

UPLOOK

AUG-SEPT 2006

Assess the Need • Catch the Vision • Take the Challenge

A THANK YOU
LETTER

Larry Sax

WHERE TO
NOW?

Jabe Nicholson

THE GOSPEL
OF LUKE

Rex Trogon

MYRTLE BEACH
BIBLE CONF.

p. 26

GOOD
NEWS!



WELCOME TO
SIOUX FALLS

POP. NEEDS THE SAVIOR

SEE
GNOM2
UPDATE p. 4



Jabe Nicholson is in the editor's chair for one special issue on the recent united gospel effort in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Sioux Falls, But Jesus Saves

The effects of the Fall could be seen there, but a Savior was standing by.

I first visited Sioux Falls several years ago when brother Tim Geske suggested I stop by to visit the Sax family en route between engagements in Appleton, WI and Lawrence, KS. Though that makes two sides of a triangle about 800 miles long, I agreed because I had learned that shepherds don't always travel as a crow flies. They are, after all, caring for sheep, not crows.

When I arrived, I discovered that the Saxes had rented a room in a downtown hotel and managed to get a small crowd from somewhere in for an evening meeting. I thought to myself, "Some day I hope we'll be able to help here—these people are serious." They would prove faithful with the labor invested by others here. This is a true beachhead for the gospel.

Years passed. The Saxes, with others who stayed in Sioux Falls for a while and then moved on, slugged it out week after week, month after month. Sometimes, they told me, they would grow discouraged and think of moving on themselves. At times like that, they would bundle up the family and head to the Twin Cities for a respite. And almost without fail, one brother would be ministering the Word. The message would be so obviously for them that, as they headed back to Sioux Falls, the children would say, "That was for us, wasn't it! I guess we're staying." And stay they did.

Then the Good News team stopped to work for a week in Brandon, SD, the town east of Sioux Falls where the Saxes live. Those of us involved with the team wondered if this was the area for us to return for the year's grand finale. The response from the team members was unanimous on two points: this was hard ground for the gospel, but the Saxes were the kind of servants who were a joy to co-labor with. And from there the Lord seemed to direct every step.

As about 250 eager saints joined to work together in the "Good News, Sioux Falls!" effort, what a thrill to serve with such a diverse group yet hear not one discouraging word throughout the week. And to the team's surprise, the ground proved fertile, not hard as it seemed in Brandon. Many eager souls were discovered—and are still being discovered—among the thousands of the lost in that city.

Those who responded might not have looked like the harvest at first sight. Motorcycle gang members, single moms beaten down by life, those who for years had been slaves to drink, hard-bitten old timers who initially claimed to be atheists, apartments full of Eastern Europeans who barely spoke English, hotel maids, young families uncertain how they could build a solid foundation for their children in a collapsing world . . . and daily the list continues to grow.

Yes, we met opposition. The police were called on us and threatened to arrest the young men preaching in the open air. Some were turned away from public events where they only sought to freely dispense good news. More than a few doors closed abruptly. And the media ignored us.

Overall, however, Sioux Falls was kind to her visiting evangelists, and we joyfully spread the news across the city. Almost 20,000 homes were visited. Children's good news clubs were held twice a day in four or five parks. A musical presentation interspersed with testimonies was given in a city bandshell. Others worked the malls, the downtown shops, the festivals and fairs. On the street, in the Old Courthouse, and at a local school, the message was heralded. There was both sowing and reaping. And the reaping goes on today. The crowds of Christians have moved back home. But the Saxes and a few others are still there.

And so is the Lord of the harvest.

U P L O O K

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UPLOOK magazine is intended to encourage the people of God in fidelity to His Word, fervency in intercessory prayer, labors more abundant, and love to the Lord. Believing in the practical Headship of Christ and the local autonomy of each assembly, this is not intended to be an official organ of any group or federation of local churches. The editor and authors take responsibility for materials published. For any blessing which accrues, to God be the glory.

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Good News on the Move 2

An urgent call for a new group of committed young men!

This is not a high school field trip. Only serious men prepared to stick it out through thick and thin need apply.



It's time to get back on the road with the gospel!

Good News on the Move is an opportunity, beginning Sep 18, DV, for keen men (age 18+) who believe God is calling them to gospel work. It encompasses one school year (mid Sep–mid June) of rigorous, on-the-road field training, an intensive Bible course linked with practical evangelistic training. Working with evangelists and Bible teachers committed to the NT design for the local church, these men will work with assemblies that want to fulfill the Great Commission in their areas.

WHAT KIND OF MEN?

Single men who believe the Lord is calling them to gospel work, well reported of by their brethren (Acts 16:2); who have a love for the lost and a commitment to NT church truth; in good health emotionally and physically; eager to learn, able to take correction, willing to rough it and work hard; men ready to do with little and depend on the Lord for provision, who hate sin, love God, and are prepared to “*stand in jeopardy*” (1 Cor. 15:30) for Christ’s cause.

We hope elders know the potential pioneers in their area who could be recommended by them, and would contact those listed at the end of this article for details.

WHAT RESOURCES ARE REQUIRED?

Seven men have primary responsibility: Steve Batts (NC), Scott Degroff (KS), Jerry Denny (NC), David Hammond (IA), Andy Hylton (NC), Rex Trogdon (NC), and Jabe Nicholson (MI). However, the ministry will need evangelists willing to invest one week with the men in different locations. Both Fall and Spring circuits contain approxi-



The graduates from last year’s Christian Field Training

mately 10 travel weeks, plus the 2-week orientation (this year at Greenwood Hills, PA) and in June, a united effort with others.

OBJECTIVES

To give the young men a vision for the work in NA; to equip them to win souls, learn to be servants, and ground them in the truth; to teach them to study the Word, to feed themselves and others, and eventually to take a team of others to teach them.

In the longer term, to stir up evangelism in North America for the salvation of many, the establishment of new assemblies, and the strengthening of existing ones.

To encourage the assemblies visited in seeing souls saved and built up; to hone their skills in evangelism; to create an awareness of the big picture in NA; to communicate on their behalf to others the need for prayer in their area.

In general, to help regain gospel momentum; to train this generation and give them a vision of what can be done by obedience to the Word and dependence on the Spirit.

HOW IS THIS TO BE FUNDED?

We operate simply by faith, looking to the Lord. Although this is not directly a ministry of Uplook, Uplook Ministries is willing to handle funds and is able to provide income tax receipts for both the US and Canada. All funds earmarked for *Christian Field Training* or *Good News on the Move* will be used exclusively for this project.

Please pray fervently with us about this opportunity. If you have questions or concerns, you may email Jerry Denny at:

jerrydenny@bellsouth.net

Be Careful, Little Eyes!

Protecting yourself with computer accountability.



Arnot McIntee writes: "I have been concerned about the proliferation of pornographic material on the World Wide Web and for that reason wrote the booklet *A Captive Set Free*. Yesterday I received the following email from the Setting Captives Free organization, whose name I used in the title of my booklet (with their permission). I plan to subscribe to the blocker recommended and I thought you might be interested also. We need to do all we can to obey the words of the Apostle Paul to Timothy, 'Keep thyself pure' (1 Tim. 5:22)."

Mike Cleveland, founder of Setting Captives Free ministry, writes: "SafeBrowse is the leader in Internet content filtering. After extensive research, we determined their Safe Eyes product was the only Internet content filter that we could highly recommend. *Consumer Reports* later chose Safe Eyes as the No. 1 rated Internet filter. More recently, Safe Eyes was chosen for the "Editor's Choice" award by *PC Magazine*. For only \$49.95 annually, you may protect up to three computers (any mix of PC or Mac)." Check it out at www.safebrowse.com

If you are interested in receiving a free copy of *A Captive Set Free* by Arnot McIntee, send an email to him requesting it at amcintee@vaxxine.com

TURKEY HILL RANCH BIBLE CAMP

The Labor Day Family camp is scheduled for Sep 1-4. Speakers: Keith Trevolt (adults) & Buddy Hughes (children). Visit www.turkeyhillranch.com for schedule and applications.

Contact: 573-744-9293

email: thrbc@turkeyhillranch.com

50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Kansas Bible Camp is celebrating its 50th anniversary on Labor Day weekend. Visit www.ksbiblecamp.org for more details.

CAMP LI-LO-LI

Campers are welcome to attend the Labor Day Family Camp Weekend Sep 1-4 in the beautiful Allegheny Mountains of New York. Visit www.campLi-Lo-Li.com or call 877-518-1704.

EAST TEXAS CONFERENCE

The East Texas Labor Day Bible Conference, hosted by Golden Bible Chapel, is planned for Sep 2 at

Mineola Civic Center, Mineola, TX. Ross Ragland (MO) is the expected speaker. Meals will be provided and cost is voluntary. **Contact:**

Grady Dollar 903-768-2700

Bryan Hughes 903-569-8880

RV details 903-569-6115

LABOR DAY CONFERENCE IN BC

Believers at Horse Lake Christian Fellowship in 100 Mile House, BC are planning a Bible conference on Labor Day weekend, Sep 2-4 with the theme "Lord, Draw Us After You!" Invited speakers: Steve Price (KS) and William Yuille (ON). A variety of workshops and seminars including topics for youth. **Contact:** Rob Brennan 250-791-5657 Don Street 250-395-4230

INDIANAPOLIS AREA CONFERENCE

The believers at Bethany Christian Fellowship extend an invitation to Indianapolis for a conference Sep 8-10. Mike Attwood (GA) will be speaking. Meetings at 7:30 PM Friday and 10

AM Saturday. Lunch provided.

Contact: robert-rankin@sbcglobal.net

IOWA BIBLE CONFERENCE

The annual Atlantic, Iowa Bible Conference is planned for Sep 15-17, Lord willing. Scheduled speakers are Jon Glock (TN) and Keith Trevolt (KS).

