

# Heaven

May 25, 2008

*"In my Father's house are many dwelling places... I go to prepare a place for*

Volume 1, No. 13

## Charlestown Road Church of Christ

4601 Charlestown Rd.  
New Albany, IN 47150  
812-945-0664

### Web site:

www.Charlestownroadchurchof-  
christ.com

## Our Services

### Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 am  
Worship: 10:20 am  
Evening: 5:00 pm

### Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

### Our Preachers:

Roger Shouse 816-260-1257  
Patrick Cawthon 813-817-2810

### Our Elders:

Larry Beckham 502-777-7720  
Bill Densford 812-944-8446



Welcome to all those who are  
visiting with us today! We are  
glad to have you with us!

## Invitations



Invitations are a regular part of our worship services. We are accustomed to them. We notice if they are missing. At the end of a sermon the preacher "offers the invitation." He invites those who want to respond to the gospel call to be saved. I am a believer in invitations. Preachers are trying to persuade the audience to obey Jesus Christ. Without an invitation, a sermon becomes a "speech." Preachers are not informing an audience, they are set about the task of reasoning and convincing people to change for Christ.

Recently, I got to thinking about invitations. Here are a few thoughts that I want to share with you.

### First, we can ruin the invitation by all the commotion of getting ready to leave.

Some look at the invitation as the "two minute warning" before we leave, so they gather up books, bundle up all their stuff, put on jackets, sweaters, stuff book bags with paper and pens. Some even leave just to "beat the crowd." All of this makes noise. It drowns out the invitation. It also sends a message that the invitation isn't that important. IT IS! It may be the most important part of the sermon.

Instead, you need to listen to the invitation. Even though you may have been baptized, you may find in your heart the need for prayers of others. You may indeed, want to repent yourself. During the invitation, say a specific prayer for

someone in the audience that you know needs to put on Christ in baptism. Your prayer along with God's word may lead that very person to obey Jesus.

Interestingly, in the New Testament, we do not read of formal invitations at the end of lessons. Jesus never said, "Come forward and be baptized as we stand and sing." In fact, in the New Testament, the calling or begging of people to obey Christ is not common. Ananias asked Saul why he delayed (Acts 22:16). Peter commanded Cornelius to be baptized (Acts 10:48). Mostly, Christ was presented honestly and truthfully. When people understood Jesus, they asked, they interrupted, they begged to obey Christ.

Acts 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "brethren, what shall we do?"

Acts 8:36 And as they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized."

Acts 16:30 "And after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

Do you know Jesus? Why not obey Him? Why not today?! Don't wait to be asked...

# Ways to Share the Gospel

Prov 11:30b "...he who wins souls is wise."

There are many wonderful ways for each of us to be busy using opportunities to teach our friends the gospel. Here are just a few suggestions:

- Invite them to services.
- Ask them to have a home Bible study.
- Mail a tract.
- Leave a tract with your tip at a restaurant
- Give Bibles or good religious books as gifts
- Place flyers about "gospel meetings" on bulletin boards at work.
- Get a cd of a sermon that you think will be helpful and give it to a friend.
- Invite a non-Christian family over for dinner and include someone from the congregation
- Speak positively about the Lord and His church.
- Make copies of the Sunday bulletin and give them to friends.
- Be supplied at work, with some extra bulletins, some tracts, and of course a Bible. You may find times when you wished you had something to give to a co-worker
- Meet the neighbors and invite them to services. This works well with new neighbors.
- Send a friendly letter to our visitors. You can do this even if it is not your group night. Ask the deacons for a list of the visitors.
- Pray for opportunities. The Lord will provide!



## Family Connections

### News for You

- **Marriage Enrichment** retreat is August 13-14. See Larry for details. Space is limited!
- There are many activities going on. Check the bulletin board for details.
- The **Wagner's, Merry's** are out of town today
- The **Shouse** family has officially arrived. Address: 11520 Yorktown Blvd Sellersburg, IN

### For your Prayers:

- **Imogene Hendricks** had to have more back surgery yesterday. She remains in the hospital.
- **Nora and Loren Mann** have had some recent health issues.
- The mother of **Camille Corley** was in an auto accident in FL. She broke her arm and was admitted to the hospital.
- **Ellen Whipple's** has requested prayers for her brother who is fighting cancer.
- The elders requested that we pray for **Greg & Marsha Powell**. They are going through

### Death of Malcom Hall

**Malcom** passed from this life Friday afternoon. Remember **Charlene** at this time.

- Visitation will be tomorrow from 4:00-7:00 pm at Grayson funeral home in Charlestown. Funeral immediately following at 7:00 pm.

### Dates for Fall Meeting

Our Fall Gospel Meeting will be with **JR Bronger**. The dates will be **Sept 28-Oct 1** (Sunday-Wednesday). Mark your calendars!

**To make a better world, make a better you!**