

From The Pastor's Desk

Evangelism and Discipleship

I would like to share with you some questions that I was asked by Richard Ryan several months ago relating to one of his classes at Mid-American University.

Define evangelism and discipleship.

I would define evangelism and discipleship as a two step process. First of all, evangelism is telling someone about the love of Jesus. It is giving them the Good News of the saving grace of Jesus. As Christians we all have a story to tell about what our Savior did for us. So evangelism is telling that story to people who don't know Christ. Discipleship follows as step two. Discipleship is helping the person to grow in the knowledge of God's word, the Holy Spirit and other key Bible doctrines. It is a process of helping the new Christian to build a good foundation. Disciples make disciples, but also it is a never ending work because disciple means learner. So we never stop learning and growing.

How do you define success when it comes to evangelism and discipleship?

I think it is hard to define because sometimes in the area of evangelism, we plant the seed and someone else may see the result. Success is knowing that you are doing everything God ask of you in reaching others for Him. We can't reach the whole world, but we can reach one person at a time. The success comes as you watch that person accept and begin to grow in the Lord. While we tend to look at numbers of how many were saved in the church, the more important questions are how many really stayed? How many are really growing? How many are involved in some type of ministry? How many are still willing to learn new things? That is where the true measure of success comes in.

How far will you go into the world before you become it?

This is a very good question because some people don't really know. We see so much of the world today coming into the church. We have lost the true meaning of holiness! We must be very careful because the pull of the world is very strong. It takes a lot of prayer, the Holy Spirit, other strong Christians, and most of all, knowing what you really believe to resist. We are to love the sinner but not the sin, and to remember from where we came and be determined not to look back. But as long as someone is missing, we must keep searching and looking so that we may bring him home.

What scripture would you use for evangelism if you were talking to someone?

The Roman Road is a great guide to use, but I like the ABC's. Admit that you have sinned. Romans 3:23; Believe that Jesus died for you. John 1:12; and Confess that Christ is Lord of you life; Romans 10:9-10.

Each person is special in the Lord's eyes so you have to use what best fits his understanding.

How do you evangelism and discipleship to other religions such as Jews, Jehovah Witness, and Muslim?

Many times these people have studied and know the scriptures better then we do. So the first thing is to make sure you know what you are talking about. Another key is to learn all you can about his or her religion. The more you can prepare, the better it will be. Always pray before you go and ask the Holy Spirit to help you. I have seen some people come back more confused then when they went. Even after someone from another religion gets saved, it may take years to help him understand the real truth and how to apply it to his own life. Many times he can't understand why we can't see his way of thinking, and why we can't understand how he doesn't understand what we are trying to teach him. But God is a miracle working

God !

Never Give Up! Never Back Down! Never Lose Faith! Matt. 19:26 "With God all things are possible!"

Enjoy the Journey,
Pastor Clayton

Sermon and Service Outline June 2008

June 1

AM Service

"5 Star Award Sunday"

Candy Niemeyer will be speaking

PM Service

Bible Study led by Bro. DeHart

June 8

AM Service

"The Potter and The Clay" Jeremiah 18:1-4
Pastor Clayton

PM Service

Leadership 101 led by Pastor Clayton

June 15

AM Service

FATHER'S DAY 2008
"What kind of Father are you?" Luke 15:11-14
Pastor Clayton

PM Service

NO EVENING SERVICE
SPEND TIME WITH YOUR FAMILY!

June 22

AM Service

"Need Water? Go to the Rock!" Exodus 17
Pastor Clayton

PM Service

Family Night with food, fun, fellowship, ball games!

June 29

AM Service

"Do You Have Integrity" Job 2:9
Pastor Clayton

PM Service

Service led by our children singing and bells

Summer Youth Camps

It is time to be planning for the Summer Youth Camps. In order to make sure that all deadlines are met and transportations needs are arranged, you should have received a preliminary needs assessment in your mailboxes on May 4th. I asked that those be turned in by May 18th so I could begin planning.

If you are seeking the \$60.00 church scholarship, I am asking that all registration forms and monies be turned into me by the deadlines listed in this article. We will make two mailings (one for Teen Camps and one for Middler Camps) with one check from the church for each mailing to cover the scholarships. If you are not seeking the scholarship, you may still turn in your registrations and checks by the deadline and be included in the one mailing or you may mail your own.