Contact: Dennis Oathoudt 712-243-6303 email: koathoudt@hotmail.com

GREENWOOD, TORONTO CONFERENCE

Greenwood Gospel Chapel, 949 Greenwood Ave, Toronto, ON is planning their annual conference for Sep 15-17. Expected speakers: Brian Gunning (ON) and Lewis Paul (West Indies). **Contact:**

Bill Anderson 416-444-4821

EASTERN IOWA FALL CONFERENCE

Gateway Bible Chapel and High Point Bible Chapel are planning an Eastern Iowa annual conference Sep 15-17. John Heller (AR) is the expected speaker. The conference will be held at a Lutheran camp at the intersection of

FRONT LINES *continued*

Highways 61 and 30, near Dewitt, IA. Camping is available on the grounds. **Contact:** Jim Iverson 563-391-3122 iversonhipt@aol.com Jim Fullan 563-242-4597; Jim Larson 309-887-4405; Fred Scott 563-264-2046 Hissheep@machlink.com

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Albany (GA) Gospel Chapel will celebrate their 50th anniversary with a conference on Sep 16-17. Rex Trogdon (NC) is the planned speaker. **Contact:** Bobby Marshall 229-432-0436

KENTUCKY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Brethren from Kentucky are hosting a regional conference scheduled for Sep 23 at Clear Creek Park in Shelbyville, KY. Lord willing, Mike Attwood (GA) will minister the Word. **Contact:** Jim Harmon 859-626-8509 email: JamesHarmon@bellsouth.net

BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP SEMINAR

Roy Hill (Bristol, UK), Randy Amos (NY) and Scott Thomson (PA) will be speakers for a Saturday seminar on Biblical Stewardship Sep 23 from 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM at Terrill Road Bible Chapel, Fanwood, NJ. Topics include: Stewards of the Truth; Stewards of our Time and Talents; and Stewards of our Treasures. There is no cost but advance registration is helpful for the provided lunch. **Contact:** Mark Kolchin, PO Box 305, Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734 knowtheword@comcast.net

FALL FOLIAGE CONFERENCE

Roy Hill (UK) will be the speaker for a conference Sep 25-29 at Camp-of-the-Woods in the scenic Adirondack region of NY. Topic: Lessons from the Life of Abraham. Cost: \$310 per per-

son includes meals, deluxe accommodations and excursion to Lake George. **Contact:** knowtheword@comcast.net or to register, send fully-refundable amount to: Know the Word Ministries Mark Kolchin, P.O. Box 305, Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734

CAMP IROQUOINA

Retreat Schedule

Sep 29-Oct 1 • Mother/Daughter
Oct 6-8 • Pre-teen Retreat
Oct 20-22 • Fall Teen Getaway
Nov 10-12 • Father/Son Retreat
Dec 14-17 • Staff Retreat
Dec 30-Jan 1 • College/Career
Jan 12-14 • Junior High #1
Jan 26-28 • Junior High #2

GILBERTSVILLE, PA CONFERENCE

The saints at Grace Gospel Chapel, Gilbertsville, PA invite you to their annual Fall Conference Sep 30 from 10 AM to 4:30 PM. Expected speaker: Malcolm Horlock (UK). Please RSVP by Sep 25. **Contact:** Bruce Keyser 610-582-8797 email: bakeyser@dejazzd.com

MISSION SPRINGS CONFERENCE

The annual Pacific Coast Christian Conference will be held Oct 2-6. Please note new location, Mission Springs (75 miles south of San Francisco, CA in the Santa Cruz Mountains). The conference begins Monday with dinner at 6:00 PM and ends Friday after lunch. Speakers are David Reid (RI) and Bob Foutz (MI). **Contact:** Max Krieger 323-256-1992 email: maxnbethk@sbcglobal.net

MARYLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

A cordial invitation to the annual Bible conference, DV, at Spring Hill Gospel Hall, Westbrook, ME, Oct 6-8.

Speakers expected: Harold Smith (NS) and Brian Taylor (PEI). Accommodations with early request. **Contact:** Daniel F. Chick, 95 Maple Street, Westbrook ME 04092, 207-854-4968

DETROIT FALL CONFERENCE

Curtis Gospel Chapel, Detroit, MI will hold their 116th annual conference, Lord willing, Oct 7-8. Invited speakers: Dr. Boushra Mikhael (ON) and Thomas Wheeler (TX). Saturday at 2:30 PM with dinner at 5:00 PM; evening meeting at 6:30 PM. On Sunday, Lord's Supper at 9:30 AM, gospel at 11:00 AM; dinner at noon. Afternoon meeting follows at 1:30 PM with conference concluding at 4:00 PM. Enjoy two days of fellowship and great messages from God's Word. **Contact:** Gerald Fitzgerald 734-425-4217

FALL CONFERENCE IN NANAIMO

The saints at Wakesiah Gospel Chapel, Nanaimo, BC are pleased to announce their fall Bible conference Oct 13-15. The speaker will be Dr. Boushra Mikhael (ON). **Contact:** Brian McKibbin: 250-758-6038 email: brimac1@shaw.ca

FLORIDA MISSIONARY CONFERENCE

A warm invitation is extended for all to attend the 39th Annual Missionary Conference at Park of the Palms in Keystone Heights, FL on Oct 20-21. There are separate meetings for the men and women. **Contact:** Helen Pinches 352-473-6393 email: Mompinches@AOL.com

FAMILY CONFERENCE IN GEORGIA

The Fall Family Conference at Camp Hope, Dahlonega, GA will be held in the will of the Lord Nov 3-5. Thomas

Wheeler (TX) will speak to the adults. Nate Thomas (SC) will speak to the children. Conference begins Friday at 6:00 PM and ends Sunday with lunch. Cost: \$40/family; \$25/individual. **Contact:** Steve Roys 770-536-4787 email: camphopega@arilion.com www.camphopega.org

CREATION CONFERENCE

Living Waters Bible Camp, Westby, WI, is hosting a Creation Conference at the camp Nov 10-11 with Bodie Hodge from "Answers in Genesis." **Contact:** 608-634-4373 Registration information can be found at www.lwbc.org

FATHER & SON RETREAT

Fathers and sons...it's that time again! Attend the annual father/son retreat at Camp Iroquoia in the endless mountains of Pennsylvania Nov 10-12. The speakers are Don and Scott Dunkerton with Jay and Scott Allen bringing their musical talent. **Contact:** Mark Thomas 570-967-0963

ONLINE HEALTHCARE SURVEY

Some brethren are interested in creating a healthcare program for commended workers and missionaries from U.S. assemblies. A website has been created with free tools to help workers and missionaries without insurance. These brethren earnestly request that all workers, missionaries and elders complete the survey on this website to ensure that the future program meets actual assembly needs. Visit www.assemblycare.org or contact Jesse Gentile at 850-391-2411 for info.

RAMSEUR, NC BIBLE STUDY

Ramseur and Randleman Gospel

Chapels will host the "Back to the Book" study one Saturday each month from Sep to May, except Dec. Lord willing, Randy Amos, Larry Price, Mike Attwood, Warren Henderson and Jim McKendrick are scheduled to speak. Also, three Ramseur/Randleman men are continuing with a class. **Contact:** Mike Moody 336-824-5525 Ramseur Gospel Chapel PO Box 1259, Ramseur, NC 27316 email: mcjmoody@yahoo.com

OKLAHOMA FELLOWSHIP

Visitors traveling near Oklahoma City, OK are welcome to a small home fellowship at 701 NE 42nd Street in Northeast Oklahoma City. **Contact:** Stan Engle 405-236-5433 email: sgengle@aol.com Jason Kosanke 405-833-9325

COMMENDATIONS

Andy and Michelle Shelor
Andy has been in fellowship with the saints at Fleming Chapel, Roanoke, VA for many years and served as an elder. After much prayer, Andy is led of the Lord to relinquish his responsibilities as Director of Bethel Campground. Andy continues in a reduced role in various capacities, focusing on the ministry of teaching. The believers at Fleming Chapel commend Andy for this work of the Lord. Please pray Andy and Michelle be granted strength, grace, courage, and compassion from our Savior that He may be glorified and others blessed.

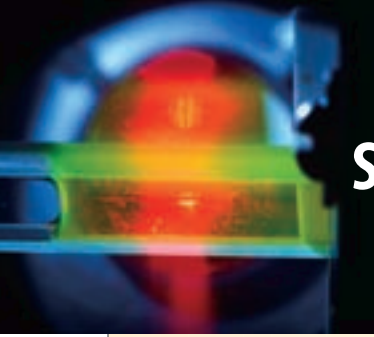
Gerald and Kim Baker
Fayetteville (NC) Bible Chapel commends Gerald and Kim Baker to the work of the Lord at Pittsboro Christian Village in Pittsboro, NC. They

have four children: Jonathon (15), Joshua (13), Danielle (11) and David (10). Gerald has recently transitioned from the military after 21 years of service. He and his family have fellowshiped at various assemblies during his military career. Gerald and Kim consistently exercised gift in providing the assembly with encouragement and growth in the Lord. Gerald also served as an elder while in Fayetteville. Please join the believers in Fayetteville and Pittsboro in prayer for Gerald, Kim and family.

Larry and Natalie Sax

The assembly meeting in the Ortonville, MN/Big Stone, SD area commend to the Lord and His people Larry and Natalie Sax. Some time ago, in response to His leading, they relocated to Sioux Falls, SD, with the vision of seeing a new work established in that community. Over the years they have been diligently laboring to share the gospel with the lost and to exhort believers in holy and obedient living.

Following a recent aggressive outreach campaign in Sioux Falls with a large number of believers from across North America, many contacts resulted which require extensive time. To meet these spiritual needs and simultaneously meet the obligations of Larry's current job is not feasible. Following much prayer and after seeking counsel from a number of brethren, Larry and Natalie have chosen to devote themselves fully to the harvest the Lord has provided, relying on His provision. It is without reservation that we commend them to the Lord and His saints as they continue in the work there. 🕊



Surprised By Design

Is it rational to think that the greatest design of all is merely an accident?

During World War II and the Cold War which followed, Soviet Russia was well known for its skill in “reverse engineering.” That is, they were able to take apart and analyze captured enemy equipment and incorporate into their own weapons any innovations in design and performance made by enemy scientists and engineers. For example, the Russian Tupolev Tu-4 heavy bomber looked strikingly like the American B-29 bomber, and with good reason: it was patterned almost bolt by bolt after three captured B-29 aircraft which landed in Russian territory in 1945.

Another, less successful, example of reverse engineering was the Russian space shuttle called “Buran,” Russian for “snowstorm.” Its external dimensions and design are essentially identical to the United States space shuttle called STS for “space transportation system.” But without access to an intact STS shuttle to copy, the Russians were unable to produce a completed shuttle, and the Buran never flew with a human crew aboard.

Closer to home, I recently purchased a set of shelves for my office and liked them so much that I wanted to make an additional set via reverse engineering. So, using the completed shelves as a pattern, I carefully measured the sides, cross pieces, top and bottom, etc. When I looked at these measurements to determine how much wood was required for the shelves and how they might be cut most efficiently, I suddenly realized that the basic structural components of the shelves were designed to be cut out of a single piece of 4-foot by 8-foot oak laminated plywood. This is a standard, mass produced ply-

wood that is less expensive than solid oak but very strong due to the lamination. Suddenly, I found myself thinking the thoughts of the shelves’ designers after they had, simply by dissecting the finished product of their design. I

knew that questions of efficient supply of raw materials, minimization of waste, structural strength, and aesthetics were all answered by the intentional design of the shelves before me.

