



COVENANT PARTNER NEWS

Date: Sunday, August 1, 2021

Volume 1: Issue 14



WHY SHOULD I SHARE MY FAITH?

We have asked each member of Bethesda to identify at least one person they will share the gospel with. Most of the members of Bethesda are beyond the age of 70 or approaching the age of 70. No matter who you are, we all fall in one of these camps. The Bible teaches our days are numbered and if we start with our Jerusalem, I am sure there is at least one family member you know who needs Jesus Christ. Either that person has confessed Jesus Christ and their life and walk are out of step with Jesus Christ or you know a family member who has never accepted Jesus Christ. Wouldn't it be a shame to go to glory and your son or daughter, uncle or aunt, cousin or grandparent is not there

because you neglected to share the gospel. Let's look at some reasons we should share our faith.

When we accept Jesus as our Savior and Lord, it means that we're saying yes to His ways and His plans for our lives. Part of that is sharing the life-changing power of Jesus with those around us. This is called *evangelism*.

Evangelism is defined as a *zealous advocacy for a cause*. In Christianity, this "*zealous advocacy*" is spread when we share the good news of Jesus Christ—how He came to earth to save us by dying for our sins and then being raised back to life so that we could spend eternity with Him. This is the good news of Jesus.

So, why is this important for us as followers of Jesus? For one, Jesus said to do it in the last words He spoke to His disciples at the end of Matthew 28. He told them to "*go and*

make disciples of all nations..." And they did, and so should we! Secondly, anytime we have good news to share that could benefit someone's life, we share it, don't we? Knowing Jesus is not only good news, it's the *best* news! We have the cure for the human condition, so let's be a sharer of God's love to the people in our lives.

Before we share the good news, or gospel, of Jesus, it's important that we know it. Here's the truth about what God has done for us:

God created us for a relationship with Him. (Genesis 1:26) But we sinned and because of that, we deserve punishment. (Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23) Thankfully, God made a way for us to know Him by sending His only Son, Jesus, to save the world by dying on a cross and rising from the grave. (John 3:16; Romans 5:8-9) And once we believe in Jesus and accept Him as our Savior, we

receive eternal life. (Romans 10:9-10)

Sounds almost too good to be true, doesn't it? We messed up, but then a loving, perfect Heavenly Father sent His only Son to save us from ourselves. It's profound, but very simple. And it's extremely good news!

Over the next few days, we'll look into some different ways that we can share our faith about Jesus with others. One of the simplest ways to share your faith is through conversations with others. Maybe you mention something about church, inquire about what someone believes about God, or suggest reading and discussing a book with someone. If you're interacting with a family member, share the legacy of a family member, living or deceased, who had a strong faith and love for the Lord. Young people love to hear about your family's legacy. And your legacy will be forever etched in their souls if the Holy Spirit uses you to lead them to Christ.

Before next Sunday if you haven't already done so, spend some time praying and asking God to put at least one person on your heart who needs Him. Then, begin praying for God to soften their hearts so that you can influence their lives.



A Vision in the Making



THE DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY

There is an old hymn that comes to mind when I think about discipleship. The lyrics are so inspiring when traveling the discipleship road and inviting others to become disciples of Christ. The words are as follows:

I Want To Be A Follower Of Christ

I want to be a follower of Christ. I want to be one of his disciples. I want to live in the newness of life; Just let me be a follower of Christ.

I want to be a fisher, now for Christ. I want to bring other souls to him; I want to help rid this world of its strife; Just let me be a follower of Christ.

What do I have to do? What do I have to say? How do I have to walk each and ev'ry day? Tell me what does it cost if I carry the cross? Just let me be a follower of Christ.

A Christian disciple is a person who accepts and assists in the spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Christian discipleship is the process by which disciples grow in Jesus Christ and are equipped by the Holy Spirit, who resides in our hearts. Discipleship causes us to make God's priorities our

priorities. Our selfish interests and motives diminish as our lives become Christ-like. True Discipleship takes time, and the journey is not an easy one.

The following scriptures remind us of the commitment to follow Jesus: **"And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple."** Luke 14: 27 (NKJV); **"So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple."** Luke 14:33(NKJV); **"By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so, you will be My disciples."** John 15:8(NKJV); **"Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed."** John 8:31(NKJV)

These scriptures clearly outline what we must do to be a follower of Christ. Our love for God must be a total surrender to Him. We must let the Potter (Jesus) mold our lives.

We have a big mandate as Christians. In order to be true disciples, we must love one another! Author Thom Rainer and writers for Lifeway Curriculum and Billy Graham Evangelistic Association annotated the following highlights about discipleship:

Love Makes Us Most Like God

Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. **The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love."** - 1 John 4:7-8

The Word Of God Hangs
On The Issue Of Love.

"He said to him, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.

This is the greatest and most important command.

