

# ☆ Shepherd's Voice ☆

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## Orcutt Christian Church Newsletter

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Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

### The Minister's Musings Bro. Archie Miller October 2017



#### Reaching Out

How often we pray that God will bring more people to worship with us here at OCC! And, yet in our hearts, we know the outreach begins with each of us. Yes! The bible does say

**Acts 2:47 (NASB)**

**<sup>47</sup> And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.**

But in exegesis, the context **always** has to be in view. God doesn't bring them in without believers doing their part of reaching out. Read Acts 2 for the full picture.

So, as you focus on your part in God's Scheme of Redemption, meditate on the following:

#### **Dietrich Bonhoeffer, on Listening**

The first service that one owes to others in the fellowship consists in listening to them. Just as love to God begins with listening to His Word, so the beginning of love for brethren is learning to listen to them. It is God's love for us that He not only gives us His Word but also lends us His ear. So it is His work that we do for our brother when we learn to listen to him. Christians, especially ministers, so often think they must always contribute something when they are in the company of others, that this is the one service they have to render. They forget that listening can be a greater service than speaking. Many people are looking for an ear that will listen. They do not find it among Christians, because these Christians are talking when they should be listening.

**Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Life Together**

#### **Rebecca Pippert, On Inviting our Non-Christian Friends**

We are not called to be "Lone Ranger" Christians. We are called to love one another. Indeed a legitimate basis for rejection of belief in God, according to Jesus is lack of love among Christians (Jn. 17:20-24). The antihero for Christians is the American cowboy, out there dodging the arrows and bullets alone. Instead we are called to be a close family that welcomes the world into our midst. We invite people to come and share our love and our gifts. We are free to admit we have not arrived and are far from perfect. But because we believe Jesus is the living center of our group, we invite our non-Christian friends and acquaintances to hang around us and observe Him.

**Rebecca Pippert, Out of the Saltshaker**

# JOY CIRCLE

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