



May 21, 2006

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Why Churches Grow

Over the last few years, numerous books and articles have been written about why churches grow (or don't grow). They have offered all kinds of solutions to the problems of declining church growth. Some of their ideas are:

1. Bigger buildings
2. Better location
3. Good publicity
4. Plenty of parking
5. Better qualified staff

All of these are good, and if possible, churches need to have them. But when we look at the book of Acts, we see that the church described there grew because of some other reasons. Let's consider some of them.

1. **THEY PREACHED THE SIMPLE MESSAGE OF JESUS CHRIST.** (Acts 2:22-28). Their efforts were not directed at preaching social reform or some kind of revolutionary new gimmick to try on the people. Salvation was (and still is) man's greatest need and they preached the message of the one who could provide it.
2. **THEY ENJOYED EACH OTHER'S FELLOWSHIP.** (Acts 2:42-26). They spent a lot of time together even when they were not in the public assembly. They ate, prayed and studied together. They shared their possessions.
3. **THEY HAD A COMMON PURPOSE.** (Acts 4:32). This verse says, "*And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and one soul.*" When people are held together by like-mindedness and common purpose, they are a powerful and successful force.
4. **THEY WERE RESPECTED BY OUTSIDERS.** (Acts 5:13). There was something about that group of Christians that commanded the respect of non-Christians. Their work, morality, zeal, dedication and spirituality seemed to make them much better than those outside of Christ.
5. **THEY WERE COMMITTED.** (Acts 5:29). After being put in jail and being threatened, Peter said, "*We must obey God rather than men.*" Christianity was not (and is not now) a practice based on convenience or the mood of the one claiming to be a Christian, but on giving ourselves totally to the obedience of God's will – whatever the cost.
6. **THEY PRACTICED EVANGELISM EVERYWHERE EVERY DAY.** (Acts 8:1-4). Those who were scattered as the result of the persecution "*preached the word wherever they went.*" Preaching and teaching Jesus was not limited to an apostolic hierarchy, but all taught as they had opportunity.

We can see that church growth in the New Testament was not the result of abundant church staffs, big buildings, or good locations, but by every Christian being dedicated to the cause of Christ and unswerving in his desire as he had talent and opportunity.

Ferman Carpenter

WELCOME VISITORS:

We are so glad you decided to be here today! It is always such a blessing to be able to meet you and be encouraged by your presence. Thank you for coming our way.

FOR THE CHILDREN:

Children's Worship Bulletins are available at the back for ages 3-6 and ages 7-12.

Attended Nursery for infants through age two. Parents may leave their children in the nursery before the worship service begins.

A Training Room for parents to use anytime during the worship service is also provided across the hall from the attended nursery.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE:

Hearing aid devices are available and may be received from the attendant in the sound room at the rear of the auditorium.

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

HEAR (Luke 11: 28)

But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

BELIEVE (Mark 16: 16)

"He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."

REPENT (Acts 2: 38)

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"

CONFESS (Matthew 10: 32)

"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven."

BE BAPTIZED (Acts 22: 16)

"And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

Preaching Schedule



5/21 AM: John Roberts
PM: Timothy Class
5/28 AM: Chad Tagtow from Florida
School of Preaching
PM: To Be Announced Later

Ladies Class Schedule

May 23rd 10:00
June 13th 10:00 (June birthdays will be celebrated this Tuesday)
July 11th 10:00 (July birthdays will be celebrated this Tuesday)
August 8th 10:00 (August birthdays will be celebrated this Tuesday)

In September, the ladies class will resume the normal weekly schedule.

Vacation Bible School



Vacation Bible School (ages 1 to 5th grade) will be June 11th - 13th (Sunday PM - Tuesday). Sunday night will be at 6:00 pm and

Monday and Tuesday will be at 7:00 pm. Steven Mickholtzick, son-in-law of Olin and Brenda, will be here from the University City church of Christ in Gainesville, to lead V.B.S. More details to come later.

