann; Diane Mize; Howard Moody; Hadie Pickens; Tate Peeler; Leyland Ray; Janet Rooker; Lillie Mae Shelby; Jayme and Trucilla Spence; Calvin and Ollie Ursery; James Williams; Alvie Williford;

**Pantry item** for the month of December is fruit juices.

Several are gone today **traveling for the holidays**. Please remember all these in your prayers.

There will be a **New Year's Eve get-together** in the dining hall on December 31, 2005 at 6:30 PM. It is pot-luck.

Several have sent **Christmas cards** and other things which are all posted on the bulletin board.

### Sermon In Preview:

AM: Does God Care About My Spiritual Destiny?

PM: Song of Solomon: The Wedding Procession (3:6-5:1)

### For the Record (December 18, 2005):

Attendance: 85    Contribution: \$1271.00    Budget: \$1205.00

### *The Ashland Church of Christ*

P. O. Box 25  
Ashland, MS 38603-0025  
ashlandcoc@juno.com

#### Sunday:

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

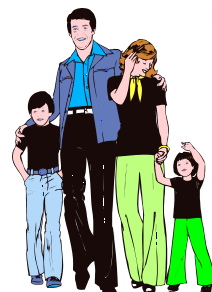
Worship 6:00 PM

#### Wednesday:

Bible Study 7:00 PM

#### Shepherds:

Barney King  
Carrol Street



# The Ashland Announcer

*"Give to the Lord, O families of the peoples,  
Give to the Lord glory and strength" (Psalm 96:7).*

## How Can Evangelism Help a Congregation?

Roger D. Campbell

Jesus wants us to preach the gospel to every person (Mark 16:15). That includes teaching His saving message to those people in our own community. If the members of any local church will be actively involved in trying to teach the gospel to those who are lost, this will bring great benefits, both to those individual Christians who participate in this teaching and to the congregation as a whole. What are some of these blessings that will come to a local church that practices personal evangelism?

Being Busy in Personal Evangelism Will . . .

...Cause Each Member To Study More. We have to be ready to give an answer to those who ask questions (1 Peter 3:15). The answer that we are to give them must come from God's word (1 Peter 4:11). We have to search the scriptures (John 5:39) in order to be able to be the teachers that we ought to be (Hebrews 5:12). We cannot teach that which we do not know, so trying to teach others will force us to study more!

...Cause Each Active Member To Pray More. We will certainly feel the need for our Lord's help, because personal evangelism can present some pretty tough situations. Have you ever noticed how often the New Testament speaks about praying for the gospel to be preached? Jesus said that we are to pray to the Lord of harvests so

He will send forth reapers (Matthew 9:37,38). We are also told to pray for open doors in evangelism (Colossians 4:3; 2 Thessalonians 3:1,2) and for the courage of those who preach the word (Ephesians 6:19). So often we have felt frustrated by our own inability to convince those whom we are trying to teach. Such makes us turn to the Lord in prayer and seek His guidance.

...Cause Those Members Who Are Teaching To Grow Closer To One Another. This is the natural result of working together to reach a goal. God wants men to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4). So do you and I, and when we work together to help others learn the message of salvation, that is going to draw and bind us together. When we are busy teaching others, we will find ourselves praying together, we will ride or walk and talk together, we will cry and rejoice together. When all the members of a congregation are busy trying to teach the gospel to the lost, then they are giving their attention and energy to the task of helping others be saved. That does not leave much time for fussin' among themselves.

...Cause Souls To Be Saved And The Church To Grow. Yes, God's word will not return unto Him void (Isaiah 55:11). The church will grow when we sow the seed (Acts 2:47; 4:4; 5:14; 5:41-6:1; 6:7). Is this not what we are working for, not our personal glory, but the salvation of souls?! Remember the message of Mark 16:15, 16 — it begins with preaching the gospel and ends up with salvation!

...Cause Those Who Actually Teach To Have Personal Joy. "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him" (Psalm 126:5,6). There is joy simply for a person in realizing that God wants me to teach others, and hey, that is what I am trying to do. Again, we rejoice with those who obey the gospel (Romans 12:15). There is surely no way to top the wonderful joy that one feels as a result of helping a person be saved! How would you feel if you saved a child's life by grabbing him off the railroad tracks at the last instant just before a speeding train passed, and as a result your picture was on the local TV station and in the newspaper? Why, any of us would feel

good about themselves over something like that. Yet how much more precious than physical life is the eternal soul of every person, and we ought to rejoice in knowing that we can have a part in helping save a soul from eternal condemnation by teaching the gospel.

In so many ways evangelism brings great blessings to those congregations who practice it. May God help each of us to be more excited about teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost.

## Prayer and Action

A poor man who lived in the country broke his leg in an accident. That meant he was laid up for a long while, unable to work. His family was large and needed help. Someone got up a prayer meeting at the church to pray for this family. While the people were praying and asking God to help the family, there was a loud knock on the door of their home. Someone tiptoed to the door, opened it, and there stood a young farm boy who said, "My dad could not attend the prayer meeting tonight, so he just sent his prayers in a wagon." And there was the wagon loaded with meat, potatoes, apples, and other things from the farm.

Friends, we know that prayer is required, vital, and powerful. But too many fail to realize that prayer does not relieve one of personal responsibility. Perhaps, the words of John will make the point clear for all of us. "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him" (1 John 3:16-19).

-Tom Moore