

There's a Meeting Going on

Our Gospel Meeting begins next Sunday with brother Gary Hampton. Let's use the article below as motivation for us to invite our friends and neighbors to hear God's Word proclaimed.

(Matt. 28:18-20) – the Elders

Forty-five years ago someone said to a friend, "There's a meeting going on; why don't you go?" Because he said that to her, she went—and she became a Christian.

After becoming a Christian, she soon converted her husband. She was married to him forty years. After he died, she married another man, whom she also converted.

Not long after becoming a Christian, she converted her mother and one brother.

She had one son. She was a Christian mother, so she raised him up to want to be a Christian. Her son had a friend who didn't have a Christian home and desperately needed one and wanted one. He looked to his friend's mother as his own mother. He was led to become a Christian also. He married a Christian girl and they had two children and later adopted a third. All three children are Christians, and one is studying to be a minister.

The lady's son was attracted to a girl, and both the girl and her mother were drawn to the church, and both became Christians. The girl had an older sister who wasn't a Christian. The older sister saw the lives of her sister's family, and later she and her husband became Christians.

After the son who was attracted to the girl got married, they had three children. One son was born afflicted, but found a very special spot in the family and was sorely missed when he was called home twenty years later. The sisters who were left became Christians.

These two sisters have married husbands who have become Christians.

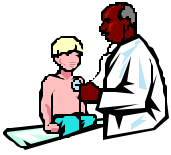
Does the chain of influence stop there? I would have to answer, "No!" The chain of influence, whether for good or evil, never stops.

It was all because one friend, Lorene Ashford Atzenhoffer, listened and her heart was moved to obey the gospel that this chain of events started. It started when one man said, "There's a meeting going on; why don't you go?" Only eternity will tell how many lives were touched.

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Sick

Continue to remember in prayer:
 Marguerite Charles,
 Margaret Kratz, Betty Jenkins, Crawford
 & Martha Keith, Mariam Majors, Steve
 Harrah, Mary Reese, Bill Paul, Linda
 Thompson, Buddy Martin



David Wilcox had surgery on Friday.

Jack Cook and Harden Reed have returned home from their recent stays in the hospital.

Happy Birthday this week to:

Martha Keith—10/16



Happy Anniversary this week to:

Charles & Hazel Maness—10/15

Glenn & Sandra Neighbors—
10/18



OCTOBER ITEMS FOR THE STAFFORDS: Parmesan Cheese and Stain Sticks. Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!

MILITARY

Kyle Nester, Erich Felps,
 Chris Coleman, & Angela Ridgeon
 —in Iraq
 Katy Halling—aboard a Navy Ship
 Ty Stricklin will be returning to Iraq in
 October.



Dustin Humphreys - Camp LeJeune

McDonald's has agreed to end its association with the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce and to remain neutral in the political issues of the homosexual activist organizations after pressure from the American Family Association. Many of us at West Side signed a petition that was delivered to the McDonald's corporation regarding this issue. Our efforts have paid off. Thanks to all who continue to remain active in opposing the immoral activities of our society.

WHAT IN THE WORLD WERE YOU THINKING?

It could have happened yesterday. That's how fresh it is in my mind. Actually, it took place about twenty years or so ago.

A young mother with some small children "cornered me" after one of our worship services and blamed me for a problem that had developed in the congregation where I was preaching at the time. I am the first to admit that I am not above being the cause of some problems, even though I try very hard not to be. I've never claimed anything close to perfection and I have tried to keep "the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" as one of my guiding principles (cf. Eph. 4:3). At the same time, I always realize that I can, indeed, be the source of a problem.

However, I did not accept the blame for this one. Unfortunately, there had been some unwanted and unplanned pregnancies involving a couple of the teenage girls in the congregation. I assured the mother that I was not, in any way, responsible for this situation, that the only children I felt directly responsible for were my two (who were not yet in high school and were thus too young to be involved in the situation), and that *I had*, indeed, preached about this matter.

