

**Jackson Street Baptist Church**  
**1206 Jackson Street**  
**Scranton, Pa. 18504**  
**Phone: 346-1674**

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# The High Spire

*"A going Church for a coming Lord"*

March, 2010

## Pastor's Message

### Fishing For Men Cont... (Part 2)

But we're not so good at actually fishing for men. In fact, most Christians I know feel vaguely guilty about the whole subject of evangelism. They know they should do it but they don't know where to begin or how.

Researcher George Barna has discovered that nine out of ten people who attempt to explain what they believe to other people come away from those experiences feeling as if they have failed. Get that—9 out of 10 feel like failures when it comes to sharing what they believe. No wonder we don't do much

evangelism. It's not fun to do something that makes you feel like a failure 90% of the time.

Barna concludes that "despite the divine command to spread the Word, many Christians redirect their energies into areas of spiritual activity that are more satisfying and in which they are more likely to achieve success."

## Commanded And Gifted

It is right at this point that we come to one of the great paradoxes in the area of evangelism. There is a command to evangelize and there is a gift of evangelism. Jesus said, "Go and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15). That's the command. It is God's will for your life, period. No Christian can wriggle off the

hook. We are to do the work of evangelism—that is, the work of spreading the good news about Jesus Christ wherever we go. Most of us already know about the command even if we aren't obeying it very well.

But there's another side to the story. That is, there is a spiritual gift of evangelism, which some Christians have and others don't. To be literal about it, it is the gift of being an evangelist. The people with this gift have a unique ability to share their faith with other people. Here is how we define this gift in the Spiritual Gifts Inventory: The special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to present the gospel message clearly to non-Christians and lead them to put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and also to equip other believers to do likewise.

Let me suggest three signs of a person who has this gift:

First, the person gifted in evangelism has an unusual burden for souls. His burden goes beyond that which all Christians share.

Second, the person gifted in evangelism has an unusual ability to share the gospel with others. That is, he finds opportunities in everyday life that the rest of us just pass up.

Third, the person gifted in evangelism sees unusual results. That is, people come to Christ when he shares the gospel with them.

In the Bible only one person is called an evangelist. His story is found in Acts 8. Philip had been one of the first deacons of the early church. In addition to his deaconing gifts, God also gave him the gift of being an evangelist. We see this gift at work in two ways in Acts 8. First, he went to Samaria and began to preach the gospel with the result that multitudes came to Christ (Acts 8:4-8). Then he went to the desert road that goes from Jerusalem to Gaza. Along the way he met an Ethiopian Eunuch who was reading Isaiah 53. He came along, got into a conversation with the eunuch, shared the gospel from that very passage and led him to Christ (Acts 8:26-40). All the elements are there: A focus on the unsaved, clarity in preaching the

gospel, and impressive results in terms of people coming to Christ.

I'm saying that when it comes to evangelism, all Christians are commanded to evangelize but some Christians are both commanded and specially gifted in this area.

## **Kits for Haiti**

Members and friends of Jackson Street Baptist Church, we have an opportunity to help impoverished people throughout Haiti by supplying items we take for granted that they otherwise could not afford. The Haiti Partnership will deliver the kits to areas of need. Estimated cost for each kit is \$12.

Each kit should include:

- 1 hand towel – approximately 15 inches by 25 inches
- 1 wash cloth
- 1 wide toothed comb
- 1 finger nail clipper (no nail files, emery boards or toenail clippers)
- 1 bath-sized bar of soap (3 oz or larger)
- 1 large tube of toothpaste (4.5oz or larger)
- 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper)
- 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages.

All items in the kits must be NEW items.

Do not include any personal notes, money, or additional materials.

Place items in a one gallon zip top plastic bag.

Place completed kits in the collection box in the rear of the sanctuary.

Thank you for helping those in need.

**Kindness, if you show it to others, will radiate from you like the warmth of the sun over the hilltops.**

## Ladies Afternoon Tea

On April 17, 2010 at 1:00pm, Jackson Street Baptist Church will host it's second annual Ladies Afternoon Tea. Ginger Millermon, inspirational "Top 10" recording artist from Hutchinson, Kansas will be in concert and give a devotion for the ladies around 2:30pm.

Ginger, a nationally recognized songwriter and recording artist, can be heard on hundreds of radio stations nationwide. Her concert events and conferences are based on her life-changing testimony and music from her 5 albums. Ginger's testimony is chronicled in her book *Grace Thus Far* and recently featured on "Focus on the Family" and "The 700 Club." Ginger has spoken and ministered to thousands in churches, women's conferences and pro-life events across the United States. She has an unforgettable message for today's culture and has soul-stirring music that will inspire and encourage hearts of all ages.