Clothing Room

The clothing room is now open in its new home in the lot west of the building. Volunteers are needed every Thursday from 9-11. See Marilyn Sweeton if you can work.

Communion Sign-up

No one has signed up to prepare the communion for worship services for the months of, **September, October, November and December**. If you are interested, the sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hallway.



Searching For Truth

There are still a lot of copies of World Video Bible School DVD *Searching for Truth*. These copies are located on the tables in the foyer of the main building and at the exits in the fellowship/classroom building. The elders encourage everyone to take these DVD's and share them with friends, family, and those in the community.

Iraq and the Bible

Israel is the nation most often mentioned in the Bible; but do you know which nation is second? It is Iraq. However, the names used in the Bible are Babylon, Land of Shinar and Mesopotamia. The word "Mesopotamia" means between the two rivers, more exactly between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.

The name "Iraq" means "country with deep roots," Indeed, Iraq is a country with deep roots and is a very significant country in the Bible. Here's why:

1. Eden was in Iraq (Gen. 2:10-14). Many believe that the lush, fertile valley between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers is the location where "the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden" (Gen 2:8).
2. If indeed this is the place where Eden was, then Adam and Eve were created and lived in Iraq. (Gen. 2:7,8).
3. This being the case, Satan would have made his first recorded appearance in Iraq (Gen 3:1-6).
4. Nimrod established Babylon, and the Tower of Babel was built in Iraq in the central part of Iraq, south of Baghdad, in a region named Babil. (Gen. 10:8,9; 11:1-4)
5. The confusion of language took place in Iraq (Gen 11:5-9). It is interesting to consider that while Arabic is the primary language spoken in Iraq, there are still many different dialects and regional languages used there.
6. Abraham came from a city in Iraq (Gen 11:31; Acts 7:2-4). The first meeting to establish a new Iraqi government was held in a city name Ur, near An Nasiriya in Southern Iraq.
7. Isaac's bride came from Iraq (Gen 24:3-10). The ancient city of Nahor may have been in the area of northern Iraq around the city of Kirkuk-Saddam Hussein's birthplace and the last major stronghold of his regime captured by U.S. forces.
8. Jacob spent 20 years in Iraq (Gen. 27:42-45; 31:38). Haran, where Jacob's uncle lived, was in northern Iraq.
9. The first world empire, Babylonia was in Iraq. (Dan. 1,2; 2:36-38).
10. The greatest revival that ever took place happened in Iraq (Jonah 3). God sent Jonah to preach to the wicked city of Nineveh. Nineveh was located in the northern part of modern day Iraq perhaps near the present day city of Mosul.
11. The events of the book of Esther possible took place in Iraq. The royal palace of King Xerxes (Ahasuerus) was in the ancient city of Susa, a part of the Persian Empire. The location of this ancient city is not exactly known and could have been in either the far eastern part of modern day Iraq, or the far western part of Iran.
12. The book of Nahum was a prophesy against Nineveh, a city in Iraq.
13. The book of Revelation prophesies against Babylon, which was the old name for the nation of Iraq.

By unknown complier

Our Record: May 14, 2006

Bible Study	75
Sunday AM Worship	102
Sunday PM Worship	66
Contribution	\$2882
Wednesday Bible Study	74
Building Fund	\$135
Ukraine Building Fund	\$135
F.H. Gates	\$0
Special Mission Efforts	\$0
World Bible Translation (Ladies Class)	\$25

Upcoming Birthdays



Robert Capps	5/22
Herman Klahn	5/24
John Sutton	5/25
Jason Talbert	5/26
Jeanette Chambers	5/27
Sarah Ramer	5/29
Joshua Fowler	5/29
Chapman Chamberlin	5/29
Phillip Ormsby	5/30
Arnie Pine	5/31
Jim Coleman	5/31

Upcoming Anniversary

Bob and Evelyn Parnett	5/28
Billy and Janice Nix	5/28

Visitors for May 14, 2006

Mary Ballew
Gaylin, Aaron and Megan Thomas

Thank you

I want to thank all of you for your calls, visits and especially the prayers over the years for Frank and for myself.

