

WICK LIST:

HEALTHCARE CENTERS:

Bertharine Burton, Ruby Harrison, June Hosmer

HOME: Freddie Alexander, Gloria Windham, Ed & Bettie Barrett, H.C. & Jimmie Nell Brown, Fred & Romaine Elliott, Nellie Windham, Bessie Files, Cynthia McMeans, Henry McDonald

PRAYER LIST: April Lazenby, Kimberly Wilcox, Sonya Parnell, Anna Turner, Francis Rushing, Sue Hinds, Harold Walton, Larry Drummond, Jim Murrell, Louise Alexander, Donnie Bryant, Joshua Jackson, Joe Windham, Elmer Williams, Debra Webb, Sharon Lawson, Esther Sutton, Wilma Howell, Patsy Tucker, Rhonda Poe, Debbie Odom, Dicey Wright, Michael Pope, Wanda Williams, Robert Turner, Laura Williams

BIBLE CLASS - MARK TESKE GBN

W - JERRY MARTIN - MEMPHIS SCHOOL OF PREACHING

W - BRIAN STROUD - CHILHAVEN

REMEMBER OUR MEAL AFTER MORNING SERVICES AND OUR EARLY SERVICE WILL FOLLOW AT 1:30

CYC WALKFEST WILL BE APR 28 FROM 8AM-3PM AT THE CAMP. PLEASE TURN IN YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS TO BEN

BIRTHDAYS:

Apr 24: Stephen Phillips & Brandi Richardson

25: Carl Myers

28: Libby Tucker

THE WEST WALKER WELCOMER

WEST WALKER CHURCH OF CHRIST
26036 HIGHWAY 78
CARBON HILL, AL 35549
(205) 924-9038
westwalkerchurchofchrist.org

TIMES OF SERVICES

SUNDAY MORNING

BIBLE CLASS 9:30

WORSHIP 10:20

SUNDAY EVENING 5:00

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00

ELDERS:

Gene McDonald 924-4827
Carlton Myers 221-0637
Leil Myers 924-9289
Bruce Windham 221-2348

DEACONS:

Danny Busby 387-0213

MINISTER:

Ben Wright 522-8004

THE MAGNIFICENT "MISSION MANDATE"

Dave Rogers

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. (Matthew 28:19-20)

No grander words are found anywhere in the Holy Writ, and none more sobering, than the challenging charge we usually call the "Great Commission." In these words lies a command whose implication for the souls of men is more far-reaching and of greater importance than perhaps any other passage. Christians are individually charged here (the word "ye" in the KJV leaves out no one) to act in a positive way toward others. We are even instructed in how we are to act: We are to "make disciples." This is accomplished by instruction ("teaching," vs. 20 — and this encompasses the whole counsel of God, Acts 20:27) and by the response of the one taught ("baptizing," vs. 19 — the response of a good conscience toward God, 1 Peter 3:21). Both teaching and baptism are necessary to make one a disciple of Jesus.

We are to take the gospel message to the whole world (Mark 16:15): The original disciples accomplished this in the first generation of the church (note Mark 16:20, cf. Colossians 1:23). This command to "go" has two points of reference: to all nations, and to all places. The first is self-explanatory, but the second may include home, job, grocery store, library, neighbor's or kinsman's house, and so on. This is how Paul pursued opportunities to teach, Acts 20:20. Evangelism is not restricted to the church building; people can learn the gospel anywhere.

Under Moses' Law, the Levites bore the primary obligation for educating God's people in His way, but under Christ's law, each Christian bears this responsibility. As Christians, we are a royal priesthood and a holy nation (1 Peter 2:9). Although the burden of teaching the gospel to lost people rests heavily on gospel preachers (Romans 10:11-15), it does not rest on them alone! Preachers are not "hired hands," or "pastors," engaged to do the work of the whole congregation; rather, they are proclaimers of God's word. The magnificent challenge to bring others to Christ is not intended for a "clergy" made up of some select few; it is delivered to every Christian individually. All of us shall give an account before God of how we responded to it (Romans 14:12).

We sometimes wonder why God gave us such a (seemingly) monumental task, yet the answer is quite simple: His desire is for all people to be saved (2 Peter 3:9). This cannot happen if the word of salvation is not "spread abroad," and God ordained that this treasure be carried forth in "earthen vessels" (2 Corinthians 4:7). Reaching our own community (much less the whole world!) may seem an insurmountable task, but we need to remember that a handful of people, working under primitive conditions, were able to "turn the world upside down" with the message of salvation (Acts 17:6). The apostle Paul wrote in Colossians 1:23 that all the world had heard the gospel by that time: If those saints could do the job, so can we!

The means to reach others are convenient, easy to use, and readily available. Beside plain old "word-of-mouth" advertising and one-on-one teaching (which are the MOST effective methods!), we have many tracts in the foyers, several bible correspondence courses, the Search TV program, and even the U.S. Mail which we can use to reach out to others.

A terrible and awesome purpose is ours. Woe is ours if we let work, school, laziness, or even family come between us and accomplishing that purpose. No other assignment or responsibility is more important; no other mission is so urgent. Every Christian has his duty before him; let's not be "unprofitable servants," but harvesters in the Lord's vineyard!

BEGINNING MISSIONARY TRAINING IN THE CLASSROOM

J.C. Choate

We are desperately in need of missionaries around the world. But where are we to find them? By the time most young men and women get out of college, having reached an age where they might think seriously about going to the mission field, they are married, beginning their family, and are burdened down with car and house payments. Then there are the parents to think about, as well as the challenge of finding a sponsor and the necessary support. Putting all of these things together, the majority simply do not have the strength and the will power to overcome the obstacles.

We must therefore begin to work on preparing our young men and women for the mission field long before they get to college. Where should that preparation begin? The first teaching on mission work, of course, should be done in the home but in all probability this will not happen. So the next best thing would be for strong sustained teaching to be done in the classroom.

Take a godly Christian woman with a group of boys and girls in a class situation, a woman who believes in mission work and who regularly teaches her students the great commission of our Lord by focusing attention on the missionary journeys of Paul and acquainting them with the missionary work of today, she can do wonders in preparing these young hearts to go to the mission field some day.

Many of our Bible class teachers have emphasized mission work over the years, but we need to have more who will deliberately and intentionally plan their classes with the goal of producing missionaries. With these kids having love and respect for their teacher, and with their eagerness to learn, and with the ability of the teacher to influence and to mold them, there is every possibility that some of them will become missionaries. By beginning to work with them as such an early age and planting the desire in their hearts, as they grow up they will continue their training and preparation to go to the mission field. Since they will have had an early start, they will not burden themselves down with a lot of things that many older ones do.

I would like to encourage you Bible School teachers to do more of this type of thing. Much depends on what you do now as to the kind of missionary force we will have in the years to come. With your help we can evangelize the world. Without it we will continue to hobble along as in recent years. In other words, your help can make all the difference. That is how important you are to world evangelism.