Deadline dates for turning in your registration to receive the scholarships:

Jr and Sr. Teen Camps: June 8th. All applications will be mailed on June 9th.
Make your checks payable to "Teen Camp"

Middler Camp: June 22nd. All applications will be mailed by June 25th.
Make your checks payable to "Middler Camp"

I am asking your assistance in making sure that these deadlines are met so that we can avoid the mass confusion that we had last summer not only for the treasurer, but also in making sure the kids made it to camp and back home.

Happy Camping
Candy Niemeyer, Youth Leader

News from the Youth Leaders Desk

Well, in case you missed the announcement, let me start off by saying that God is so awesome! After much prayer and seeking of wise counsel and the support of my wonderful husband, God has shown me that He has a new calling on my life: He is asking me to step out and make a greater commitment to Youth Ministry. I quite honestly don't know where God will take me in this commitment, but I know that scripture does tell us to be obedient and God will reveal His purposes.

While I am not clear on a lot of specifics, I am clear on a few things. God has not asked me to leave my current job as a dental hygienist. So I will be continuing my part time job as I really do believe that my job is a ministry to not only my patients, but also to those that I work with. What He is asking me to do is make a greater commitment to this church and our youth group and parents as well as to our State youth program. How this commitment manifests itself, God is still revealing, but I feel a passion for helping our youth develop a strong Christian Worldview so that as they leave high school and enter college or the job market, they will be able to stand strong on their beliefs and continue to build the Kingdom for God. I will be working with Pastor and the Board of Deacons to help meet needs of this church and congregation.

I would greatly covet your prayers as God expands my territory. (Thank-you Prayer of Jabez!)

Candy Niemeyer, Youth Leader

Jr/Sr Youth Calendar (More dates to be announced)

JUNE:

Every Monday—Concession Stand Youth Fundraiser at our Ball Field. Sign up to work---see Mr. Jim.

June 1: Parent-Youth Meeting with all Jr. and Sr. youth and their parents.

June 8: Youth Meeting—Destination unknown.

June 13-14: Peder Eide Concert in Harrisburg, IL

June 15: Father's Day—No youth meeting

June 21: Angel Food Delivery—We need volunteers!

June 22: Church Family Fun Night—youth bring your parents

June 29: Youth Meeting

JULY:

Every Monday—Concession Stand Youth Fundraiser at our Ball Field. Sign up to work---see Mr. Jim.

June 30-July 4: Sr. Teen Camp (Grade 9 thru Age 19)

July 6: Youth Meeting

July 7-11: Jr. Teen Camp (Entering Grade 6 thru Grade 8)

July 13: Youth Meeting

July 19—Christian Family Day at Busch—Casting Crowns Concert after game. (This is not an organized youth outing—listed here for your info only.)

July 20: Youth Meeting

July 27: Church Family Fun Night—youth bring your parents.

Future Dates to hold:

Oct 3-4: Fall Church Retreat at Camp Warren

Oct 10-11: Jr and Sr High "Aquire the Fire" Christian Youth Event in St. Louis

Mar 27-28, 2009: Sr High Only: Dare to Share in St. Louis

May 1-2-3, 2009: Il. State Youth Convention

Money Map Coaching

This is a third in a series of articles from Crown Financial Management principles which are based on what the scriptures teach us about money management. I trust you are reviewing the 5 foundational principles that I outlined in Article 1 as you work on your Money Map Destinations.

So far, I have presented information about the first three destinations. When you have completed those destinations, you will have \$1000.00 Emergency Savings, three months living expenses, and all credit card and consumer debt will be paid off. This is in line with

the scriptures that tell us “The wise man saves for the future, but the foolish man spends whatever he gets.”—Proverbs 21:20; “The borrower is servant to the lender.”—Proverbs 22:7; and “Keep out of debt and owe no man anything.”—Romans 13:8.

At this point you are now ready for Destination 4—“Save for Major Purchases” and Destination 5—“Buy Home and Begin Investing.” Since you no longer have debt to pay off, you are now free to use those resources to save for :

- major purchases (home, auto, etc)
- retirement
- children’s education
- and starting your own business if that is a goal.

