

T. E. A. C. H.

December, January, February

Provided by the Christian Education Department

Volume 4 Number 3

REAPING A SPIRITUAL HARVEST

Dan Harrison, C.E. Chairman

A godly woman received a phone call from a former college classmate. She hadn't seen him in fifteen years, but he was in town and wanted to visit with her. "Great!" she responded. "I'd love to see you again!" But there was a problem. "Before you agree to see me," he said, "I want you to know I'm HIV-positive. And I have a companion with me who is dying of AIDS. Do you still want to see me?"

The woman said, "Yes, I'd still like to see you." Before the meeting she asked her friends to pray for her because she didn't know how she would act in that difficult situation. She had never been around an AIDS patient before. She knew she didn't have strength enough to handle it alone.

When the day of their meeting came, this very caring woman was relieved to see how healthy her former classmate looked. She saw nothing unusual about him. She reached out and embraced him warmly as she would normally have done. Then he turned and introduced her to his companion. He was the typical stereotype of a man in the final stages of AIDS: emaciated, sweating profusely, trembling a little.

Led by the Holy Spirit's power, she reached down and embraced the sickly man and said, "I'm so sorry you're not doing well. I'm glad to meet you. I want you to know God cares about you and so do I." She later thanked her friends for praying, saying, "I know I could never have done that without the Holy Spirit helping me."

Who has the best chance of reaching that AIDS victim with the hope of the gospel before he dies: the preacher in Kansas who attends the funeral of AIDS victims and carries a sign that reads, "God hates faggots"? Or a compassionate woman who embraces a dying man and says, "I'm sorry you're not doing well. I want you to know God cares about you and so do I." Christians must earn the right to be heard by expressing our faith through love.

During His short public ministry of about 3 years, Jesus set a beautiful example for us of how we should relate to each other. He spent many long hours teaching and healing people both in large groups and one on one. Although Christ preached to multitudes in Galilee and Judea and was often

surrounded by a great crowd, He was never too busy to minister to men, women and children one to one.

One day when a house at Capernaum was filled with people eager to hear the Master's words, He stopped to give attention to a sick man who had been let down through the roof (Mark 2:1-12). Some thought of the situation as only an annoying interruption but Jesus saw it as an opportunity to open his heart and to model the way we need to love a hurting person.

On another occasion He singled out a man of short stature who had climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Him. Jesus stopped, look up, and said, "Zaccheus, make haste and come down for today I must stay at your house" (Luke 19:5). Some were shocked that Jesus had invited Himself over for

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Thank You from CE Convention</i>	pg. 2
<i>Christian Education Appreciation Night</i>	pg. 3
<i>Leading and Preaching to Change Lives</i>	pg. 3
<i>Reaching Through the Reached</i>	pg. 3
<i>The Great Commission Package</i>	pg. 4
<i>Evangelism</i>	pg. 5
<i>Spring 1997 Promotion - "Expanding Our Horizons"</i>	pg. 6



a meal with someone they knew to be a crook and a man of bad reputation. While many looked with cynical eyes and saw only a crooked little man with a lousy reputation, Jesus viewed Zaccheus through eyes of compassion and mercy seeing the potential for God and good.

Jesus often spent time with individuals in private, teaching them, guiding them, and challenging them to believe in Him (John 3:1-21; 4:1-26). Never underestimate the value of your one on one witness for Christ. If you ever wonder about the worth of your personal, individual witness remember Jesus' example and what He said in Luke 15:10, "There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Too often we see our day to day interactions with people as an intrusion into our busy lives and not an opportunity to represent Jesus. In a world that is running on empty, as far as love is concerned, we need to redeem every chance we have to display genuine love. Stuart Briscoe shares an experience that reminds us of the importance of doing what we can to make a difference by reflecting the love of Christ.

"Shortly after I arrived in the United States, I was invited to speak at a banquet in one of the big Chicago hotels. My wife and I decided to drive down to the Windy City together and left ourselves plenty of time to find our way around. As we approached Chicago I noticed we were getting low on gas, but I knew there would be plenty of filling stations.