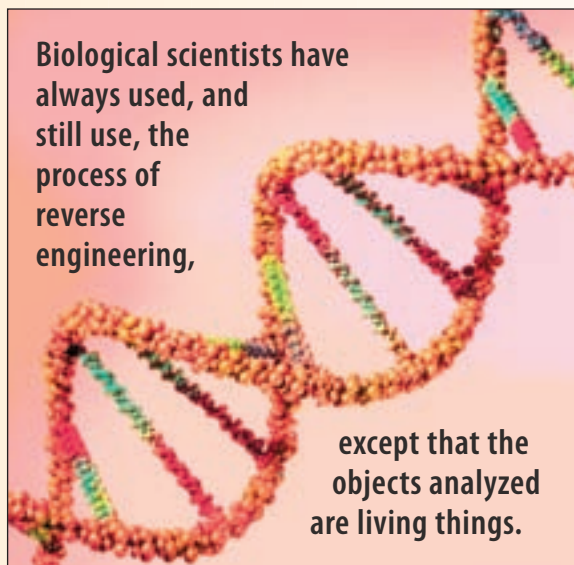
Biological scientists have always used, and still use, the process of reverse engineering, except that the objects analyzed are living things. The scientific method itself is really one of reverse engineering of a completed product—life.

During the 1950’s, James Watson and Francis Crick started with purified DNA

(deoxyribonucleic acid), a finished product, and were able to deduce its helical structure from X-ray diffraction patterns. This was soon followed by an appreciation of how DNA and other molecules were used to store, duplicate, and express biological information in a living cell.

These biological principles, derived from reverse engineering, are universally taught in schools today. But this familiarity should not dampen our sense of wonder and surprise at our ability to think the thoughts of God after Him. Scientists expect there to be understandable reasons for why the living world is the way it is. It is precisely this human expectation of being able to rationally determine how living things work that is the telltale evidence of the Creator God.

—MICHAEL G. WINDHEUSER, PH.D.



A LETTER OF THANKS *from the Sax Family*

Dear Saints,

“We thank our God upon every remembrance of you, in every prayer of ours for you making request with joy for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; being confident of this very thing,” that the One who has begun this good work will complete it until the day of our Lord’s return. We continue to rejoice in the love that you showed to the Lord Jesus Christ by helping with the outreach in Sioux Falls. Two months have past since we all labored together in Sioux Falls. We have seen the goodness and faithfulness of our Heavenly Father as He has blessed these efforts as only He can. We have been eyewitnesses of how our Lord can use His body to accomplish His purposes on earth. Truly, He is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all we ask or think. Believers were encouraged. Christ was glorified. Sinners were saved and are still being saved. May He continue to receive the glory for all that He accomplishes here.

Words cannot express the fullness of our gratitude towards our Lord and you for your help in the gospel. May He cause a zeal for the gospel to spread through our midst. May He be glorified more in our lives with each passing day. May we be drink offerings poured out in service for Him. We pray that God will show the richness of His blessings to all who have labored with us in the gospel. We especially want to thank all who have prayed and continue to pray for the work in Sioux Falls. Your intercession has been used greatly by the Lord.

Your fellow servants in the Lord,
Larry & Natalie Sax & Family
48186 265th Street
Brandon, SD 57005

Remote Power Supply

Like Aaron, Hur, Moses, Joshua and his troops, we linked together in turning back the foe.



We KNEW that thousands were praying, and that God was honoring those prayers.

The lush botanical gardens at the fabled Ein Gedi (meaning *spring of the wild goat, or ibex*) can only flourish in the wilderness because of these abundant artesian springs nearby. A place where David hid from Saul, sitting high atop a natural promontory, Ein Gedi is one of four springs which burst from the limestone and dolomite rock more than 600 feet above the desolation of the Dead Sea. Because of their fructifying influence, the tawny wilderness in this region wears a bold and becoming sash of vivid green over its shoulder.

We all know how foolish it would be to attempt farming in a desert if there was no hidden water resource at hand. And so it is in seeking to gather a crop for the Lord in this desert

world. It would have been entirely foolhardy to sow seed in the Sioux Falls barrens without seeking the accompanying water from heaven.

As the Lord Jesus told Nicodemus, *“Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God”* (Jn. 3:5). Now far better men than I have discussed at length what the water here signifies. I only say that no seed will germinate without the water, and whether the conviction of the Word or the regenerating of the Spirit, both are sent by the Father at the

behest of His own.

How crucial, then, for the workers in South Dakota to be linked with praying saints elsewhere who were a vital link between the seed sown in the desert and that hidden resource, the river that flows from the throne of God.

Through the modern marvel of email, we were able to send a daily list of specific prayer requests to hundreds of exercised believers

around the world, many of whom also passed on the prayer requests to their own list of Christians eager to join in the intercessory work. For all such the Sioux Falls team gratefully thanks the God who answered their prayers.

Here are some excerpts of return emails from those who partnered in prayer:

Enjoying the emails. God is working! What a tremendous variety of prayer requests; no doubt you are finding new needs hour by hour. We continue to pray.
—G. T., TORONTO, ON

We are praying for you. May the God bless you.
—S. K., EVANGELIST, HARYANA, INDIA

I am a 15 yr. old girl, who has been receiving all of the e-mail updates and also been following the group pretty closely these last nine or however many months. Thank you for including some of the specific prayer requests. I have been really encouraged just reading the e-mails and being able to pray for you all....God bless you all abundantly!
—E. F.

The saints...are praying for you. May the Lord give you clarity of mind and speech. May seeds sown reap a bountiful harvest. *“Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man”* (Col. 4:6).

—K. K., BALDWIN, KS

I just wanted to tell you that I appreciate being on your mailing list, and that I am praying for you all as you share the Good News there.

—M. V., BUCARAMANGA, COLOMBIA

I am writing this e-mail with tears of joy, in what took place in Sioux Falls. I am praying that this kind of contagious outreach will take place all across the

Photo: www.BiblePlaces.com



The Nahal David Waterfall flowing in the middle of the desert at Ein Gedi.

REMOTE POWER SUPPLY *continued*

U.S. & Canada. May the good Lord ignite a fire of revival in the assemblies...We set aside special times to pray.
—A. T. J.

Thank you so much for keeping us informed about the SD campaign. Both we as a family and our assembly have been praying much for the contacts made last week.
—D. J, Greenville, SC

I just wanted to send a short note of encouragement on behalf of the believers from Slidell Bible Chapel. Although we so wanted to be there alongside you doing the work of our Lord, know that we are working alongside you in prayer. Specifically tonight, we will lift up the families of those believers who have traveled so far to help, that the Almighty will guard them from the enemy. We will continue to pray for the gospel outreach and those unsaved souls who are hearing the Good News.
—J. N. SLIDELL, LA

We are so excited about what the Lord is already doing there in Sioux Falls! We will continue to labor with you in prayer, expecting a great harvest!
—M. S., GREENSBORO, NC

I am with you in spirit and in prayer this week. Am hoping to get a group together each night to pray for each day's requests. May God bless His work richly; I look forward to getting the reports each day. To Him be the glory.
—J. R., MINNEAPOLIS, MN

We just want you to know that we are keeping the Christians at Pine Ridge Bible Chapel informed of what the Lord is doing in Sioux Falls. We have been following the team via e-mail and have been bringing you before the Lord in prayer.
—G. M., OSHAWA, ON

We are encouraged by the faith that you are demonstrating as you reach out to the lost in Sioux Falls! May the Lord bless the gospel effort to the glory of His Name.
—J. H., KENTUCKY

"...the evidence of things not seen." Please encourage all the team members that their work is a work of faith. Many, many results of your efforts are not going to be

seen. We continue to pray for the building of the assembly in Sioux Falls.
—A. B., MINOT, ND

Many like me were unable to attend the outreach, but support it in prayer. If more of us had known a lot sooner about this, I think many more of us would have had time to make plans to attend. But the Lord knows all of that and He's got the right people in the right place at the right time. All of this makes us who are back here behind the battle lines anxious to try to attend the next time something like this happens. (This is going to be an ongoing thing, if the Lord so leads, correct?) This is a really exciting outreach! Thank you all for the effort that is being put into this!
—T. R., ATLANTA, GA

We are following the e-mails telling what God is doing in Sioux Falls and remembering you in our prayers. Your stories are thrilling and motivating in a time of inertia and discouragement when traditional doors to witnessing are difficult...I know the team would like to know they had led many to Christ the past year, but maybe another of the great works God has accomplished through them is ministering to the saints and helping others witness.
—A. M., SPRINGFIELD, MO

We have been following the GNOM team with great (and prayerful) interest. We are also praying especially for the Sioux Falls campaign this week. May God move in a mighty way there.
—M. M., GOREY, REP. OF IRELAND

Of course the need for prayer investment is not over. In an email received just today, Larry Sax included about 35 people who need specific prayer, plus 15-202 others needing further contact, plus praise regarding four or five who have confessed Christ, plus two or three neighborhood that are open to the gospel, plus ongoing evangelistic efforts, plus the need for a more central place to meet regularly, plus the need for other workers to help with the load... And that doesn't include personal requests for the Sax family.

So please pray on, brothers and sisters.



Want to receive regular gospel updates? You can by signing up at: www.uplook.org



Covert Mall Ministry

We were refused a kiosk in the Empire Mall but some courageous women found a way.

We were willing to share the good news “in season” from a booth in the mall. But “out of season” works too.

The Sioux Falls Empire Mall is one of the largest malls in a four-state area. They say that 14 million(!) people each year stroll through or sit at park benches and try to sleep, perhaps awaiting wives who are spending the family’s incomes.

Nancy Rusk (ND) and I (ON) went undercover here to give out business card-size invitations to *Christianity on Trial*. As it was publicly owned, we had to tread carefully and pose as shoppers. Nancy found that she had the most success standing outside the entrance just to the right of the JCPenney store at the bottom entrance—just in front of Shenanigan’s Pub. There was a place to extinguish smoking materials there, and Nancy would kindly offer a gospel tract to people either entering or exiting. She preferred the exiters as they probably would not drop the tract in the mall. She had amazing success at handing out every last tract she and I had taken. (I surrendered my entire tract stack when I saw how gifted she was in presenting the gospel through written form).

For most of the afternoons that my husband Eric and I were in town, I would be dropped off at the Mall to surreptitiously hand out the invitations and chat with people, inviting them to the *Christianity on Trial* meetings. I would hit the Food Court only once each day, just about 1:30 or so, when it was the fullest, and my zigzagging between tables seemingly went undetected. Many times I would duck into stores between approaching

bench sitters, to pose as a real shopper. (I even bought a few items throughout the four days to be authentic.) An idea that I got about the third and fourth days was to hit all the public ladies’ restrooms and each of the anchor stores restrooms and leave a small number of cards on the counters provided outside of the sink areas that ladies were to use for applying make-up, combing their hair, etc.