The Bible tells us “Steady plodding brings prosperity.”—Proverbs 21:5. Part of your overall budget should have already included saving at least 5% of your income for building of your emergency fund and your 3-month living expenses. According to the Bible study ‘Discovering God’s Way of Handling Money,’ the fundamental principle you need to practice to become a successful investor is “to spend less than you earn.” Then save and invest the difference over a long period of time---steady plodding.

Ecclesiastes 5:13-15 tells us “Savings are put into risky investments may turn sour...the man who speculates is soon back to where he began—with nothing.” This is where you need to seek wise counsel and understand the concept of compounding interest. There are three variables in compounding: the amount saved, the rate of return and the time invested. Answer this question: Whom do you think will accumulate more by age 65, a person who starts saving \$1000.00 a year at the age of 21 for 8 years and then quits for a total investment of \$8000.00, or the person who saves \$1000.00 a year for 37 years at the age of 29 for a total investment of \$37,000.00. Both individuals earned 10% on their investments.

- Age 21---\$1000 year/8 years at 10% interest -----\$427,736
- Age 29---\$1000 year/37 years at 10% interest-----\$363,043

Avoid risky investments by doing your homework, avoiding “get rich quick schemes,” and unusually high profits or interest rates guaranteed. No investment on this earth is guaranteed; the perfect investment doesn’t exist. You need to diversify. Ecclesiastes 11:2 teaches us to “Divide your portion to seven, or even to eight, for you do not know what misfortune may occur on the earth.”

At this destination you will also find yourself more able to give from what the Lord is providing. Hopefully you have already been giving a tithe (10%) as you set up your budget. If not, I really encourage you to test the Lord in this area of your stewardship. God’s attitude in giving is found in John 3:16: “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son.” Because God loved, He gave. God has given us this example of giving motivated by love. 1 Corinthians 13:3 tells us that “If I give all my possessions to feed the poor...but do not have love, it profits me nothing”. Giving with the wrong attitude has no benefit to the giver. Giving without love is charity, but giving your gift to the Lord himself is an act of worship.

The scriptures tell us to “Honor the Lord from your wealth and from the first of all your produce”—Proverbs 3:9. The habit of giving to the Lord first helps us to remember to put Christ first in all that we do. We are also told to give in two areas:

1. The local church, Christian workers, and ministries (1 Tim 5:17, Galatians 6:6)
2. The needy (Matthew 25:34-45)

On a personal note, when Jim and I started our Money Map, we were actually spread out over the first five destinations. When we married, we had already bought homes, started saving for retirement and children's education while we also had credit card and consumer debt and lacked three months living expenses. My recommendation is to always go back to Destination One and work forward. But unless there are extreme financial circumstances, you don't need to stop your investments or sell your house just because you have credit card or consumer debt or because you don't have an emergency fund. When you analyze your income and spending and set up a budget, those things will be taken care of.

Next month, I will finish this series with Destination 6—"Home Mortgage Paid Off" and the "Final Destination of True Financial Freedom." For more information on the topics covered this month feel free to contact www.crown.org/moneymap or myself. Don't forget about the radio program, "Money Life" on 91.5 FM at 2:30 pm M-F.

Candy Niemeyer
Crown Financial Money Map Coach

The Doctor and the Apple

It is said that at the University of Chicago Divinity School they have what is called a "Baptist Day." On this day each one is to bring a lunch to be eaten outdoors in a grassy picnic area. Every "Baptist Day" the school would invite one of the greatest minds to lecture in the theological educational center.

The story is that one year they invited Dr. Paul Tillich. Dr. Tillich spoke for two and a half hours "proving" that the resurrection of Jesus was false. He quoted scholar after scholar and book after book. He concluded that since there was no such thing as the historical resurrection, the religious tradition of the church was groundless, emotional mumbo-jumbo, because it was based on a relationship with a risen Jesus, who, in fact, never rose from the dead in any literal sense. He then asked if there were any questions.

After about 30 seconds, an old, dark skinned preacher with a head of short-cropped, woolly white hair stood up in the back of the auditorium.

"Doctor Tillich, I got one question," he said as all eyes turned toward him. He reached into his sack and pulled out an apple and began eating it.

