

THE GREENWOOD BULLETIN

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Bearing Fruit In Old Age

By Lawrence Kelley

One of the greatest leaders in history didn't begin his public ministry until he was eighty years old. Moses, it appears, would have been quite content to live out his life in the quiet recesses of Midian, but God had other plans. At the burning bush, God told Moses to do now, in the strength of the Lord, what he had attempted forty years earlier in his own strength--deliver Israel from Egyptian oppression. Perhaps even more impressive, is that after two years of service, he consented to thirty eight more. Too many Christians work hard in the kingdom of the Lord until they reach retirement years when they not only retire from their calling in the world, but also from their work in the church. The example of Moses shows us that for some the most fruitful years in the service of the

Lord begin after retirement. Every stage of life has its own temptations and in every stage of life, we must war against the flesh. For the aging, the temptation is often to quit the race and stand on the sidelines. The exhortation is to resist this temptation. Find a way to bear fruit in the kingdom. Use your golden years to strengthen your relationship to Christ through the disciplines of prayer, meditation, and study. Use your time to serve others who need your help, whether they are the sick, the young mothers, the spiritually weak, or those more advanced in years than yourself. There is always work to do and in the body of Christ there are no unnecessary members.

"Children Will Be Children"

By James Hahn

Sometimes when something is said about the misbehavior of a child, someone (often the parents) will say,

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"After all children will be children." However, there are some children who behave themselves, are good mannered and obedient to their parents. If the child who misbehaves, is ill-mannered and disobedient is "just being a child," what is the other child being? If we are going to look at the behavior of a child to determine what should be our expectant behavior of all children, which child are we going to observe, the well-behaved child or the one who misbehaves?

The truth is that we must go to the word of God to learn what the right behavior for a child should be (Ephesians 6:1-4). As parents we have the responsibility of teaching and training our children to be what God would have them to be. When we see children misbehave and disobey and show disrespect, let us not try to pass it off with "children will be children." If they be our children, let us recognize our responsibility toward them and provide whatever discipline is necessary to correct them.

Some seem to think it is "cute" for small children to "talk back" to their parents or to learn some obscene word or to be a little "terror." However, these

"cute" things don't appear so cute when performed by young men and women, and judges and law enforcement officers to not find their deeds very funny. **Parents, wake up, before it is too late!**

"Focus on Evangelism"

By Dan Barker

My goal over the next few weeks is to remind you of some of the areas that we studied on the subject of evangelism, and to get ready for our next studies on October 8th and 9th.

My wife and I have been impressed with the Greenwood congregation. Your enthusiasm for the Lords' work is contagious! Your elders have demonstrated their determination to follow our Lords' instruction in Mark 16:15, to teach others about the good news of Jesus Christ. They are also determined to "equip the saints there for the work of the ministry", Eph. 4:12. Thus, their "focus on evangelism!"

I read this recently and found it amazing, "If every current member of the church converted just one person per year, and they in turn converted just one, in just 18 years the whole world could be converted!" Think what that

would look like if you at Greenwood set that as one of your goals! Each one teaches one!

As we have discussed, the church, almost everywhere it seems, is in desperate need of those who would get focused on evangelism. You and I are the hands and feet of Jesus. His work will not be done unless we do it!

Here is a simple question: "What was the focus of Jesus while here on earth?" That's right! His focus was on evangelism.

Listen to Him in Luke 19:10. "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost". He has given us, you and me the charge to continue His mission and to teach as many as we possibly can. (II Timothy 2:2).

Here is your assignment for this week, if you choose to accept it! Get out your "yellow pad" that has the two lessons outlined that we covered when I was with you. Read through.....Remember what a simple, but effective study this is?

Secondly, start thinking about who you are going to team with to present these two lessons. Also, have someone in mind to approach about a study.

And as always, pray about our efforts together as we strive to teach others about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and that the Lord will open doors of

opportunities for you (I Cor. 16:9, Col.4:3)

Next week the thoughts from Dan will be on "Having confidence to teach others!"

(Note from Steve: Dan Barker volunteered to write some encouraging words for us leading up to our next session on October 8th. Dan has spent considerable time and effort on the material on Personal Evangelism that he is presenting to us. As we read his encouragement and accept his assignments let us do so with gratitude and zeal. Also, let us move forward to evangelizing the lost here and abroad.)

Write Your Own Funeral

By H.L. Collett

Have you ever wondered what the preacher will say at your funeral? The life that you live, will determine what the honest preacher will say when the time comes. Make the correct selections below and see what your funeral sermon will sound like.

- The deceased (was, was not) a Christian, and we therefore (have, have not) a reasonable hope for him.
· His family (knew, never knew) him to be a man of prayer and sincere devotion to God.

- He was a person who regularly (attended, ignored) the worship services, and (could, could not) be counted upon to serve to the best of his ability for the Lord.
- He was (concerned, unconcerned) with the lost, the poor, the afflicted, and the homeless.
- He (loved, did not love) his fellow man, and it was evident in the way he treated him.
- He was (a true friend, two-faced) to those who trusted him and always made a real contribution to the (happiness, unhappiness) of people wherever he went.
- He (possessed, did not possess) honesty, integrity, humility, sincerity and dependability.
- He knew the truth and (tried, did not try) to obey it.
- He (was, was not) an asset to the church, his family, and God.
- We (will, will not) miss him very much because he (was, was not) the type of person everybody loved.
- He (did, did not) "fight a good fight, finish the course, keep the faith; henceforth there (is, is not) laid up for him a crown of righteousness."

Honestly, how would your funeral sermon read?

Our gospel meeting on "A Mind To Work" with Phil Morgan was just fantastic! All members should be

fired up to move forward with our plans to evangelize the Greenwood community and build up the army of God in this area!