We know of one man named Kirk, a biker who showed up Monday evening for *Christianity on Trial*, who had received an invitation at the mall. He drove in from 40 miles away, and sat for twenty minutes in the parking lot wondering if he should come in. “Something” told him to, he told Eric.

Larry Sax apparently had a call from Iowa from someone who had received a business card at the mall, but he wanted directions to the Courthouse Museum, since he was from out of town. We never heard if that person showed up at the meetings.

Perhaps this will be an encouragement to others to pray for mall-goers. I would approach people, asking them if they were from Sioux Falls (because so many were not). Then if they said a town close by or less than two hours away, I would give them an invitation and tell them that I flew in from Canada for this event, and thought it would be worth their while to drive back to S. F. for the evening. Some were from over 5 hours away, but often were visiting friends or families before leaving town; I suggested that they could leave the invitation with them.

One gentleman engaged in a conversation of more than one-and-a-half hours; later I identified him as involved in Wicca. I’m still praying for David O.



Luke

The G-O-S-P-E-L according to Luke.

Of the four Gospel accounts, Luke, the only Gentile writer in the New Testament, has more of a gospel message for sinners than the other accounts. The key verse tells the message: *“The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost”* (Lk. 19:10). So we can take a look at Luke as the G-O-S-P-E-L of the Son of Man.

G — Luke 1–3

G is for Goal: Luke was written with a goal in mind (1:1-4). Having made careful investigation into the person of Christ, he wrote to his friend, Theophilus, and gave an orderly account of the certainty of those things which had taken place. That’s a great goal for us as we present the good news to our friends.

G is for Good News: Most people wait until after the birth of a child to send out birth announcements, but God did it differently. He announced the birth of John the Baptist and then of the Lord Jesus (1:13, 31). Although Dr. Luke was not a pediatrician, only he recounts the details of the Lord’s birth and boyhood.

G is for Genealogy: Luke follows Mary’s line all the way back to Adam and then connects Adam as the Son of God, which directly presents Jesus as genuinely human and also the Son of God (3:23-38)!

O — Luke 4–5

O is for Overriding Desire: Our Lord’s overriding desire to please the Father was a quality, not a condition. He was driven, tested, and proven in the wilderness from where He returned in the *“power of the Spirit”* (4:1-14). There was absolute dedication to do the Father’s will. He had it as a child, for He said, *“Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?”* (2:49). Later, He spoke of His ministry with drive and devotion saying, *“I must preach the kingdom of God”* (4:43). Concerning His passion He knew that *“the Son of Man must suf-*



“...a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us” (Luke 1:1).

fer” (9:22). And when Calvary drew near, He said, *“I must journey today, tomorrow, and the day following; for it cannot be that a prophet should perish outside of Jerusalem”* (13:33).

O is for Outreach: He began His ministry in Nazareth and then moved to Capernaum. Two places, two types of people, and two responses. Nazareth was offended and Capernaum was amazed! *“Then He put out His hand!”* (5:13). His outreach had begun.

O is for Others: He dealt with individuals like Simon, Simon’s mother-in-law, a leper, a paralytic, Levi, the last and least. He spoke to crowds (4:42), multitudes (5:1), and great multitudes (5:12, 29). Above all, He spent time with His disciples (6:1-49).

S — Luke 5–8

S is for Son of Man: Twenty-six times in the Gospel of Luke Christ is called by the title of the Son of Man. This grand title of our Lord links Him to earth and to His mission. It emphasizes His forgiveness (5:24), His passion (9:22), His lowliness and humanity (9:58), and His

LUKE *continued*

coming in glory (21:27). Truly, “*The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.*”

S is for Salvation: There were many that were saved in Luke’s Gospel, especially in Luke 7-8. The word for salvation was used in a broader sense than the saving of the soul. Generally it referred to the deliverance from sickness, trouble, and bondage, as well as sins. It is used of the centurion’s servant who was sick and ready to die, of the sinful woman at Simon the Pharisee’s house, of the demoniac of Gadara, of the woman with a flow of blood, and of Jairus’ daughter.

P — Luke 9–23

P is for Preparing: In Luke 9 through 10 we see Him preparing His disciples, testing them in the feeding of the multitude, questioning them, warning them concerning His cross and theirs. He was transfigured before them and taught them to trust in Him for power.

He also warned them not to seek greatness for themselves and that they would be rejected. Sometimes He used events, like the three would-be disciples who turned back after putting their hand to the plow, to teach the disciples what not to do. When the job was done, He sent out seventy disciples and received them back rejoicing.

P is for People: You’ll notice that Luke uses people to make his points. He includes the details of an event in the lives of people like Zacharias, John the Baptist, Jairus, Zacchaeus, Lazarus and the rich man, and others. We are to learn lessons from these people. Like Mary and Martha. Mary sat at Jesus’ feet and heard His word, while Martha worked busily in the kitchen serving up a half-baked attitude. The Lord commended Mary but corrected Martha. She learned her lesson and next time the meal was well done. Learn anything from that?

P is for Prayer: Luke records the prayer life of the Lord Jesus in chapter 11 with a pattern of prayer, parables about prayer, and the principle to A-S-K: ask, seek, and knock. He also records others’ prayers, like the Pharisee and the Publican. Six prayers or times in prayer of the Lord Jesus are mentioned in the Gospel of Luke. He prayed in the wilderness (5:16), on a mountain (6:12), alone (9:18), at His transfiguration (9:28), for Simon (22:32), and in Gethsemane (22:41-44). He exhorted us to pray (18:1), and warned against pretense



in making long prayers (20:47).

P is for Power: Many miracles are noted in Luke and every miracle has a message. Like the two lepers who were healed—one teaches us about the will of God (5:12-13), while the other teaches us about the worship of God (17:15-16).

P is for Parables” Luke combines parables on purpose. Like the lost-and-found parables of the sheep, coin, and son. The shepherd finds the sheep, the lamp illumines the house (like the Spirit does the heart) to find the coin, and the father welcomes the son back with open arms. Parables paint pictures of truth for all to see. As they say: “a picture’s worth a thousand words.”

P is for Passion: The Lord had a passion for souls, as expressed in the account of the rich man and Lazarus. He went up to Jerusalem to a full week of activities leading to His passion: Sunday’s triumphal entry, cleansing the temple, teaching the disciples on the end times, confronting the Pharisees, and Passover where He said, “With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.” From there He went to Gethsemane, was arrested, scourged, crucified, and burial. “How can I help but love Him when He loved me so?”

E — Luke 24

E is for Evidence: We have the evidences of the empty tomb, the angels’ explanation, the women’s account, the eyewitnesses on the Emmaus road, and the eleven disciples in Jerusalem.

L — Luke 24

L is for Life: He lives in the power of an endless life! Death no more has dominion over Him. And, because He lives, we live also.

L is for Leaving: Leaving a promise of the Holy Spirit’s coming, He led the disciples out to Bethany and departed with a blessing.

L is for Learned: The disciples learned, worshiped, returned to Jerusalem, and continued to do just as He said. What have we learned from this wonderful book of Luke? It is the Gospel!



ELDER HELPS *To feed, to take heed, and to lead*



Must an Elder be Perfect?

Some make too much of the requirements. Others make too little of them.

“To what degree must a brother conform to the requirements for an elder found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 before he can serve in that capacity? None of us here in our assembly feel we measure up.”

The standards of Scripture urge us to strive after perfection. For example, children are to obey their parents in “all things” (not just some) and bondservants are exhorted to obey their masters to a similar degree. Yet James reminds us that “*we all stumble in many things*” (Jas. 3:2, NKJV). Is any degree of failure permissible in those aspiring to do the work of an overseer?

No one who loves the Lord and is worthy to serve as an elder will want to use the above quotation from James as a blanket to throw over some frequently repeated sin or failure. Yet we may draw an analogy from what is expected of children and bondservants. A child may characteristically be obedient or a servant generally apt to comply with his master’s wishes. Would one incident in which they failed to live up to their usual standard mean that the child deserves a severe penalty or the servant should be dismissed? Surely not.

PUBLIC IMAGE

On the other hand, a man’s public image must be considered: “*he must have a good testimony among those who are outside*” (1 Tim. 3:7). One sin can be serious enough to bring reproach on the Lord’s name for years to come. Yes, the assembly is a place to demonstrate love and forgiveness, but a forgiven sin may nevertheless disqualify one from being installed or reinstated as a leader. A truly repentant saint who has fallen grievously will not be one to push himself forward in any case. And discreet service to others is

always open to every believer willing to serve without public recognition—until the Judgment Seat.

But in the matter of recognizing elders, we need the approval of others here on earth. Self-commendation is not the answer. We are too inclined to overlook our own faults to qualify as our own judges, and a brother who pushes himself forward and insists that he be recognized as an overseer only shows that he is unfit for the task.

DON’T LOWER THE STANDARDS

There are too few qualified to serve as shepherds among God’s people. Nevertheless, we must not tamper with God’s Word and lower our standards because of the need. Let those who aspire to this noble work remember how demanding those qualifications are and seek by grace to live up to them. The standards are really not as unattainable as some seem to imagine. Is it so hard to be the husband of only one wife, to have the respect of your children, and to be hospitable? With all the grace that is available to us, cannot we keep ourselves from indulging in wine or being covetous? And if we cannot attain perfection in some things, should it not be obvious that this is nonetheless worth striving for?

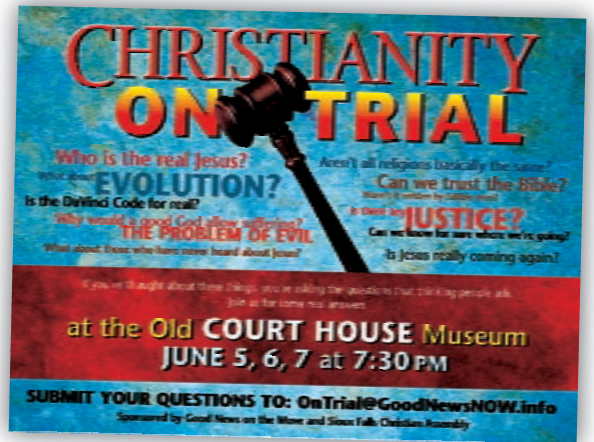
To sum up: Don’t tamper with the standard because it seems to demand perfection. Those humbly aspiring to eldership will recognize their shortcomings but not be complacent about them. Like the apostle Paul, they will be “*reaching forward...pressing toward the goal*” (Php. 3:13f). Above all things, let us not measure ourselves by what we see is accepted in other assemblies, but instead by His Word.



Getting The Word Out

"The weapons of our warfare are...mighty to the pulling down of strongholds."