"Doctor Tillich"....CRUNCH, MUNCH...."My questions is a simple question," CRUNCH, MUNCH." Now, I ain't never read them books you read...." CRUNCH, MUNCH "and I can't recite the Scriptures in the original Greek...." CRUNCH, MUNCH..."I don't know anything about Niebuhr and Heidegger..." CRUNCH, MUNCH... He finished the apple.

"All I wanna know is: This apple I just ate...was it bitter or sweet?"

Dr. Tillich paused for a moment and answered in exemplary scholarly fashion. "I cannot possibly answer that question for I haven't tasted your apple."

The white haired preacher dropped the core of the apple into his crumpled paper bag, looked up at Dr. Tillich and said calmly, "Neither have you tasted my Jesus."

The 1,000 plus in attendance could not contain themselves. The auditorium erupted with applause and cheers. Dr. Tillich thanked his audience and promptly left the auditorium.

Have you tasted Jesus?

Author Unknown, July 12, 2007

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are in the process of organizing Sunday School classes for the 2008-2009 Sunday School year. If you would be interested in possibly teaching a class, or in being an assistant or substitute teacher, please inform Jayn Willeford or one of the other board members listed below. In addition, if you are currently teaching and are or are not planning to continue doing so this next year, please inform us of this also. This will help us as we go forward with planning. Thank you!

Board of Christian Education

Pastor Clayton, Jayn Willeford, Darla Clayton, Belinda Floyd, Carol Hamilton

Thank you

A BIG 'Thank You' is extended to the J.O.Y. Class and the D.U.C.K. Class for making my birthday celebration extra special this year. The invitation to come to the fellowship hall meant so much to my students because an opportunity to be with the grown-ups is always exciting to them. Your many congratulations on reaching the '60' (Say it isn't so!) milestone gave me pause to remind myself of the many friends I have in this congregation. Your cards, flowers, and 'memories' brought a smile to my face. I hope you had fun with the photo displays and games created by Marshall and our daughter, Rebecca. It was such a blessing to have our daughter, son-in-law, and grandsons with us this past weekend as my extended family partied in my honor on Saturday evening. I am blessed!

Phyllis Field

WCG Membership

Thank you for being faithful in your support of Women of the Church of God by becoming a member. So far we have thirty one members this year. Our fiscal year runs from April 1 thru March 31. Membership dues are forwarded to our state and national offices which supports missions projects. You can still join, and you need not be a member to attend our monthly meetings. It would be wonderful if our thirty one members and other ladies attended the meetings...Think about it! We have good times together.

Tuesday May 27 at 6 pm is our next WCG meeting. We will be celebrating our Spiritual Birthdays. Our thoughts will be focused on ***"Women Designed by God to Seek's God's Heart."*** We look forward to seeing you!

Ruth Pope, WCG Treasurer/Membership

and Leader for May's program

JOY SS CLASS

We have enjoyed our studies the last few weeks about Daniel, Haggai and Nehemiah. It is so amazing how God continues to use his Word to challenge us.

We have a Journal that we pass around each week to list our PRAISES & PRAYER REQUESTS. We welcome the opportunity to pray with class members and others that have needs - for their families, job situations and anything that concerns them. It is always a Blessing to read and send out the Praises of each week. We're reminded again and again that "God is Good."

We will be studying the *"Images of Christ"* (Bridges Curriculum) during the summer months. The Biblical reference for these lessons will be from the letter to the Hebrews, the four Gospels and the letter of James.

The summer months are always a challenge for our class members with children. We pray for them and family times together.

If you are looking for a summertime experience, try the JOY class for a few weeks.

Ruth Pope, Leaders

Psalm 55:22 ---

You really need to read this.

"Friends are God's way of taking care of us."

This was written by a Metro Denver Hospice Physician:

I was driving home from a meeting this evening about 5pm, stuck in traffic on Colorado Blvd., and the car started to choke, sputter and die - I barely managed to coast into a gas station, glad only that I would not be blocking traffic and would have a somewhat warm spot to wait for the tow truck. The car's engine wouldn't even turn over. Before I could make the call, I saw a woman walking out of the "quickie mart" building and it looked like she slipped on some ice and fell into a gas pump, so I got out to see if she was okay.

