

THE GREENWOOD BULLETIN

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VOLUME 8 NO. 43

December 25, 2011

Focus on Evangelism

By Dan Barker

What would happen if.....

You have heard us say many times recently that in order to truly get "focused on evangelism" that there must be a new mindset...a new attitude..a new thought process on the subject of evangelism. This change in our mental outlook about evangelism must first occur in our own individual minds and then in the minds of the congregation as a whole.

For this article I am going to try to get us to think about evangelism by asking "what would happen" questions. I pray that you will "slow down" and think on this.

What would happen if...

1. We really submitted to our Lords' command to teach the lost. Mark 16:15-16

2. We really believed in the power of the gospel to save. Romans 1:16

3. We really believed without Christ, the world is lost. Ephesians 2:12

4. We had a true sense of urgency in telling others about Christ. John 4:35

5. Each of us was prepared and ready to give everyone a reason for the hope that we have. 1 Peter 3:15

6. Each of us "personally" got involved in evangelism. Acts 2:46-47

7. We were really convicted to "speak the things we have seen and heard." Acts 4:20

8. We prayed for God to help us get involved in personal evangelism. Mt. 9:37-38

9. The Greenwood congregation was determined to "let its' light shine in this community". Matt. 5:14-16 quoting Bro. Steve, "if it's to be, it's up to me".

10. We accepted the fact that to be considered faithful, we must be involved in personal evangelism. 2 Tim. 2:2

My personal prayer is that we will meditate about the

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above questions and then be determined to change our mindset and get involved in personal evangelism!

The Devil's Best Weapons

By Peter McPherson

(Note: This was a post a brother made on a discussion board several years ago. I have slightly edited it and given it a title. – Larry Rouse)

Peter McPherson here with a suggestion. What do you think is the devil's best ammunition? That he employs today?

I think that his best ammo in response to Bible truth is SILENCE. His "workers" have decided to just leave us alone. In this way there is no attention brought to truth and against his error. And when you don't have the truth or are in a hard spot they find it better to clam up....to stop any communication before it begins.

Years ago a debate on salvation .. the necessity of water baptism was nearly finalized, but the preacher backed out. He said that he would be frustrating most of the audience. But if he had the truth

why wouldn't he want even a few to hear it? Silence was his best weapon. It's very diabolical, but he has found that it works. Lets none of us be guilty of employing this tactic.

Yes today most denominational preachers will just give you the cold shoulder...shut up and go right on with their views.

Silence is a great weapon of Satan's because he ignores you...and he never gives you an opportunity to present your case. This way error and falsehood spreads. But we must still keep on trying to flush him. At least present the truth plainly and show up the error, regardless what response he uses.

For the past month we have been running a new brief article each week in the city paper under the caption "A Challenge". Each week I simply state a plain Bible truth and then ask why do many do otherwise (about 30 words and then we give the church address, etc). To date I have not received one response and I will be surprised if I do. We did have one visitor. Perhaps it will do some good in spite of the fact that the sectarians will not have the courage or time to respond.

What do you think is the devil's best weapons – what is your "top ten?"

"Huh?"

By Steve Niemeier

Several years ago Connie and I were fortunate to be able to take my mother and father to the lectures in Tampa, Florida. We drove them down and as we talked in the car it seemed that the most common word we heard was "huh".

As we know traveling in a car can be noisy enough with the outside traffic, etc. This of course creates a constant sound and it becomes hard to hear one who might be speaking in the front seat if you are in the back seat. Also, as we get older it does become a bit harder to hear in just normal conditions. We constantly joked about how many times the word "huh" was used on that trip.

There are times as I talk with brethren that I stop and say to myself "huh"? It seems we can come up with justification of about anything if we have friends or family involved in something that the Bible does not condone. HUH?

Many excuses are made for one forsaking worship services or shunning their other responsibilities as a member or their marriage situation. HUH?

of justification rather than the stand of searching the scriptures. HUH?

It is easier sometimes to try and justify a situation than it is to face the call of repentance and flee a situation. HUH?

John 8:32 certainly applies to this issue!

Several years ago the subject of baptism washing away the sin of adultery was a very prevalent subject. Several took the position (and some still do) that if one was living in an adulterous marriage relationship and was baptized then all was forgiven and they could go on living in the adulterous relationship.

As I traveled around to gospel meetings and was asked to speak on this subject I usually started the lesson explaining the position and then would say "huh"?

It seemed everyone wanted to jump to baptism and forgot about another very important step – repentance. Jesus said any who did not repent would perish. Repentance is a complete turning away from the sin that one is involved in. Sometimes a person may not realize something is a sin until after baptism – yet repentance is required and a complete turning away from that sin is instrumental in repentance. Therefore upon learning they are in an adulterous relationship repentance must occur in order to be in accordance with God.

This principle applies in all areas – lying, stealing, murder, etc. Yet we continue to have brethren try to defend the different situations their family or friends have become involved in. It is sad but many preachers, elders and congregations have taken the stand