When we suddenly came to a halt in the fast lane of the freeway, in the rush hour, with the rain pouring down, I realized my assumptions about filling stations were wrong, as my tank was empty. I climbed out of my car to be greeted by a chorus of horns expressing displeasure and expletives filling in the details. There was nothing I could do as I stood in the rain feeling totally helpless.

One particularly dilapidated car drew alongside, the driver rolled down his window, I braced myself for more verbal abuse but was relieved that his English was so bad I couldn't understand it. About 15 minutes later the same car returned in traffic and pulled up in front of mine. The driver jumped out and without a word proceeded to pour gas into my tank from a can. He had seen my plight, gone to a filling station off the freeway, borrowed a can, gotten back on the freeway, fought the traffic, and come to my rescue. When I tried to thank him, he shrugged and said, "You look kinda new around here. Me, I just come from Puerto Rico, Friday.

Ain't nobody do nothing for nobody in this city" and with that statement he was gone.

Jesus entered a world where, "Ain't nobody do nothing for nobody" and He gave and gave and gave from a heart overflowing with love. The only hope for the world is for the church to follow in His footsteps touching people with genuine, authentic love that flows from the Father's heart through us. The world is waiting to see if Jesus is real and they are looking to us for the evidence. What will they see? The kind of a harvest we reap will reflect the answer.

**THANK YOU!!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

1996 C.E. CONVENTION

We would like to say a big THANK YOU for helping to make the 1996 C.E. Convention such a big success. We have read your evaluations and appreciate the positive responses that came from you. Some even ventured to say it was the best ever. We also have taken into account your suggestions. Our goal is to continue to build a convention that will meet your goals. We thank Brookside for the wonderful job they did hosting the convention and you for joining us. Our prayer is that you will take all the insight, resources, and information given from the convention and make 1996-97 your best year ever.

As we thank you for this year, we are already looking ahead to next year. Our theme for the 1997 C.E. Convention is "Maximizing Ministry". We all strive to do the best and get the most from our ministries. We believe this convention will be motivational, practical and life changing. We trust you will plan to attend the 1997 C.E. Convention.

***WE HAVE CHANGED THE DATE FROM
SEPTEMBER 13 TO SEPTEMBER 20, 1997.***

Put it on your calendar today and plan to attend this convention on "Maximizing Ministry"!

Thanks again!

Mike Holbrook
Publicity Chairman

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION APPRECIATION NIGHT

March 15, 1997

Dinner Speaker: Don Bartlett

After Dinner Concert: Kirk Talley

Heritage Memorial Church
Washington C.H., Ohio

LEADING AND PREACHING TO CHANGE LIVES

On October 16th and 17th, Injoy Ministries held a mentoring conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. It was entitled "Leading and Preaching to Change Lives." The title speakers were Bill Hybels and John Maxwell.

This was a great opportunity for pastors and leaders to sharpen their skills as we participated in the various sessions. The sessions included such topics as "How to Communicate Your Vision to Your Congregation," "Preaching to the Unchurched," and more...

Project C was pleased to sponsor 14 of our pastors and leaders to this conference. We believe the more effective we can become as leaders, the more we will accomplish for the Kingdom! It is our desire to see you grow as a leader and become all that God wants you to be.

There will be other events in the future that Project C will sponsor. We hope that you will be able to attend our next event.

Herschel Holley
Project "C" Coordinator

What's your price?

In a survey of American adults, *TV Guide* found that 25 percent wouldn't permanently give up watching television, even if given a million dollars to do so. Nearly half (46 percent) would give up TV for that amount, but not a penny less. Another 25 percent would turn off the tube for good in exchange for a mere \$25,000.

—*Restoration Herald*

REACHING THROUGH THE REACHED

Probably one of the most exciting things that any church ever experiences is when someone gets "saved". There is just something thrilling about seeing someone's life genuinely changed and watching God redeem them and begin making them into a new creature. But what then?

Most of us (myself included) want to see them "get grounded in the faith," or begin being disciplined, or at least develop some consistency in their Christian life through prayer, Bible reading and church attendance. If we're fortunate enough to have a "New Converts Class" we will direct them into that. Or maybe some "saint" will take them under their wing and begin telling them what needs to happen in their new Christian life.