In the course of time, both my "accuser" and I moved away from that community. There were times when we would see one another. At those times, I observed how her children were growing and especially how she and her husband were allowing her daughter to dress as she became a teenager. It is only a slight exaggeration to say that I think some of my shirts are longer than a dress I saw on this girl at one occasion.

A few more years went by and I got word that the mother was going to be a grandmother. Unfortunately, her daughter had made the same mistake some other girls had made years before when we were all worshiping together. This time I was a couple of states away, my own children were grown, and the lady had not heard me preach in years. I hope I can be forgiven for allowing this thought to cross my mind: "I wonder who is to blame now."

I understand that, ultimately, the young lady is responsible (cf. 2 Cor. 5:10). At the same time, in every generation (including our present one), *there are some parents who need to wake up!!!*

I've had the experience of trying to help parents whose hearts are broken because they realize after it is too late to "undo" some things and that they belatedly realize that they were too busy pursuing their careers, hobbies, or other interests to be parents. They made sure their children had all the material things they could imagine. Of course their children were on all the sports teams, in all the clubs, and ran with the popular crowd. They taught their children (often by their own example) that all these things were much more important than their God-given duty to "... bring [your children] up in the nurture and the admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4).

Isn't it remarkable that the same young people who never show up for any of the activities involving Christian young people have parents who never or rarely show up for opportunities for fellowship and/or work involving the kingdom? Isn't it also remarkable that these are the same parents who blame the elders, the preacher, or *somebody* when their children want to have nothing to do with the Lord or His church?

I seriously doubt that the Lord believes that a parent has fulfilled his or her responsibility by dragging a child to church once in a while when it fits the schedule of the parent. I also doubt that He will understand why parents thought that sports activities, social functions, etc. were more important than teaching and training that has *eternal* implications.

I'm not too fond of being blamed for something I am not responsible for, but there is something much more painful to me. I hope I never again have to look into the face of heartbroken parents, try to help them with their pain and feeling of guilt, and, at the same time, have this thought go through my mind: "What in the world were you thinking?"

-- Jim Faughn

F Y I

For Your Information



Teens

October Dates
October 12—Teen Bible Study—7:00

UPCOMING GOSPEL MEETING

Our Gospel Meeting is coming up October 19-22. Flyers are in the foyer. Pick one up or a copy of House to House and invite a neighbor or friend!

NEW DATES

The Area-Wide Preachers meeting will be October 20 and the WOW Group meeting will be October 21 with guest speaker, Gary Hampton.

PRIMARY TEACHERS MEETING

Primary Teachers Meeting will be on October 26 at 4:30. All teachers are expected to attend so mark your calendars now. 4th & 5th Grade teachers are in charge of snacks.

LADIES NIGHT OUT

Shirley Baker and Paula Gibson will be hosting the October Ladies Night Out on October 28. Details to follow!

MENS PLANNING BREAKFAST

The yearly Men's Planning Breakfast will be on November 15 at 8 AM. Mark your calendars and gather ideas for this meeting!

HAVE YOU SEEN THEM?

The kitchen is missing several large bowls and dish-towels. If you happen to have them please return to the kitchen!!

Gospel Meeting: Gary Hampton

October 19-22

We will be having a pot luck dinner on Sunday afternoon.

Team 3 (Valentine) will be in charge of set up.
Team 1 (Simms) will be in charge of ice and drinks.
Team 2 (Garby) will be in charge of clean up and resetting the fellowship hall.

Feed the Preacher Schedule

Team 1 (Simms) will be on Monday evening.
Team 2 (Garby) will be on Tuesday at Mama Maria's at 5:45.
Team 3 (Valentine) will be on Wednesday.

As soon as I hear details from the Team Leaders I will pass it on!!

WOW

Please sign up on the WOW board for the video Autobiographies being done by Richard Simms.

Next WOW meeting will be on Tuesday, October 21, at 10:30.



Team 2 (Garby) will be having a Progressive Dinner on November 1 starting at 5:30 PM.

