



*For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place.
(1 Thessalonians 1:8)*

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Worship 9:30 AM
Bible Study 10:30 AM
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study 1:30 PM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Bible Call

(618) 667-9603

www.collinsvillecoc.org

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WHO ARE YOU, LORD?

A group of close friends decided to take a trek up one of the mountains of the Colorado Rockies. As they went along, one of them slipped and fell down a ravine hitting his head. When the rest of the group managed to climb down to him, his only words were, "Who are you?"

Saul, later known as Paul, found himself asking the same question. "And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutes thou me?" And he said, "Who art thou, Lord?" (Acts 9:3-5, KJV).

Saul did not fall down a ravine, but he fell to his knees. Saul did not hit his head, but he was humbled through blindness (v.8). Likewise, before we can be ready to serve the Lord we must be humbled. "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up" (James 4:10).

Like Saul, we may not find ourselves falling down a ravine, but we have all experienced the times where we were once on the mountain secure and sound only to find ourselves rolling downward back into the valley. It is in these times that the Master Potter goes to work (Jeremiah 18:6, Lamentations 4:2). Being the clay in the Potter's hands, we choose to be submissive to the will of the Potter. Thus, our cries in our time of humility vary.

We cry out, "Help me, Lord!" showing our reliance upon the Lord in our times of trial. As the psalmist wrote, "Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me! O LORD, be my helper!" (Psalm 30:10, ESV). Some also cry out, "Where are you Lord?" questioning whether God has left them in their time of need or they question His very existence. However, the question we need to ask is still the same, "Who are you, Lord?"

To Moses God said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob" (Exodus 3:6). God's faithfulness has been shown throughout the ages in those who lived before us.

Remember Elijah did not hear the Lord in the strong wind or the earthquake or the fire, but in a still small voice or a whisper (1 Kings 19:11-13). Thus we read, "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). Maybe when the time comes that we are hurled down into the valley, it is time to fall to our knees. Praying to the Lord God Almighty, simply give your concern to Him and ask, "Who are you, Lord?" Going to His word, he has answered us saying: I am the God of unsurpassing peace, so cast your cares on me (Philippians 4:6-7); I am the patient God desiring your salvation (2 Peter 3:9); I am the God who loves you (1 John 4:16).

In our time of need remember the Lord and the word of Elisha to his servant, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them" (2 Kings 6:16).

"I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around

Arise, O LORD; Save me. O my God! For You have struck all my enemies on the cheekbone; You have broken the teeth of of the ungodly.

Salvation belongs to the LORD; your blessings be on your people" (Psalm 3:6-8)

- Robert E. Guinn -

The Correspondent

Collinsville Church of Christ

1400 Troy Road

Collinsville, IL 62234

Phone: (618) 667-6708

Email: collinsvillecoc@att.net

Budget and Evangelism Report

There were several who asked me about the budget presentation Sunday, so I thought I would try to connect a few dots for everyone and then explain what is developing as far as our evangelistic effort is concerned.

Last year, the congregation took on the added responsibility of supporting Kelvin Pugh in the area of local evangelism. In order to do so, the elders requested a rather large increase in your contribution. The congregation responded magnificently to that request. However, before that request was even made, the elders had trimmed the budget to where it was as lean as possible. It was believed by the elders that the effort in evangelism was so important that there were many areas that had to be cut or reduced from our 2008 budget. The amount budgeted for benevolence in 2009 was slashed about 38%. This year, the contribution to the children's homes have been restored completely and much of the budget for local benevolence has been restored. The amount budgeted for edification in 2009 was slashed about 45%. We have learned of some savings, but most of that has been restored, though the 2010 budget is still about 12% below what was budgeted in 2008. As announced, plans are to have at least two Back Yard Bible Schools in 2010. In addition, there will be a VBS for our own children as well as friends and neighbors. Also, included are funds for the youth to go on a campaign this year.

In the area of evangelism and missions, the elders reduced our support last year to the Gospel Broadcast Network, Apologetics Press, and the Far East and World Missions. This year, that support has been restored to their former levels. In addition, the elders have increased our financial support to the Cameroon work and to the prison ministry in eastern Missouri. Last year the elders reduced the *House to House* mailing from six to four issues to cut cost. They have restored that mailing back to six issues. They, also, budgeted \$1000 to support Todd Gentry for a mission trip and \$70 a week to support Kelvin Pugh and his work with the Midwest church of Christ. Another addition in the area of evangelism was an additional \$15,000 for printing and tracts. Last year, as a cost saving measure, most of our materials for our evangelism were printed in house. This year, we are relying more on purchased tracts and professionally printed materials that we are designing ourselves. Under operating expenses, the office expenses were actually cut slightly as a result of not budgeting to print all of our own materials.

Budgeted property costs have been increased as a result of higher utility bills and the desire to make larger payments on the acquired land. The elders desire to pay down the principle as much as possible for two reasons.

First, the loan will have to be renegotiated in five years, which will probably mean higher interest rates. Second, it is still not known when we might have to build. The elders feel we should attempt to get the land paid down as much as possible because the cost of building on it will be very expensive. The burden should be reduced as much as possible now before that time comes.

As for evangelism, these things are presently taking place: Mike Duckworth, John Simon, Ryan Weaver, James Wyant, and Gloria Hartmann have agreed to assemble teams to distribute two thousand packets of literature each. Since we have had some women that have been diligent workers, Gloria was asked to keep our women involved in this effort by assembling a team. These teams will be working in different communities to accomplish our yearly goal of distributing materials to 10,000 homes. Vicki Luna is coordinating dividing the materials and getting them ready to be stuffed into the packets. Twelve thousand tracts have been ordered and should be in soon. Eight thousand pieces of literature that we print ourselves, for Bible Call and a correspondence course, have been printed. Another twelve thousand or more will be printed during the year as needed. A flyer offering various opportunities for studying the Bible is being developed and will be printed soon. A folder introducing the Collinsville church, her mission, and her works to the community is also being developed and will be printed, too. All of these will be placed in bags for hanging on doors. Two other teams have yet to be formed that will work in the areas closer to the building. These are areas that have been selected to receive the *House to House* mailings this year. One thousand of those homes will have three different packets of information distributed to their doors during the year. There is also a goal of knocking on those same one-thousand doors during the year to invite the residents to worship with us and to enroll them in personal home Bible studies, studies with a DVD, or correspondence course studies.

Continue to remember these efforts in your prayers.

Mabery's Minutes



I did not hear an official count, but I heard several estimates of nearly fifty women attending the ladies' retreat. From all the buzzing among the ladies Sunday, and from what Mary told me, it must have been a good morning for the ladies, as it was the previous week for the men. Thanks to those ladies who put so much time into the planning and preparation that made the day a huge success.