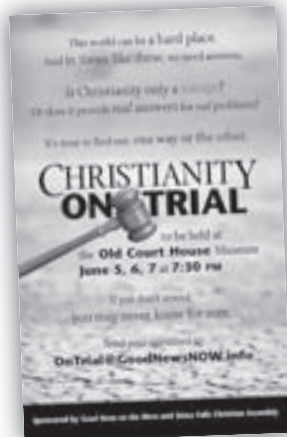
Informing Sioux Falls



Posters to hang up around town where permitted



Buttons for everyone involved



Ads in local newspapers

Free COMMUNITY SUPPER!
Hayward Park @ 7:00 PM →
EVERYBODY'S WELCOME!

Signs for specific events



Sign magnets for cars



Prominent billboard near downtown core

Invitations

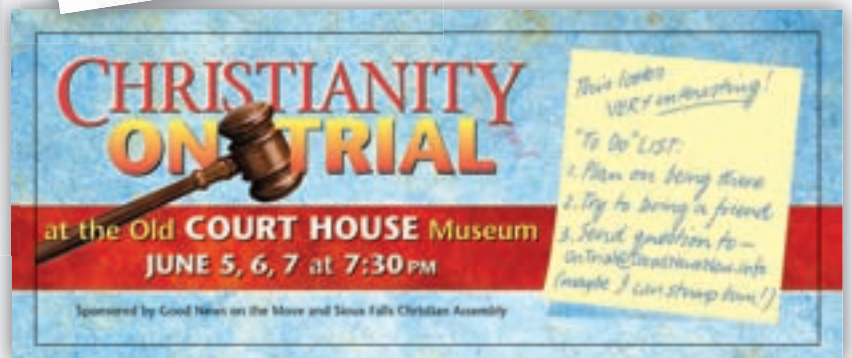


Invites to the local kids' clubs



Business card size invites for convenience and discretion

Full-sized invites to community Bible talks for mass distribution



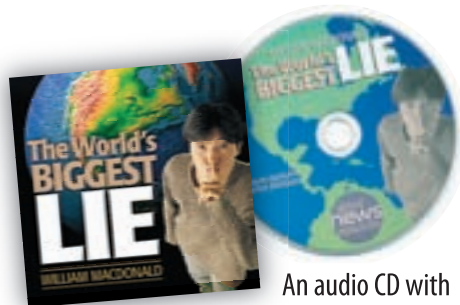
Gospel Tools



Custom tract with local interest for mass distribution.



Bible verses held up at roadsides



An audio CD with a clear, 12 minute gospel message.*

Paintboard signs used in street preaching

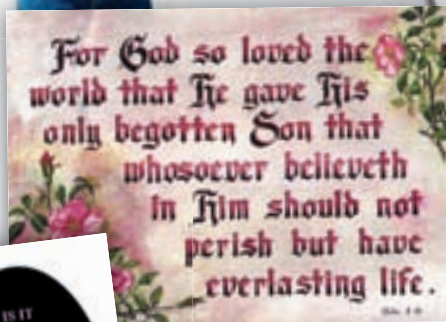


A variety of tracts were provided; some brought their own tracts; others were prepared for special events.

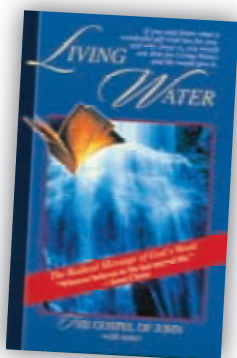


A Seed Sowers gospel text.*

Back of tracts were stamped with local contact information

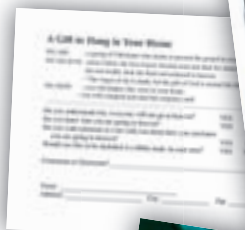


Follow Up Materials

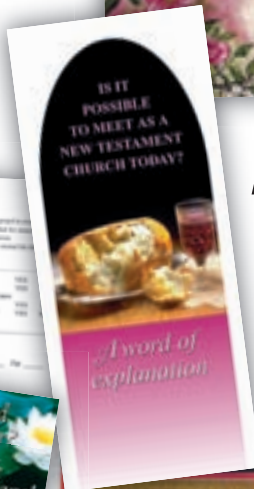


Reply card in packet included spiritual questions, asking for feedback or requests for Bible studies.

Gospels of John*



Prayer magnet

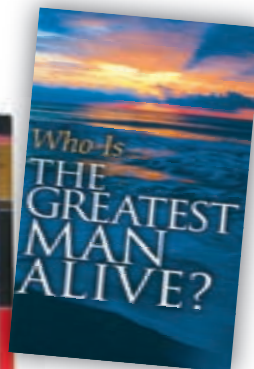


A brief explanation of the New Testament design for the church.*

Booklet for recording of contacts, apparent level of interest, and prayer requests.



DVDs for children and adults that give the gospel and answer many common Bible questions*



An Emmaus Bible study course on the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*For more information on where to get many of these items, visit a special links page at: <http://www.uplook.org/GospelLinks.html>

I Almost Didn't Go

What happens when God calls us and we give Him a definite "Maybe"?

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Tim. 1:7).

Photo of Jerry Proctor and Heather Nicholson taken by the Australian couple at the falls.



While reading an email update from the "Good News on the Move" team, who were traveling across the US spreading the gospel, the title caught my eye. It said, "Urgent Appeal." They were asking for people to help with an outreach that would take place at Sioux Falls, South Dakota. This would be the last stop on their amazing ten-month journey.

The part that convinced me to go read, "Yes, it will inconvenience you and, yes, it will cost you, but would you offer God something that cost you nothing?" Surely being unemployed, and a caregiver to a severely handicapped child were good enough reasons not to go, but...I filled out the registration form and sent it in. My wife told me, "Everything will be fine. We'll worry about the rest when you get back."

I tried to talk myself out of going right up until the day I finally left. In fact, I kept telling myself as I was driving there that I could turn around at any time, that I hadn't gone too far,

there would be lots of helpers there.

Well, after driving eight hours to reach Chicago, I finally decided I was going to Sioux Falls and any doubts were put behind me. Later, when I told my wife Charlene about the fears I was having, she told me she had been praying for me. I figured someone was, because I finally had a sense of peace.

The morning after arriving, we helped stuff *Seed Sower* packages for distribution and I thought I had found a good job for the remainder of my stay. The outreach teams were going to circulate approximately 20,000 of these packages. Stuffing *Seed Sower* packages was something I could do, and—if I were really fortunate—I thought it might take up all my time there. I was sure there were a lot of people who would be distributing them.

Day Two changes everything

After a lunch provided in a city park, we were all given maps, assigned a partner and sent off to go door to door, handing out the *Seed Sower* packages we just stuffed the day before! It wasn't quite what I had planned but there we were, handing out invitations for children to come to the park nearby and enjoy some games and Bible stories. It happened that fast—and that easily.

We would also invite people to attend a special series being held downtown at the Old Courthouse called, "Christianity on Trial." We asked them to bring their questions on religion and any topics popularized by the media like the *DaVinci Code* and we would try to set the record straight about God, Christianity, and the Bible.

At the first home we approached, a young mother came to the door and graciously accepted our invitation to have her kids come to the park. She promised they would attend and said she

was looking forward to it. That really helped calm us as we went off to do the rest of the neighborhood.

Not everyone was that friendly, but we had good interest from the people we were meeting. One lady invited us to sit on her porch and have a cold drink. We took her up on her offer just as the mail lady was going by. She somehow got into the conversation and accepted our invitation and package as well!

Fear hangs around

The fear that tried to keep me from coming to Sioux Falls was at me every morning before we would set out to go door to door. We gathered together every morning to log the contacts and special requests from the day before. These were made available to people who were praying all over the world for these souls, and for us too.

At one meeting I stood up and read out the contacts we had made for followup and mentioned for prayer that my partner and I had some fear about going door to door. Several other team members going to the doors came up to us afterward and said they were glad that we mentioned we were afraid because they were, too. After that it seemed to get a whole lot easier.

On the night of the first meeting for *Christianity on Trial* at the Old Court House, I stood on a street corner holding a sign that advertised the meetings inside. People in cars would slow down and look puzzled as they read the words. Some yelled stuff; others who got stopped at the light would ask, "What's it all about?"

I would quickly tell them before the light changed and would invite them in. One evening, as I was holding up my sign, a fellow walked up to me and asked, "What are you doing?"

I told him, and we talked for a few minutes. I said to him, "The meeting is about to begin; do you want to come in with me?" He told me he didn't have much time, maybe only 10 minutes. He said that if he came in, he'd have to leave soon, so he'd have to sit at the back. I told him his conditions were just fine. We came into the meeting and he never left. He stayed for an hour and 15 minutes! Every once in awhile he'd lean over and

comment on the speaker's message. He said at one point, "I've got to remember that!" I'm sure with God's help he'll recall everything God wanted him to hear that night. His name is John; he has contacted me three times since that night—once by email, twice by phone. I hope I get to meet him again some day. He understood salvation but wasn't clear on repentance.



Photo: Ben Foote

Signs of the times

Divine appointments

During a supper break one evening, I noticed Heather from my home assembly and asked her if she had seen the falls yet. She hadn't so we went to see them. As we pulled up beside the falls, she asked if we could get closer to take some pictures. We walked out to a bridge that spanned the river and asked a couple who were passing by if they would take our picture. We struck up a conversation with them and Heather quietly moved aside with the lady while I engaged the gentleman. After a few minutes, I quoted some scripture verses that seemed appropriate to our conversation but he became very uncomfortable. He said they really had to be going and then they left.

Heather told me the woman was a Christian but he was not. She said they were from Australia and were on a vacation of a lifetime through North America. They had been traveling for nearly four months and were headed for Mt. Rushmore when they decided to stop in Sioux Falls. The lady felt it must have been God's plan that they were directed there. She had been longing for a spiritual conversation with another believer and praised God for putting Heather in her path.

Before they could get to the parking lot, we

The fear that tried to keep me from coming to Sioux Falls was at me every morning...

I ALMOST DIDN'T GO *continued*


caught up to them so Heather could get their contact information. I took that opportunity to ask the man about a Bible course I heard he was taking through the Salvation Army. This made the lady very happy but made him nervous. The poor chap was surrounded and under real conviction, and I could tell he wanted to leave. Seeds had been sown and it was now up to the Holy Spirit to work in him. We're looking forward to hearing of Graham's conversion one of these days and I encourage you to pray for him.

