

The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 3, 2011



HEART OF THE MATTER: JUST DO IT

by Brad Harrub

Having looked in the tearful eyes of parents whose children have abandoned the Faith, I have learned there are a million miles between our children “going through the motions” in reference to their spiritual lives versus our children possessing hearts that dictate their actions. In this column, I plan to share with you what I hope to instill in the hearts of my children and those whom I love.

There are so many things that Christians do that go unseen or unnoticed—oftentimes these are very essential works that are behind the scenes. Buildings are maintained, sick are visited, orphans and widows are cared for, programs are carried out, all because many Christians desire to be servants for Him. Oftentimes, these efforts never receive an official “thank you” from the pulpit. And yet, they still get done because of someone’s love for God. Most people are very familiar with the 80/20 rule. This is the concept that 80 percent of the work is carried out by 20 percent of the people. I have had the pleasure of meeting and even working with individuals who are in the 20% that work hard. Ironically, I can’t recall anyone who told me they belonged to the 80% who do little.

When it comes to rolling up sleeves and doing work some individuals would rather take a pass. It’s hard for me personally to understand that disposition. As someone who regularly reflects on what Christ did for me, I have a burning passion to serve Him and be a better Christian with each new day. There are many weeks that I feel like I have not done enough! I would hope that all who wear the name “Christian” have a genuine desire to serve Him. One special group of individuals within the church actually wears the name “servants.” The word deacon is derived from the Greek word diakonos, which is commonly translated “servant.” These are men who have been selected to serve in particular capacities—usually taking advantage of specific talents or fulfilling specific needs. Paul addressed..

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you... (1 John 1:5).

VISITORS, WELCOME!

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Class

10:30 a.m. WORSHIP

5:00 p.m. WORSHIP

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Class

We have Bible classes for all ages & Pew Packers on 1st & 3rd Sundays at 4:15 p.m.

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ELDERS

Billy Bland

W. Timothy Wilkes, Sr.

Jim Jackson

DEACONS

Jason Bayless Jared Brown

Jerry Davis Jeffrey Ferrell

Ron Johnson Andy Ratliff

PREACHER

Clifton Angel

...his letter to the church at Philippi and included the deacons in his salutation (Philippians 1:1).

Here's what I intend on teaching my children about deacons.

In the September/October 2005 issue of *The Futurist*, the writers analyzed how we spend our time. Although almost every American would argue they don't have much free or leisure time, this study clearly demonstrated that we have roughly 35 hours per week of leisure time. That's approximately 5 hours per day that is frequently eaten up using the computer, watching television, reading, socializing, playing sports, or just relaxing. Consider for one moment what would happen if 5 of those leisure hours were given back to the church, and 10 were dedicated to family. How much stronger would our families and church families be if we all devoted more time to them? Whether you ever wear the name "deacon," I expect you to use the time God gives you wisely and fulfill that role of being a busy servant.

God in His infinite wisdom designed an office in the church to help meet the needs of members in the local congregation. The specific qualifications for these men can be found in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. It is my prayer that my sons will long to serve as these special servants. These are men who are charged to take care of the physical welfare of the local congregation, which then allows the elders to focus on the spiritual welfare of the congregation. Consider what happens if elders are so busy worrying about building and grounds maintenance or audio/visual issues that they don't have time to consider the spiritual welfare of the congregation. In Acts 6 we see an instance where the widows were being neglected. The Twelve called the disciples together and asked them to select "men of good reputation" (vs. 3) who would allow the Apostles to continue studying and praying.

Understand that "deacon" is a description—servant—rather than a title. Far too often men get so caught up with titles and their "area/territory" that the work never gets done or things get bogged down. Occasionally men will argue over who is supposed to do something or make matters entirely too complex. For instance, in one congregation your mom and I attended, the elders asked the deacons to look into what it would take to create visitor parking places. This request came up several times over a period of a year in men's business meetings. (They actually formed a committee about it). One Sunday afternoon following yet another business meeting I called the elders and asked if I paid for it out of pocket could I just do it? Two hours and approximately \$20 dollars later the task was done.

The office of deacon is a special office of service and one that I hope your heart will desire. Whether you wear the name "deacon" or not, stay busy serving Him.

Love,

Dad

Article can be found at <http://www.focuspress.org/ARTICLES/>.

