

(Cont. from page 1)

Consider also, Paul's commendation for the Corinthian Church. Some, if not all, of this congregation were a very changed people from what they once were (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). In 2 Corinthians 3:1-6, we see what potential people who are taught the gospel and have responded obediently can have. Paul commends these people for being honorable examples of a "letter of Christ". By their very lives, they were telling others the good news about Jesus. But, just like Paul, they would never consider themselves as sufficient in and of themselves. No, they realized their sufficiency and their ability to be ministers of the new covenant, was from God.

Every decision we make, as individuals, and collectively as the body of Christ, impacts or influences a world that is lost without Christ. The clothes we wear, the phrases we utter, our attitude or outlook on life, our choice of jobs or careers, the principles we profess publicly and the habits we maintain privately all ripple through our circle of influence. The question is "are we, as Christians, doing the influencing or we the one being influenced?"

Are we not supposed to be salt, light and leaven? When you consider the example you set, the pursuits in which you partake and the efforts you make as an ambassador for Christ, as you go about your daily routines, ask yourself "am I seasoning my circle of influence or am I leaving the salt in the shaker?"

When we decide to emphasize what we can do within our circle, only then do we effectively defend our faith.



Legal Change of Name:

—Jacob's new name is: Jacob Rex Harper. Congratulations, Jacob.

Please Note:

—Newest communication from MSOP student, Armand Wine, is posted on the missions board.

—Thank you note from principle, Heather Lucas of Yorktown Elementary, expressing gratitude for the food packs each weekend. Note is posted.

"Full Force Ahead" from Kendall:

—Food baskets will continue through the Christmas holiday so all of us need to "gear up and go full force" with getting the pantry re-stocked. This week, please bring peanut butter and jelly.

—**SHO Party**, Remember to join the party on Dec. 5th at 7:00 p.m. You are cordially invited to take part, meet new friends and enjoy pizza. This is West Side's celebration with foster children and their parents.

—**From Kista**, "Please do not wrap any gifts you might give to the SHO Kids. We need to be able to identify the gifts in case we might have to distribute them evenly."

—**News from Russia**, Zhenya Cox (A.J.'s wife), has received word that her mother, Tamara Senchenko, who is still in Russia, has fallen and broken her kneecap. The nearest hospital is unable to perform the operation that is needed and so Tamara will have to travel several miles by ambulance to another facility. There is no communication because Tamara has only a landline phone to keep in touch and only one relative near the area. The process to bring her to the states has already begun but it is a long and arduous task of paperwork and time involved. Please keep Tamara, Zhenya and A.J. in your prayers.

—**A BIG Happy Birthday** to Rachel Chambers who turns 9 years old on Thanksgiving. Gobble, Gobble.

— **E-mail from Ronnie Gootam in India**, He reports that he always receives our e-mails with "glee" and wants us to know he and his wife, Haritha will be taking a day of travel to pick up her Visa to enter the U.S. He states that they have arranged a Thanksgiving "meeting" at their house this next week and are busy finalizing all the legalities to come to the states and begin study at MSOP.

WEST SIDE WINDOW

Volume 20, Issue 47

November 23, 2014.

Defend Your Faith, Don't Sell Yourself Short

By Jim Palmer

Stephen Covey, author of the "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People", refers to one's circle of influence. He writes, "In looking at ways to influence and change our surrounding, it is helpful to notice where we focus our time and energy. We each have a wide range of concerns—our health, our family, problems at work, the national debt, etc. and it is these things in our lives that make up our Circle of Concern. As we look at those things within our circle of concern, it becomes apparent that there are some things over which we have no real control and others that we can do something about. We could identify those concerns in the latter group by circumscribing them in a small circle of influence."

Have you considered your circle of influence as it relates to defending your faith? Perhaps for purposes of this particular article, we should call it "promoting your faith" or "showing your faith" or "Spreading the gospel" Because each of us has a circle in which we have great influence and a wider circle in which we have lesser influence but still have some ripple impact.

Ask yourself, "What effect am I having within my circle?"

Each one of us has different talents. In the body, (the church), we each play different roles and perform different functions. The toe does not perform the function of an ear and an elbow will never play the role of an eye, so too, we each have something we can do (1 Corinthians 12:12-31; Romans 12-3-8

However, these verses do not give one license to "sell oneself short" by listing all the reasons one "can't or 'could never" accomplish a particular task within the body. Rather, we should be identifying that which we CAN do.

For example, in Acts 4:13, we see the power of influence:

"Now, when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus."

Peter and John were common men who had been influenced by "Him who is unmistakably uncommon". In turn, because of the boldness of these otherwise untrained and uneducated men, those around them saw, marveled and realized the source of their strength—Jesus. As a result, God was glorified. (Acts 4:21)

What if Peter and John had leaned on their own abilities and considered within themselves that they couldn't possibly know enough, be good enough, or do enough to make a difference? They made the decision to not allow Satan's seeds of doubt to germinate in their hearts or minds. What about us?

