



Simple and Refreshing Evangelism

Imagine, in your mind, the summers that the people of Jesus' day experienced. They lived in a very dry land that was parched by the sun. They worked diligently to have substantial crops, yet the dry conditions often gave devastating results. Imagine the people as they travel from place to place. They walk every distance. They had no such luxuries as we do today. Their feet would be calloused and filthy from the creeping dust of the roads. Imagine the workload of the villages. The people would work from sun up to sun down to do all that was necessary to live a productive life. The heat of the sun would beat down on their backs making their work, at time, unbearable. What is the one thing that could bring refreshment to a weary traveler? What is the one thing that could relieve the stress of the burdened worker? For obvious reasons the most refreshing thing that could be offered was a cup of cold water.

The truth that Jesus presented in Matthew 10:42 cannot be overstated. In his dry and thirsty society Jesus said, "And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward." Jesus' words couldn't have been more simple and yet more powerful to the people of his day. In its context, Jesus is speaking of those who receive His followers. He reminds them of the blessings that are in store for those who bless His servants. But I also think that there is another powerful application that need not be missed. From this passage, I believe that He is showing us that the small, simple acts of compassion that we show to others do not go unseen nor are they forgotten. Jesus' point was that little things, in this case a cup of cold water, can be used to make a huge difference. A cup of cold water is a huge thing when you are thirsty. If a cup of cold water is given in Jesus' name then it becomes a gift given to the Lord Himself. Do you remember what Jesus spoke in Matthew 25:41-46? His words were clear and strong. He said, "Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and **you gave me nothing to drink**; I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me. Then they themselves also will answer, Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You? Then He will answer them, Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me." The choice is up to us. Will we serve Christ by serving others or will refuse to serve others and thus not serve Christ? The choice is yours.

Serving others is rarely easy. We must be aware, though, that a cup of cold water in Jesus' day was not an easy thing. They didn't have the convenience of "tap" water. Electricity was far from a reality. Refrigerators weren't in any homes. Obtaining cold water was quite a chore. The only way to get "cold" water was to get fresh water from a well or fresh body of water. So, if one was going to give a gift of cold water he'd have to make some necessary arrangements. For starters, he'd have to have a willing spirit to do whatever it took to bless someone. Next, he'd have to make personal sacrifices. He'd have to sacrifice his time and conveniences in order to go to the well and retrieve the fresh water. Typically, he'd have to be patient, because in that custom you served water until the guest was content. This could have required several trips. This was indeed no easy task, yet it was the one that Jesus encouraged his followers to fulfill.

While the significance of a cup of cold water has in some ways lost its significance, due to our conveniences and technologies, there are still many ways today that we can serve others with simple acts of kindness done in Jesus' name. You can give lunch to a homeless person. You can provide general home maintenance for a senior citizen. You can purchase groceries for a shut-in. You can mow the lawn for a neighbor. You can offer a free car wash for the people on your street. You can visit the local jail and pray with the inmates. You can volunteer to help the Caring Pregnancy Center or the Emergency Assistance Program. And, yes, you can still give a cup of water in Jesus' name. These acts of kindness, when done in Jesus' name can be a powerful tool in evangelism. Please know that we must still tell the people about Jesus. We must still pray for the people that we are serving. But, in many cases, these acts of kindness help plow the fields to get them ready for the harvest. A farmer who wants to see a harvest never just throws the seed out onto the ground and waits to see what happens. A wise farmer always prepares the ground and then plants the seed. These simple acts of kindness help us earn the right to be heard. Evangelism doesn't always have to be difficult. If we heed Jesus' teaching we will find, in most cases, that evangelism is simple and refreshing to us and to others.

In Christ,

Pastor Matthew

P.S. If you are looking for a way to participate in Simple and Refreshing Evangelism be sure to look at the calendar of upcoming events. In the month of May we will be participating in the Freedom Homes Festival, Christiansburg Soccer Family Day, and the Relay for Life. I invite you to serve with us as we offer "cups of cold water" in Jesus name.



Praise Report!!!!

