



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 41, No. 24, June 16 , 2015 / Southside Baptist Church & Christian School / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / The Grow in Grace Newsletter is **a weekly Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church. It is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. ***"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Saviour JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."***

A FATHER'S DAY GIFT FOR FAMILIES!

FOR FATHER'S DAY, 2015, there's a Dad and Mom led family I would like for all Southsiders to meet. (Note: Single parents and/or others— please appropriately apply this article! Likewise, there is much here for the family where only one of the parents is seeking to follow the LORD!)

BUT FIRST...

NOTE: There are several Dads who presently have a variety of priorities... which DO NOT INCLUDE seeking first the kingdom of God. YOU ARE NOT RICH TOWARD GOD. It is only the MERCY OF GOD that has kept back the words of Jesus to the rich farmer: 'THOU FOOL, this night thy soul shall be required of thee...'

None of us have reason to be SMUG... as if we have no room for getting a better hold on godly priorities... as if we have arrived in heeding Matthew 6:33— "But seek FIRST the kingdom of God...!"

ALREADY, are there not some of you [US!] who are experiencing judgment like that spoken of by the prophet Haggai.

In those days, folks were busy, busy, busy... and GIVING GOD THE LEFT OVERS... BUT FOR ALL their labors... for all YOUR/OUR LABORS— WHAT WAS/IS THE RESULT?

“You looked for much, and, it became little, and when you brought it home, I did blow upon it!” (Haggai 1:9)

But as to our ‘model’ Dad and Mom Led Family, we shall “look in on them” as they get ready for Sunday Services at Southside. To save space, I may refer to the **Dad and Mom Led family** as the **DML Family** or **DML Families**. The purpose in this article is for each of us and for each of our families to see “What the Holy Spirit is saying to us and/or to the church at Southside!”

A Typical Saturday With the Dad/Mom Led (DML) Family!

Preparations for the LORD’S DAY services are, in varying ways, a six day a week delight for our **DML family**. It seems that God’s Word has taught them to build their lives around **a weekly sacred rhythm**. They seek to honor the Biblical call to both worship and work. **Thus, normal weeks are built around the following:**

1. Prior to the LORD’S DAY: There are three days of prayerful planning, ministry and **anticipation** leading up to and contributing mightily to making each LORD’S DAY special.

2. The LORD’S DAY: Their whole Biblical concept and passion is to **MAKE SUNDAY SPECIAL!** Why? Because the LORD’S DAY is a special day to DELIGHT IN GOD. It is a special day for worship, for ministry and for rest. **There is no carnal legalism here.** They just recognize that **precious relationships and priority ministry require specific and precious time. Why would any Christian not place supreme priority on Delighting in God?**

Our **Dad/Mom led family told us** that **in view of the great mercies of God**, holding the LORD’S DAY sacred for God is not

at all duty but rather it is a grand delight! (Isaiah 58:13-14) There is no strain to refrain from their own ways, their own pleasures or their own ideas as to how each LORD'S DAY will be spent. Moreover, they are not ashamed to humbly inform family and friends, that **as for their household**— Their Sundays uniquely belong to the LORD.

3. The Three Days after the LORD'S DAY: These are days of **reflection** upon the special presence of God revealed in the assembly of the saints on the LORD'S DAY **as** congregational praise and worship were offered to God, **as** fellowship and ministry took place in the midst of the congregation **and as** the Word of God was readily received. For our **DML family**, these are also days of loving obedience to the truth of God's Word received the previous LORD'S DAY.

SO, THIS IS THE SACRED WEEKLY RHYTHM THAT IS COMMON FOR OUR **DML family**. And this sacred weekly rhythm explains their Saturday choices. **On a recent Saturday**, we found them in some of their regular LORD'S DAY PREPARATIONS: **No late Saturday nights out partying, playing, going to games or malls or a thousand other allurements**, which also commonly take most families in different directions! **Rather:** Sunday School lessons are studied! Last minute checks are made on those to whom the Gospel was plant during the week! Prayers are lifted up for the LORD'S blessing on all the LORD'S DAY services! **Clock alarms are set early enough so that on the LORD'S DAY morning they will not be rushed.** Sometimes there are special family activities, but regardless they are in bed early enough so as to be fully rested and refreshed for a GRAND LORD'S DAY OF DELIGHTING IN GOD! Obviously, all of the above activities give our **DML family** plenty

of warrant to pray for God to give increase on the LORD'S DAY! I also learned that their family and individual prayers were in addition to the prayers they prayed with other saints at the Church-wide Wednesday Prayer Service.

4. SUNDAY, the LORD'S DAY, with our Dad/Mom Led Family! Apparently, it was some time ago that our **DML family** began to make positive modifications in their living patterns so that every LORD'S DAY is now a sacred, special day to Delight in God! Our **DML family** happens to live several miles away from where they gather with other saints for Sunday School and Worship.

Nevertheless, because they purposely go to bed early on Saturday evenings— Sunday mornings find them rested, up early with plenty of time for family devotions, breakfast, some family time and even plenty of time to arrive early! It is clear that our **DML family** is excited about being in place early so as to welcome those they have invited to come this Sunday.

Soon after arrival at the church building we find our **DML family** helping visitors or newcomers find all the right places; and helping such ones to be introduced to others and to have someone to sit with during the worship hour. **We also spotted one of them in the hallway, praying with a single parent that came this particular Sunday, all stressed and feeling hopeless.**

Between Sunday School and Worship services **and after** the Worship services they continued ministering. Moreover, we discovered that it is common for our **Dad/Mom led family** to invite other families, widows, single parent families or Church visitors over for lunch... or sitting with them at the church

fellowship meal... or to team up with others for some fellowship times... AS A RESULT OF setting aside 1-4 specific segments of time each month for MINISTRY... ONE WAY of accomplishing this is by GLAD PARTICIPATION IN THE MONTHLY HOME MEETINGS!

