

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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Evangelist
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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

Congregational Meeting: THIS Thursday May 4th at 7 p.m. at the building.

Family Covered Dish Dinner: Sunday May 21st after services. Please note that this is the 3rd Sunday instead of the 2nd due to Mother's Day on May 14th.

Dinner Before Class: Wednesday May 31st at 6 p.m. at the building.

Please remember to give your Betika donations directly to Sally Duriez if you desire to help with the monthly support of our lamb, Toavina.

Upcoming Events at area congregations: Details on bulletin board if you might be interested in attending:

May 6th - Ladies' Day hosted by the New Brighton church
May 6th - Congregational Sing hosted by the Richland church
May 13th - Ladies' Day hosted by the Greensburg church
May 20th - Ladies' Day Workshop hosted by the Richland church

Happy Birthday

5/1 Mary Fasanya
5/5 Nancy Sinclair
5/10 Pete Schilling
5/11 CJ Moffett & Susan Stutzman
5/12 Teri Elder
5/14 Matilda Fasanya
5/15 Becky Yurky
5/18 Mary Masterson
5/28 Orpha Kirk
5/29 Ezekiel Fasanya & Mayleen Niehenke
5/31 Angel McDonnell

Happy Anniversary

5/22 Dan & Debbie Kirk
5/24 Dave & Carol Delimpo

Announcements for family news can be

FAMILY MATTERS

Indiana

Church of Christ

724.463.7240

April 30, 2017

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: What Does Evangelism Look Like in Your Day-to-Day Life?

By Phil Miglioratti

And the Lord added to their number ...

What was behind the amazing growth of the Church in the Book of Acts? How did the Early Church grow—and grow so rapidly and with such diversity?

The 21st-century Body of Christ is exploding with evangelism-related resources. Christ-followers across the globe have immediate, at-your-finger-tips access to websites with seemingly unlimited links to articles and interviews, podcasts and video channels, even strategies for citywide collaboration.

Conferences, consultations, and cohort groups abound. Even as the Church declines in attendance it appears to be losing its upcoming generations and is now considered irrelevant, even dangerous, by our culture.

Like so many words we've lifted from the biblical text, "evangelism" has become more theoretical or methodological than personal and relational. When most think of evangelism, what comes to mind is an event or gathering we invite lost persons to attend so they can listen to someone else explain the gospel to them.

With so many in the Church bound to a programmatic or performance or professionals-only mindset of proclaiming the gospel, we are in desperate need to reimagine evangelism more as a living description than a textbook definition. Scripture anchors evangelism in our lived-out, new-creation identity in Christ; it's a lifestyle.

We are, as my friend Walter McCray has written, "Gospelizers"—people who have been radicalized by the good news in and from Jesus the Christ. We have been changed by the hope-filled, faith-giving news of His divinity and humanity, His life and death, resurrection and ascension, and His return to reign and rule over and through all who authentically believe in Him.

He is the evangel; Jesus is the good news. The Lord builds His Church and adds to our number. When the disciples heard Jesus say, "You shall be my witnesses," they understood it as a declaration of fact (as opposed to a task to obey or a goal to achieve). All who have life in Christ and salvation by God's grace through faith are, individually and corporately, evidence to Christ's good news.

We bear witness with the evidence of our lives—who we are, how we live, what we say. Evangelism is being who I am, living with Christ in me, and expressing His love and truth through me.

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.
- For Mayleen Niehenke's visa approval to come to the United States from the Philippines and for a co-sponsor so that the procedure can be quickly expedited.
- Bill Tonkin who is at Indiana Square Personal Care Home, 1703 Warren Road. Lois says cards and visits are always welcome.
- Nick Ruffner, John & Gail Gromley's step grandson, who had another round of chemo in his treatment for leukemia in January.
- Cliff Brown was recently hospitalized. He came home March 5th but still deals with heart problems.
- Dixie Kirk, sister in law of Dan & Debbie Kirk, whose testing of her lung showed no spots. She continues to heal from pneumonia.
- Jason Canose for healing as he continues physical therapy and thanksgivings for successful surgery to remove his gall bladder on March 15th.
- Dan Fitzgerald, a friend of Bob Reininger, for healing and recovery from a very serious operation on March 20th.
- Louanne Brown as she recuperates from carpal tunnel surgery done on March 29th.
- Samantha Jo Riley, a friend of Debbie Kirk, for healing from a gunshot wound.
- Hailynn Magas for consistent blood sugar levels and for healing of a broken arm.
- Hanna, Emma Sesock's 14 year old great granddaughter, who has cystic fibrosis and is to be hospitalized for the next two weeks.
- Emma Sesock, who fell on Tuesday April 4th and broke her jaw and cheekbone. She is now home after being hospitalized at Allegheny General.
- Jeff Shank, Patty Shank's brother, for healing after surgery on Tuesday April 11th.
- The Yurky family as Becky is struggling right now. Thanksgivings that she is home from the hospital.
- Deb Plowman, Brenda Antonio's cousin, who has been diagnosed with lung cancer.
- 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.

Prayer requests can be added to the family prayer book

When the disciples met Jesus on the mountain in Galilee after His resurrection, the Lord gave them what we all now refer to as the Great Commission. Unfortunately, many communicate a "go and make disciples" rather than a "as you go, make disciples" emphasis that more clearly enunciates the text.

Yes, our Lord's command is to "make disciples," but our commission is to accomplish this "as we go." As the disciples looked out to the horizon from their mountain vista point, they would understand Jesus' statement as: "As you go from this place, wherever, everywhere you go, make disciples of everyone, teaching them everything I have taught you."

Jesus was teaching the first course on evangelism. As you go (each of you, everyday). Wherever you go (everywhere). Make disciples of all peoples (everyone).

From my observations of the Church and conversations with pastors and leaders, I am convinced that the Lord is reviving His Church by revising His Church. It's not a revision of our theology; God's truth and redemption stand firm and true.

Instead, it's revising our mindset toward the systems and methods of our learned traditions. I hear the Spirit, in essence, saying:

Do not be conformed (or limited) to the systems and traditions of the past (as effective as they may have been in that time or place), but let me transform your understanding of evangelism by the renewing of your mind, so that you may demonstrate to a desperate world that the will of God is good and acceptable and perfectly suited to their life.

For those born at the end of the Industrial Age, shaping our lifestyles and designing our outreaches for a Technological Age culture is a difficult challenge. But it is one that must be faced instead of feared if we hope to have real impact in our communities and a transformative influence on our culture.

The Church has begun to realize that we have lost our effectiveness because we have lost our first love. Yes, the love of the Lord our God, but also, the love of neighbors: family and friends, strangers and sojourners. The culture sees us as judgmental and hypocritical—the antithesis of loving.

Thankfully, we are recognizing that society responds to love; it must be our apologetic for the 21st century. We must hold firmly to biblical truth, as simultaneously we learn to navigate in and communicate with a culture unable to discern true truth from fake news. Our society is enacting new laws with radical sociological ramifications without question because it seems more loving to remove a restriction that inhibits personal choices no matter how the society or community is impacted.

Evangelism, the proclamation of God's good news through our daily living and the organized witness of the Church, needs to be birthed out of visible and verbal expressions of love. Show and tell. Show the love of Christ through a simple act of kindness, a community development project, or a call for justice. And tell the reason underneath your actions and behind your faith. Make love your aim as you go, with every person you meet in every place you go.