



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 44, No.21, May 23 , 2017 / 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; and 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."***

THE IMPORTANCE OF CHRISTIAN FAMILIES and the LOCAL CHURCH!

Deuteronomy 6:4-9, (ESV)— “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one— [Or, *The LORD our God is one LORD; OR, The LORD is our God, the LORD is one; OR, The LORD is our God, the LORD alone.*] — **You shall** love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today **shall be on your heart. You shall teach** them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them **when** you sit in your house, **and when** you walk by the way, and when you lie down, **and when** you rise. **You shall** bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. **You shall** write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. — **Christian Fathers: Disciple-making is centered in the home and is to be ESPECIALLY led by DADS! Ephesians 6:4—** “**Fathers**, do not irritate and provoke your children to anger [do not exasperate them to resentment], but rear them [tenderly] **in the**

training and discipline and the counsel and admonition of the Lord.” (Amplified Bible)— **Christian Fathers:** The call to make disciples BEGINS AT HOME!

(Mothers also have a KEY role: Prov. 1:8; 6:20; 31:1)

FATHERS: “It is a father’s calling in life to pass on the knowledge of God to the next generation. **A father is commanded** to expose his children day after day, to the greatness of God, the perfections of His ways, and the great stories that explain the character and nature of God. Daily, he praises God with hundreds of words and practical principles. **Day after day, his children observe him as he personally delights in the Word.** They watch him as he places himself under its wonderful teaching. They see how their daddy is comforted and confronted by it and is changed before their eyes. They see how good and mighty God is and how foolish it is to turn away from Him. They have seen, time after time, how their father might have been discouraged or confused, **but the lamp of the Word made everything clear.”** (Scott Brown)

SADLY, THE ABOVE QUOTE neither represents the commitment and practice of most fathers; nor does it represent what most churches teach families. **INSTEAD, FAMILIES ARE LOOKING FOR CHURCHES WITH BUILT-IN, EXCITING, ACTIVITY, FUN-FILLED YOUTH PROGRAMS;** and mega-millions are spent to accommodate these families! **BUT THERE IS TROUBLE!**

THE FAILURE OF YOUTH MINISTRY: A few years ago, Mike Yaconelli, a big time leader with *Youth Specialties*, wrote an **article entitled** *The Failure of Youth Ministry*. It caused such a stink, he WAS PRESSURED to write an apology! (That is sad, because why should

he have to apologize for telling the truth?) **Here is a quote from his article:** “Almost every study out there shows that **when it comes to moral behavior, there's no difference between secular and Christian students.** They drink as much, fornicate as much, have oral sex as much, and party as much. Why? Youth ministry doesn't have any staying power. **Young people flock to Christian concerts, cheer Jesus at large events, and work on service projects.** Unfortunately, it's not because of Jesus; it's because they're young! *[DON'T MISS WHAT HE SAID: Young people flock to Christian concerts and do service projects, such as missions trips, etc— not because they love Jesus; but because those things are exciting to them at the moment; and they are doing them with their FRIENDS... of course, there are exceptions....]* He continues:

The success of youth ministry in this country is an illusion. Very little youth ministry has a lasting impact on students. I believe we're no more effective today reaching young people with the gospel than we've ever been. **In spite of all the dazzling super stars of youth ministry, the amazing array of YS [Youth Specialty] products, the thousands of youth ministry training events, nothing much has changed...** So let's be honest. **Youth ministry as an experiment has failed.** If we want to see the church survive, we need to rethink youth ministry. What does that mean? I don't have a clue. But my hunch is that **if we want to see young people have a faith that lasts,** then we have to completely change the way we do youth ministry in America. I wonder if any of us has the courage to try.” **Observations and data from different sources that BACK UP Yaconelli's concerns; and are shouting the reality that we are FAILING THIS YOUTH generation and losing the next generation:**

1. Dawson MacAlister, national youth ministry specialist, says that **90%** of kids in active high school youth groups do not go to church by the time they are sophomores in college (*The Present Future* by Reggie McNeal, Jossey-Bass).

2. Data from the Southern Baptist Convention indicates that currently we are losing **70-88%** of our youth after their freshman year in college (T.C. Pinkney, Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, Nashville, Tennessee, September 18, 2001... in the 16 years since, there is no indication of positive change).

3. The Southern Baptist **Council on Family Life** reported that **88%** of the children in evangelical homes leave church at the age of 18.

HERE IS A 'CONNECTED' REALITY: Because Churches have 'bought' the modern Youth Ministry Model— as the years have rolled by, parents **have less and less embraced Deut. 6:1-9; Eph. 6:4, and Matt. 28:19-20 at home and at church.**

IN ADDITION IN MANY Churches MOST 'converts' and baptisms are of children, who by the hundreds of thousands have been **'led' through prayers; pronounced 'saved'** by pastors and evangelists; and then baptized.

