

THE GREENWOOD BULLETIN

Church of Christ
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“The Year Of Basics”

By Steve Niemeier

“Therefore leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, ...”

Hebrews 6:1a

The year of 2009 will go down as a year where the congregation of the Lord’s people here at Greenwood went through a “spiritual revival.” Under the oversight of the elders we have spent a year going through the basic principles of Christ. Our Bible classes have been focused on these principles. Our sermons have been centered on this and as a presenter of most of them I can tell you that it was some of the hardest preaching that I have done in my 30 plus years of preaching. We had three gospel meetings that were focused on these same principles. Our VBS was focused in this area also. Our elders have encouraged us all through the year and have kept us focused on this “spiritual revival”.

As a congregation we are made up of many members. Most of our members have grown spiritually during this past year as we focused on these principles. Visitors have come and commented that we seem to be a congregation that is “together” and wanting to know what more we can do in the service of the Lord. Some have decided to stay and place membership with us because of this focus. Just think my fellow member, in the last five and one-half years we have doubled in membership, appointed elders and deacons, remodeled the whole building with borrowing any funds, we have baptized 37, we have experienced 70 restorations, we have carried the gospel to two other continents, as well as to several other states.

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Now, we are strengthened within by the work of this past year. However, we are not finished but just starting. Our community needs the gospel of Christ and we are His messengers in this area.

Give glory to God – He has blessed us - it has been a busy year – a very good year - now we are ready to move to 2010 **“The Year of Application”**.

“The Year of Application”

By Steve Niemeier

“..let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God.”

Hebrews 6:1b

We can never change the past so we must go to the present and the future and apply what we have learned from the past to help us do better. While the past year was good and busy the year of 2010 can prove to be even busier and better for us here at Greenwood. Remember the words of Acts 9:31? ***“Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.”***

The congregation here at Greenwood can have this same success in the Lord’s work. We have been trained this past year for this coming year and the work that is before us. Our Bible classes are just one sign of the determination we have to improve our service to the Lord. Our teachers are spending time the quarter before they teach to prepare the lessons they will be teaching. Parents are given the opportunity to meet with the teachers and receive a folder of the lessons their children will be taught in the next quarter. The elders are overseeing the preparations and the material the teachers prepare. The elders and the preacher are working together to make sure we have a mixture of lessons from the pulpit that are both timely and edifying. Our deacons are getting more and more comfortable with their duties and are now and will be including more and more of the congregation in

assisting in doing these duties. The congregation is at peace – doing the Lord’s work – get ready as the Lord “multiplies” when His work is being done His way.

Yes, 2010 has the potential of being a great year for the congregation here at Greenwood. To reach our potential we need ALL of our members to be active and committed to the vision of the Lord that our elder have set before us.

Sin in the Home

By Steve Deaton

Ever see the child in the grocery store that won't shut up in spite of mom telling little Johnny his behavior disappoints her? Ever want to walk over and say, "Do you want me to take care of this?" Me too!

Millions of children are being raised as selfish tyrants. They get what they want, do what they want, and will brook no opposition. The amazing thing is that many parents think this is good. Some even seemingly are not embarrassed by a temper-tantrum in the middle of the mall. What's wrong with this picture? God is not in it.

Parents who truly love their children and respect God will discipline. God disciplines us out of love. **"For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives"** (Heb. 12:6; cf. Prov. 3:11, 12). When a child goes without correction, it is as though he is illegitimate: without a father to raise him properly.

So, a father may be present in the home but the child still lives as though he is illegitimate because of a lack of discipline.

Let us not be shy about the issue of how to discipline. The Bible repeatedly states that spanking is an acceptable form of correction.

"He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly" (Prov. 13:24).

"Chasten your son while there is hope, and do not set your heart on his destruction" (Prov. 19:18).

Love compels us to put the belt to the backside. We are not to be anxious that this punishment will destroy the child. Properly applied, it will not do permanent damage nor will it scar his spirit. Rather, it lets the child know the limits and instills a respect for authority.

Too many parents are committing the sin of not disciplining their children. Not only will this bring heartache and sorrow in this world, but it will also lead to eternal destruction in the next. We will lose our soul for not raising our children right as quickly as for not believing and obeying the gospel.

To all parents: teach your children the Bible (Deut. 6:6-9; Eph. 6:4); lay down the house rules, tell them your expectations, hold them to it (Eph. 6:1-4); correct early and often, rebuke and spank and they will respect you (Heb. 12:9). This is simple, but effective--because it is God's way.

What Do We Do Now?

By Steve Niemeier

On behalf of the elders this article is presented to us as an opportunity to continue our efforts of spreading the gospel in Sierra Leone.

We have had a great experience in our efforts of taking the gospel to Sierra Leone, West Africa. This congregation under the guidance of its elders saw the need, met the challenge and took part in spreading the gospel to souls in need in Sierra Leone. The Lord gave increase and now we have new brothers and sisters in that land. Now what do we do?

There are three new congregations in the Freetown area as a result of the Lord blessing our efforts. One of these congregations is meeting in the downtown area of Freetown. Several who obeyed the gospel while we were there live in this area. The congregations at Wellington and Calabatown are several miles away and the cost for those in the downtown area to get to these two other congregation is more than our new brothers and sisters can handle.

Unfortunately, the cost of our brothers and sisters meeting in downtown Freetown is costly. They are meeting in a rented room that cost \$50.00 per week. They are standing as they cannot afford to rent the chairs. They have been given funds to pay the first two weeks of rent by an individual here at Greenwood. However, they are now two weeks behind in the rent and Joseph is negotiating with the landlord in hopes of them letting the congregation to keep meeting until more funds can be arranged. The small amount of their weekly contribution basically goes to supply them the Lord's Supper.

There is a need to raise \$400.00 for a one time purchase of 50 chairs. This would allow them to have seats for their services and to assist Americans when we are there to teach. Also, if just 20 of us would give \$10.00 per month we could offset the \$200.00 per month rent for the room in downtown Freetown. They are also having between 20 and 30 non-member visitors each Sunday at this downtown congregation.

If you would like to assist in this work on an individual basis please see Steve Niemeier or Jeff Hendricks or talk to one of our elders.