

☆ Shepherd's Voice ☆

Orcutt Christian Church Newsletter



Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

The Minister's Musings

Bro. Archie Miller

March 2017



March Madness

March was named for the Latin Martius—aka Mars, the Roman God of war. It's time to declare war on the evil that keeps people from worshipping God. Research indicates that 80-90 percent of new church members start coming because of a friend, relative, or acquaintance. How long has it been since you invited someone to attend worship with you? Have you become discouraged when you ask someone and they turned you down? If so, don't stop inviting. Another recent study showed that people who became active Christians had been invited an average of 8 times before they accepted the invitation.

Perhaps you find the following suggestions helpful to make the most of your ministry of inviting others.

- (1) Identify an unchurched person with whom you would be willing to form a friendly relationship. Statistics suggest that 80+% of our Orcutt area are unchurched.
- (2) Keep that person in your mind and before God in your personal prayers.
- (3) Find time to be with that person on his or her own terms as a listener and sharer in his or her interests and concerns.
- (4) When appropriate, respond to that person in ways that show the role your faith plays in your own life.
- (5) Seek ways to serve and opportunities to invite that person, always prepared to accept a "no" without argument. Do not hesitate to extend another invitation at another time. "NO" is seldom forever. It usually means "not right now." Just think how many calls you get from your credit card companies asking you to accept their credit card protection plan, or to increase your credit limits.
- (6) Remember that informal social events are easier to enter unselfconsciously than formal worship.
- (7) Invite your friend into your home at a time when you are entertaining someone from our congregation as a way of breaking the ice.
- (8) Continue all these steps in prayer, always concerned how your friends will react to your invitations, and also concerned that your motives are for that person's good.

Remember, April 16th is Easter. We will have our annual Easter Sunrise Breakfast, starting at 8:30 A.M., followed by Resurrection Day Worship at 10:15 A.M. Would you not agree that is a good day to invite your friends.

Be good to yourselves!

The Elder Cares

We often wonder what we can do to bring others to Christ. We have to step up, even if it's out of our comfort zone. We come in contact with people every day. We have countless opportunities to invite someone to share Christ. None of us would be here had not someone spoken up.



Christ came here to be a servant to the glory of the Father. We are told in *2 Corinthians 13:11 (KJV)*

¹¹ Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.

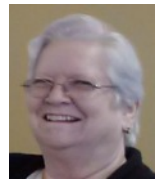
And, In *Philippians 2:12-13 (KJV)*

¹² Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. ¹³ For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Ed Saunders
Elder

The Chair Cares

In *Romans 15:4* Paul says: "*For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*"



On Sunday Mornings at 9:00 we have a time of learning. It is not a "Sunday School" where there is a teacher that talks and you listen. It is a "Bible Study" where we learn what the Bible teaches us and everyone is welcome to share their ideas/thoughts.

I want to encourage all of you to come and share in this time of study where we examine God's Word so that we can better share Him with others.

In *2 Timothy 3:26* Paul says: "*All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.*"

How will we continue to learn if we don't study.

Marilyn Currier
Chair Person

Treasurer's Report

See handouts.



Wayne Webb
Treasurer

“The principles by which Alexander Campbell and his associates lived, appear to me to be indistinguishable from the principles of primitive and apostolic Christianity.”

Dr. F. F. Bruce - (1910-1990)