As one might expect, our **Dad/Mom led family** commonly use LORD'S DAY afternoons for rest and/or for family and/or ministry. They told us that it would take something really serious to keep them from the LORD'S SUPPER Sundays. **AND GET THIS:** Our **Dad/Mom led family** testifies that they never have discussions as to whether or not they will be faithful to attend and participate in the Southside LORD'S DAY services. It's a given, even when they are on vacation and/or when guests are in their home!

Earlier we noted that our DML family have a passion to make Sundays Special! It seems that each of the family members come to services, armed with **"A Sunday Search!"** (This "Search" is no longer written down, since the "Sunday Search" is by now so ingrained in their lifestyle) **But before each LORD'S DAY is over**, they have a family time of sharing:

- (1) "How Christ spoke **TO me** today!"— Through the S.S. lesson, Music, the Sermon, etc.
- (2) "How Christ spoke **THROUGH me** today!"— Those to whom we were blessed to minister.
- (3) **What follow up strategies** we might use in the coming days with those to whom we are encouraging and/or sharing the Gospel.

Our **Dad/Mom led family** said that in these ways they are further spreading the good news of the present works of God.

5. MONDAY through SATURDAY with our Dad/Mom Led Family! As already reported, our **DML family** purposely divides each week into Three days of REFLECTION and Three days of ANTICIPATION. **But we dare not forget!** They have chores, duties, jobs, School, Homework, stresses, trials like every other family. However, their focus and passion in life is GOD AND HIS KINGDOM. Thus, in their neighborhood, at school, at work, they seek to live holy, to love, to bless, and to do good to all men and especially to other Christians.

They look upon themselves as Missionaries, no different than a Missionary serving in the deepest jungle. They purpose to be excellent employees and/or students and neighbors. At times they participate in various community, civic, sports and/or cultural events.

Why? There are a number of reasons. But chief among them is that these all provide opportunities/settings to make Christ visible out in the midst of their mission field. Moreover, because they are consciously aware that God has purposely placed them as members in a local body of believers, our **DML family** is deeply committed to mutual ministry in the local church body, where they minister and are ministered unto.

6. There may be room to tell of one more significant reality in our Dad/Mom led family. They are deeply committed to guarding the unity of the Holy Spirit at Southside. Thus, they have purposely bound themselves: 1. We will not listen to or willingly inquire of any evil or negative reports of others in the Body. 2. If we hear an evil report, we will not believe it. 3. If we hear an evil report, we will go directly and ASAP to the person about whom the evil report was given,

humbly inform them, seeking truth and healing. 4. If we hear of an evil report and we see no reason to go directly to the person about whom the report was given, we will in no wise speak the evil report to anyone else. 5. We will seek to practice 1 Corinthians 13:1-7; Galatians 6:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-14

7. Some may be wondering— Who is this Dad/Mom Led family? Well, it should be your family or mine! In response to this article, each of us will make some serious decisions: **(1)** We can and will humble ourselves, repent as needed, and get on the road of DELIGHTING IN GOD and of Being Foreign Missionaries! **(2)** Or we can and will make excuses and play church! **This Father's Day, let us give our hearts wholly unto the LORD! The fruit will be transforming to our families as we delight in God and His Kingdom!**

Abundant Grace to Each and All! / James Bell /
www.southsidegallatin.org

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

TUESDAYS: Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care nursing home. Meet at the front door at 5:30PM. Questions call Bradley Pennington at 615-804-3054.

**** WEDNESDAYS: NOTE NEW TIME SCHEDULE!!**

- ☐ **6:30pm— Children** Ministry/activities, led by Jody Allen
- ☐ **6:30pm— Youth** Activities and Bible Study— led by Chris and Rachel Beth Estep **(For both of these... enter via double doors by gym)**
- ☐ **6:30pm— CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE...** Come in side entrance, iron steps... meet in Ladies Sunday School Room

LADIES BIBLE STUDY— JUNE 18, 11:00am, The Life of David! - 1 Samuel 27, 29-30; - Cindy Bell, teaching. {Meet in Ladies Sunday School

Room: Come in FRONT doors of the church auditorium or the SIDE door at the top of the IRON STEPS!}

* **EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study!** {Study in 2 Thessalonians}... Come to back of Church building... Come in under the drive-thru awning... walk forward... till you smell the coffee!

☐ **SUNDAY SERVICES, June 21: 9:30am**, Sunday School; **10:45am** Morning Worship; NO **NOON** lunch or afternoon service. **HOME GROUPS IN THE EVENING!**

☐ **SUNDAY SERVICES, June 28: 9:30am**, Sunday School; **10:45am** Morning Worship— **With John Mackay of Creation Research.**

NOON FELLOWSHIP 'covered dish' Lunch;

June 28: JOHN MACKAY—times and themes:

☐ 10.45 am God made them - male and female! When you get away from God's plan... what happens next?

☐ 6pm Which God? Which Creator? A vital question in today's multi-cultural ethos.

☐ 7pm Noah's Flood... the American evidence is overwhelming...

Plus great Q&A in evening sessions and great creation resources.

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SUMMER CAMP☐ JULY 6-10 // PRAY and PLAN!

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SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL! Call— 616-452-5951