

L.I.F.E. SUPPORT NEWSLETTER

VOL. 1 Stanley Sherman, Editor 541-998-8989 stansherman@comcast.net **NO. 1**

EDITOR'S NOTE: Wishing all of you a *HAPPY NEW YEAR!!* Thank you for taking the time to read this edition of what was formerly the *EFFECTIVE EVANGELISM NEWSLETTER*. Actually, evangelism will still remain the main focus of this ezine, with a little more expansion to the content. So what is L.I.F.E.? It's an idea that I have been working on for some time that I would like to see implemented every congregation. Among God's call to us through His word for service, there are four major areas of service, providing opportunities for *every* member of a congregation and utilizing *every* talent among the members. **IT IS A PLAN THAT WILL BRING *LIFE* TO YOUR CONGREGATION THROUGH MEANINGFUL AND ENTHUSIASTIC SERVICE. WATCH YOUR MEMBERS AND YOUR CONGREGATION GROW!** Let's look at this acrostic, L.I.F.E....

L--LOOKING FOR LOST SHEEP: An ongoing effort to seek out and recover those members of the church who have become negligent, who have backslidden away from Christ or who are unfaithful for years. (GALATIANS 6:1-2; JAMES 5:19-20). There may be folks in your congregation that would like to team up and focus on this vital work that Christ calls us to. Efforts through phone calls, letters, prayer sessions and visitation can be coordinated and tracked.

I --INTO THE FIELD WITH THE GOSPEL: A coordinated effort to go out into the community to develop interest in Bible studies that will help lead lost souls to Christ. (JOHN 4:35; ACTS 20:20; MATTHEW 28:18-20; MARK 16:16). The best approach is to follow up of referrals from members of the congregation. You can also go out as a team into targeted areas for Saturday evangelism. There are many ways, from distributing DVD's and tracts to various types of home Bible studies and Bible Correspondence Courses.

F--FOLLOW UP WITH NEW CHRISTIANS: An effort to help new babes in Christ to grow spiritually and disciple others through teaching, training, edifying, mentoring, involvement and encouragement. (MATTHEW 28:20; ACTS 19:8-12; GALATIANS 6:2 2 TIMOTHY 2:2; I PETER 4:8-11).

E--EVERYTHING ELSE...EDIFICATIOIN...ENCOURAGEMENT...EDUCATION...etc:

Here is where the supportive activities for the first three areas of service take place. Everything from prayer teams to newspaper clippers (for birth and death announcements, achievements, etc. to provide to those in outreach), from writers of pre-designed letters to distributing tracts or mail-outs. Benevolence outreach, training classes for supporting L.I.F. operations, and many and any other activity can be done in this area. (MATTHEW 27:55; I TIMOTHY 4:11-13; 2 TIMOTHY 2:24-25; TITUS 2). The ultimate goal of anything we do in the Lord's service should be the salvation of the soul.--*Stan*.

THIS YEARS 5TH SUNDAY SINGING SCHEDULE:

JANUARY 31--Grant Street Church of Christ in Lebanon, OR--2 PM.
210 E. Grant Street.

MAY 30-----Church of Christ, 127 Heffley St. N--Monmouth, OR--2 PM.

AUGUST 29----Eugene Church of Christ, 2424 Norkenzie Road--Eugene--2 PM.

OCTOBER 31---McKenzie Church of Christ, 3305 Main St.--Springfield, OR--2 PM.

A SPECIAL INVITATION!!...

JOIN US AGAIN THIS SUMMER IN THE BEAUTIFUL SOUTHERN WILLAMETTE VALLEY OF OREGON FOR THE--

4th of JULY MEETING and VBS
at the LANCASTER CHURCH OF CHRIST
(2 miles north of Junction City)

JULY 1-5

Theme:

GOD'S HOMELAND SECURITY

THURSDAY--JULY 1...10 AM - VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

7:30 PM--**GOD'S HOMELAND SECURITY--THE NEED**--Stanley Sherman (formerly with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and is also an evangelist).

FRIDAY--JULY 2.....10 AM - VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

7:30 PM--**WORKING WITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS**--Lee Wright (District Chairman of *Learning for Life*--the Boy Scout's character education program in public schools. Lee is also on the board of the *Smart Reading Program* for schools, on the board of directors of *Dornbecher Children's Hospital*, and is on the Northwest Inspection team for scouting camps, and is also an evangelist).