When I got there, it looked more like she had been overcome by sobs than that she had fallen; she was a young woman who looked really haggard with dark circles under her eyes. She dropped something as I helped her up, and I picked it up to give it to her. It was a nickel.

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At that moment, everything came into focus for me: the crying woman, the ancient Suburban crammed full of stuff with three kids in the back (1 in a car seat), and the gas pump reading \$4.95.

I asked her if she was okay, and if she needed help, and she just kept saying "I don't want my kids to see me crying," so we stood on the other side of the pump from her car. She said she was driving to California and that things were very hard for her right now. So I asked, "And you were praying?" That made her back away from me a little, but I assured her I was not a crazy person and said, "He heard you, and He sent me."

I took out my card and swiped it through the card reader on the pump so she could fill up her car completely, and while it was fuelling, walked to the next door McDonald's and bought two big bags of food, some gift certificates for more, and a big cup of coffee. She gave the food to the kids in the car, who attacked it like wolves, and we stood by the pump eating fries and talking a little.

She told me her name, and that she lived in Kansas City Her boyfriend left two months ago, and she had not been able to make ends meet. She knew she wouldn't have money to pay rent Jan. So finally in desperation she had finally called her parents, with whom she had not spoken in about five years. They lived in California and said she could come live with them and try to get on her feet there.

So she packed up everything she owned in the car. She told the kids they were going to California for Christmas, but not that they were going to live there.

I gave her my gloves, a little hug and said a quick prayer with her for safety on the road. As I was walking over to my car, she said, "So, are you like an angel or something?"

This definitely made me cry. I said, "Sweetie, at this time of year angels are really busy, so sometimes God uses regular people."

It was so incredible to be a part of someone else's miracle. And of course, you guessed it. When I got in my car, it started right away and got me home with no problem. I'll put it in the shop tomorrow to check, but I suspect the mechanic won't find anything wrong

Sometimes the angels fly close enough to you that you can hear the flutter of their wings...

Psalms 55:22 "Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee. He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved."

Editor's note: This internet story was emailed to me from a friend. We know some internet stories are true and some false. This is one of the ones I want to believe is true.

The Clothes Line

The clothes line....a dead give away. Do the kids today even know what a clothes line is? I am sure a lot of you are too young to remember the clothes line, but for all of us who are older, this will bring back the memories.

THE BASIC RULES

1. You had to wash the clothes line before hanging any clothes. Walk the length of each line with a damp cloth around the line.
2. You had to hang the clothes in a certain order and always hang whites with whites and hang them first.
3. You never hung a shirt by the shoulders, always by the tail. What would the neighbors think?
4. Wash day on a Monday.....never hang clothes on the weekend or Sunday for heaven's sake!
5. Hang the sheets and towels on the outside lines so you could hide your 'unmentionables' in the middle.
6. It didn't matter if it was sub zero weather... clothes would 'freeze dry.'
7. Always gather the clothes pins when taking down dry clothes. Pins left on the line were 'tacky'.
8. If you were efficient, you would line the clothes up so that each item did not need two clothes pins, but shared one of the clothes pins with the next washed item.
9. Clothes off of the line before dinner time, neatly folded in the clothes basket and ready to be ironed.
10. IRONED???????????? Well, that's a whole other subject.

A POEM

A clothes line was a news forecast to neighbors passing by.

There were no secrets you could keep when clothes were hung to dry.

It also was a friendly link for neighbors always knew if company had stopped on by to spend a night or two.

For then you'd see the 'fancy sheets' and towels upon the line; You'd see the 'company table cloths' with intricate design.

The line announced a baby's birth to the folks who lived inside as brand new infant clothes were hung so carefully with pride.

The ages of the children could so readily be known by watching how the sizes changed you'd know how much they'd grown.

It also told when illness struck, As extra sheets were hung; Then nightclothes, and a bathrobe, too, haphazardly were strung.

It said, 'Gone on vacation now' when lines hung limp and bare.

It told, 'We're back!' when full lines sagged with not an inch to spare.

But clotheslines now are of the past for dryers make work less.

Now what goes on inside a home is anyone's guess.

I really miss that way of life. It was a friendly sign when neighbors knew each other best by what hung on the line.

Article form the internet. .Author unknown.