

Our booth at the **Old Settler's Day** celebration was very successful. We had many people sign up for the Bibles and DVD's. We were able to have several good conversations and will invite all those who signed up to participate in Bible Studies at their convenience. It is our hope souls will be brought to Christ as a result of this effort.

Our Gospel Meeting with **Greg Gwin** is scheduled for September 25-28. Please bring a friend if at all possible.

Visit our website at lenexachurchofchrist.org



SEPTEMBER 18, 2011

THE CHANGING SCENE OF EVANGELISM *Jim Stauffer*

When Jesus told His disciples to, "go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature", He did not specify how to get there or how to assemble an audience when they reached a specific location.

Of course we know Paul usually started at the local synagogue and ended in the home of the converts or even at places such as the school of Tyrannus.

When he went to Philippi he found women worshipping at the riverside. He began to preach to that group and eventually gained the attention of others in the city.

We see then how the Apostle Paul, guided by the Holy Spirit, used the local social scene to gain the attention of people already gathered to hear the message of Christ.

Today as we continue to fulfill this command to preach the gospel, we too must survey the social scene and work within it to get the message out.

There are many avenues of technology we can use and do from time to time. Radio and television are still used but not as frequently as before. Many people have their attention diverted from these to the internet and its varied social outlets. In keeping with that we have a website where people can learn about us.

But how do we find specific individuals to whom we can teach the saving power of the blood of Christ? Even though the social scene from the first century to now has changed very much, people have not. As the New Testament Christians gathered in their homes with their friends we do today as well. If we can get people to our house for a party to sell home products or beauty aids, why can we not get them to attend a Bible Study?

Lenexa church of Christ
7845 Cottonwood
Lenexa KS 6216
913-631-6519

Send a Copy to a Friend

Evangelist:
Jim Stauffer

MEETING TIMES
Sunday - Bible Classes: 9:30AM
Worship Services 10:20AM & 5:00PM
Wednesday - Bible Classes 7:00PM
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Lenexa church of Christ

It only takes one person interested in spiritual matters to become two and then three and so on. If you wish to talk about politics, sports or health issues there is no shortage of people interested in participation. Trust me when I say you are giving your friends a much greater opportunity when you introduce them to a study of New Testament Christianity than with these other things with which we occupy ourselves.

So, let us find our friends in the address book on our computer, or in the address book in the drawer at the house and vow to invite them to hear a brief presentation of New Testament Christianity. They may find it interesting enough to come back for some further lessons. If they don't come back it should be no more embarrassing than the person who does not buy your home products or beauty aids. And think about the good you have done when one or two come back to learn more. Furthermore, think about what has been accomplished if no one comes back. They have heard at least a portion of the gospel of Christ. Some seed has been sown. It may produce fruit later.

Answer for yourself. Are you really looking for an opportunity to lead souls to Christ?

The Church's Purpose

What is the purpose of the Lord's church? Is it to eradicate poverty, disease, social injustice, illiteracy from among men? Is it to bring about a cessation of war and conflict? Is it to campaign for a temptation-free society for Christians to live in?

If the church had as one of its great goals the eradication of disease, the Lord could have easily equipped it to accomplish that goal. Could not the same power that enabled one blind man to see have enabled all blind man to see; that enabled one lame man to walk have enabled all lame people to walk; that cured many people of varied diseases have cured all people of all diseases? And could not this same power have been given to the church in all generations?

If the church has as one of its great goals the eradication of poverty, the Lord could have easily equipped it to accomplish this purpose. After all, He fed the five thousand with five loaves and two fishes. He similarly fed four thousand on another occasion. Could not He who did these marvelous works have enabled His church in all generations to feed, clothe, and shelter the impoverished masses of the world through miraculous powers?

If the Lord had wanted His church to become a lobbyist group to apply political pressure toward a temptation and persecution free society in which to live, He would have given instructions in that direction. He did not even lead His church into a direct effort to destroy slavery, but taught the Christian slave to be a better slave and the Christian master to treat his slaves as he would have his heavenly Master treat him (Col. 3:22-4:1).

The church's purpose is to save souls and prepare people for eternity- It holds out to the impoverished the hope of some day walking a street of gold; to the suffering a time when there will be no pain; to the sorrowing a moment when "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." It tells the tempted and persecuted that there is value in these afflictions, that the testing of their faith is "more precious than of gold," and to rejoice. It tells all to live godly lives in whatever environment they find themselves. It seeks to change people through the power of the gospel, not society through the coercion of legislators. Its weapons "are not carnal, but are mighty through God." Its motivating theme: "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

When churches become involved in hospital and health clinic work, or when they build schools for the education of their children, or when they see as one of their great missions to provide for the world's poverty, or when they feel obligated to create social upheaval and campaign for human rights, or when they feel called upon to express their views on the government's use of nuclear armaments or whatever, they have a distorted view of the purpose of the church.

- by Bill Hall

Faithfulness

A preacher was asked to define "faithful attendance at worship." He replied that the best way to understand it was to apply the same standards of faithfulness that we do in other areas of our life. Consider the examples he gave:

If your car started one out of three times, would you consider it faithful?

If the paperboy missed Monday and Thursday, would those papers be missed?

If you didn't show up at work two or three times a month, would your boss call you faithful?

If you attend worship only often enough to show some interest but not often enough to get involved are you faithful?

It bears some serious thought.

- selected

There'll be no downgrades in heaven

Where all will be blest there with plenty

Who have heeded the words of the Master

By investing in Matt. 6:20

There'll be no speeches to Congress in heaven

No political deal there to make

For most of our elected officials

Will have been consigned to the Lake

by Grant Clothier