Don't get me wrong. There is absolutely nothing wrong with any of this when it is done in the right way. The problem is that it seems that one of the last things that we consider is the possibility of them ministering to others, and yet that is one thing they can do best! There is often an enthusiasm and a contagiousness about new Christians that is exciting and speaks to others around them.

I was dramatically reminded of this a few weeks ago when the husband of one of our newly converted couples came to the church looking for one of the staff members. A friend of this young couple had come to their house to visit and they began telling her about what had happened to them. The friend was so moved by their testimony and events in her own life that she wanted to pray. One of the things she said to me was "if God can change them, I guess He can change me to."

The sad thing is that we sometimes get so interested in seeing someone learn how to be a Christian that we never give them a chance to let God use them in ministering to others. And then by the time we think they are ready that enthusiasm has cooled, or they have seen "what it means to be a Christian" by watching others in the church and have learned by apprenticeship to be content to just come and sit.



Have you
Shared
your
Faith
today?



I have been reminded of the passage in Acts 2 where it says that "the Lord added to the church daily." I don't really think that took place by Peter going down to the local market and saying "Yeah, (yawn) God's been really blessing us at the church lately." (Forgive the jest.) I believe there is a contagiousness about people having their lives changes so dramatically that they couldn't keep quiet about it. I would guess that even those who were shy by nature exuded an exciting change. I would guess that even those who had been disciples for awhile were getting pretty excited about what was going on. As Christians went from "house to house" breaking bread and as people saw the change that was taking place in the lives of their friends, and heard their testimonies about what God had done for them, they too realized that they needed something new in their lives. People were being reached through those who had been reached.

For new converts what they may lack in Christian maturity and understanding is often made up for by their enthusiasm and contagiousness. We as Christian leaders should not be fearful of this, but rather learn that God often uses their enthusiasm and contagiousness to reach out to others. Sometimes He'll even use us to do the reaching through these new believers. You know something? It probably wouldn't hurt anything if we were a little enthusiastic and contagious ourselves!

After Jesus healed the man blind from birth, he and his parents were standing before the hostile Pharisees and he gave this great testimony "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know; that though I was blind, now I see." (NKJV) Oh, for more people who are willing to testify with enthusiasm and contagiousness about what Jesus has done for them, and may one of them be me!

William A. Benner
Winchester Church of Christ in Christian Union



Please encourage me

Flatter me, and I may not believe you.
Criticize me, and I may not like you.
Ignore me, and I may not forgive you.
Encourage me, and I will not forget you.

-William Arthur Ward
First United Methodist Church,
Riverside, CA

THE GREAT COMMISSION PACKAGE

Which is more important, revival in our local church, reaching the unsaved in our hometown, planting new churches here in the USA, or planting new churches in other countries and cultures? How do you choose between revival, evangelism, church extension, and world missions? You really can't. Says who? Jesus said so in Acts 1:8. There He commands us to be filled with the Holy Spirit and as a result we are to be witnesses in our Jerusalem, our Judea, our Samaria, and the uttermost part of our world. Jesus put this package together. If we take it apart, we do so at our own peril.

Can a church really experience revival without an increased compassion to reach lost people in their hometown, their home country, or around the world? **NO!** Can a church be effective in reaching the unsaved in its community and be unconcerned about the unsaved throughout the USA and our world? **NO!** Can a church be effective in reaching the unsaved in its community and be effective in starting daughter churches here at home and be unconcerned about reaching the lost and starting new churches in other countries and cultures? **NO!** No wonder Donald McGavran argued that in order to be a New Testament church a church must be involved in all four: revival, evangelism, church extension, and world missions. Let me go a step further. For persons to be New Testament Christians they must be committed to all four. How could a Christian be genuinely filled with the Holy Spirit Acts 1:8 commands and not be committed to all four?

What does all this mean to this Missionary Superintendent? It means that my heart cries out to God for a revival among our people that will result in a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit; that will rearrange our priorities and empower us to be radically involved in fulfilling the Great Commission.