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SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study —
9:30 am
Worship — 10:30 am &
6:00 pm
Wed. Bible Study —
7:00 pm

MINISTER

Michael Gors

ELDERS

Mike Gors

Gary Reynolds

Larry Reynolds

Todd Stults

DEACONS

Don Allison— Fellowship
Kendall Clark- Benevo-
lence
Jim Clark-Visitation
Lowell Huffman-Media
Volker Jaromin— Com-
munication and Ad-
vertising

MISSION WORKS

Russia & India
Mark Reynolds

Memphis School of
Preaching
Armand Wine
Ronnie Gootam

Southeast Institute of
Biblical Studies
Preaching
Caleb Taylor

New Hampshire
Laconia Church of
Christ
The Belanger family

WORSHIP FOR November 23, 2014

MORNING WORSHIP

Announcements: Don Allison
Song Leader: Gary Reynolds
1st Prayer: Joe Reed
Scripture: Bill Smith
Matthew 6:30-34

Sermon: Mike Gors
"Putting First Things First"

Closing Prayer: Jay Kellow
Sound Room: Jerry Hoyt

COMMUNION SERVERS

Prayer: Kendall Clark
West Side— Outside: Larry Terrell
 Inside: Jim Clark
East Side— Inside: Rex Harper
 Outside: Ira Chambers

EVENING WORSHIP

Song Leader: Gary Reynolds
1st Prayer: Jim Clark
Scripture: Jonah Stults
1 John 3:1-3
Sermon: Mike Gors
"Do You Hope to See God?"
Communion Table: Richard Messer
Closing Prayer: Volker Jaromin
Sound Room: Jerry Hoyt

GROUP TWO NOV. 23 & 25

Greeters, Building Lock-up & Communion Clean-up: Gary & Kista, Elayna, Case, Lowell & Charlene
Communion Prep for Nov.—Janet

Group two is responsible for all activities this week.

Remember in Prayer

Amy Jarrett, delivered her baby boy, Luke Callahan Jarrett, last Wednesday. He weighed 3 lbs and 1 ounce and is 16 inches long. Amy was due to be released this past Friday but baby, Luke, will remain at BMH for approximately 8 weeks. Mom, Dad and son are doing well.

Bob Allison, chemo treatments continue. Father of Don Allison.

Ellen, feeling better, hoping to be with us by Sunday

Jerry Anderson, Uncle of Doug Anderson. Suffering from kidney problems and other medical issues. On the list for kidney transplant.

Linda Bigler, brain cancer. Vivian visited with her this past week.

Brett Rutherford, missionary. Lesions on brain.

Evelyn Mertz, tests revealed no cancer but problems persist. Dorothy's sister.

Herb & Betty Smith

Judy Schuck, Radiation treatment for cancer. Charlene's cousin

Kelli Harper, foot surgery. Will be returning to work next week for half days.

Lisa Staggs

Les & Sara Bonham, brother and sister-in-law to Pat Kidd. He has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and she has cancer. They live in Marion. Pat is traveling back & forth.

Rodney Lawson, Stage 4 lung cancer. Remains in BMH. Would appreciate cards. Cousin of Kathy Harper.

Sandy Phillips, Cancer. Surgery scheduled December 3rd. Mother of Shawna Schock.

Shawna Schock, Medical procedure for pain management re-scheduled due to strep infection.

Trey Bland, Complications during shoulder surgery. In critical condition in Indianapolis. Trey is the son of Terry Bland who is an acquaintance of Jim Clark.

Kennedy Zade, Seizures of unknown cause

Shut-ins

Bill Gaw-Westminster Village

Evelyn Vannatter -Elmcroft

Forrest Hurst-Elmcroft

Lana Blanchard -Albany Health Care

Vada Zeek -Willowbend

Attendance for the Week of November 16, 2014

Sunday Bible Study 80
Sunday Worship am 109
Sunday Worship pm 64
Wed. Bible Study 53

Tuesday Bible Study November 25th

Devotions Sean
Song Leader Chad
Prayer Jim C.

For your Information

Reminder— *Midweek Bible Study will be held on Tuesday, November 25th this week.*

Midweek Adult Class— *Beginning December 3rd, men and women will meet together, in the auditorium, for study of scripture and a furtherance of the evangelism plans that has been fostered by the Evangelism Committee. The class will be taught by Larry Reynolds.*

New Class Begins— *The "Foundations" Class will begin on 9:30 Sunday Morning, December 7th. It is a class that will help us to learn and have good foundations of Bible truths. Gary Reynolds will teach the class in the old printing room that has now been dubbed, "The Foundations Room.."*

Watch— *for the boxes that will be placed in the east foyer to hold the gifts for SHO kids. Hats and gloves will be bought the day after Thanksgiving. Monetary donations for those purchases will be greatly appreciated. The deadline to give money for coats and gloves is November 25th. Other gifts, by November 30th.*

Monetary Donations —*for lotion and book-marks are currently being requested. These gifts will be sent to ladies of India in January.*

Happy Birthday!

Ann—Nov 18
Delores—Nov 25
Rachel C—Nov 27
Julie—Nov 29
Carl—Nov. 30
John—Dec 13



Looking Ahead

Nov. 23, Boys' Song Leading today at 3:00 p.m. At the building.

Nov. 23, Girls' Song Leading at 4:30 this afternoon. At the building.

Nov. 23, Benevolence Meeting at the building after evening service tonight.

Nov. 25, 8:00a, Men's Fellowship Breakfast at IHOP

Nov. 25, 10:00 a.m., Women's breakfast at IHOP

Nov. 30, Young Ladies to lead singing at Elmcroft, 2:00 p.m. This assisted living facility is where Forrest Hurst resides.

Nov. 30, Young men in "Lads to Leaders" will lead in worship on Sunday evening.

Dec. 13, Elder and Deacon Meeting at the building, 10:00 a.m.

Will Not Meet this Week:

- Chronological Bible Reading on Thursday
- College and High School Devotions on Thursday
- Bible Bowl on Saturday

The Ladies Deep Bible Study scheduled for this Thursday will be held on December 4th.



God Speed to all the Snowbirds. To all at West Side, have a safe and wonderful holiday wherever you go or wherever you stay. Always remember the road leads back to West Side Church of Christ.