This looks 'good' on religious reports! It is granted that children can be genuinely saved. **However, the great majority of these present day 'conversions' are not the "Acts 2: 37-42"/"2 Timothy 3:15" variety!** They give forth no evidence of life. Having bypassed Holy Spirit conviction,

repentance and new birth, most modern 'converts' [Children, Youth, and Adults] SOON follow their hearts **which were wed and REMAIN wed to the world's 'hog-pens'**— 2 Peter 2:22!

HERE IS A POSITIVE EXAMPLE OF A GENUINELY TRANSFORMING ADULT AND YOUTH PROGRAM FOR A LOCAL CHURCH!

Cornelis Aertsz de Man, in the Netherlands. Around the year 1544-45, witnessed an Anabaptist being burned at the stake, for refusing to recant and bow to Romanism. In the flames the man prayed for his tormentors. **Cornelis, age 14**, was so moved by such faith that he searched and FOUND A HOME where Anabaptists were having Bible study. "Their witness of faith, their serious study of the Word, their joy in life and their concern for love and moral integrity all excited him."

That local congregation did not place Cornelis in a youth fun and games department! (They did not have one!) **RATHER, he was placed right in the mix of the adults who were seriously studying God's Word!**

Their adult, youth, and children's program was all the same: THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD and by the power of the Holy Spirit, sinners are converted to Christ; and then, they are to be DISCIPLINED IN GROWING CHRIST-LIKENESS! Within a few weeks Cornelis was converted, baptized, and being disciplined.

BY AGE 17 he was so strong in the faith that the powerful Roman Catholic institution leaders thought if they could capture Cornelis and get him to recant they could make a major dent in the Anabaptist movement. INDEED, they captured Cornelis and threw him in prison. Day after day

they sought to get him to recant. Finally, they brought him into a castle court room where they lined the walls with Romanists priests. There they promised that if Cornelis would renounce his simple Biblical faith and return to the state Romanist church that he would be give a future of POSITION AND HONOR.

Cornelis, age 17, calmly replied: "***There is NO HIGHER POSITION than to be a child of God; and NO GREATER HONOR than to be a voice for Him!***" Over and over and day after day, Cornelis stunned and overwhelmed the learned preachers with his Christ-like spirit and powerful speaking forth the truth of Scripture. They mercilessly tortured him until at about age 21, being convinced that he would not recant, they burned him at the stake. BUT SO QUICKLY, Cornelis was absent from the body and PRESENT with the LORD FOR ALL ETERNITY!

THIS ACCOUNT is much like reading what is found in the Acts of the Apostles. **HERE WAS A LOCAL CHURCH FAMILY... BIBLICALLY EQUIPPED and READY to embrace an ORPHAN TEEN.** (*Orphan in that his parents were not saved; and not in the local assembly), AND MODEL AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL TO HIM, AND DISCIPLE HIM!

The young 14 year old, came into their midst and found a congregation overflowing with, "***... witness of faith,... serious study of the Word, ... joy in life and ... concern for love and moral integrity....***"

ABOUT 3 YEARS IN THAT ENVIRONMENT, and Cornelis was so discipled that he was empowered to STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH and give a powerful, godly witness:

"There is NO HIGHER POSITION than to be a child of God; and NO GREATER HONOR than to be a voice for Him!" [The above historical account is drawn from the 1978 book, **FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH: Fifteen Young People Who were not Afraid to Die for their Faith**, by Myron S. Augsburger]

CHRISTIAN MEN, in their homes and in the local church family are assigned to LEAD THE WAY!

Ephesians 6:4— "Fathers, do not irritate and provoke your children to anger [do not exasperate them to resentment], but rear them [tenderly] in the training and discipline and the counsel and admonition of the Lord." (Amplified Bible)—

DADS, PARENTS— YOU/WE must proclaim/teach the gospel to everyone in OUR households and by our lifestyle give our CHILDREN a 1000 reasons to believe the gospel of Christ.

SPECIAL NOTE: We have children and youth who attend services without their parents— WE MUST LOVE THEM! We must 'ADOPT' THEM!

Grace to all! / James Bell / www.southsidegallatin.org

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

MONDAYS: Jail Ministry— First and Second Monday of each month at 7:30pm. Questions? Contact Mike Munday at 615-681-7533

TUESDAYS: Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care nursing

Home. Meet at the front door at 5:30PM.

WEDNESDAYS: ☐ 6:30pm— Children Ministry/activities; ☐ 6:30pm— Youth Activities and Bible Study— (For both of these... enter via double doors by gym)

☐ 6:30pm— Wednesday CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE... Come in side entrance, iron steps... meet in Ladies Sunday School Room

LADIES BIBLE STUDY— Studies in the Gospel of Luke! ...

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, *June 6, 2017* @ 11:00am; Cindy Bell teaching. [Front door open at 10:45 till 11:05am; or come in Iron Steps side entrance!]

MEN: EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study! *{STUDYING the Epistle of First John}* AT THE back of Church building... Come in under the drive-thru awning, walk forward, coffee & biscuits WAITING!

**** Sunday Services, May 28—**

9:30am - Sunday School

10:45am - Worship Service // NOON MEAL

**5:30pm - 7:30pm FAITHFUL MEN'S
MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP/STUDY/EQUIPPING**