One morning, as we approached a small area of mobile trailers I took a deep breath, and said a short prayer: "God, could you make this really easy for us...maybe they'd even ask us the questions?" At the first trailer no one was home. As I looked at the next home, I could see people were there and the door was open. Before I got to the top of the stairs a woman with three children greeted me. Opening the door, she said: "How can I help you?" I offered her our package and my partner gave the kids some neat heart-shaped pins with a tract explaining the colors of the rhinestones on them. The woman then explained to me that she was an ex-Lutheran and that her husband was Baptist and that they were looking for a "church" and not a religion. I told them that I had come to the right house! She asked me if I knew of a church that held more than one meeting per week because she was looking for a place like that. She introduced me to her husband and gave me all their info to be

contacted for further followup. As we were leaving, she pulled me aside and said, "We're not rich folk and we don't have much so no one better judge us for the clothes we have." I assured her that God judges the heart not the outward appearance and that she would be welcomed.

What a joy walking away from that house. God showed us how He cares for every single one of us, those who know the message, and those looking to hear the message. We had something people wanted to hear, something they needed to hear. We were growing a little stronger each day as He led the way.

"I have a Shepherd, One I love so well;
How He has blessed us tongue can never tell;
On the cross He suffered, shed His blood and died,
That I might ever in His love confide!"

There were many stories we could share. Not all were victories. There was the dog who broke his chain and came right over the fence to greet us, the folks who didn't want what we had to offer—and some didn't put it that politely. But as I drove the 1200 miles back home, the tears rolled down my face more than once as I thought what I had almost turned down when God extended an invitation to come to Sioux Falls for a few days to speak to some people about the love that He has for them and that their broken dreams, their broken hearts matter to Him. 

PUTTING PRAYER IN GEAR

This summer new opportunities were presented to me. I was stretched in ways I didn't know I needed to be stretched. In Sioux Falls, I was challenged with witnessing and prayer. The first day that I got there, Monday, I went door to door with a group of four. I was aware that there was a deeper battle going on while we were inviting people to "Christianity on Trial," but it didn't become real to me until the next day. My friend and I stayed back from door to door Tuesday to pray for written prayer requests and phone-ins. It took us about an hour to get through them all! I knew there was great power in prayer and that what I was doing was important. That night, a couple of people that I remembered praying for showed up to the "trial." That's when praying started to take effect on me.

The third day I went door to door again; and I was now not only praying for myself and our little four-person group, but also for the dozen other teams out there! I was praying for their boldness and direction and for the softening of the hearers' hearts. That's probably the biggest thing I learned in Sioux Falls. Knowing the power of prayer is something that I needed to experience for myself to understand. —Michelle Fleming

Michelle, with several other young people from Carriage Hill Bible Chapel, E. Lansing, MI participated in the Sioux Falls effort.



Other People Winning Friends for Jesus

We pray for the day when there will be enough good news reports to fill a magazine!

We know GNOM and the Sioux Falls Good News Project received a lot of attention over the past year and we are grateful for the interest, encouragement, participation and prayerful support. But we want to note with joy the growing outreach activity elsewhere across the continent. Here are a few other efforts that have come to our attention. Some of these we have been able to share reports over the *Uplook* email list.

STEP: Summer Team Evangelism Participation

By Nathan Hanson and Sonja Schouten

There were eleven of us. Three had never been on an plane before. This was a new experience. It was a huge city consisting of over 16 million people, and more than half spoke Spanish. We weren't sure what to expect. But we were there in Los Angeles, California. And we were on a mission.

John and Dona Duckhorn from Milwaukee, WI as well as Dick and Nancye Yarrall, and Bill and Angela Loudon from Latino Evangelistic Ministries in Long Beach, CA headed up the team. We worked with an assembly in Westminster the first week and an assembly in Gardena the second week.

Our focus at Westminster was to lead DVBS at two apartment complexes where mostly bilingual Latino children lived. Our hope was to build relationships with them, and through the kids build a foundational trust with the parents. By doing this the people at Westminster Bible Chapel could follow-up afterwards and hopefully lead many to the Lord and add to the Spanish-speaking assembly in Westminster.

In Gardena our goal was similar except that there is only a small English-speaking assembly (of mostly people from the Caribbean). We were working to



help the saints there in their efforts to reach out to both Caribbean people and Latinos in Gardena. The approach was similar to that in Westminster: to offer daily VBS to the kids and build on those relationships, to get to know some parents, and ultimately to reach souls with the gospel of Christ.

Our days started with three one-hour classes. These consisted of topics on culture, the apostles' ministries, the history of missions, several religions and denominations, different ministry opportunities, apologetics, and other useful areas of training relevant to the mission field. The speakers were from the two assemblies and were also brought in from other areas of California. The Lord used these experienced, wise, and spiritual men for our team, which encouraged and challenged us in many ways.

Afternoons were spent either preparing for VBS in the evening, going out on a cultural experience, throwing a ball around in the parking lot, or heading to a downtown area near the beach to pair up, pass out tracts and do open-air evangelism.

Overall, we had an unforgettable cross-cultural experience with people from all over the world. We learned how to more effectively reach children with the gospel, and experienced hands-on how to understand and relate to cultural diversity. This helped us to realize our need to rely on the power of God to salvation, and our inability to do the work on our own. By His grace we hope to see the good news proclaimed not only in LA, but that believers might influence each other to take the next step and share the gospel of Christ in every city.

KALAMAZOO, MI: The Hindu Temple

By Anil Yesudas

Since December of 2004, after about one year of relationship-building, the Temple Board Members kindly allowed the narration of stories on the “Life of Christ” in the Kalamazoo Hindu Temple, two days during the Christmas season and two days during Easter. Since May of 2006, the Kalamazoo Hindu Temple has graciously agreed to allow weekly “Devotions to the Lord Jesus Christ” in their premises. The devotions are conducted in the Asian Indian cultural context, every Wednesday, from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. The devotions are conducted so as to spell out and verbalize the life and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. This open door has come about after almost three years of relationship-building activity and the large-heartedness of the Temple Board (Rev. 3:8). Your intercessory prayers are requested (Acts 28:31).

ANDOVER, KS: Door-to-door

By Keith Trevolt

I have been prompted by the Holy Spirit

to cover my hometown with the Good News. Please pray “*the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into his harvest*” (in Andover, KS).

There are approximately 8,700 people in the area and around 2,600 houses. Andover is a small town about three miles straight east of Wichita.

Knowing no matter what religion, God’s Word will do the work. But Andover is heavily populated with a mixture of wishy-washy Christian churches and a huge Catholic cathedral. People from Wichita even come to it.

On a side note, I have been observing really good interest in evangelism with friends and family, and the Spirit of God working on the hearts of the saints at Northside with a desire to be good witnesses.

P.S. Uplook’s Good News Granary sent Keith (one of the 2005-2006 GNOM team) 1200 of each of Bill MacDonald’s CDs and 400 Uniqueness CDs for the distribution. They had good help and were encouraged.

MESOPOTAMIA, OH: In Amish Country

By John Mizener

A gospel outreach effort was held at the Mespo Annual Ox Roast and Flea Market, July 1, 2 and 3. The brothers and sisters from Believers Bible Fellowship of Hartville, Ohio (a new assembly meeting since September) passed out Seed Sower Packets, and had a “Need Prayer, We Care” area where they offered to pray for people in need. Over 25,000 attend this event. Please continue to pray for the seed sown.



A basic map of Andover, Kansas

IRELAND: New Work in Athlone*By Matt Wright*

Greetings from Ireland Initiative, the pioneer outreach team just commencing in Athlone, Co. Westmeath, Leinster & Connaught, Ireland. Here's the idea in brief:

A wedge-shaped area covering a third of Ireland has been identified as having ridiculously few evangelicals, and, therefore, fewer assemblies compared to other parts of the country. This area can be seen by drawing a line on a map from Dublin to Sligo, then Dublin to Limerick. Athlone is the geographical heart of Ireland.

What to do? We have proposed a few ideas, but the most pertinent at this time is the six-week team that has just concluded in the very heart of this neglected area. The program consisted of street work (of various styles), door to door work, relational outreach, meetings, Bible studies (spontaneous, weekly and in homes) and discipleship.

The team included lads and ladies that have considerable experience with outreach, were able to work well as part of a team, knowing their own gifts/strengths/weaknesses and could be trusted to use initiative throughout.

We have long-term goals beyond these six weeks, but many problems/issues remain unresolved at this time, we want to move out in faith, seeing how the Lord works before planning too precisely.

Thanks so much for taking the time to read this, and even more so for taking time to pray for us and the work here.

"Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with [us] in prayers to God for [us]" (Rom. 15:30).

GREATER TORONTO: Christianity Explored*By Eric Kalmbach*

We have been following the Good News trip with great interest. I have presented the mission at a couple of assemblies and try to regularly share info-nuggets from the news letters at the weekly prayer meeting for the Lord's people to pray. They have.

We have commenced our seventh 10-week evangelistic study using the *Christianity Explored* outline. The Lord has saved people. We are planning another baptism shortly for some new believers including a 14-year-old boy led to the Lord during the summer Day Camp. His mother is contemplating baptism as well, she having been saved during our first study. A Catholic family, father a Catholic high school teacher, son an altar boy, etc.

Personally there seems to be a direction developing. I have received eight invitations to come to local assemblies, etc., and help them begin an evangelistic outreach during the past year. Locally, we have trained a number of folks in presenting the gospel. I can now step back and there are those quite able and keen to lead the Monday night evangelistic studies and outreaches. In all we have about 50 people attending; In this session 12-15 being unbelievers, others are new believers, etc. In addition to CE, W. Yuille is teaching a class on Romans, D. Stubbs on 1 Corinthians, T. Baldock on Prophecy, plus some 1-on-1 teaching.

Liz Wallis (one of those saved during an earlier study, *ed.*) has begun a CE study in her home on Thursday mornings with her former Catholic lady friends



Day Camp '06 has just finished and the Christians are delighted with evidence of the Lord's blessing—during the two weeks, four stated they had received God's gift of salvation. About 275 people attended the Parents Night special at the end of the session.

from St. Patrick's. She of course is thrilled as she reports the deep interest they have in understanding the true gospel. I had involved her in the last CE study for her to gain experience in presenting the gospel, which she is now doing by herself.

Saturday morning I joined Eddy Santos (of the Markham assembly) as he gathered six people (two more will be joining) at his home to hear the gospel and ask questions. We began at 9:30 AM with bagels and coffee. I excused myself at 2:45 PM, needing to leave. Four people were still there. One lady wanted to make sure I would return. I asked why and she said she had a lot more questions. She had concluded that God's salvation "sounds too easy" but didn't offer an alternative so I wished her a good day and left to let the Holy Spirit do His work.

We have now identified three new areas with no nearby assemblies where there is interest in commencing new works. We sense the Lord is stirring the hearts of some to commit to a serious work so are following up with those interested. The assembly has agreed to support any new ventures with, prayer, people and financially.

We have a quarterly meeting with elders from the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) assemblies. I have sensed a readiness to cooperate in the gospel, with some individually telling me of their personal interest in supporting gospel outreach. I believe there is a growing interest in the gospel here, which is encouraging.

