

INTENTIONAL

*What it Means
to be Christian*

BUILD IT

January 7, 2018

Ralph Nygard, Lead Pastor

FROM THE PASTOR

I recently read an article in Christianity Today that stated that unchurched people are not as open to going to church today as they were years ago. Our method to getting people to know Christ was to invite them to church, and then they would come and hear the message of salvation from the preacher and respond.

People today are not against the church, rather they are apathetic. It is a proven fact that people are willing to consider Jesus when they like and trust the Christians they know. Invitations to church given by strangers are not as nearly effective as invitations that come from friends.

People need to know us before they can trust us. And they need to trust us before they'll go to church with us. We have to be the church before they'll go to church. But what does that look like today? If we want to reach our neighbors for Christ we need to start by

1. Praying for Them. People that we know who do not know Christ need to consume our prayer life. **2. Build Relationships with No Strings Attached.** We need to stop recruiting people and just love people like Jesus did. He'll take care of the rest. We need to

3. Invest in a Long Term Process. It often will take years to get people interested in church and a relationship with Christ. It is important that we **4. Live with Integrity.** Virtually every poll shows that people have less faith in our major institutions, including the church, than ever. The reason? Lack of integrity. We need to live upright and Holy lives. Trust is easy to lose and hard to earn. And it's even harder to earn back. **5. Talk About**

Life, Not Just About the Church. If Jesus influences every area of our lives (which he does) then we should connect with people in every area of our lives, including the non-churchy parts. **6. Stop Connecting Faith to Politics and Denominations.** The gospel of Jesus is bigger than our political parties, national pride, denominations and creeds combined. We need to stop talking as if every Christian shares our political view or denominational distinctives.

7. Be More Joyful, Less Mean. There are too many mean Christians around us. We need to Live Joyfully because it is deeper than niceness, stronger than meanness, and rabidly contagious. **8. Live a Life of Generosity.** It's time for the church to be known as the crazy people who are always giving things away. Let's show people that faith in Jesus is more about giving than receiving. **9. Be Authentic, Even If It Means Being Different.** It's better to be authentic than relevant. Don't hide your quirks, embrace them. If Jesus doesn't cause us to live differently, what's the point? But here's the challenge: we need to live differently without coming across as "look at me, I'm better than you."

10. Be Available. Most people who come to Jesus as adults do so because of trauma. God hard-wired us to reach out for help when bad things happen. People don't reach out to a church when they're hurting, they reach out to a friend. And if that friend is also a believer, then that friend can bring Jesus in just when he's needed the most. But we must resist the temptation to switch into recruitment mode when people are in trauma. There are few things more inappropriate than leveraging someone else's pain for our own agenda, even if that agenda is a good one. When people are hurting, be available and let Jesus do the rest. **11. Make Fewer Statements, Have More Conversations.** Seminary taught me how to preach and teach. But it didn't teach me how to listen. The best on ramp for breaking through the apathy barrier is showing people that you care. And the best way to start doing that is to listen to them. There's a time and place for big truths to be declared with big, bold statements. Jesus did it. So should we. But our conversations should be graced by listening and sharing about the needs of those who we care about. That's where he earned people's trust. That's where we'll earn it, too.

In His Service,

Pastor Ralph

WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!

We are so glad you made it today!

- Grab an info packet in the lobby and a Bible from the information desk
- There is a mother-baby suite in the NE corner of the Worship Center
- Babies and Preschoolers can join us in the preschool area
- 1st-6th Graders, your groups meet at 9:15-10:15AM and you'll be released to "Energize" from the 10:30 Service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• 2018 Offering Envelopes

If you have not picked yours up, please do so today. They are available outside the Media Library. If you would like envelopes, please indicate on your connect card and they will be made available the next week.

• Adult Fellowship Potluck this Tuesday at Noon

This Fellowship time is open to ANYONE and EVERYONE. Guests are encouraged! No reservations are needed! Just bring a side dish for the provided chicken. The program this Tuesday will feature Bobby Kelly, professional vocalist who sings in the style of Frank Sinatra/Tony Bennett.

• Melbourne Gospel Jubilee: Triumphant Quartet: Sat

Tickets are \$10 and a free will offering will be taken. Tickets may be purchased in advance at: MELBOURNEGOSPELJUBILEE.COM or at the door if available. Will Call and Ticket sales open the day of at 5:30 PM, doors open at 6 PM, and concert starts at 7 PM.

• Movie Night - War Room: Jan 21 at 6 PM

Invite your friends and come enjoy the movie *War Room*. Find out how prayer can be a vital part of your life. It is a movie you do not want to miss!