He sure did hang in there and fought a very tough fight. God was with us all the way and how he is with Him.

In Christian love, Shirley Henry

CEO Schedule

May 26th Olympic

Prayer List Continued

- ❖ **Marjorie Vandivor** is scheduled to start radiation treatment for her cancer soon.
- ❖ **Kitty Bush** is at home recovering from breast cancer and undergoing Chemo treatments.
- ❖ **Dwain Chambers** continued recovery from last back surgery and is on vacation.
- ❖ **Don Gunter's** recent test on his lung revealed nothing serious at this time and the doctors will be re-evaluate him later. He will have a MRI on his liver and will also see a cardiologist this week.
- ❖ **Dianna Parson's** surgery went well and she says the results of the tests on her lymph nodes came back negative for cancer. She will still have to have treatments which will be scheduled later.
- ❖ **Al Overfield** is at home and using a walker.

EXTENDED FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- ❖ **Virginia Shinholser** has returned home and in good spirits. Continue to pray for her recovery. This will take a long time to bring her back to full health.
- ❖ **Major Keys**, 4-month-old grandnephew of Gwin Barnum, is back in ICU again.
- ❖ **Glenda Friend**, sister of Carol Johnson is at Kenilworth Care and Rehabilitation Center.
- ❖ **Gary Taylor** (son of Kathryn Taylor and brother of Betty Abrams) continuing to recover.
- ❖ **Daniel & Kathryn Patterson**, nephew and niece of the Wheelers undergoing tests and still not doing well.
- ❖ Glen and Joanne Wooters' son, **Debbie Vigar** (Marjorie Vandivor's sister), **Dorothy McCracken**, **Pearl Mitchell** (Aunt of Teresa Naugle), **Dianne Sweeton**, (daughter-in law of Bill and Marilyn) and **Shirley Waldrop** are all currently undergoing treatment for cancer.
- ❖ **Mae Dorst**, 96 year-old-mother of Patty Massey, continues to have health concerns.
- ❖ **Rick Cochran's** father has returned home from the hospital, but his mother still remains in the hospital.
- ❖ **Elizabeth Rimes** is having heart problems.
- ❖ **Wallace and Dorothy Maxwell**, parents of Brenda Shinholser continue to have declining health concerns.

MISSION EFFORTS

- ❖ **Anil Tejpaal and family and Javeed Ally** in Guyana. (Concern from criminal activity preceding this year's elections.)
- ❖ **Vovo Shoot and family and Dema Galook and family** in Chernovtsy.
- ❖ **F.H. & Becky Gates** in Brazil