SCHENECTADY, NY: Bellevue

By Doug Lewis

The saints at Bellevue Gospel Chapel (Schenectady, NY) are exercised about a gospel effort to take place Aug 20–27.

In the will of the Lord, the week will include children's meetings on weekday mornings, open air preaching and tracting in the afternoons, and gospel meetings in the evenings. A snack is provided following the evening meetings.

Preliminary to the week, distribution of Seed Sowers items and invitations is being undertaken, some by canvassing nearby neighborhoods and some by door-to-door work. For the first time, this year we are planning a free car wash as another method of outreach.

Brother Wade LaBlanc will again be joining us, Lord willing, to minister in the gospel. Your prayers would be greatly appreciated. *"We wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places"* (Eph. 6:12). That's a lot of "against's"!

All praise and honor and glory be unto our Lord Jesus Christ who has *"spoiled principalities and powers, having made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it."*

Your intercession is highly coveted.

PALOS HILLS, IL: The Palosfest

By Jim Stevenson

We have an opportunity to give the good news at the annual PalosFest. Many in the assembly are willing to take part. We are using 600 each of Bill McDonald's CDs, *The World's Biggest Lie* and *Nothing Happens by Chance*.

P.S. Jim Stevenson was field director for GNOM this past year. 

Saints from Schenectady with friends at Spellerberg Park in Sioux Falls.



What do you think of a bi-monthly magazine strictly to encourage, equip for and report on gospel work in North America? Would a web magazine do? Send your suggestions to jabe@uplook.org

What's in a Name?

A great encouragement to ask the God who delights to answer above all we ask.

Whether by object lessons, rope tricks, street preaching with paint boards, or just meeting people where they're at—for example, talking with a farmer about the laws of harvest—the enthusiasm, boldness and creativity of the believers in sharing the good news in “salty” ways motivated me to ask the Lord to show me some creative ways to use as doors to introduce Him to others. For, as has been said, we can lead a horse to water, but we can't make him drink—unless we give him salt to make him thirsty!

The meaning of my name Renee is *born again*. It has been a springboard to share the gospel since I was young. In Mexico where I live, Renee is a man's name and other kids would ask me why I was named that.

A few times the Lord has opened a door to share the good news through the meaning of other people's names. My first night in South Dakota, I was thinking about this in bed and wanted to quickly learn some more names by finding a book of names and their meanings, or by getting on the internet. But realizing the futility of this in an already jammed schedule, I asked the Lord to show me how to use the ones I already knew: the three most recent ones being Eleanor, Katie, and Megan...but I only knew how to use “Megan” in a clear gospel message.

The next day there was only one new person that I met by name. Yup—Megan! She was the cashier at the grocery store. She knew the meaning of her name, and I asked her if she knew Jesus' story of the Pearl of Great Price. She said she didn't. Then I told her about how a wealthy man who wanted a beautiful pearl and sold everything that he had to buy it. As she checked the veggies through, she listened to how Jesus left everything that He had in heaven to come and pay the greatest price—His life—to purchase her.


Driving back with Katie Morell, she mentioned the difficulty of going door to door that week. I told her about the “name” doors and how the Lord brought a “Megan” along that day. Then I realized hers was one of

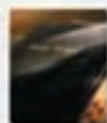


the other names I was talking with the Lord about the night before! She didn't know it meant “pure,” but came up with a way to share the gospel from it: “*the pure in heart*” will “*see God*,” so are our hearts pure? No, they are desperately wicked, but Jesus can cleanse us and make us white as snow, so we can see God! We went back and gave Megan a packet and invited her to the meetings.

Now I was waiting with bated breath for Him to bring an “Eleanor,” meaning “brightness” along. But it didn't exactly happen that way. Out of the mouth of babes He ordains strength: Lydia Huntington (8 years old) went door to door with me, and told me her name meant “beautiful light,” then quoted, “*For God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness hath shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ*” (2 Cor 4:6).

I asked her if she had always had His light, and she told me how she accepted Jesus one day reading Bible stories. We decided to play with some kids at the Jungle Gym and eventually introduce ourselves with the meanings of our names. After playing a bit with one particular girl, we introduced ourselves, but at that moment her mother called her and she went running off.

Nonetheless the Lord did abundant things that week, and showed me His great goodness in teaching me how to use people's names to open doors for Him! 



2006 Myrtle Beach Bible Conference

December 27th - 30th, 2006

You're Invited . . .

Make your plans now to attend this year's Myrtle Beach Bible Conference. The conference features 3 nights accommodations, morning and evening ministry from the Word (children's meetings and nursery provided), and up to 6 hours of free time to spend relaxing or getting to know other conference attendees. **Register early — conference space is limited!** To register fill out the enclosed registration form or visit our website.

Speakers . . .



Randy Amos
Rochester, NY



Bill Gustafson
N. Augusta, SC



Tim McNeal
Villa Ridge, MO

Room Rates . . .

In order to keep the room rates affordable, this year's conference will be in a new location. The Springmaid Beach Resort & Conference Center offers "hotel-style" rooms which will be a change from previous years — all rooms include a microwave and refrigerator, with a limited number of rooms including a stovetop (to secure one of these rooms it is suggested that you register early). Rates for this year's conference are:

1 Bedroom
sleeps 2-4 people
\$160.00

2 Bedroom
sleeps 5-6 people
\$270.00

3 Bedroom
sleeps 7-10 people
\$390.00

Meal Plan Rates . . .

NEW for 2006 — The Springmaid Resort & Conference Center is offering a meal plan to all conference attendees which is priced reasonably and the food is delicious. All meals will be buffet (all you can eat) and seating will be cafeteria style so you can sit with whomever you wish. Along with your registration we will need to know what meals you will be participating in. You may pick and choose but **we must have a seating of 75 attendees at all meals** in order for the resort to make this available to our group. Rates are as follows:

Breakfast
complete breakfast
\$6.50

Lunch
includes salad bar
\$8.00

Dinner
2 entrees & salad bar
\$10.00

*Children ages 0 - 3 — FREE / ages 4 - 11 — half price
Full meal plan consist of 7 meals (3 breakfast, 2 lunch, and 2 dinner) = \$55.50 / per person*

Registration Deadline is November 27, 2006 — To Register:

Mail forms to: REGISTRAR • 3114 Appling Way • Durham, NC 27703 Phone: (919) 598-0392
Email: here2serve@nc.rr.com or Web: <http://www.mbbibleconferences.org>



Myrtle Beach Bible Conferences, Inc. is comprised of a group of concerned brethren from various assemblies. They are: Sid Bhatt (SC), Bob Cherian (MD), Skip Elliot (SC), Mark Harby (NC), and Scott Tucker (SC)

What Lessons Were Learned in SF?

Evangelism's learning curve is steep. But we can enjoy the climb.

It's wonderful to raise our Ebenezer and declare that at Sioux Falls "the Lord helped us" but it's also good to learn lessons the Lord taught us.

Because so much ground has been lost over the last few decades of evangelistic inactivity or ineffectiveness, we're having to learn the process almost from scratch. With an increasing desire to get back into real gospel work—not just preaching a salvation message to our own people in the comfort and safety of our own buildings—some are venturing out a little way from shore.

At best, however, we have been chumming, throwing bait into the water with no hooks, no means of actually bringing the fish in. Where is the follow-up? How many times in the last year has our baptistry been used for someone saved out of our local community? Ouch!

To use another analogy, scattering seed across the land, like Johnny Appleseed, makes for good fable but for bad farming. We need to methodically cover our own part of the field and then expect to also be involved in bringing in the harvest. Sow. Weep. Wait. Reap. Like that.



Making contact with youth for the gospel at McKinnon Park.

1. We need a more balanced division of labor: We had 250 people at one end of the conveyor belt and a handful at the other. Probably a few hundred hopeful individuals were recorded during the week that required sometimes a dozen visits to make contact. More requests for visits came in by reply cards, and one-on-one Bible studies were arranged by the score.

As well, the kid's clubs in the parks were continued. Plus responsibilities for regular meetings on the Lord's Day and at other times also rested on the same shoulders. No wonder Larry Sax was unable to keep his "day" job and gave himself full time to the work. We need to see a group of exercised and capable people who are willing to follow the sowers and help with the reaping. This is essential.

2. We need to encourage those with the gift of showing mercy to join: We should have had a place on our record pad that read: "Good works required"—a single mom with a broken fence or an old widow with a garden that needed weeding. Many not inclined to join in a gospel



A group photo of many of the people who came from across the USA and parts of Canada to work in Sioux Falls.

Sioux Falls was a good opportunity to see different methods and styles of evangelism at work in an array of venues. Many good suggestions were made by these believers. And all were willing to regroup and rework things when we were stymied. So what were some of the valuable lessons learned as we labored together in that needy city?

WHAT LESSONS WERE LEARNED IN SF? *continued*



A free car wash with refreshments, literature and good conversations.


effort like this would be eager to do good works—baby sitting, fixing leaky faucets, baking, etc. Linking good news with good works would increase both our visibility in the city, our acceptance with the people—and our obedience to the Word! We would need to explain to recipients that we were not doing this work for them (so they did not feel beholden to us); we were doing it for the Lord because He had been so good to us (and therefore giving Him the glory). Good works + good news = good success.

3. We need to do this kind of thing regularly and more often: It was suggested that if specific weeks each year were slated

for united gospel efforts, more people could plan ahead. That's good thinking, but the rate-determining step is still eager and capable believers willing to move to these needy areas and lay down their lives for the establishment of brightly shining lampstands. This is the need of the hour. Hopefully three couples would begin meeting now to pray and examine the whole array of Bible truth so the Lord



A young Sax shares the greatest message with a younger friend through rope tricks.

could redeploy them when their hearts are beating as one, linked by the Holy Spirit into a beachhead force for the next campaign. See also the information in the article "Where To Now?" on page 30. 

CAR WASH/HEART WASH

I think the ministries that were most memorable and had the most effect were open air preaching and the car wash. During the open air work, I stood nearby to encourage the men who were speaking and also passed out literature. We also held a free car wash where we distributed literature through the car window and personally "ambushed with the gospel" anyone who ventured out for a free soda. Both were very effective in reaching people. I know of at least one man who professed to accept Christ during the car wash, and many more received literature and seemed interested. Personally both were very encouraging as well because I had not had much practice in evangelism and watching such fearless energy and love for the lost strengthened me as a fisher of men and helped me to realize how important evangelization truly is. All in all, Sioux Falls was one of the best and most memorable experiences for me, and for many others, I'm sure. —Claire Bowman

Claire was part of the youth group from Carriage Hill Bible Chapel, E. Lansing, MI who participated at Sioux Falls, SD.



