

North Hamilton Church of Christ

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May 17, 2020

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays:

19 – Amanda Stewart

Anniversaries:

18 – Steve and Carlaine Pell
David & Ashley Smith

Reminders:

Our online worship service is posted to Facebook and YouTube on Sunday at 10 AM

To make your contribution digitally, you can use Venmo:
@NorthHamilton-ChurchOfChrist

“Evangelism Is Not on Hold” David B. Smith

I’m guessing that lots of people lately have been saying this in a conversation, “we can’t do that right now.” I know we’ve had to explain that to the girls plenty of times. “Daddy, can we go to such and such a place?” We then have to explain, “we can’t do that right now.” “What about to the mall? Can we go?” Same answer. This is so very hard for all of us, especially since we’ve never had to limit our activities. We get it. We understand the reason. It’s still tough. But if we aren’t careful, this “do nothing for the moment” experience can develop into an attitude that shuts down even the things we should be doing.

Did you know that evangelism does not have a shut down period? Just because we are social-distancing from one another, we are not taking a break from spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. We may not be able to knock on doors or organize events with hundreds (or thousands) of people but we are under no orders from heaven to limit our outreach. Here are a few things for us to consider:

1. The early church continued to evangelize, even in the worst circumstances. Even when they were driven from certain areas, they “went everywhere preaching the word” (Acts 8:1-4). After a few short decades beyond Pentecost, Paul was able to say that the Gospel “was preached to every creature under heaven” (Col. 1:23). Restrictions never limited the early church’s ability to accomplish their charge to preach Christ.
2. Many people are looking for spiritual answers to this physical crisis. The threat of being sick or even dying from Covid-19 is causing many to seek answers beyond what this world can provide. These are golden opportunities for the church. These are the open doors we’ve been praying for (Col. 4:2-6). It would be a shame to miss out on helping people find the truth especially when they are looking for it.
3. More people are spending time on social media sites, like Facebook and YouTube. Creating content that is evangelistic doesn’t just have to be the job of a congregation. All of us can learn to do something, even if it’s just posting a positive statement about God and His church. We can do the same thing with letters and cards. There is no shortage of opportunities. We simply have to adjust our methods.
4. Our conduct in the midst of this pandemic is preaching a message of its own (1 Pet. 3:1-4). People are watching. They need to see optimistic and joyful people. They need to see a people with a view of life and the world that can only be attributed to Jesus.

Let’s not fall into the trap of thinking that our duties in the Kingdom of God have been suspended. If anything, we have been presented the challenge of finding new ways to evangelize. The message remains the same. However, we are being placed into the position of brainstorming new (and perhaps in some ways better) methods of evangelism.