The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.'" -

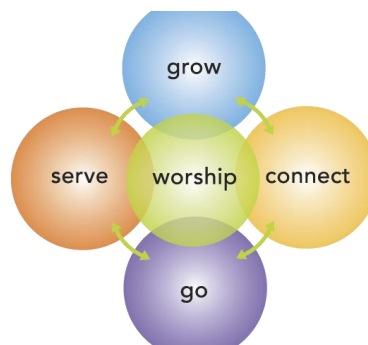
Matthew 22:37-38

"Many people think they are good disciples, because they know a lot of answers and follow their own set of rules. I say, "their own set" because they are usually a favorite subset of the biblical teachings—go to worship, read our Bible, give a tithe, pray, and care about people like us—all great Christian things, but they are not what Jesus declared as the ultimate sign of a real disciple." (Rainer)

The Greatest Expression Of A Disciple

Love is how we live out everything we know about God. Love not only for God, but also for our neighbors. Real discipleship has upward dimensions with God, but it also has outward implications with people in the world around us. "Love is how we live out everything we know about God." As scripture tells us in I Corinthians 13:1-3 (NKJV): "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. ² And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am

nothing. ³ And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body ^[a] to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. "Discipleship is summed up as Jesus expressed in John 13:34-35 (NKJV): "I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another."



Be encouraged! God is with us on the Discipleship Journey. He will never leave us or forsake us.



Each Tuesday at 7 PM using our regular conference line call-in number: 1.712.770.4952; access code 875378#.

Subject: Life Lessons from the book of 1st Thessalonians.

THIS WEEK EVENTS



Meeting

Tuesday, August 2

5:00 PM

Conference call in number:

1-712.770.4952

Access code 875378#



Meeting

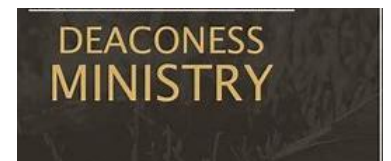
Saturday, August 7

9:00AM

Conference call-in number:

1.712.770.4952

Access Code: 875378#



Meeting

Saturday, August 7

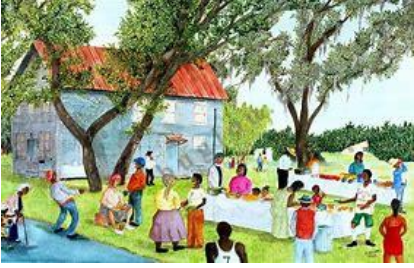
10:30AM

Conference call-in number:

1.712.770.4952

Access Code: 875378#

UPCOMING



Fellowship In the Park

SATURDAY AUGUST 21

11:00 AM

ABORETUM



INSPIRATIONAL COOKBOOK

The Women's Ministry is gathering recipes for our "Sister to Sister Inspirational Cookbook". We are asking for recipe submissions. Recipes can be original and if not, credit must be given to the appropriate source.

You may submit a story about the recipe and or a picture to accompany it. You may submit the recipe(s) via email to Deborah Dickerson

(debrad07@gmail.com);

Sharon Becton

(sharonbecton23@gmail.com)

or by mail: Attention Women's Ministry, Bethesda Baptist Church, 1808 Capitol Ave NE, Washington DC 20002.

Recipes are due by September 4, 2021.



As we prepare to return to church, we need volunteers to sign up for AED/CPR training. If interested, please call the church at 202.635.2883



Thank you, Bethesda, for your faithful giving. Your giving allows Bethesda to continue to be a blessing to others and to spread the gospel. We are asking for your continued faithfulness. You may mail your offering to the church or pay on-line via the church's website,

www.bethesdaweb.org.

Additionally, please send a separate check from your Tithes and Offerings for the Building Renovation, J.D. Bussey Scholarship fund, Boiler Fund, etc., as these funds are not deposited in the same bank. The same applies to the Online Giving which is for Tithes and Offerings only. Lastly, please indicate the month of your birthday/wedding on the birthday/wedding club envelopes.



We would like to thank you for all your love, thoughts, support and prayers. It has simply been overwhelming. We cannot thank you enough. All our love-

The Family of Arthur Dixon

Thank you so much for your thoughts, prayers and acts of kindness. Your enduring love and support will always be remembered.

Danna Carraway

Lawanda Prather



Please continue to be in prayer for those identified on our prayer request listing as well as those individuals on our sick and shut-in list.

- Deacon Marshall Brown
- Deacon CD Thompson
- Trustee Daryl Daniels
- Sister Bonnie Banks
- Sister Annie White
- Sister Barbara Henderson
- Sister Rose Holbert
- Brother Norman Fisher
- Brother Willie Green
- Brother Eric Hughes
- Sister Maygi Dowtin
- Sister Delaine Dobson
- Sister Lenora Watlington
- Sister Christine Calhoun

- Sister Evelyn Brown
- Sister Sandra Gainer
- Sister Frances McCannon
- Sister Muriel Atkins
- Brother Tommie Holley



Services for Barton T. Copeland, son of Deacon Frank and Sandra Copeland, will be held on Monday, August 2, 2021, at the Pope Funeral Home, 5538 Marlboro Pike, Forestville, MD. A public viewing will begin at 10:00am. A *family only* service will start at 11:00am.

Deacon Arthur Dixon went home to be with the Lord. Please keep Sister Dorothy Serious and family in prayer.

Brother Marlon Irving son of Ernest & Charlotte Irving went home to be with the Lord. Please keep the family in prayer.