NEW LIFE IN HIM *From seed planting to fruit growing*



The Hidden Cost of Sin

There's a high price to pay, and sin never delivers what it promises.

The cost of a cell phone plan may seem like a bargain until one discovers the hidden costs and unexpected charges that drastically inflate the monthly bill. Hidden costs are an unpleasant reality in everyday living. But have you considered the hidden cost of sin?

David's lustful gaze upon Bathsheba led him to commit adultery with her and forge a cover-up plot that led to her husband's murder. Even after the Lord forgave David of his sin in 2 Samuel 12:13, the hidden costs manifested themselves one by one. First, David lost his joy (Ps. 51:12) as he grieved over his sick and dying baby. Then David lost his courage to rebuke his children in their sin: he neither chastised Amnon for the rape of his half sister, Tamar, nor did he punish Absalom for murdering Amnon in retaliation. The adultery and murder David had committed eroded his fatherly authority until it cost him his family—and nearly his throne—as Absalom continued unchecked until he attempted to usurp his father's crown.

David's sin also caused the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme (2 Sam. 12:14). And it damaged his reputation. "David did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord, and turned not aside from any thing that he commanded him all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite" (1 Ki. 15:5). David bore the consequences of his sin for the remainder of his life, even though forgiven.

First Kings 3:3 states that Solomon "loved the Lord," and he purposed to build a house unto the Lord (1 Ki. 5:5). As a young man at the beginning of his reign, his heart was right before the Lord, and God made him the wisest man who ever lived (1 Ki. 3:11f). Surely such a great man needed no warning of the hidden costs of sin? Unfortunately, when he was old, he lusted after—and married—pagan women with ungodly practices. Solomon lost his power with God. His wives turned away his heart after such gods as Ashtoreth, Milcom, Chemosh, and Molech (1 Ki. 11:4-8). As a consequence of his sin, he also lost his peace. The Lord chastised Solomon by stirring up three kings as continual adversaries against him (1 Ki. 11:25). Solomon lost his joy (see Ecclesiastes). Although Solomon came back to the Lord

near the end of his life (Eccl. 12:13f), the damage he sustained remained. He lost his reputation among the prophets of God and instead served as an example of what not to do (Neh. 13:24-27).

Solomon's son Rehoboam was the product of a pagan alliance (2 Chron. 12:13). We read that after he had established the kingdom and had strengthened himself, "he forsook the law of the Lord and all Israel followed him" (2 Chron. 12:1). Blinded by self-confidence, he too failed to realize the hidden cost of sin. Rehoboam immediately lost his power. He also lost his courage and was terrified of the imminent destruction of Judah by the Egyptians (2 Chron. 12:2). To his credit, he and his princes "humbled themselves" before the Lord, and God in his mercy did not "destroy him altogether" (2 Chron. 12:6, 12).

Nevertheless, as a result of his transgressions, the Lord's ministry was damaged when the treasures from the house of the Lord were plundered by the enemy, and Rehoboam also lost his personal riches at the same time (2 Chron. 12:9). He was unable to quickly recover from such financial devastation: the shields of gold which Solomon made in 1 Kings 14:26 were replaced with bronze shields in 2 Chronicles 12:10. We too may finish our lives with "bronze shields" if we're not careful (1 Cor. 10:12).

Powerful men of God through the ages have ignored the hidden cost of sin. Paul expressed his concern for himself regarding this in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. The spiritual consequences behind these hidden costs are graphically described in James 1:14. Lust conceives and gives birth to a baby called "sin." This "baby," however cute, cuddly, and seemingly harmless, grows up to kill a believer's spiritual testimony. Worldly influences seek to seduce our minds with many forms of lust such as profanity, power, fame, riches, perversions, flirtatious attitudes, and promiscuity—all supposedly without consequences.

Don't be fooled! Meaningful Bible study, a godly testimony, power from God, ministry opportunities, a solid marriage and family, a fervent prayer life, and close fellowship with the saints are jeopardized if the believer does not take seriously the hidden cost of sin. —RANDY HORN

Where To Now?

Once a year is not enough. Do we need to pray, "Lord, increase our faith"?

We believe that there are many more saints who are eager to become involved in gospel work. One key is to remember that everyone has a unique part to play in the orchestra.

As mentioned in the previous *Uplook*, it is our exercise to see *two* GNOM teams crossing the country with gospel seed in the coming year. (Eventually there should be gospel teams in every state and province throughout the continent, don't you think?)

Part of the reason for this is the faint but distinct cry of struggling assemblies in the south and west who are calling for help. The so-called Sun Belt is the fastest growing region of the land regarding general population, but perhaps the weakest (except New England) for gospel witness from assembly workers.

Yes, there are challenges. I can only imagine the fuel bill for a team traversing the long distances between the scattered assembly outposts. And, quite frankly, many of these small and discouraged groups probably have very little strength or resources to help the team. But we must see the trend reversed in this huge area or else abandon it to the ravages of time and neglect. This we cannot do.

We also should have a few men who can effectively communicate in Spanish as this region has a large Spanish-speaking population. Will you pray with us about this need?

THE JUNE OUTREACH

If, in fact, the Lord blesses us with enough men for two teams (and surely

He will double our resources to do it), it is our exercise to have a united Orientation at the beginning of the school year (mid-late Sep) and then bring the teams together for a final gospel

effort, joined by as many exercised saints as possible. The Lord has not yet shown us where that would be, but the dates for that effort will be, Lord willing, June 2-9 (so you can plan ahead).

MORE OUTREACHES?

If one united gospel effort is a good thing, I daresay that two could be twice as good. And there are many exercised saints who for one reason or another would be more disposed to joining in if there was an outreach in the southern states during the winter months.

To this end we are suggesting an additional Good News campaign to be held, Lord willing the last full week of January (Jan 20-27) somewhere in the southern states. We will let you know the location as the time draws nearer and the Lord makes things clearer.

HOW CAN WE PRAY?

Obviously this is the key. We need clear direction as to place, the right persons who are exercised by the Lord to attend, the right families/individuals to reside there to be foundational to a new work, the necessary resources to pay for literature, rentals, advertising, etc. (the literature alone for Sioux Falls provided by *Uplook* was more than \$30,000; others provided for food, and other expenses bringing the total to probably twice that amount).

Wouldn't it also be good to pray for specific cities that at present have no NT assembly as far as we know? Or cities with the beginning of a work that could use a good push? Cities like Huntsville and Tuscaloosa, AL; Shreveport and Baton Rouge, LA, Jackson, MS; Memphis, TN; Midland, TX; and the list goes on and on. We would appreciate communication from believers and their exercise about pioneer areas. 📍



Let's Get (More) Serious

Warning: This is a three pepper article.



If the conditions that prevail in many assemblies were true in most evangelical churches, the pastor would have been shown the door. No improvement in public preaching? No souls saved? No baptisms? Needy Christians not being visited? No discipleship for new believers? He'd be long gone and the new candidate would be informed that serious change was expected.

Now the reason we don't believe in having a contractual agreement with a professional shepherd is not simply because we don't see it in Scripture. We also don't see Sunday Schools, hymn books, Bible study courses, gospel tracts, and a long list of other things in the Bible either—all of which we have found useful in their place (and not anti-biblical).

The reason we historically rejected the practice of a man being paid to do the major share of the public work in the local church was this: we believed the model in Scripture of all rising to their full measure of gift and ministry was by far the better way. And by better way, we not only meant more biblical; we meant more beneficial, more fruitful, more efficient, more glorifying to God. We believed it brought out the full potential of all exercised believers; it enriched the church with a whole spectrum of gifts rather than specializing in one; it gave real and strategic opportunities for ministry to those who would never have a chance in a ministerial system.

What happened? Why is there often, as in the Bethlehem of Elimelech's day, a famine in "the house of bread"? Why are families like Elimelech's going to sojourn somewhere else? I will hurry to say that Elimelech's plan was a bad one and his family was lost to the place of God's favor as a result. The better plan was to follow Boaz, submit to God's chastening, and prosper.

1. A prideful attitude that changed "God's way is better than man's way" to "our way is better than theirs":

Then it was a short step to the next set of assumptions: "All so-called blessing in denominational churches is just a mirage." "Whatever else we don't have, we have the Lord in our midst." "The smallness of our gatherings isn't something to be concerned about—it's proof of our high spiritual state. We're the little flock. The crowd's always wrong, you know." Such attitudes (and a passel more like them) led to the remarkable situation where lack of blessing equalled evidence of blessing; and where evident blessing was therefore seen as suspect, a work of man.

2. When confronted with the high cost of overseeing, many in elder's positions were unwilling to pay up.

Toil in the Word to feed the saints while others take the Lazyboy-and-TV approach to evening hours? "No, I'm not the teacher type." Make difficult visits to lives cracking apart under the strain? "I've never been confrontational." Spend hours disciplining young believers? "The assembly's doing just fine. The ones that left weren't happy anyway." Am I overstating the case?

3. Mediocrity was taken to be normative: It is time to repent and reject this unbiblical model. It is little help to the flock if shepherds have blueprints of ideal sheepfolds or aerial photos of rich grassland. In most cases, we "know these things." But the happiness comes in doing them (Jn. 13:17). So what is the way forward? Do we feel incompetent? The Lord is standing by to help. We must spread our busyness and barrenness out at the cross and allow Him to radically change the landscape of our lives so they become as the Creator intended, not as the world has eroded them. "Return unto Me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts" (Mal. 3:7). 🍌



We're only too old to change when our hearts stop.

BACK IN SCHOOL

39 + 1 = THE NUMBER OF TESTING

I had the privilege of helping with the children’s club at Terrace Park. The first morning it was time to start but there were no children. The young people that were also helping with the club went into the neighborhood to see if they could round up any kids.

They came back somewhat discouraged, having learned that most of the neighborhood residents were elderly people. I remembered how George Mueller had everything ready to open his orphanage but had forgotten to ask the the Lord to send the children. So

we pulled together to pray. We told the Lord that we had done what we could to prepare for this work and that now we were looking to Him to do what only He could do.

The moment we finished praying, we opened our eyes to see a daycare bus pulling up to the curb. The girls ran over to the daycare workers and asked if they would allow the children to come to our Bible lesson. The workers said, “Yes,” and so we were able to teach a lesson on “What is Sin?” to thirty-nine children. The Lord truly is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think!

The next morning we had only one boy show up, but he was a slower thinker, so it was perfect. I just sat with him at a picnic table and shared my lesson on the person and work of Christ just like I was reading a book to him. Since it was only him, he was able to touch the pictures and ask questions, so I could better see where he was at spiritually. Isn’t the Lord kind? He wants the multitudes to understand His Word, but He also cares that the individuals hear Him speak to them as well.



Photo: Ben Foote

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