

Ten Ways You Can Be A Soul Winner

Jesus instructed His disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel. He wanted all to know

of the salvation found in Him. Today, this is still true. We have the responsibility of sharing the gospel with others. Following are ten ways you can be involved in bringing souls to Christ.

- ☐ You can live as a Christian should. (Your example is a powerful teacher.)
- ☐ You can lead your children to Christ. (Imagine how full our buildings would be if each could accomplish this goal.)
- ☐ You can support those who are spreading the gospel. (In this way you can join their efforts.)
- ☐ You can pray for opportunities to share the gospel with those who are searching for truth.
- ☐ You can invite your friends to worship. (Many are waiting for an invitation.)
- ☐ You can teach children in our Bible classes.
- ☐ You can greet visitors as they come to our services. (Many make their decision about returning long before our worship begins.)
- ☐ You can ask a friend to take a Bible correspondence course.
- ☐ You can set up a Bible study. (We often say, “I can’t,” when we really mean, “I’m afraid.” Remember, courage is the willingness to do what needs to be done in spite of our fears.)

You can be a soul-winner for Jesus. The lost souls of this world are counting on us. You can make a difference—one life at a time.

—Tim Hatfield

via Morristown, TN, c/C *Messenger*

A Profitable Trip

We are thankful to God that those of us who recently journeyed to Tanzania for a mission effort were delivered home safely Tuesday night. Our team consisted of seven men from West Side (Fred Altizer, David Brown, Tom Duff, Jeff Durham, Greg Edwards and Eddy Gilpin), one former West Sider (John Hawks) and the preacher from Lebanon (Adam Horn). Eighteen souls were added to the kingdom, numerous Bible studies were conducted, preacher students were taught, missionaries were encouraged and great fellowship was enjoyed. However, the greatest benefit was enjoyed by each of us who were afforded the opportunity to participate in this effort.

We express our thanks to you for your support of us in this endeavor. Without the financial support of this congregation, the trip would not have been possible. We are indebted to you for your many prayers and well wishes during our time there. We are thankful for your care of and concern for our family members while we were away from them.

The work being done in Tanzania is amazing. It is a very fertile field of endeavor, and it seems as if the work is just beginning to blossom. Forty-plus men are being trained to preach the gospel to their own countrymen. Students from four other African nations are among those currently enrolled. The facilities are wonderful, and the staff uniquely qualified for the work. Currently, with the recent addition of the Brent Richardsons, there are three American families and two single men serving on a full-time basis. Two additional couples will begin their service in the next few months, with the prospect of others joining the team in the near future very likely.

As each of us who made this trip can attest, the Lord is doing great things through those who are involved in this effort. The door of opportunity is open wide, and many souls are being enriched by this great work. Our team has already talked about the possibilities of a return trip and the hopes that others will get to enjoy this rich experience. Thanks again for your support of our efforts.

Eddy

We thought this to be a good follow-up to Brother Don's lesson of last Sunday morning.

A Spiritual Self-examination as Suggested by Paul

"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except you be reprobates?" (II Corinthians 13:5)

There are times when a spirit of discontent, unrest, unhappiness, disinterest, even boredom may overtake the heart of some Christians. In such times, we may be wise to follow the above injunction of the apostle to see just who has changed or moved—us or God. In view of these considerations, let each one do some honest personal soul-searching and self-evaluation. There are many other areas of thought than those below.

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- ○ I see to it that the Lord always comes first in my life and in my family's life—always (Matthew 6:33).
- ○ I and my family are faithful in assembling to worship God at all worship services, including Sunday night and Wednesday night worship (Hebrews 10:25; 13:17).
- ○ I am very involved every week in some aspect of the mission/evangelism work of the church (Mark 16:15).
- ○ Whenever I learn of a need in some aspect of work or help needed in the church, I always volunteer to cooperate according to my ability (Matthew 25:14-30).
- ○ I see to it that I and my family are fed a full and steady diet of God's Word that we may grow thereby as we worship faithfully in the public gatherings and take time at home to study His Word (I Peter 2:2; Hebrews 5:12-14; II Timothy 2:15).
- ○ I spend time visiting those who are mentioned at church as being in the hospitals (Matthew 25:31-46).
- ○ I can honestly say I am doing more now for the cause of Christ than I was a year ago. I am more involved than ever in the Lord's work and in bringing glory to God (I Corinthians 15:58; II Corinthians 11:23; Revelation 3:1, 16).
- ○ The example that I am now setting is a source of encouragement to others to serve God, and if others followed my example of Christianity, they would assuredly go to heaven (Matthew 5:14-16; Philippians 1:27; 2:14-16; I Timothy 4:12).
- ○ When I become unhappy with something or someone in the church, rather than run away, I find that my unhappiness disappears when I start doing something for others, speaking positively for the Lord and devoting more time to prayer (Ephesians 6:18).
- ○ When I disagree with a brother or sister, or when one has sinned against me, rather than tell everyone else about it, I go first in a humble manner to the other party in order to solve the problem, disagreement or misunderstanding (Matthew 18:16-18; 5:21-26).

