

**We are a church with one mission:** to grow followers of Jesus through grateful worship, genuine community, and generous service to each other and our world. We believe by loving God and loving people we can have an impact that really matters, and would like to tell you more about that. If you are interested in being a part of what God is doing with us, or just have some questions, **fill out the contact card** or ask the person next to you. **Please feel free to call or email too if you have any questions.**

## FAMILY NEWS AND NOTES

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### GOD'S FAMILY TIMES

**BIBLE CLASSES**  
Building—9:30 am Sunday

**WORSHIP**  
Building—10:30 am Sunday

**GROWTH GROUPS**  
Grose's -- 6 p.m. Sunday  
Irwin's -- 6 p.m. Sunday

**BIBLE CLASSES**  
Building—7 pm Wednesday

**Family Picnic:** TODAY after services at the Stutzman's. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided. Please bring supporting dishes!

The meal before class on the last Wednesday of the month has been discontinued for the summer months. See you in September!

**4th of July Picnic** at the Magas's at 1 p.m. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided. Please bring your favorite picnic dish, drinks and folding chairs.

**Congregational Meeting:** Thursday July 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the building.

Thanks to all who contributed to the birthday gift to be sent to Toavina, our Betikara lamb, who will be 11 on June 27th

The **Give Away** has been scheduled for Saturday August 5th. Begin getting your items ready. Bring them to the building any time **after July 8th**. Please put items in room 5 downstairs for sorting.

It is time for the **LOVE BASKET**: We will be collecting non-perishable food items until Sunday July 23rd. They are especially in need of canned fruits, vegetables and meats, peanut butter, and cereal. Donations can be dropped off in the church foyer. Please check expiration dates on the products you donate.

### *Happy Birthday*

6/29 Danielle Niehenke

6/30 Cameron Grose

7/3 Dave Antonio

7/10 Hailynn Magas

7/15 Scott Stutzman

7/19 Doug Irwin

7/31 Vera Brown

*Announcements for family news can be written on the back of an attendance card and placed in the collection basket or a hand written note can be given to Paula*

# FAMILY MATTERS

## Indiana

## Church of Christ

724.463.7240

June 25, 2017

### **Marks of a Biblical Church Part 2: Biblical Churches in Different Contexts**

(article concluded)

#### *Missiological Marks*

I come at conversations like this from a missiological lens, asking questions about how these things should be addressed in all cultures and throughout all of history. If a mark cannot be lived out in a biblically-driven church in Kenya, it should not be called a mark. For a mark to be trans-cultural, it has to have clear biblical mandate and universal transcultural ability. So, for example, a written membership covenant cannot be a mark since it requires literacy. However, covenant community can be. A house church of oral learning, Muslim background believers in Bangladesh can hold one another accountable in biblical community.

So, and this undergirds much of this series, we need a minimalist—but not a reductionist—definition of what the church is. In other words, if we are going to say this has to be true everywhere, we want to find the minimum standards by which we can rightly say, “This is a church,” but not take those minimum standards beyond the actual, biblical minimum.

The marks must be anchored in Scripture, so that they are, just as the Bible is, timeless. They should also avoid taking cues from the culture, so that they can apply anywhere in the world. (Their application, which we will discuss later, will indeed be influenced by culture.)

With those parameters as the guidelines, here are the six things I believe are the marks of a biblical church.

Churches should:

# CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Nathan Irwin and family as they are in Lyon, France for language training and are preparing to move to North Africa to serve there in July.
- For Mary Fasanya's asylum request to be granted and for the girls as they are in the USA without their husband and father. Also for Ezekiel as he is in Nigeria without his wife and daughters.
- Nick Ruffner, John & Gail Gromley's step grandson, who has leukemia.
- Hailynn Magas for consistent blood sugar levels.
- Hanna, Emma Sesock's 14 year old great granddaughter, who has cystic fibrosis.
- Emma Sesock, for healing of a broken jaw & cheekbone and a concussion after falling.
- Sam Kirk for healing and rehabilitation after shoulder surgery on April 24th.
- Malinda Biller, Sam & Orpha Kirk's daughter, for good results after an upper GI test.
- Joshua Kirk, Sam & Orpha Kirk's grandson, for healing of an infection after recent surgery.
- Bonnie, a friend of Dave & Sharon Mack, for healing after an accident that resulted in her left hand having to be reconstructed.
- Cliff Brown who deals with congestive heart failure.
- Fay Umbaugh who is dealing with Parkinson's disease.
- Jason Canose for continued improvement and healing from the symptoms of Guillain-Barre Syndrome.
- Harry Karlinsey, friend of Scott & Susan Stutzman, for continued healing after open heart surgery on May 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Comfort for the family of Jessica Perri, friends of Louanne Brown, who passed away from leukemia at the age of 33.
- Comfort for the family of Grace Daugherty, friend of Vickie Balthaser, who passed away from cancer in her lungs and bones on May 20th.
- Comfort and peace for the family of Bill Tonkin.
- Thanksgivings for the granting of Mayleen Niehenke's visa and the safe arrival of Bruce, Mayleen and Danielle home from the Philippines.
- Don Baker's sister as she heals from a severe sinus infection
- Don Baker for healing of a torn tendon in his right hand and a broken thumb.
- Bob Houck, Doris Ruffner's son, who has been diagnosed with colon cancer.
- Susan Foster, friend of Scott Stutzman, who will be having open heart surgery on June 28<sup>th</sup>.

*Prayer requests can be added to the family prayer book in the foyer or a hand written note can be given to Paula*

- function under the authority of Scripture.
- have biblical leadership.
- exercise biblical preaching and teaching.
- partake in the ordinances/sacraments
- be in covenant community.
- live/go on mission together.

### *Prescribed and Described*

All marks should be timeless marks largely because they are described so often in scripture. And, this description is key. You will not find many of these prescribed, but some things are so frequently described, they are normative.

No where will you find a verse that says, "Your church should have biblical leadership" but the assumption of that presence of biblical leaders is obvious in the New Testament—thus it is a transcultural mark of a church.

However, these broad marks should also have local application. For example, I say that covenant community is a mark, and in my church, that is expressed in formal church membership (with an accompanying class and covenant), but in a house church meeting in Cuba, that covenant community may not have a class or a written covenant, but the 15 people doing biblical church are just as covenanted with one another.

Hence, a covenant community is a biblical mark, but it is applied differently in different places. And, let me add, written membership covenants, following a class on membership, does not make sense in some cultures—but it does mine. We need the mark, but we also need the flexibility to apply that mark.

So, a biblically faithful church, functioning within the marks, would look different in Senegal than it would in Selma, Alabama or Seattle, Washington. Despite the different appearance and different context in which they exist, however, each biblically faithful church must bear the six marks of a biblical faithful church.