SCHEDULED TO SERVE		REMINDER:
THIS SUNDAY	NEXT SUNDAY	<p>If for some reason you find that you cannot serve as scheduled in the monthly assignment schedule, please call Chris Fowler as soon as possible so that a substitute can be selected.</p> <p>Those serving are asked to be here at least 10 minutes before the service starts.</p> <p>Those who participate Sunday morning are asked to wear appropriate dress attire, preferably, though not required, a dress shirt and tie. At other services casual sport shirt and slacks are acceptable; no T-shirts or shorts should be worn while serving the congregation.</p> <p>Thank you for your cooperation.</p>
<p>Prepare Communion: Marilyn Sweeton</p> <p>Greeters: Ron Horton Clem Smith Bill Sweeton Margaret Smith</p> <p>Pick Up Cards: Forest & Austin Ritenour</p> <p>Pick Up Communion Cups: Nathan Ramer & Joshua Fowler</p> <p>Sound Room: James Ware</p> <p>Secure Building This Week: Dave Marcum</p>	<p>Prepare Communion: Marilyn Sweeton</p> <p>Greeters: Ron Horton Robert Capps Bill Sweeton Rachel Capps</p> <p>Pick Up Cards: Nicholas Stalter & Victor Oregon</p> <p>Pick Up Communion Cups: Forest & Austin Ritenour</p> <p>Sound Room: Tracey Stalter</p> <p>Secure Building Next Week: Bill Benton</p>	
<p>Announcements: Olin Shinholser</p> <p>Song Leader: Mike Tubbs</p> <p>Opening Prayer: Chris Fowler</p> <p>Lord's Supper: Preside: Dan Luidhardt</p> <p>Serve: 1. Robert Parnett 5. Don Ware 2. Leon Tubbs 6. Bill Benton 3. Troy Talbert 7. Tracey Stalter 4. Dale Spung 8. Nicholas Stalter</p> <p>Closing Prayer: Paul Talbert</p>	<p>Announcements: Dave Marcum</p> <p>Song Leader: Olin Shinholser</p> <p>Opening Prayer: Rick Cochran</p> <p>Lord's Supper: Preside: Mike Tubbs</p> <p>Serve: 1. Robert Capps 5. BJ Thomas 2. Carl Martin 6. Edison Green 3. Rick Cochran 7. Nicholas Stalter 4. Wayne Anderson 8. Leon Tubbs</p> <p>Closing Prayer: Don Gunter</p>	SHEPHERDS
Sunday Evening	Sunday Evening	<p>Harry Johnson655-3386 (Evangelism/Membership Directory/Membership Fellowship)</p> <p>Dave Marcum385-8899 (Treasurer/ Administration)</p> <p>Olin Shinholser382-1060 (Worship Services/ Education)</p> <p>Paul Talbert385-3756 (Building & Grounds/ Benevolence/ Membership Services)</p>
<p>Song Leader: Opening Prayer: Paul Talbert John Roberts</p> <p>Lord's Supper: Closing Prayer: Dan Luidhardt James Ware</p>	<p>Song Leader: Opening Prayer: Don Luidhardt Wayne Anderson</p> <p>Lord's Supper: Closing Prayer: Mike Tubbs BJ Thomas</p>	DEACONS
Wednesday Evening	Wednesday Evening	<p>Bill Benton.....453-6002 (Treasurer/Visitation)</p> <p>Chris Fowler386-4661 (Youth Director/ Services Director/ Substitute Teacher Assignments)</p> <p>Roger Gurganus453-3939 (Building & Grounds Maintenance (Outside)/ Transportation/ Communion)</p> <p>Tracey Stalter471-9736 (Building Maintenance (Inside)/ Membership Directory/ Pews)</p> <p>BJ Thomas385-7270 (Building Maintenance (Outside)/ Benevolence)</p> <p>Don Ware382-0194 (Special Mission Efforts/ Timothy Class)</p>
<p>Song Leader: Invitation: James Ware Dave Marcum</p> <p>Closing Prayer: Don Gunter</p>	<p>Song Leader: Invitation: Don Gunter Mike Tubbs</p> <p>Closing Prayer: Chris Fowler</p>	
FREE BIBLE STUDY BY MAIL	MEET WITH US	
<p>If you would like to receive a series of Bible Study Lessons, send this request to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sebring Parkway Church of Christ 3800 Sebring Parkway Sebring, FL 33870</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Age Range: <input type="checkbox"/> 0 - 10 yrs <input type="checkbox"/> 11 - 17 yrs <input type="checkbox"/> 18 - 50 yrs <input type="checkbox"/> 51 - ?? yrs</p>	<p>Sunday Bible Study 9:00 AM Sunday AM Worship 10:00 AM Sunday PM Service 6:00 PM Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 PM</p> <p>Website: http://www.sebringcoc.com Email: sebringparkway@sebringcoc.com Office Hours: 9am-2pm M-F</p>	