Recently Baptized
James Berry

New Members
*Axel & Florinda
Grossman*

Attendance for
Easter Sunday
381- Worship Services
68- Sunrise Service

FAMILY PASTORS CORNER

Is Our Spiritual Food Take(N)-Out?
Col 1:24-28

The Great Commission of Jesus Christ to His Church is to "Go...". With Spring having sprung we find ourselves all of a sudden very busy going OUT to festivals, ballparks and other places where people gather for entertainment and sport. In all this activity let us not forget to be co-laborers IN God's building program doing our "...share on behalf of His body, which is the church." The Church is that living body of Christ, designed to "... fully **carry out** the {preaching of} the word of God." It requires understanding the Church to be more than the INN to which we come for feed and rest. The Church is "Christ **in** you, the hope of glory." The hope **in** us when Take(N) Out will allow the world, when they receive it, to also "... proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching ..." others about Him also. We will know we have gone OUT when we "...present every man complete **in** Christ." This is our goal **in** the Church, but it must be TAKE(N)-OUT!

MONTHLY MEN'S BREAKFAST



There will be a Men's Breakfast, *May 23, at 7:30am*. If you would like to volunteer to setup or to help cook please contact the church office at 382-0719

FELLOWSHIP MEAL



Join us every Wednesday at 5:30pm for a wonderful time of food and fellowship. Any donation will be appreciated.

PRAYER CHAIN

Anyone wishing to be added to the internet prayer chain can sign up via the website...prayer@gsbcfamily.org or by calling Penny Kouns at 382-4647. You can use these two means of communication to have a prayer request posted.

RELAY TEAM MEETING

There will be a relay team meeting on Tuesday, May 19th at 7:00pm in the fellowship hall. We will be finalizing plans for the relay event and making decorations for our tent site. Please make plans to attend!

YOUTH DATES TO REMEMBER

June 14-20...Youth Missions '09 to Inner City New York

July 12-17...Youth to Look-up-Lodge. Secure your spot today!

Attend youth meetings and Bible Fellowship classes to find out more about additional activities and "hang out" days, especially for out young people.

COME JOIN US!!

GSBC Missions Emphasis Weekend

Friday, May 1
Potluck Dinner- 6pm
Service- 7:30pm



Williams and
Naomi Yindi

Sunday, May 3
Williams will preach in both morning services

RELAY EVENT



The 2009 Relay for Life Event will be held on Friday, May 29th at the Christiansburg High School Football Field. Opening Ceremonies begin at 6:00pm. The Good Shepherd Baptist Church Relay Team has been working hard the past few months to raise money for this event. We encourage everyone to come out that night and show your support for our team as well as The American Cancer Society! The event will last all night and conclude at 7:30am Saturday morning. It is sure to be a memorable night as we reflect on those that we have lost to cancer and celebrate those that have survived cancer. If anyone has any questions regarding the Relay for Life event, please contact Melissa Poole at mpoole95@yahoo.com or 449-1442.

Congratulations Jason Finnigan for taking 4th place at FBLA State Competition!!!!

FRIEND DAY

WHO: YOU are invited!!

WHEN: **May 17 at 8:30am and
10:45am**

WHERE: **Good Shepherd Baptist
Church**

Join us for FRIEND DAY at Good Shepherd Baptist Church. A day when we celebrate our friendships! Bring a friend and come enjoy Marc Ivey in concert. Whether you're a new friend or an old friend who hasn't been around for a while, we'd love to spend some time with you on **FRIEND DAY!**

NURSE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Pregnancy Resource Center of the New River Valley (formerly the Crisis Pregnancy Center) is in need of nurse volunteers, either active or retired, to provide prenatal education and administer pregnancy test and sonograms as a service to our clients. Training will be provided. We are also in need of volunteers to do office work, counseling and driving our Mobile Unit. Again training will be provided. If you are interested in any of these ministries, please call 540-394-5004



CHILDREN'S DATES TO REMEMBER

May 3rd... AWANA Grand Prix!!! 3:15pm weigh in, 5:00pm Cookout, 6:00pm AWANA Awards. Everyone come out and support these clubbers! You don't have to be an AWANA parent, worker, or member to come out and enjoy the fellowship!

May 8 @ 6:30pm... VBS Meeting, all interested in helping with VBS please try to attend.

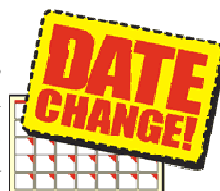
June 7... Children's Choir will be performing their Spring Concert at 6:00pm. An Ice Cream Social will follow.

July 6-11... Son Rock Kid's Camp (VBS)

MAY 10- Please let Ms. Ruthie know by this date if your child (ren) will be attending Lookup Lodge Children's camp. Camp dates are August 3-6. Total per child for camp this year is \$115. You may pay in 2 payments of \$57.50 OR pay the full amount by May 24.

