

Weekly Newsletter

Volume 25, Number 22

May 29, 2006

How To Remain Faithful

By Steve Higginbotham

National statistics suggest that we are losing 60% of our young people after their graduation from high school. Our own congregational history suggests that we are losing 59% of our young people after graduation from high school, and that figure jumps to as high as 80% among those who have been out of school for more than 10 years! So what can be done?

1. Realize that mediocrity doesn't work. It's a proven failure. You can't simply be a nominal Christian and expect to weather the storms of life. Christianity must be at the core of your life and not a peripheral. Attend all the worship services. Study the Bible at home. Plan service projects for your family. Demonstrate that nothing, including sports, band, homework, etc. will come before the Lord. Compromise and mediocrity have proven to be miserable failures.

2. Realize that today's actions determine tomorrow's destiny. Likes and dislikes, preferences, and attitudes, are all developed early in life, and to a great extent, they are shaped by the company we keep. Understand that if you want to be faithful ten years from now, you are going to have to choose a path today that will take you there. You can't travel the wrong road and arrive at the proper destination.

3. Develop your own faith. Make Bible study a priority, a daily routine. "I've always heard," or "The preacher said," or "That's the way I was raised," just won't cut it when called upon to make tough moral, ethical, and biblical decisions. God has no grandchildren, he only has children. You cannot sustain a relationship with God through the faith of your parents or your spouse.

Oh, there are more things that can be done, for sure, but if you leave these three things undone, I can just about guarantee you that you'll have regrets.

CHRIST IN Youth

David Burleson, Youth Minister

There are great things happening with the youth! This past Sunday evening after church we had a wonderful turnout for the **senior reception**. Along with all of the great fellowship, there was a lot of good food prepared. I would like to thank all who came and brought food to this event.

During **this summer on Tuesdays** the teens will continue to meet at the church building at noon. Typically, we will eat together and either have an onsite devotional or participate in a service project.

Camp is coming up very soon so please do not forget to turn in your money if you have not paid yet. The cost is forty dollars, thanks to the generous efforts of some members of the congregation. Please have this money in by this Sunday, June 4.

Also, this Sunday night after church we will have a **meeting for the teens and their parents**. Everyone is welcome to attend. In this meeting we will discuss events that are planned for the summer and also plan several more. So come and enjoy this time of fellowship and planning.

This past week we received several applications for **Horizons**. This is a camp at Freed-Hardeman University that takes place on July 2-7. If you would like any information about this event, I would be happy to talk with anyone about this camp. However, I will need to get these applications in very soon so as to reserve a spot for anyone that wants to go. So let us try to get these in at the latest Sunday, June 11.

May God continue to bless us as we strive to do His will!

What Makes A Church Successful

By Steve Higginbotham

No matter what the undertaking may be, we desire to be successful. That can be no more true than when it comes to the success of the Lord's church. There is no more important task that we can put our hands to than to work for the success of the church.

That being said, some apparently do not fully understand what makes a church successful. In the minds of most people, a successful church is measured in size, numbers, facilities, and reputation within a community. People often point to the mega-churches within our society as examples of successful churches.

While there is nothing wrong with size, numbers, facilities, and reputation within a community, not a single one of these characteristics is essential or integral to having a successful church. A church can be successful without possessing a single one of the above qualities.

So just what does make a church successful? While I cannot offer an exhaustive list, below are some of the qualities that make churches successful.

- Christians who humbly and quietly try to live out the Lordship of Jesus in their lives every day.
- Christians who unceasingly pray, every day for the strength and stability of the Lord's church.
- Christians who love the truth supremely; who will not allow their own personal desires or situations to skew their perception of God's revelation.
- Christians who are committed to moral living and whose goal is not to fit it with society, but whose goal is purity and godliness.
- Christians who love peace more than they do a fight; who love the calmness of unity more than the rhetoric of a fuss; and who love words of edification more than the allure of gossip.
- Christians who support the weak, restore the fallen, and who re-affirm their love and commitment to those who have stumbled.



Now those characteristics would make a successful church! And take note: It's not about numbers, size, or facilities. It's about inward transformation, a renewing of the mind, conforming one's life into the image of Jesus. And here's the best news - it's within the grasp of everyone of us. You see, it matters not whether we can or cannot grow to great number, or build some huge facility, or have a multimillion dollar budget, because those are not the things that make great churches. The qualities that bring success and constitute greatness in God's eyes are qualities that are within reach, that each one of us, if we choose to embrace, will make, and will continue to make the church at South Green Street a faithful and successful congregation of the Lord's church.

Family Matters

Sick List

- Bob Mayfield is now at home and was able to be at services on Sunday.
- Prayers are requested for Teddy Ray, father of Carla Smith. Her is undergoing tests.
- Continue to remember: Scotty Adwell, Brooklyn Alexander, Mary Anderson, Mamie Birge, Wendell Britt, Shawn Bryant, Andrew Carson, Ruby Cloyd, Margaret Cox, Jamie Doty, Jim & Dot Dunaway, Ralph Dunbar, Gary & Bettye Edmunds, Eddie Gerald, Kathy Hamilton, Sally Henry, Fred Hensley, Reba Herriford, Amanda Hinton, Stacey King, Gail Kinslow, Jeanette Krume, Dr. George McKinley, Charles McDonald, Marney Nunnally, Allen Peden, Linda Pedigo, J.C. Polson, Shelley South, Donald Smith, Ed Staley, Donnie Stephens, Helen Pedigo Tucker, Ronnie Walker, Mandy Weaver and James Williams.

Sympathy

We express our deep sympathy to the friends and family of Mary McCoy. She passed away on Wednesday, May 24. Funeral services were conducted Friday at the Crow Funeral Home. Please continue to keep the entire McCoy family in your prayers.

Sympathy is expressed to the friends and family of Leslie Terry England. Funeral services were conducted Friday, May 26. He was the father of Brenda Frazier.

Our sympathy is extended to the friends and family of Dortha Estes. She passed away on Friday at the Jewish Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Monday, May 29. She was the mother of Larry Estes.

We express sympathy to the friends and family of Royce Emmert. He passed away Sunday, May 28. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, May 31. He was a cousin of Jo Hughes, Ruth Stephens and Jessie Thompson.

Restoration

Norma Dial responded to the invitation last Sunday morning and requested the prayers of the church on her behalf. Please honor Norma's request and keep her in your daily prayers.

Spring Series

This year the theme of our Spring Series is "A Faith For All Times." This week will be the final week of this series. Our speaker will be Dale Graham from the Lehman Avenue Church of Christ. The title of his lesson will be "When They Call For The Lions."

Visitation Team #1

Visitation Team #1 will meet Sunday, June 4, following the morning worship service for a meal and meeting. Team Leaders are Jim Kessler and Tom Edwards. Team members are reminded to bring their visitation records to turn in.

Thank You

Overwhelming! Yes, however our brothers and sisters in Christ are helping us carry our burden. We thank you for loving us and for the prayers, flowers, and to the ladies for preparing a feast. Also, thanks to Steve for the words of comfort and finding the songs for the service. Our mother would be more than pleased and I'm certain she would say, "Well Done."

The McCoy Family

Library

There are several books and videos that have been checked out for a long period of time from our church Library. If you have books or videos that belong to the church you asked to return them as soon as possible, so they can be used by others.

Gospel Meeting

The Beckton Church of Christ will conduct a Gospel Meeting, June 19-23. Steve Higginbotham will be the speaker. Services begin each night at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