A progressive dinner (US) or *safari supper* (UK) is a dinner party in which each successive course

is prepared and eaten at the residence of a different host. It is essentially a variant on a potluck dinner, with travel involved.

Now that you have the definition, plan on attending this event on November 1, 2008. We will be starting at the home of Jason and Melissa Oldham at 5:30. They will be hosting the appetizer course. After we have our fill of appetizers we will be moving to the home of Herb & Shirley Baker for the Main Course. We have chosen a menu that includes chicken, (fried, baked, nuggets, etc.), 3 side vegetable dishes and bread. For our final course, desserts, we will travel to the home of Madolia Rosette and finally be so full we can't move!! But we will have fun and enjoy each others company. Make plans now to attend and sign up on the board so we can have a total number of guests to prepare for!

Upcoming Gospel Meetings

October 12-15

Fort Chiswell with Dennis Curd

October 19-22

West Side with Gary Hampton

Upcoming Lectureships (See Board for details)

November 6-9

Cold Harbor Lectureship In Mechanicsville, VA

October 2008

You Have a Choice to Make

Announcements	Danny Guard
Song Leader (AM)	Jeff Durham
Opening Prayer (AM)	
10/5	Don Pettit
10/12	Jerry Anderson
10/19	Tom Rogers
10/26	Roger Mays
Preside at Communion	Tom Richardson
Serve Table	Glenn Gabbard Mark Brooks Bob Martin Garrett Durham
Closing Prayer	
10/5	Charlie Maness
10/12	Josh Whitlow
10/19	Charlie Gwaltney
10/26	George Mellon
Song Leader (PM)	David Brown
Opening Prayer (PM)	
10/5	Jim Harrington
10/12	Barry White
10/19	Paul Mays
10/26	Herb Baker
Scripture Reader	Bradford Durham
Closing Prayer (PM)	
10/5	Sam Valentine
10/12	Charlie Puckett
10/19	Gene Benefield
10/26	Mike Durham
Serve Table (PM)	Cameron Brown Nathan Pelfrey
Song Leader (Wed)	Josh Whitlow
Prayer (Wed)	
10/1	Garrett Durham
10/8	Cameron Brown
10/15	Ethan Rogers
10/22	Fred Altizer
10/29	Greg Edwards
Open/Close Bldg	Tom Rogers
Greeters	Barry & Gloria White Jeremy & Jessica White
Nursery Attend	Kay Anderson Jean Argabright
Ushers	John Black Curtis Oakes
Handouts	Gene Benefield Adam House Glenn Hartman Fred Altizer
Alternates	Lyn Shrader
Prepare communion	Dee House Melissa Marshall
Cards & Pencils	Jimmy & Caroline Harrington

Last weeks attendance 10/5&8/08

Bible Class—147 Worship Service—169
Sunday Eve.—111 Wednesday Eve.—153
Contribution—\$7754

No, this article is not about the election (even though you do have a choice to make in that). Rather it is about a much greater decision- the decision you must make regarding our upcoming gospel meeting. You must decide whether or not you will be faithful to God in your attendance.

There are many options for how you can spend your time during the hours of our meeting next week. The baseball playoffs are in full swing, and there will doubtless be some great games on television. The presidential race continues to heat up and there will be much lively discussion on various issues regarding it. The economy continues to upset millions and baffle most. There will be much news coverage concerning it. This is a beautiful time of year in southwest Virginia, and you could find countless outdoor activities to occupy your time. The list is virtually endless for things you could do with the six plus hours of time our meeting will occupy next week.

For the true Christian, the faithful child of God, however, the decision has already been made. He will not be found in front of the television, or captivated by the newspaper, or engaged in some athletic or other outdoor activity. He will be assembled with God's people (Heb. 10:25) for worship, study, fellowship and edification (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; II Tim. 2:15). That decision was made for him when he decided to become a follower of Christ (Mt. 6:33).

So, what will your decision be? After all, you have a choice to make...unless you have already made that choice.

-Eddy

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