If you are not able to attend the Tea, because of limited seating, ladies are invited to join us for the concert in the Sanctuary. RSVP by April 3, 2010 for the Tea – contact Donna Houser at 341-9826

Ginger will also be performing on April 18, 2010 at 10:00am in our Morning Service in the sanctuary. ALL are invited to attend.

## Cymru am byth!

Were you lucky enough to be in Wales on March 1<sup>st</sup>, you would find the country in a festive mood. Every self-respecting man, woman and child would be celebrating St. David's Day in one way or another. But who was St. David, and why is he so important to the Welsh?

St. David, or Dewi Sant, as he is known in the Welsh language, is thought by many to be the patron saint of Wales. He was a Celtic monk, abbot and bishop, who lived in the sixth century. During his life he was the archbishop of Wales, and was one of many early saints who helped spread Christianity among the pagan Celtic tribes of western Britain.

It is claimed that Dewi lived for over 100 years. It is generally accepted that he died on March 1, 589. His last words to his followers were in a sermon on the previous Sunday. Translated these words read "Be joyful, and keep your faith and your creed. Do the little things that you have seen me do and heard about. I will walk the path that our fathers have trod before us." Today, "Do the little things" is a very well known phrase in Wales, and has proved an inspiration to many.

St. David was, and is, a very important figure to the Welsh. Naturally St. David's Day is a time of great celebration in Wales. Societies all over Wales celebrate with special meetings and events. In St. David's Hall, Cardiff, each March 1<sup>st</sup> there is a concert featuring a 1000-member male voice choir, specially formed for the occasion. Male voice choirs are flown to all corners of the globe to entertain Welsh communities on St. David's Day.

This lyric expresses how many Welshmen feel:

To be born Welsh is to be born privileged,

Not with a silver spoon in your mouth,

But with music in your blood,  
And poetry in your soul.

To those who were born Welsh, and to those who were not, we say, Happy St. David's Day ... and remember to "Do the little things."

## **Erin go bragh!**

Unlike St. David's Day, it seems that everyone celebrates St. Patrick's Day. It is said that on March 17<sup>th</sup> everyone is Irish. But who exactly was St. Patrick?

St. Patrick was born to Roman parents in Kilpatrick, near Dumbarton Scotland in the year 387.

As a boy of fourteen or so, he was captured by a raiding party and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend sheep. At this time, Ireland was a land of Druids and pagans. Patrick learned the language and practices of the people who held him.

Patrick's captivity lasted until he was twenty when, he said, he had a dream from God in which he was told to leave Ireland by going to the coast. There he found some sailors who took him back to Britain, where he reunited with his family.

He later had another dream in which the people of Ireland were calling to him "We beg you, holy youth, to come and walk among us once more."

He began his studies for the priesthood. He studied under Germanus, the bishop Auxerre, by whom he was ordained.

Later, Patrick was ordained a bishop, and was sent to take the Gospel to Ireland. He arrived at Slane on March 25, 433.

Patrick began preaching the Gospel throughout Ireland, converting many. He and his disciples preached and converted thousands and began building churches all over the country.

Patrick preached for years and concerted all of Ireland. After years of living in poverty, traveling, and enduring much suffering he died on March 17, 461.

Patrick was a humble, pious, gentle man whose love and total devotion to and trust in God should be a shining example to each of us. He feared nothing, even death, so complete was his trust in God, and the importance of his mission.

## **When you thought I wasn't looking**

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you hang my first painting on the refrigerator, and I immediately wanted to paint another one.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you feed a stray cat, and I learned it was good to be kind to animals.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you make my favorite cake for me, and I learned that the little things can be the special things in life.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I heard you in prayer, and I knew there is a God I could always talk to, and I learned to trust in Him.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you make a meal to take to a friend who was sick, and I learned that we all have to help take care of each other.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you take care of our house and everyone in it, and I learned we have to take care of what we are given.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw how you handled your responsibilities, even when you didn't feel good, and I learned I would have to be responsible when I grew up.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw tears come from your eyes, and I learned that sometimes things hurt, but it's all right to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw that you cared, and I wanted to be everything that I could be.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I learned most of life's lessons that I need to know to be a good and productive person when I grew up.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I looked at you and wanted to say "Thanks for all the things I saw when you thought I wasn't looking."