author unknown
via Bellview c/C Beacon, Pensacola, FL

*Half-heartedness consists of serving God
in such a way as not to offend the devil.*

Unconditional Surrender

Consider two countries at war. As the battles rage, it becomes obvious that one country is the superior power. The superpower OFFERS to end the war IF the altering opponent will ONLY surrender. The devastated enemy realizes that the ONLY viable option remaining is to surrender or suffer total destruction.

So the officials of the defeated country meet with the leaders of the dominant country and say, "We are prepared to surrender to you. Here are OUR conditions...!" Is that the way it works? NO! The defeated enemy is not in ANY position to negotiate the terms of surrender. Only the triumphant victor has the power to establish those conditions. The posture of the defeated MUST be one of "unconditional surrender"!

Many applications of this analogy can be made to our relationship with God. In our sin, WE are enemies of God. James says, "...know ye not that the friendship of the world [i.e., the system that is opposed to God] is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God" (James 4:4). As sinners, we have allied with the enemies of God becoming enemies ourselves! But, we have been duped! The ruler of this world, Satan himself, has portrayed God as an evil tyrant. However, it is Satan who is the evil tyrant. He has promised freedom and happiness to all who would align themselves with him, but he delivers only bondage and misery and, in the end, everlasting destruction (II Thessalonians 1:7-10).

God is THE supreme power. The war against sin (rebellion or opposition to God's authority) has been fought and won by Him. Satan has been completely defeated, but is trying to bring all that he can down with him in the short time remaining before the final judgment (Revelation 20:10-15). Satan, NOT God, is our true adversary! He walks about "as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (I Peter 5:8). Jesus said of him, he was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him (John 8:44).

The decisive battle of this war was fought on the cross of Jesus Christ. Satan THOUGHT he was the victor when his "allies" were able to convince the authorities to put Jesus to death on the cross. However, it was in this same act that God secured the victory! Jesus, the Son of God, died "that he might destroy him who had the power of death" (Hebrews 2:14). Through His death on the cross, Jesus provided the means of reconciliation to God—having taken upon Himself the wrath of God against us. Paul wrote to Christians saying, "when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son..." (Romans 5:10). The victory over Satan was sealed, God having provided a cure for sin—Satan's "weapon of mass destruction"—evidenced by the fact that He raised Jesus from the dead (Romans 4:25; 6:23).

Now, what do you and I do about OUR sin that separates us from and makes us enemies of God? We are NOT the ones to negotiate the terms of reconciliation. We are the offenders; God is the offended One! God, through His love, has provided (continued, p.4)

SICK

Herbert Baker had 5-bypass surgery on Thursday. **Martha Wood** is being treated for a problem with her foot. He's in LGH. **Winnie Felps**, Dorothy Mays' mom, fell and broke her wrist and injured her rotator cuff. **Laven**, friend of Katelyn Brown, is recovering from surgery to remove a cyst from his throat.

Continue to remember: **Sharon Basham, Norma Biller, Betty Buckner, Willard Campbell, Marguerite Charles** (moved to the VA Care Center, 4550 Shenandoah AV, #101; 342-0242; seeks our prayers as she makes this difficult transition. **Harry DeHart** (has been moved to Pulaski Rehab. He and Sister Blanche will celebrate 60th anniversary on 10/5; to send a card [surprise]: c/o Karen Corn, 202 Lovely Mount DR, Radford, 24141), **Jim Dorsett, Paul Faw, Bonnie Gabbard, Tony Glass, Collin & Luetta Gregory, Patti Gwaltney, Glenn & Jo Hartman, Dee House, Dan Hudgins, A.C & Mickie Janney** (sick at home), **Betty Jenkins, Martha Keith, Margaret Kratz, Sophia Mays, Donnie & Susan Mountcastle, Jo Musgrove, Larry Phillips** (had stress test last week), **Georgia Pyott, Ruth Reich, Missy Reynolds, Murphy & Evelyn Scott, Annette Shrader, Ruth Stanton, Evelyn White, Jessica White, Teresa White, Travis Wilson** (now at home), **E.V.** (consultation for pacemaker implant, 10/3) & **Effie Wimmer, W.J. Wood, Greg Yotka**

RESTORED: Bob Garby

SYMPATHY: We extend our sympathy to **Jessica Welfare** (friend of Claire Gray) in the loss of her dad; to the family of **Dave Gabbard**, friend of Erin Leddy, Andy Duran's fiance who was killed in an auto accident last Sunday.