Sermon Review

THE EXCUSES OF MOSES

(Exodus 3, 4)

- I. WHO AM I?
- II. WHAT IS HIS NAME?
- III. THEY WILL NOT BELIEVE ME.
- IV. I AM SLOW OF SPEECH.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNICATION

(James 3)

- I. THE MASTER
- II. THE MISUSE
- III. THE MINISTRY

Verbal Nutrition

by Stan Mitchell

"What your eyes have seen do not hastily bring into court, for what will you do in the end, when your neighbor puts you to shame?" ([Proverbs 25:8](#), ESV).

*An old, anonymous poem states:
There is no nourishment in verbs,
Nouns don't have much flavor.
Prepositions are quite flat;
Pronouns have no savor.
Adjectives have little spice,
Adverbs haven't any
Words are pretty tasteless things
I know -- I've eaten many."*

Perhaps the surgeon general should print the following:

"Warning: Thoughtless words have proved hazardous to health. It causes guilt to the user, and heartbreak for the second-hand user!"

Beginning a conflict is a very serious thing indeed. There are times when it must be done, I suppose, but careful consideration should precede the decision to do so. Don't launch hastily into court against someone; don't repeat the newest, juiciest gossip.

Consider the facts. What if your information is wrong? What if you're shamed in public for acting on unreliable information?

If you're hungry, eat something nutritious like fruit and vegetables. Eating one's words brings humiliation, and its aftertaste leaves you still hungry!

Brief Article from http://www.forthright.net/reality_check/verbal_nutrition.html.

NEWS & NOTES

Please Pray

Nora Boling, fell recently and has suffered an L1 fracture. She also has had kidney blockage and an infection. She has been in great pain.

Wiley Tuggle, has had some discomforting complications recently. He is seeking an appt. with the doctor soon.

Stephanie Bayless--had stomach virus last Sunday.

Renee Davis; Ainsley Moore; Wiley & Betty Tuggle. Caleb Baker--kidney stone.

Tim II, Rachel, & Titus Wilkes with full time mission work. Tim made it home safely from the Philippines.

Family & Friends

Geannie Burrell--Jim Jackson's cousin passed away.

Imugene Mason--Jason's great-aunt.

Fred & Joy House--murdered in their home. Their family needs our prayers.

Amy Hawkins--Bob Hawkin's daughter, died at 33 of a massive heart attack. The funeral was Friday in Memphis.

Wilton Wooten--Nora's brother, is not doing well.

Carol Busch--grandmother of Nikayla, may have cancer. First biopsy procedure was not successful. She will have to have a surgical biopsy.

Clay Collums; Bob Spurlin; David Bragg; Doyce "Doc" Hunt; Brianna Edwards; Joe Culbreath; James Angel; Steve Angel; Dave Leonard, Sr.; Gloria Angel; Sandy Robertson; Alegra Strong; Aaliyah Whitehead; Amy Meredith; Brandon Finley

Let us not forget to pray for the works being done through Fishers of Men, Far East Missions, and the Open Door Ministry.

April Anniversaries

Ashby & Tammy Johnson 4/4

April Birthdays

Nora Boling 4/4
Ainsley Moore 4/6
Aubrey Ratliff 4/20
Jane Sowell 4/21

Get Involved!

Sunday Night for the Savior

April 3 after evening services.
Finger foods & Contacts!

Bible Bowl--Matthew 19-21

April 9, 5:00PM; Potluck after!
All are invited!

Easter Egg Hunt--April 16

Eat at Noon, then hunt eggs!

Men & Children Camping--April 29

See Andy & Jeffrey for details.

Coldwater Lock-in--May 20

Coldwater VBS--June 12-16

Privileged to Serve

Sunday, March 27

Morning

Prayer Before Class

Announcements

Song Leader

Lord's Supper:

Preside

Assist

Opening Prayer

Sermon

Closing Prayer

Evening

Song Leader

Opening Prayer

Sermon

Lord's Supper

Closing Prayer

Johnny Bayless

Caleb Baker

Andy Ratliff

Jeremy Moore

Adam Sowell

Chris Holmes

Ron Johnson

Jared Brown

Clifton Angel

Jason Bayless

Andy Ratliff

Timothy Wilkes, Sr.

Clifton Angel

Ron Johnson

Jeremy Moore

Jeffrey Ferrell

Wednesday, March 30

Song Leader

Prayer

Invitation

Prayer

Andy Ratliff

Jerry Davis

Clifton Angel

Caleb Baker