

Fishers of Men

By: Howell Ferguson

During our last week in Salem, Virginia just before we all moved to begin our work in Tanzania, a good brother and friend was conducting what most of you reading this will remember as the “*Fishers of Men*” program at the West Side church. Unfortunately, we were only able to attend the first meeting on Monday night since we were about to leave early Wednesday for Africa. The design of the program was intended to give Christians tools to help them do what we were ourselves about to do in Tanzania: fish for the souls of people.

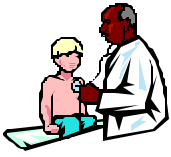
Jesus talked about this kind of thing during His personal ministry on Earth: “*And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men*” (Matt. 4:18, 19). I can’t imagine a greater challenge Jesus could give a small group of Galilean fishermen than to transform them into soul winners. I marvel how Jesus knew just the occupation—fishing to illustrate the quirkiness of trying to save people.

I’ve done a little fishing in my life, so I know that fish are not always cooperative no matter how well-prepared the fisherman might think he is. The interesting thing is frequently it doesn’t matter what color or type bait you’re using, or the brand name of your fishing equipment. And you might have the bait-casting “*skill*” of an Olympian gold medalist. But fish don’t care! There are so many factors that are well-beyond discussing in this devo article: water temperature, weather conditions, barometric pressure, etc. And sometimes, the fish just aren’t hungry.

But Jesus said, “*Go ye into all the world.*” “*Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.*” So, what do we do? We go fishing. It’s that simple. Don’t expect to catch fish in every place. Sometimes during a “*dry spell*” we just need to follow Jesus’ instructions and cast our nets in a different direction (Luke 5:1-10). The key throughout the whole process, however, is to keep following Jesus. That’s the whole point. We become fishers of men for the kingdom of God only to the extent that we follow Jesus. Without Him we are merely exercising our personal relations skills. Are the fish not biting in your lake? Try a different lake, or come back to the same lake at a later time. But remember, the love of Christ is the attraction for the lost souls of men and women. Have you gone fishing lately?

Sick

Continue to remember in prayer:
**Marguerite Charles, Lyn Anderson,
Martha Keith, Miriam Majors,
Betty Jenkins, WJ Wood, Dee
House, Evelyn Scott, David Wilcox,
Norman Pence, Kathleen Soliday,
Cynthia Angelotti.**



Collin Gregory is home after his stay in the hospital and all test results look good.

Beulah Wright, Velda's sister, had surgery on Thursday in Hampton, VA.

Happy Birthday this week to:

**Norma Biller—4/5
Melissa Oldham—4/6
Collin Gregory—4/7
Tom Richardson—4/8
Emily Gray—4/11
Hazel McFalls—4/11**



Happy Anniversary this week to:

**Joe & Amanda Brown—4/9
Richard & Laura Simms—4/10**



APRIL ITEMS FOR THE STAFF-

FORDS: Kashi Go Lean cereal, All Bran Yogurt Bites cereal, regular nonmicrowave popcorn.

Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!



Congratulations

Eddy Gilpin was selected as the "Alumnus of the Year" at Memphis School of Preaching Lectureships this past week.



Upcoming Events:

Team 2 (Garby) will be having a get together at Herb & Shirley Baker's home on April 25. Details soon.



Teens

April Dates
4/19—TBS



Attention Youth and your Parents: Your summer intern Luke Guard is wanting to find out what you want to study and what your parents want you to study about this summer. He is planning on having split devos {male & female} and is looking for devo speakers for the girls and the guys. If you can assist, let Luke know by contacting him. The best way is his new email address: luketguard@gmail.com or call him at 540-556-8855 or send snail mail to: 158 E Main Street, Box 199, Henderson, TN 38340. Let him hear from you soon!

WOW

Next WOW meeting will be on Tuesday, April 14, at 10:30.

For Your Information

CARDS & CRAFTS

The cards and crafts will meet in the large classroom today at 3:30 to work on cards and Easter baskets. See Melissa Rogers for details.

EDP MEETING

The bi-monthly EDP meeting will be today at 4:00.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The monthly Men's Breakfast will be at Famous Anthony's on April 11 at 8 AM.

AREA WIDE PREACHERS MEETING

There will be 2 different area wide preachers meetings in April. On April 13 at 10:30 Winford Clairborn will be speaking and on April 20, Keith Kasarjain will be speaking. Make plans to be here if you have a chance.

LADIES NIGHT OUT

April Ladies Night Out will be on April 27 at 6:30. Details will be available soon.

Virginia Christian Camp will be on June 21-27 and will be here before you know it. Plans are being made for another great year at camp! Applications are in the foyer. Deadline is May 15 so hurry and get your application sent to Curtis!! If you are interested in volunteering see one of the board members who are members here at WS— Danny Guard, Lyn Shrader, Jerry Anderson, and Jeff Reed.

VIRGINIA Christian Camp Kitchen Needs

West Side is to supply 20 8 oz. bottles of mustard.

Give donations to Velda!!



