

News:

Potluck this morning after services.

Prayer List:

Healing: Jerry Robinson's mother Norma. Mike and Sandy Cavasos, Ben Atchley, Faye Atchley, Nicolas and Annie Self, Jonda Gardner, Dave Morse, Richard Tuey.

Back issues are posted at
<http://saffordchurchofchrist.org>



COME HEAR WHAT GOD IS DOING IN NIGERIA
THROUGH THE MISSION WORK OF

African Family Resource International

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE ANNUAL

AFRI FUNDRAISING DINNER 2013

SATURDAY – 6:00 TO 8:30 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 14, 2013

Guest Speaker:

Dr. Lynn Nelson of Albany, Georgia

HOSTED THIS YEAR AT:
NORTHGATE CHURCH OF CHRIST
16612 NORTH 21ST AVENUE
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85023

DINNER TICKETS: \$25.00 PER PERSON.

100% OF THE PROCEEDS GO TO THE AFRI MISSION WORK THAT IS BEING DONE IN NIGERIA.
CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOMED AND APPRECIATED.

CONTACTS: KEVIN BURNS • EMAIL: kandoburns@cox.net • (602) 686-2030
NATE PHILLIPS • EMAIL: nphillips50@aol.com • (602) 309-6688

Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

15 September 2013

Topics

A.M. Bible Class: The Holy Spirit and Us

A.M. Lesson: The Appropriate Response

John 18:28-19:16

P.M. Lesson: I Am About to Do a New Thing

Isaiah 43:14-28

Wednesday: Rehoboam

1 Kings 14:21 ff

Notes

Pulpit Evangelist

Ken Knowlton: 428-3494

Elders

Ben Atchley: 428-2246

Greg Briggs: 428-8756

John Cunningham: 428-0895

Services

Sunday Bible Class	10:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:30 P.M.
Wednesday Evening Class	6:30 P.M.
Thursday Ladies Bible Class	10:00 A.M.

The following article is a condensed excerpt from the book *Disciples are Made, Not Born* (Walter Henrichsen. Colorado Springs: Victor. 1974. 83-86). It is a small part of a larger presentation of ideas (to be taken or left) for helping new Christians to become lifelong disciples of Christ. I present it here just for further thought. In the Brotherhood, we are pretty good at making converts but pretty lacking in making disciples.

Ensure a Proper Diet

The proper spiritual diet for a new Christian should include at least:

1. *A consistent quiet time.*

In Mark 1:35 we read of one of the habits the Lord Jesus developed. "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed" [KJV]. Each day should

begin with a brief period of fellowship with the Lord, for thus the believer gets his spiritual nourishment for the day. The quiet time should include a time of prayer and some time in the Word. The simple acrostic ACTS is useful in helping a person get started in prayer.

Adoration – Begin with a time of worship, praying over the greatness of God. Encourage the new Christian to use some of the great prayers in the Bible such as that in 1 Chronicles 29:11-14.

Confession – This is a time of acknowledging our sinfulness and our dependence on the Lord. “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *ours* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). This verse is the Christian’s bar of soap. Let us imagine that my little child, acting in disobedience, goes outside and plays in the mud. As she comes in crying and asking for forgiveness, not only do I forgive her, but I take her into the bathroom, wash her from head to foot, and wash her clothes so that, when we are through, it is as though she had never been outside. This is the promise the Lord Jesus makes to the believer in 1 John 1:9.

Thanksgiving – The long list of sins mentioned in Romans 1 begins with the phrase in verse 21, “neither were thankful.” Early in the Christian life the believer must learn the importance of being thankful. This part of the prayer time consists of enumerating the many blessings bestowed on us by our gracious God. Scripture says, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (James 1:17).

Supplication – We spend time praying for others – our families, friends, church, country. Help the young Christian to be consistent in having his quiet time by initially having it with him. For example, have a quiet time with him every morning during the first week of his new walk with the Lord. During the second week, meet with him every other morning, and then once a week for the next month or two.

Encourage him to begin with a short period of time with the Lord rather than with a protracted time. It is better to have seven minutes with the Lord consistently every day and stay with it, than to begin by having one hour with the Lord every morning, and then quit in discouragement.

2. Bible reading.

“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby” (1 Peter 2:2). Start the young Christian with a small portion, preferably from the New Testament or the Psalms and incorporate it in his quiet time.

One method that has worked with a great deal of success is to read a paragraph or two and, as you meditate on it, circle or mark one verse that is particularly meaningful. This becomes the favorite verse for the morning.

Do this for six mornings, each morning picking out a favorite verse. Then during the quiet time on the seventh morning, review the six favorite verses, and pick out the one that is the favorite among the favorites. That verse can then be written on a small card and memorized.

3. Bible study.

The most important goal of follow-up is to teach the young Christian how to feed himself from the Word of God. Expose him to mature Christians who can feed him, and thus teach him “the whole counsel of God,” but remember this can never be a substitute for the person learning how to feed himself.

I remember in those early days of little Deborah’s life what a joy it was to hold her and feed her. There she was, nestled in my arms – two eyes, a nose, and a bottle. As she became older, however, we encouraged her to learn to feed herself. So important was this to us as parents that we did not even mind when she used her fingers to eat. We knew that the process of teaching her how to eat graciously would be slow and arduous. But it was essential.

In the initial stages of follow-up, you will have to do most of the feeding of the new babe. For many new Christians, the task of learning how to feed themselves from the Word of God is laborious. It has a tendency to appear legalistic and unfruitful. For this reason, the new Christian will often be tempted to quit trying. Realizing this temptation, you will have to work closely with him, encouraging him to stay with it.

There are some good Bible-study helps on the market today. Whatever Bible-study method is employed, it should include a period of time when the young Christian prepares the study on his own, and then a period of time when he meets together with a group of people who also have done the study and who share their results and learn from one another. In the early weeks of learning how to do Bible study, you will want to prepare the lesson with the new Christian. There is just no substitute for going through these growth processes step by step.

What is the Measure of Your Worth?

Your paycheck will never be an accurate measure of what you are worth. Your true value cannot be gauged by dollars or friends or numbers of any kind. If you want to know what you are really worth, consider this: Christ traveled the distance from Heaven to earth . . . for you. To do what? To die. For you! That is how much you are loved. On the cross, Christ made clear for all eternity, to every being above the earth, and on the earth, and under the earth, how much he thinks you are worth. – Nathan Mellor