Without this revival there will be very few missionaries called from our churches. Three-fourths of the unreached people in our world can only be reached through cross-cultural evangelism. If we are not concerned about the unsaved family and friends around us daily, our giving to world missions will be only an act of charity and our praying for missions will only be a monthly routine to free us from

guilt. That is why I end many missionary services with an altar call for Christians to come and pray for their unsaved family and friends. Compassion for the lost must begin at home and then extend to our world.

Without a broader base of support here in the USA through planting new churches, how can we broaden our outreach to the world? More New Testament churches at home will mean more support for world evangelism in terms of prayer, missionaries and financial support.

Jesus really knew what He was doing when He put this Great Commission package together.

David Lattimer



EVANGELISM

The word "Evangelism" means the winning or revival of personal commitments to Christ. In the church world as we know it today there is not much evangelism going on. I believe the reason we don't see this in action today is because we live in a "non-commitment" church world today.

It is very plain that if you can't get people who are "professing" to be "Christians" to church on a regular basis then you can't expect these same people to commit to evangelism, because evangelism takes time and energy and if they do not have or are not willing to give time and energy to church attendance it is evident that they will not give any attention to evangelism.

I suppose that to me it seems so ironic because we are won to Jesus Christ through evangelism in some form or the other such as revivals, Sunday school promotions, personal invitations to church or personal witnessing. If the church today is going to grow and evangelize the world we need a revival of evangelism to start in the local church. If you were to look at your local congregation and subtract everyone in attendance that has come from another church you would realize that most church growth today is not from evangelism but problems in another church.

"One little boy asked his father what you call people that leave our church and go somewhere else and he replied

The gifts of God

Lord, how can I thank you for all your gifts? If I tried to count them, I would never succeed.

Many times I have failed to show my gratitude. So often, I have not seen you in other people. They are your gifts, too.

Through your generosity to me, let me find patience. Through your love to me, let me give love. In the crises of life, you will be my strength.

—Bill Modystack
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church,
Lemoine, PA

Church Tramps. Then the little boy asked what you call people who leave another church and come to ours and his reply was "converts, son, converts." In reality we are only shuffling people around from church to church and feeling good about ourselves because we see a growth in numbers.

What we need to do is throw away the "sacred cow" of numbers and start counting new not warmed over or born again and again and again converts. Our focus must be on evangelizing people who have never known the saving grace of God. We forget that there is going to be an "accounting day" ahead for us and God will want to know why we had time and energy for pleasure and material but NO time for evangelism.

To bring it down where everybody can understand, we all have unsaved loved ones who are on the road to Hell and destruction. And if we don't take time and energy to evangelize them, we could very well stand on our "accounting day" with God and have some poor soul's blood on our hands because we did not try to win them to Christ.

May God gives us a new and real commitment to evangelism before it's too late!!!

David Hopkins, Pastor
Peebles Church of Christ in Christain Union



CHURCH OF CHRIST IN CHRISTIAN UNION
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
P.O. BOX 356
WINCHESTER, OHIO 45697
Address Correction Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #2
Winchester, Ohio



SPRING 1997 PROMOTION - "EXPANDING OUR HORIZONS"

James 1:27 says, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their afflictions, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." If our existence as the Church of Jesus Christ is to promote the things of Christianity, then we must fulfill the call of outreach. In this promotion you will be provided several principles and strategies to prove to your community that you care about their souls as well as their concerns. The six week emphasis will be patterned in this way:

Week One -	Reaching Out as a Congregation
Week Two-	Reaching Out by Cultivation
Week Three-	Reaching Out with Compassion
Week Four-	Reaching Out with Communion
Week Five-	Reaching Out with Cooperation
Week Six-	Reaching Out in Celebration

It will be a tremendous chance for our denomination to share the blessed joy of Christ with those who see us most! The statement is true, "The churches that do not change, do not grow." May the Lord help us to sustain the message of Christ while expanding our methods to reach many for Him. If you have any comments or recommendations please feel free to share them with us.

Bruce Morrison
Promotions Coordinator

• Through humor, you can soften some of the worst blows that life delivers. And once you find laughter, no matter how painful your situation might be, you can survive it.