MISSIONARIES: the **Staffords** and the **TZ2000** team.

MILITARY: **Ty Stricklin** (will be in VA next week); **John Shannon** and **Gabriel Hayes** who are in Iraq. **Jonathan Chumley**, Kosovo; **Jonathan Simpson** will be returning to Iraq on 10/1. **OTHER: Brandy Hall.** On-going Bible studies; "Restore 2006.

THIS WEEK AT WEST SIDE

Today: Elders/Deacons/Preachers meeting, 4pm. Gospel meetings begin at C'burg. & Southside in Galax. Happy birthday to **Bradford Durham!** Happy anniversary to **Herbert & Shirley Baker!**

Wednesday: Bible Study, 7pm. **ABSOLUTE deadline for TTT Registrations.** Happy birthday to **Freda Overton!**

Thursday: Happy birthday to **Claude Crowe, Bethany Durham & Halle Edwards (13)!**

Friday: Happy birthday to **Cameron Brown & Yvette Mays!**

Saturday: TURN, TURN, TURN '06, 8:30am-2:30pm

Sunday, 10/8: HtH labeling, 4pm. Bible study, Teen Center, after pm svc. Gospel meetings begin at Lake Drive & Pearisburg. Happy birthday to **Nicole Munsey & Dylan Tyler!**

ATTENTION TEENS & PARENTS

Mike Durham needs to meet with all those planning to go to Exposure Youth Camp 2006 after services tonight. This meeting is for parents and students, grades 9-12.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER ITEMS FOR STAFFORDS

Torengos (tortilla chips in a can), zip lock bags (any size)

A smile is contagious—be a carrier.—Ken Dooley

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Saturday, 10/14, Famous Anthony's, 8am. All the guys, 8-80 are encouraged to participate.

WEST SIDE GOSPEL MEETING—UPDATE

Sunday, October 15-Wednesday, October 18 with **Keith Mosher**, Memphis, TN. NO lunch after Sunday services. "Dinner with the Preacher" schedule is as follows: Monday—Teams 1 & 3 will host; Tuesday—Team 2, Wednesday—Team 4. See your team leader for details. A sign up sheet is posted to host Brother Mosher for lunch.

SW VA INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

It's time for West Siders and their friends to hit the greens again. The annual event is scheduled for Saturday, 10/21, 11am at Blue Hills Golf Club. A sign-up sheet is posted; limited to the first 28 golfers. See **Crawford Keith** if you have any questions.

UPCOMING AREA EVENTS

Gospel meeting w/**James Boyd**, Southside in Galax, 10/1-5, 7pm nightly

Gospel meeting w/**Clarence DeLoach**, Christiansburg, 7:30pm, Monday-Wednesday, 10/1-5

Gospel meeting w/**Billy Smith**, Lake Drive, 10/8/12

Gospel meeting w/**Harry Middleton**, Pearisburg, 10/8-12

Gospel meeting, Lewisburg, WV, w/**Freddie Anderson**, 10/12-15

Gospel meeting w/**Clayton Winters**, Ft. Chiswell, 10/15-18
10th Annual Cold Harbor Road Lectures, 11/2-5; "Let Us Observe...Lectures in Memory of Charles Wendell Winkler"

WINTER CLASS ON ISLAM

A sign-up sheet is posted on the board for anyone wanting to participate in **Tom Rogers'** class on Islam. Details are on the sheet. Please sign up by Sunday, 10/15, so materials can be ordered.

TEAM 4 (ROGERS)

Be sure to bring bags of individually wrapped candies to put in Fall treat bags for Potter Children's Home. See **Tom** or **Melissa** if you have questions.

"When people have learned to look upon the daily course of their ordinary life, with its duties and troubles, however commonplace, as their offering to God, they will have made a very important step in the spiritual life. Another step, so simple that it is often despised, is to do everything, however ordinary, as well as it can possibly be done, for God's sake. A third is to be always pressing forward. When a mistake is made, or a fault committed, to face and freely admit it, but having asked God to supply the deficiency caused by our own weakness, to go on steadfastly and hopefully." — [Colossians 3:17; Philipians 3:13-14]

H.L. Sydney Lear

You come out ahead if you don't try to get even.

