

A Heart For Evangelism

Volume 1 Issue 3

September 7, 2008

Evangelistic Opportunities

Sept. 6 Literature distribution 9 am— 11 am

Sept. 18-20 St Louis Area-Wide Lectureship @ Collinsville

Sept. 27 Literature distribution 9am— 11 am

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How Can We Sound Out The Word of God?

K.A. Pugh

Paul praised the church in Thessalonica for the following reason, **“For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing”** (1 Thessalonians 1:8). The church at Thessalonica was an evangelistic congregation. The evangelistic message of the word was “sounded” out from them into the world. The word “sounded” means to echo forth, to resound. It is the goal of the Collinsville congregation to become a church that is continually sounding out the word of the Lord. How can we sound out the

word of the Lord in this area? Let me share with you some ways in which we are doing it now, and some ways in which we can do it in the future.

Currently, we are sounding forth the word through support of Paul Kee and the Cameroon mission. What a great work Paul, Janet, and the local evangelists are doing to spread God’s word in that area. Let us continue to support this evangelistic effort with our money and prayers. We are also distributing literature at least once a month in the community. This is a means to get the name of the church into the community and offer evangelistic services. We are using our Bible Call

system as an avenue of reaching the lost. Bible Correspondence courses are being established daily through door knocking and the literature distribution. One on one Bible studies are being conducted in the homes of individuals and families. The DVD course, Searching For Truth, is being used as an evangelistic tool. Listed above is seven ways in which we are sounding forth God’s word from here. Are you involved in any of these evangelistic efforts? Yes, you are contributing each week with your contribution, but are you getting your hands dirty and getting involved in the thick of the action? If not, the **L o r d n e e d s you!** ...continued on pg. 2

Our Evangelistic Efforts

The month of August was the first month we were really able to get the evangelistic program in full gear. It was a productive month with literature being distributed, doors being knocked, and home Bible studies being conducted. An evangelis-

tic congregation will al-
ways have some type of outreach being conducted. This is the way those outside of Christ will get the opportunity to hear the gospel. This month, the seed of the kingdom was spread as far as Granite City and Madison, IL

even though we only worked in the Troy area! “So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I send it” (Isaiah 55:11).

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Statistics for August 2008

436 doors were knocked

1871 packets of literature distributed

141 accesses to the Bible Call system

11 new Bible correspondence courses were established

2 messages were left on the Bible Call system from callers requesting guidance

1 ongoing home Bible study

5 visitors to our services

Leaving a Legacy

So many of us, as parents, want our children to have opportunities and experiences that we did not have as children. Have you ever thought about leaving a spiritual legacy for your children? The Collinsville congregation is loving, giving, and family oriented. As our younger children grow older, will they be able to enjoy all of the benefits we have enjoyed being members here? Evangelism is a way to keep churches growing. What role are you fulfilling in evangelism to leave a spiritual legacy for your children and for others? If you have not been involved in evangelism, get involved. The present and future of this congregation depends on what YOU do today!

-K.A. Pugh

How Can We Sound Out The Word of God?

Every quarter, House to House/ Heart to Heart is mailed out to several thousand homes in the area. The literature is attractive and well written.

You may be thinking, all of these are great ways to be evangelistic. They are, **BUT**, we need **MORE**. We need more people to get involved with these current avenues so we can implement new avenues of evangelism. We need more distributors, more door knockers, more study leaders, more labelers. The more the better!

What are some ways we can sound forth the word of the Lord in the near future? Our goal as a congregation is to use methods that are effective, efficient, and can reach the masses. One of those ways

could be public access television. There are many religious programs on the air, and we can broadcast the truth of God's word over the airwaves. Newspaper articles in local papers are a great way to reach the masses. Thought provoking articles can provide a source of information for the reader. Today, we are living in the age of technology. A virtual Bible study conducted on the church's website could be an effective means to get into the homes of those in our community. Most people are reluctant to have someone come into their home to study, but many are probably more open to the possibility of attending or watching a Bible study on the web in the comfort of their own home. CD's and DVD's are very popular today and we could produce a DVD that would introduce the congregation to

friends and neighbors. Many are afraid to talk to friends and neighbors about the gospel. How about handing your friend or neighbor a DVD and have someone else do the talking for you?

The ways are endless in which we could sound forth the word of the Lord. If you have any Scriptural suggestions that you think would be effective in our evangelistic work, please let me know. We want to use every avenue we can to get the gospel into the community. Your help and your suggestions are needed. Remember, we are working in the Lord's vineyard together as fellow laborers in the gospel. We want the Lord to say of us, "For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Collinsville and Troy, but also in every place."

Life Sustaining Water

Written by Darleen pugh

A few years ago brother Barry Grider, the pulpit minister at the Forest Hill congregation in Memphis TN., preached a sermon entitled “The Sanctity of Life” referencing the removal of the feeding tube from Terri Schiavo. The case was well known and his timely sermon discussed the value God places on life. Following the tragic end for Terri, her family wrote a book together “A Life That Matters” detailing what she endured. Throughout its entirety, they recall for fifteen years, they were looking for a “savior” for Terri. She needed saving from death by dehydration and starvation. Something so insignificant to us was a life line for her, and her opponents wanted it removed swiftly. Her family appealed to Terri’s husband and the appeal was denied. They appealed to the doctors and nurses and again, they were denied. An appeal was made to an attorney and to local authorities....denied. An appeal was made to the governor of Florida, but he could only take it so far. An appeal was made to the governor’s brother, the President, who urged the courts to err on the side of life and he signed a letter to that effect, but the lower courts had the authority to deny that. They did. After battling for so many years, Terri’s feeding tube was removed. No one was allowed to give her a drop of water, not even an ice chip for moisture. Her case was hopeless, with an over abundance of enemies ready to take her life, and without a savior. Death occurred by dehydration because she was deprived of one of the most basics of life...water (dictionary meaning is fluid necessary to life). Thanks be to God, the greatest book ever written is full of hope, mercy, and compassion with a loving savior not willing that any should perish!

This is an extreme on the physical side of life but what about spiritually? How many people do

we pass in the course of a week that is spiritually dehydrated, unaware of it, and we have access to living water? “Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink (Romans 12:20). Proverbs 5:21 states it almost the same way, “If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink.” The Lord describes Himself as the “fountain of living waters” (Jeremiah 2:13). Matthew records we are blessed if we hunger and thirst after righteousness (Matthew 5:16). “O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is” (Psalm 63:1). Jesus says, “But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life” (John 4:14).

Who among us, if someone came to our door clearly in need of water, would not hesitate to give him a glass or two? We know from the scriptures that the “harvest is white” and so many souls are in need of a life saving drink from the living water. “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him take the water of life freely” (Revelation 22:17). “For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them and shall lead them unto living waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes” (Revelation 7:17).

Unlike the persons surrounding Terri Schiavo, we know that all life matters to God and His desire is for all to be saved. Will you get involved in the evangelistic efforts to try and save a soul from spiritual dehydration and help bring him to living waters? By doing so, when that saved soul reaches heaven, he will thank God for Jesus, for you and for water!