

## EVANGELISM

I once came across the acrostic for this word, Evangelism. I found it not only interesting and accurate, but a good reminder as well. I added some Scripture references to the acrostic to help us consider the word "Evangelism" and some of those things for which it stands.

Evangelism is Every member active. "They therefore that were scattered abroad, went about preaching the word" (Acts 8:4). This was written regarding "the church in Jerusalem" (Acts 8:1).

Evangelism is Visitation practiced. "I was sick, and ye visited me" (Matthew 25:36). This is a necessary part of helping to keep the saved, saved.

Evangelism is Absentees contacted regularly. "Brethren, even if a man be overtaken in any trespass, ye who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; looking to thyself, lest thou also be tempted" (Galatians 6:1). Let us not wait until a member is back into the world before we wonder where that one is.

Evangelism is New members involved. "as newborn babes, long for the spiritual milk which is without guile, that ye may grow thereby unto salvation" (1 Peter 2:2). Let us encourage our new brethren to attend the classes and every worship assembly. Let us teach them often as we may have contact and opportunity.

Evangelism is Giving. "But first they gave their own selves to the Lord" (2 Corinthians 8:5), then they "gave of their own accord" (2 Corinthians 8:3). This avenue of worship (1 Corinthians 16:1,2) reflects our own conversion and will supply the means to convert others.

Evangelism is Everyone in class. "whom we proclaim, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ" (Colossians 1:28). In this way, we can "grow in grace and knowledge" (2 Peter 3:18).

Evangelism is Lost people being saved. "To the weak I became weak, that I might gain the weak: I am become all things to all men, that I may by all means save some" (1 Corinthians 9:22). Whatever it takes, within the will of God, let us do with our might!

Evangelism is Increase. "and believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of them and women" (Acts 5:14). Let us therefore plant the seed of the kingdom (Luke 8:11) that God may give the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6).

Evangelism is high Standard. "Seek the things that are above...set your mind on the things that are above, not on the things that are upon the earth" (Colossians 3:1,2).

Evangelism is Missions. "Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations...preach the gospel to the whole creation" (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15). Let us continue to be, and increase in EVANGELISM!

## WHY EVANGELIZE?

Why will men and women trek all over various communities, in all kinds of weather, confronting all kinds of people with their various reactions, only to be rejected time after time? This is what campaigners usually face when a local congregation hosts a campaign. What is it about the Gospel message that will cause these Christians to go through all this? Friend, if you really do not know, then either you have never done this kind of work, or worse, you have lost the zeal for the salvation you yourself had at one time enjoyed.

Of all the tasks that God has placed before the church, one always stand out to be the first and foremost. This number one duty is usually the least to be obeyed and is the most dreaded by the majority of Christians. It is found within the commission of our Lord when He said, "Go and make disciples!" Why does this task strike fear into the hearts of most? Why does it cause them to rationalize and to say, "Well, that work is for someone who has the talent, not for me"? Probably the first reason this happens is that it requires some definite action. Too many today are becoming more and more lax in their Christianity, making the Lord's body look more and more denominational. Brethren, the gospel **does** require action. We must get up and move.

Closely related to this is the fear of rejection or failure. It is no fun to have a door slammed in one's face or for people to make fun of you. But oh, if we could just show to all brethren the joy of leading one sincere soul to Christ, what a strong and forceful army we, the Lord's people

would be! We must be realistic: we will never convert all, but we simply do not know how many we can reach until we teach. I do not know what preparations you may have made for our last gospel meeting, but we will likely have another coming this year. When we approach people about an up-coming meeting: invite, Invite, INVITE! We dare not judge people by how they live **now**. We never know what changes they may be willing to make once they have heard the gospel. Brother Johnny Ramsey made an accurate statement saying, "We get the cart before the horse in our evangelism. Instead of asking how many we will baptize, let us ask how many we will teach. **That** is our responsibility in the great commission. The honest and good hearts will respond and be baptized (Luke 8:15)." The increase to be brought forth is God's duty, not ours (I Corinthians 3:7). Ours is to plant the seed of the kingdom.

Why ought we to make the most of each opportunity to teach or at least to invite others to hear and be taught? As I have pointed out: **duty** (Luke 17:10). Another reason is **gratitude** (Hebrews 12:28). If while we were enemies of God (Romans 5:10) He saved us, we ought to serve Him now that we are His friends (John 15:14). Third, we must do this evangelistic work as we have the opportunity because of **love** (I John 4:19). Fourth, because our **faith** demands it (Revelation 2:10; James 2:14). Finally, we must try to do our part in teaching, or at least inviting people to be taught and learn because "The harvest indeed is plenteous, but the **laborers are few**: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he send forth laborers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2). **This**, brethren, is how the church here in this place will do that for which we pray: continue to grow in number!

# RAGER ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

5775 Rager Rd, Canal Winchester, Ohio 43110  
Phone: 614-830-0110



## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

<b>SUNDAY MORNING</b>	<b>BIBLE STUDY</b>	<b>9:30 A.M.</b>
	<b>WORSHIP</b>	<b>10:30 A.M.</b>
<b>SUNDAY EVENING</b>	<b>WORSHIP</b>	<b>6:00 P.M.</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>BIBLE STUDY</b>	<b>7:30 P.M.</b>
<b>Preachers:</b>	<b>Robin W. Haley</b>	<b>614-751-1082</b>
	<b>James Grayson</b>	<b>614-409-0941</b>

**January 11, 2009**

**Weekly Budget: \$1418.00**

### WELCOME!

Remember in prayer all our number who are traveling: the **Moore**s, brother **Steve Anticoli**, sister **Heather Stephens** as she returns to her military duties in Maryland.

Remember also those who continue to fight with coughs and colds, congestion and flu bugs. Our wrestling is not against flesh and blood...but these nasty germs!

**Fellowship meal & business meeting:** today. Please stay for these events.

**New Rager Road website being launched!**