Virginia Christian Camp Craft Needs

Old dishrags and towels (to be used for clean up), 409, hand soap & dish detergent, disposable plastic tablecloths, 5 ounce plastic cups, paper towels, ready made cake-frosting bowls w/lids, small frozen dinner trays, pencils & pens, Ziplock baggies – qt. Size, Sharpie Markers (all colors)

If you would like to donate any of these items please see Melissa Rogers or Jo Ann Edwards.

Weekly Reminders

Prayer list:

Lyn Anderson
Marguerite Charles
Dee House
Betty Jenkins
Martha Keith
Margaret Kratz
Miriam Majors
David Wilcox
Cora Akers
Edna Stricklin
Judy Bowman
Evelyn Scott
EV Wimmer
Collin Gregory
Beulah Wright

Activities:

Makin' Music Weekend—4/3-5
Cards & Crafts—4/5
EDP Meeting—4/5
Men's Breakfast—4/11



“If Any Man” (6)

There are 62 occasions in the New Testament in which you will find the phrase “if any man.” Although God needs to state something only once for it to have significance, obviously when something is said a number of times we should take a close look at the instances in which it appears. Let’s continue our examination of this important phrase.

It was to certain of the Pharisees that had questioned Jesus’ miracle and statements from chapter nine that He addresses the parable of John 10:1-6. They understood the story He told, but failed to see the application and to grasp its significance. The culture of the day understood about shepherds and sheep. Jesus used these to make His point and illustrate His truth. In verse six He stated plainly, “I am the door: by me *if any man* enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.” It is only through Christ that anyone can be saved. Later He told His disciples, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (Jn. 14:6). Others had obviously claimed to be Him prior to that time (“All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers”- Jn. 10:8). Imagine how large that list has grown since that time! However, regardless of what men believe and what “political correctness” demands, there is only one way to get to heaven- through Christ. And, only those obedient to Him are included (Heb. 5:8, 9).

On one occasion there were some Greeks who came to the Passover to worship, and they desired to speak with Jesus (Jn. 12:20, 21). Although the text does not explicitly state it, the implication is that they were granted their request. To these men and some of His disciples, Jesus stated, “*If any man* serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: *if any man* serve me, him will my Father honour” (Jn. 12:26). Through this statement we are again impressed with the necessity of obedience. It is only through serving the Lord that we garner heaven’s favor (cf. Rom. 6:16; II Thes. 1:8). This is true of “any man.”

-Eddy

Apr. 5 (Acts 11)

- Read Acts 11 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 11—Peter’s defense at Jerusalem regarding Cornelius
- Barnabas & Saul (Paul) united
- Write a note or card this week
- *Increase your contribution by \$1 today

Apr. 6 (Acts 12)

- Read Acts 12 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 12—James killed by Herod
- Herod imprisons Peter
- Peter released by an angel
- Herod’s death
- Barnabas & Paul go to Jerusalem with Mark

Apr. 7 (Acts 13)

- Read Acts 13 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 13—Paul’s 1st missionary journey
- Paul strikes Elymas blind
- Paul’s sermon at Antioch
- Paul & Barnabas turn to the Gentiles

Apr. 8 (Acts 14)

- Read Acts 14 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 14—Paul & Barnabas regarded as gods at Lystra (Jupiter & Mercury)
- Elders appointed at Antioch

Apr. 9 (Acts 15)

- Read Acts 15 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 15—Council at Jerusalem (regarding circumcision & the law)
- Contention between Barnabas & Paul (regarding John Mark)
- Paul’s 2nd missionary journey begins (with Silas)

Apr. 10 (Acts 16)

- Read Acts 16 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 16—Macedonian call to Paul
- Lydia converted (Philippi)
- Paul & Silas imprisoned
- Philippian jailer & family converted

Those to Serve in April

Announcements: Fred Altizer

Preside at Communion: Marc Laplante

Opening Prayer: Bob Martin

Next Week: Tom Richardson

PM Song Leader: Josh Whitlow

Opening Prayer: Squeaky Valentine

Next Week: Bradford Durham

Serve Communion: Mark Brooks, Garrett Durham

Wednesday Song Leader: Eric Earnhart

Open/Close Bldg: Eric Earnhart

Ushers: Jim Bush/Norris Gearhart

Greeters: Bakers/Mays

Song Leader: Charlie Gwaltney

Serve Table: Roger Mays, Sam Valentine
AC Janney, Glenn Hartman

Closing Prayer: Mike Durham

Next Week: Jim Harrington

Scripture Reader: Cameron Brown

Closing Prayer: Jerry Anderson

Next Week: Jeff Durham

Prayer: Bob Garby

Prepare Communion: McFalls/Oldham

Cards/Pencils: Dylan Tyler/Chandler Jearls

Nursery Attend: Shannon Lowe/Wanda Martin

Last weeks attendance (3/29&4/1/09)

Bible Class: 142 Worship Service: 161

Sunday Evening: 134

Wednesday: 139

Contribution: \$4544

April 5, 2009

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