SATURDAY--JULY 3....10 AM - VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

2:00 PM--**HOME SCHOOLING**--Aiden Humphrey (third-year graduate student in Architecture at the University of Oregon and a very successful home-school teacher and also an evangelist).

7:30 PM--**MARRIAGE, HOME AND FAMILY SECURITY AND ANGER MANAGEMENT**--Brian Leavit (former U.S. Marshall and community leader and is also an evangelist).

SUNDAY--JULY 4 WORSHIP SERVICES

10:00 AM--**THE CHURCH AND NATIONAL SECURITY**--Mark Tremarche (area evangelist).

11:00 AM--**THE SECURITY OF THE CHURCH**--Ernest Coburn (former evangelist and leader in the church).

Light lunch will follow the morning services followed by **AREA SINGING**--2 PM.

4:00 PM--**SECURITY OF THE SOUL, GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION**--Mike Manning of Long Beach California. He is a high school math teacher as well as an active church leader.

Following our afternoon presentation there will be a **COMMUNITY BAR-B-QUE** and fellowship with more singing and activities as we await the evening Harrisburg Fireworks, which are visible from the grounds.

MONDAY--JULY 5 Light breakfast and devotional to send off those traveling from a distance.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!

A GREAT IDEA FOR THE NEW YEAR!!

We have launched an interesting project for this year in the congregation that we call **PROJECT 15**. The number 15 figures prominently throughout the Bible and is particularly significant when we read Paul's instruction to Timothy in 2 TIMOTHY 2:2 "*And the things*

that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou unto faithful men who shall be able to teach others also." This is a perfect example of practical discipleship.

We are urging our members to each seek to influence 2 people this year (whether it be in soul-winning, or a prayer team situation, or benevolence, whatever), and train these two to train 2 more who will train 20 more. You train two and mentor the scenario through fruition. If you count yourself and the others, it totals 15 active disciples, and hopefully a chain reaction continues into new groupings of 15.

Our first PROJECT 15 assignment is one you may want to start in your area as well:

A PRAYER FOR THE SCHOOL ZONES

On June 25, 1962, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down prayer in public schools in the case of Engel vs Vitale. That little prayer, which was the focus of the court decision, was a simple little prayer of only 22 words with 4 simple requests:

"Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence upon Thee, and beg thy blessings upon us, our parents, our teachers, and our country. Amen."

Of the 4 aspects of this little prayer, in which God was asked to bless, the Supreme Court in essence said, *"It is a matter of public policy that we don;t want God's blessings upon our students, or our teachers. Nor do we want His blessings upon our families or our country."*

Do you believe that such a bold decision could go forward without consequences? A noted historian, David Barton, did a study of the U.S. Government's own *Statistical Abstracts* of data on each of these 4 areas of that little prayer: students, teachers, families and the nation, to see what effects there might have been in each of these areas in the years following that Supreme Court decision. Not surprisingly, there was a dramatic decline of student S.A.T. scores. Teacher proficiency scores plummeted as well. A sharp increase in families occurred, and our nation rapidly began unraveling its moral base--with dramatic increases in drugs, crime and moral decay. It is as if God said, *"Alright, you don't want My hand in these 4 areas? Okay, I shall remove My hand of protection and blessings from your students, your teachers, your families and the nation. Your Supreme Court has spoken as a representative of the people of the United States."*

That decision in 1962 was but the first of a series of decisions to remove the knowledge of God and the influence of Christianity from our public schools and other public places. And, our nation continues to decline and suffer the consequences of those disastrous Supreme Court decisions.

We may not be able to restore prayers verbally in public schools anymore; but what if we could send that little prayer back into the public schools in the hearts and minds of our children and grandchildren who must attend there? It would be far more powerful than a rote recitation lacking Jesus' name anyway!

Here's the plan--a short **15 word, 15 second prayer** that you can pray aloud (in front of your children, grandchildren, or anyone else in the car) as you drive through the school zone at **15 MPH**, and it's easy to memorize:

"Bless students, teachers, parents and our nation with truth, righteousness and honoring God--through Jesus."

Now, share this with two other people you know, who will share it with two others, who will share it with two. Watch it spread!! Put this idea on the internet and let it spread nationwide.

Share with me your successes. God bless you.

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