SUMMER YOUTH MISSION TRIP....

DATES OF YOUTH NY MISSION HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY CHANGED to June 14-20. This is due to snow days, end of year school schedules, etc. Be reminded that Youth and leaders will be participating in Christian service by construction projects, food and clothing help, and "street church" in the inner city - NEW YORK. We covet your prayers and participation as we work toward this important mission.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Christiansburg Soccer Family Day

May 9, 11-4pm

Volunteers Needed:

- At least 10 volunteers needed to prepare and serve food.
- At least 2 volunteers needed to man the changing/nursing station
- At least 2 volunteers to hand out cold water
- At least 2 volunteers to assist with face painting
- At least 3 volunteers to assist with various other games.

Freedom Homes Festival

May 2, 10-3pm

Volunteers Needed:

- At least 3 volunteers to prepare/serve food
- At least 3 volunteers to provide supervision at the moonwalks
- At least 1 volunteer to help with face painting
- At least 1 volunteer to help with registration and giveaways
- At least 5 volunteers to supervise games

Volunteer Registration Form:

Name: _____

Event: _____

Area of Service: _____

Time of Service: _____

Email: _____



**GOOD
SHEPHERD
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

155 Dunlap Drive
Christiansburg, VA 24073
540-382-0719

PO Box 398
Christiansburg, VA 24068

**Check us out online
www.gsbcfamily.org**

Church yard sale

May 16, 2009

Contact the church office for more information or to reserve your space!

May 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1) Missions Emphasis 6 p Dinner 7 p Service	2) 9a Prayer time in Sanctuary 10a Freedom Homes Festival 4p Mother/Daughter Banquet/St. Paul UMC Activities Bldg.
3) MISSIONS SUNDAY 8:30a Worship Service 10a Bible Fellowship 11a Worship Service 5-7p AWANA Family Cookout & Awards 7p Youth Leaders Mtg.	4) 6:15p Men's Softball	5) 6:30a Prayer time in sanctuary 7p Deacon's Meet- ing 6:30p Youth Praise Band Practice 9p Volleyball	6) 6:30 p – Financial Peace Class 6:45-8:15p Youth & Adult Bible Studies, Children's Choir 8-8:45p Youth Council Meeting	7) 10a Senior Saints Fellowship 6:30p Choir Practice 7:30p Praise Team Practice	8) VBS Planning Meeting 6:15pm	9) 9a Prayer time in Sanctuary 11a – 4p - Christiansburg Soccer Family Day
10) MOTHER'S DAY 8:30a Worship Service 10a Bible Fellowship 11a Worship Service NO Evening Activities	11) 8:15p Men's & Softball 9:15p	12) 6:30a Prayer time in sanctuary 6:30p Youth Praise Band Practice 6 & 9 p Volleyball 7p Women's Ministry@ Ame- lia's	13) 6:30 p – Financial Peace Class 6:45-8:15p Youth & Adult Bible Studies, Children's Choir	14) 6:30p Choir Practice 7:30p Praise Team Practice	15) 7 p Women's Ministry Movie Night	16) 8a – Noon - Church Yard Sale
17) FRIEND DAY with Marc Ivey in Concert 8:30a Worship Service 10:45a Worship Service No Bible Fellowship	18) 6:15p Men's & Softball 7:15p	19) 6:30a Prayer time in sanctuary 6:30p Youth Praise Band Practice 7p Deacon's Meet- ing 7p Volleyball	20) 6:30 p – Financial Peace Class 6:45-8:15p Youth & Adult Bible Studies, Children's Choir 8-8:45p Youth Council Meeting	21) 10a Senior Saints Fellowship 6:30p Choir Practice 7:30p Praise Team Practice	22)	23) 7:30a Men's Breakfast 9a Prayer time in sanctuary
24) 8:30a Worship Service 10a Bible Fellowship 11a Worship Service 5-7p Youth Worship	25)	26) 6:30a Prayer time in sanctuary 6:30p Youth Praise Band Practice 7 & 9p Volleyball	27) 6:30 p – Financial Peace Class 6:45-8:15p Youth & Adult Bible Studies, Children's Choir	28) 6:30p Choir Practice 7:30p Praise Team Practice	29) Relay for Life	30) 9a Prayer time in sanctuary
31) 8:30a Worship Service 10a Bible Fellowship 11a Worship Service 5-7 Youth Worship						