• The Qualities of Faith: Unlocking the puzzle of Christian Character

What does it mean to be a Christian? This study examines nine qualities of Christian character or what Paul called the "fruit of the spirit": Please join the Women Warriors Bible Study on Tuesday mornings at 9:15 AM for this exciting study.

• Women's Ministry Kick Off Party: Jan 20: 11 AM

Come help us kick off the New Year! All women and youth girls are invited to come. Bring your favorite brunch food and have a great time. Sign up using the connect card. Contact Stephanie Whitley (321-872-4034) or Linda Hayes (321-243-9015) with any questions .

OUR MISSION:

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE, SHARE JESUS, REACH THE WORLD

THIS WEEK AT EG FIRST!!

Sunday, January 7:

Prayer First: 8:30 AM - Room 104 and Conference Room

Library Open: 8:45 - 9:15 AM

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Revolution United Bible Study: 9:15 AM

Revolution Worship: 6 PM (doors open at 5 PM)

Tuesday, January 9:

Ironman Lifegroup: 9:15 AM (Rm 202)

Women Warriors Bible Study: 9:15 AM (Rm 201)

Library Open: 9:30 AM

Adult Fellowship Luncheon: Noon (Worship Center)

Phebean SS Class Mtg: 6 PM (Fellowship Hall)

Deacon's Meeting: 7 PM

Wednesday, January 10:

Men's Life Group: 1:30 PM (Conference Room)

Dinner Served: 5 PM

Library Open: 5:45 PM

Wednesday Night Programs: 6:15 PM

Praise Band Rehearsal: 6:30 PM

Traditional Choir Rehearsal: 7:30 PM

Thursday, January 11:

Threads of Love: 9 AM (Fellowship Hall)

Friday, January 12:

Light Class: Meeting: 6 PM (400AB)

Saturday, January 13:

Melbourne Gospel Jubilee: 7 PM (Worship Center)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

01/14: Walter Mora, Krissy Frontz

01/15: LeeAnn Brown

01/16: Jack Vernezze

01/17: Audrey Surette,

01/18: Sue Carden

01/19: Douglas Park, Wanda Mauldin, Asa Srein

SYMPATHY AND LOVE

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to Sue and Joffre Perreault in the death of Sue's sister, Ruth.

IN MEMORY OR HONOR

To Benevolence

In Memory of Paul Freeburger by Brenda White

In Memory of Earl French by Mr. and Mrs. E.J. Kumer

In Memory of Bebe Ballard's son by Mr. and Mrs. E.J. Kumer

To Lottie Moon

In Memory of Chaplain Joe Hunt by Brenda White

Sun, Jan 21

6 PM
Worship Center



FROM THE CREATORS OF FIREPROOF AND COURAGEOUS
WAR ROOM
PRAYER IS A POWERFUL WEAPON

Facts and Figures December 31, 2017

Weekend Worship Attendance 407

Weekly Budget Needed 18,191.27

Budget Offering	21,767.75
Designated	2,830.00
CTB Debt Retirement	534.00
Lottie Moon	1,715.00

Total Offering 26,846.75

To Date Figures

Budget Goal	945,946.04
Received	981,802.91
CTB Gifts	2,528,791.50
CTB Year	20,669.05
Lottie Moon	16,422.00

Wednesday Night Dinner January 10, 2017

Suggested Donation
\$5 Adult...\$3 Child...\$15 family

Beef Stroganoff over pasta, buttered corn,
roll, fruit cup

Entree Salad:
Chef Salad

No Reservations Needed

Deacons on Call Jan 7 - Jan 13

Craig Helpling	693-3040
Jim Offner	537-2147
Joe Mazzella	(347)538-3030

WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE

Galatians 2:20 (ESV) "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

9:15 am Sunday Traditional Worship

Choral Praise: Be Not Afraid

Fellowship Time: I Love You with the Love of the Lord

Message in Song: Jesus is Coming Soon - Master's Men Quartet

Worship Songs Today:

Word of God Across the Ages
Standing on the Promises
This Joy that I Have
Thy Word

Seek Ye First
Have Thine Own Way
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

10:30 AM Sunday Contemporary Worship

Worship Songs Today:

Children of Light
Glorious Day
Spirit of the Living God

Lead Me to the Cross
Lord I Need You
In the River

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



This week's Volunteer of the Week is actually two people, Paul and Erin Shung. Together the Shung's have played an instrumental role in the worship teams for both our Traditional and Contemporary services. We are so thankful for all of the time they both put in to practice and preparation for each Sunday service. Let them know how much you appreciate all they do, to help worship on Sunday mornings.

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