

## Seizing Opportunities to Shine the Light to Strangers

The Spirit commanded, “Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body” (Hebrews 13:1-3). Gaius was approved of John with these words: “Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers which have borne witness of thy charity before the church” (3 John 1:5-6).

Why does God place so much emphasis on strangers? Each stranger has a soul made in His image (Genesis 1:26). Each stranger is loved by God more than he can comprehend (John 3:16). Each stranger was purchased by the precious blood of God’s only Son (1 Peter 1:18-19). Each stranger needs to know about the most wonderful person who ever lived—Jesus (Isaiah 9:6; John 7:46; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Corinthians 3:11). Each stranger needs to know that Jesus is coming back (Matthew 24:36 – 25:46). Each stranger will one day stand before God to be judged according to the deeds done in the body, whether good or bad (2 Corinthians 5:10).

God places emphasis on strangers, too, because we can never get the gospel to the whole world by teaching only those we know personally. There are presently about 2.1 million New Testament Christians in the United States, and there are 307,901,825 citizens. In order for each lost American to have an opportunity to be saved, each Christian must personally reach 147 on average. If American Christians are to reach the whole world (6.8 billion people), then each of us has to reach 3238 people. Further, untold millions are dying untold. The death rate is at the highest it has been in the history of the world:

- ♦ 57.9 million people die each year; 6,619 people die each hour
- ♦ 158,857 people die each day (66,000 people of these die having had no access to the gospel in their lifetime)

The Good Samaritan teaches us the lesson of tragedy benevolence and evangelism (Luke 10). Jesus’ parable was used to illustrate that our neighbor is anyone in need. Though it does not speak directly of evangelism, it demonstrates the principle that we should be ready to help all victims, any time. We should help them physically—getting them treatment for wounds and disease. We should help them financially—meeting their need for food, clothing, and shelter. We should help them mentally and emotionally—providing them counseling and professional attention for their inner wounds.

But most of all we should help them spiritually—saving the soul is infinitely more important than saving their bodies and minds. Redeeming them for God is far more meaningful than reclaiming them for society. This reminds us that the goal of all physical assistance should be to lead the person to Jesus for spiritual assistance. The applications from this example include reaching out to the victims of society (abused/abandoned children, battered women, sexually abused). We should not shy away from helping those who have been given up as unsalvageable by society.

Lydia is an example of stranger evangelism (Acts 16:14-15). She must have had to overcome her fear of a strange man who came up to talk to her. This teaches us that we should go where the people are. We should go where people are in the mood or frame of mind for religion and spiritual discussions (the Internet for instance). Lydia shows that professional and wealthy people also make prospects for conversion.

## Prayers and Concerns

- ♦ Rose Burton will have hip surgery on October 15th.
- ♦ Debbie Eslinger has Stage 2 breast cancer. She will start chemo treatments to be followed by surgery.
- ♦ Marian Luna, Brad’s wife, has Stage 4 pancreatic cancer. She has chosen not to have chemo treatments since it won’t cure it. Brad had to quit FedEx so he could be closer to home.
- ♦ Pray for the victims of two hurricanes causing flooding and other damage in Florida, Tennessee and North Carolina. Still so many missing because they can’t get to their houses.
- ♦ Remember those with health issues—Dorlene Butler, Ruth Strain, Norma Jones, Steve Siebels, Aleta Collins, Bob Robbins.
- ♦ All those battling cancer—Amy Myers, Don Luna, Harold Reynolds, Jim Kirkland, Donna Shipley, Elaine Hunter (Larry’s sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg’s sister), Lionel Daugherty, Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Nikki Smith, Brad Luna, Marian Luna, Jenny James, Bill McFarland.
- ♦ Those in GHCC: Bonnie Ebrite, Delphia Holmes. Bonnie Luna at Ava. Clifford Lansdown at Hiram Shaddox; Jack Moyers, Cyprus Spring. Wilbern Uchtman, Brook Haven in West Plains; Irene Corp in Care Manor.

Therefore Go and  
Make Disciples  
of All Nations,  
Baptizing Them  
in The Name of  
The Father and of  
The Son and of  
The Holy Spirit  
**MATTHEW 28:19**

**“Ultimately, Jesus calls his disciples to make disciples, who will make disciples. It is through this factor of multiplication that Christianity has grown and spread into every nation of the world.”**

**DR. CRAIG KRAFT**

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
10-1	Matthew Burton	10-19	Mark and Nichole Lane
10-4	Mary Ann Reynolds	10-19	Chris and Kelly Lemberg
10-4	Spencer Wade	10-26	Jason and Julie Schofield
10-7	Lee Bearden	Birthdays	
10-10	Aubree Schofield (2)	10-16	John Abraham
10-11	Tristan Goodman	10-19	Debra Lane
10-13	Vernon James	10-21	Amy Myers
10-14	Derek Lynne (11)	10-24	Addilyn Strong (7)
10-15	Darren Crisp	10-26	Casey Hambelton

Barbara and Lana will be serving fettuccini alfredo with chicken, salad, garlic bread, and angel food cake with strawberries for Wednesday night fellowship supper. Come join us.

Date	Event	Details
October 21-25, 7 p.m.	Unite to Worship—The Power of Preaching Jesus Christ	On Monday Halbert will be preaching here
Saturday Oct. 26, late afternoon/evening	Pumpkin carving/painting	Decorate a pumpkin, eat supper, and scavenger hunt
Thursday, Oct. 31	Trunk or Treat on the Square—see Jessica for details and to help	Need donations of candy to be brought here.

### October Worship Assignments

#### Welcome & Shepherd's Prayer

6 David Stevens  
13 Don Luna  
20 John Abraham  
27 Mark Lane

#### Communion & Closing Prayer

Dana Crisp  
Paul Wade  
Dylan Abraham  
Don Reynolds

**Song Leader: Titus Smith**  
**Greeters: Tinker & Karen Langston**

## The Family News

October 13, 2024

### Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655

[www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org](http://www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org)

### A Place to Call Home

*We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.*

### Schedule of Services

#### Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service: ***Jesus Wants Disciples to Make Disciples***

#### Wednesday

6 p.m. Fellowship Supper

7 p.m. Bible Classes for All Ages Downstairs

Welcome and Shepherd's Prayer

Kids Singing up Front

#416, *Footsteps of Jesus*; #643, *Sowing the Seeds*

#382, *Why Did My Savior Come to Earth*; Communion Service

#622, *Ring Out the Message*

Sermon and Invitation

#936, *Lord, I'm Coming Home*

#414, *Anywhere with Jesus*; Closing Prayer

Offering baskets are located at the back.

*We are a community of redeemed sinners who are following Jesus Christ, proclaiming the gospel of grace, loving our Lord and one another.*

#### **Elders**

Mark Lane 417-679-4835  
Don Luna 417-712-1945  
David Stevens 417-679-4700  
John Abraham 870-421-5632

#### **Deacons**

Larry Butler 817-504-1604  
Dana Crisp 417-331-5090  
James Langston 870-315-4355

#### **Preacher**

Halbert Smith 417-257-3880