



Family Newsletter

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When You Witness For The Lord



Dr. Gene Burge
President, BMFP

When you witness for the Lord you cannot be a failure. One of the things I notice as my wife and I travel is that many Christians in our churches feel they are failures unless they see great results from their soulwinning endeavors. They hear and see some Christians testify that they win great numbers of people to the Lord each week. Many times those who have tried soulwinning and

do not get the same results think they must be a failure in the matter of soulwinning. ***The truth of the matter is this: none of us do the saving of souls, God does!***

As born again believers we are to be “witnesses” for our Lord Jesus Christ. We are to share with a world that is lost and dying the salvation message of the Gospel. Acts 1:8 says, “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be **witnesses** unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” God’s power is for witnessing.

As a witness for the Lord, if the person you are witnessing to gets saved, you are successful. If the person doesn’t get saved you are still successful. How can that be? Because you are to be a witness for Christ and God will do the saving of the lost soul. It is God that gives the increase.

Remember though that our witnessing and labors are vital to God. We all know that in the physical world God could make the seed or a tree grow if they were not planted in the earth, but, He does not do it. The Lord chose to use mankind and his labors in the harvest field. If mankind doesn’t plant, God will not make the grain or the tree grow. God blesses mankind's labors.

So in the matter of witnessing, the efforts of those of us who are saved would be of no avail without God. We can do nothing in the salvation of lost souls unless God would give the increase. As I often say, “Christ wants to do a work in us so He can do a work through us.” With the Holy Spirit living within us, through His power we can be effective witnesses for our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. “Ye Shall Be Witnesses.”



Is His Vision Our Vision?
by
George Rundle
BMFP Bible Institute
Field Administrator

We all know the venerable proverb (29:18a): ***“Where there is no vision, the people perish”*** Truly, it is more than a simple axiom, for the latter part of the verse states; “but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.” This clause reminds us that our vision must come from the Word of God. *His revealed Word is His revealed will.* We must find our direction for ministry from His Word. (Compare Isaiah 55:9b)

With respect to our calling as missionaries and—yes—also true of every member of the local church, we must begin with the Great Commission, in which we all take part, whether through praying, giving, or going. He has charged us: “Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you” (Matt. 28:19-20a).

There is one main verb and three participles. The main verb “teach” means “make disciples,” learners, followers of our Lord. Since the first participle precedes and introduces the discipleship process, it is simply translated “Go,” literally meaning “while you are going.” But this going is not coincidental; it is a significant part of the commission or charge, implying the need to, continually, *go with the Gospel*, that is, *evangelizing*, proclaiming the “Good News” that Jesus saves. The other two participles are “baptizing” in verse 19 and “teaching” in verse 20, constituting a *three-fold process for making disciples*.

First, we are told how we are to “make disciples” by *going with the Gospel*, which provides the *entrance* into the discipleship process. (Mark 16:15) We become a *disciple of Christ* by trusting Christ as Savior in response to the Gospel message.

Second, essential to the discipleship process is *baptizing them*, because believer’s baptism is their pledge of allegiance, when they raise their colors to follow Christ faithfully in lifelong commitment as His disciple.

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Please pray for new missionaries to yield to the call of God for missionary service.

**BMFP
Candidate Training Week
June 8 - 12, 2020
Jacksonville, Florida**

**Is His Vision Our Vision?
By George Rundle
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Failure to follow Christ in baptism short-circuits the discipleship process.

Third, the word “teaching” in verse 20 means *systematically instructing* them in the whole counsel of the Word of God. (Compare Acts 20:20-27, 31-32) We must equip them, give them the knowledge and skills to be an *able* disciple, ready to effectively reach the world for Christ.

While *going with the Gospel* provides the *entrance* to the discipleship process, and *baptizing and teaching them* constitute the *two keys* to the discipleship process, *commitment* and *equipment*, the closing promise: “I am with you always, even unto the end of the world,” constitutes the successful *exit* from the process, sending them to do the same. Christ will comfort us with His divine presence every day and all the day as we go with the Gospel and disciple others.

Brothers and sisters, this is our mission and, therefore, should be our vision, whether as missionaries, pastors, teachers, or individual believers. *May His Vision Be Our Vision!*

News From the Field

**Jake & Amanda Gerasimof
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The past two months have allowed us to do some special outreach and we have made several contacts through our visitation program. We met a man about a month ago at his door, invited him to church and the next day he was in service. During that service he raised his hand for salvation, after the service I spoke with him and he told me he made a decision to trust Christ as a teenager and today he was rededicating his life to the Lord. Ever since that service he has been faithful and even coming out to our Tuesday morning men’s prayer time. Praise the Lord! After our Candlelight service our church family delivered cookies, goodies, meat trays and gospel tracts to our local Fire/police department, hospital personnel on duty, and Coast Guard units. It was a great

opportunity for our church family to say thank you to those who protect every day & to get the gospel into their hands. Please pray we will see spiritual fruit from this outreach.

**Kurt & Rachel Robertson
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We praise the Lord and are thankful for His goodness to us. We are grateful to have a part in Samuel and my mother professing faith in the finished work of Christ. We are thankful for the safe delivery of Karalyn. Further, the Lord has blessed us with a great time of fellowship with family this thanksgiving and Christmas season.

We praise the Lord for his safety in travel despite almost having a near fatal collision on the interstate. God’s protection was on us traveling to the last meeting we had for 2019. We were traveling to Georgia from South Carolina driving on the interstate when a young kid flew down the ramp and didn’t want to wait in traffic. He decided to cut across 3 lanes of traffic. He was heading right into the side of our vehicle where Karalyn was sitting. I was able to see it at the last second and honked the horn but he didn’t stop and I was forced off the road. The Lord enabled us to keep the vehicle from spinning out of control in the rain while driving 70 miles an hour. We are so grateful for the safety God has given us in our traveling and praise the Lord for His constant protection.

Editor’s Notes

As Dr. Burge mentioned in his opening to this issue, we cannot go wrong in witnessing of what our Lord and Savior has done for us. To best accomplish our calling, we must keep our eyes on the Lord and His will for creation. Alvin Toffler, an American writer that enjoyed writing about emerging technology, accurately claimed:

You've got to think about big things while you're doing small things, so that all the small things go in the right direction.”

We should remember 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 as we endeavor to witness of the work of the Lord Jesus Christ:

“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”