

THE MESSENGER

Franklin United Brethren Church

7171 Central College Road

New Albany, OH 43054

WWW.FRANKLINUB.ORG

Sunday Service 10:15 AM

JUNE 2024

“WIN – TRAIN – SEND”

HOW TO SHARE YOUR FAITH

This month's article is something I have not written about ever in the monthly newsletter; so, it's about time! Statistics over the years are pretty consistent: less than 10% of Christians share their faith – tell others about Jesus and his personal work in their lives. I have read in a number of places that there are around 500 verses in the Bible about evangelism. I have not taken the time to find all of them, but I can quickly find twenty-five or more verses that are about faith sharing. The most commonly quoted verse related to evangelism is the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). Ironically, this verse is more about making disciples than a direct reference to evangelism. One of the shortest and clearly specific verses related to sharing our faith is I Peter 3:15. “But in your heart set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give the reason for the hope you have but do this with gentleness and respect.” There are multiple layers to sharing our faith; I call it Sharing Your Faith 101.

First, and perhaps most important, realize that there are two aspects to faith sharing. The first aspect is mentioned in the first part of I Peter 3:15, “In your heart set apart Christ as Lord.” Make sure your relationship with Christ is where it needs to be – live a godly life! There is no bigger barrier to faith sharing than to live a hypocritical Christian life. Actions speak louder than words! Show those close to you what Jesus would live like if he were walking on this earth today. The second aspect of faith sharing is what I call “the verbal aspect”. I have never met a person who became a Christian without hearing about Jesus and how to make Him their savior. Many times I have heard people say, “I am not one who really speaks about my faith; I just live a Christian life and let my actions do my talking.” Not only is this NOT biblical, it also is faulty thinking. Romans 10:14 says that people need to hear about the Lord in order to be saved.

There are several reasons people don't share their faith and perhaps the most common reason is they do not know what to say. Let me share the “How To” of sharing your faith. Nothing is more genuine than simply telling someone how and why you came to be a Christian. The formal way of saying this is, “Share your personal testimony.” Testimonies are great because they are personal, usually practical, and hard to be argued against! Really, rarely will people get in an argument with you when sharing your faith.

Beyond your personal testimony, you can use the following tools... 1.) One Verse Evangelism. Use Romans 6:23 contrasting the wages of sin (death) to the gift of God (eternal life). 2.) The Roman Road – share in this order: Romans 3:23, 6:23, 10:9-10. 3.) The Four Spiritual Laws – God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life (John 3:16), we are all sinners (Romans 3:23) and our sins separate us from God (Romans 6:23), Jesus paid the penalty for our sins (Romans 5:8), and we must individually receive Christ as our savior (John 14:6). My personal choice in sharing my faith is to share maybe 3 to 4 minutes of personal story, then start sharing scripture. The most important thing is to listen to both the Holy Spirit and the one you are sharing with. When you finish, ask them if they are ready to receive Christ.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.... “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.” The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let the one who hears say, “Come!” Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.....He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.

Revelation 22:12-13, 16-17, 20-21

PRAYER NEEDS

Harold Eller Family, Dick Fisher, Gabe Smith, Mark Mann Family, Paula Martin (Pastor Mike's sister), Betty McCombs (Dementia), Patricia Dolejs (shut-in of the month), and Peace in Israel, Gaza, & Ukraine

Missionary of the Month – Tim and Karmen Brown, Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA): We are highlighting Tim and Karmen this month because they are about to begin their busiest time of year: summer sports camps. They use area schools, churches, or parks to provide training for soccer, football, basketball, and volleyball. You can donate Bibles to this important ministry: make checks payable to FCA - \$10 per Bible.

Shut-Ins: Helen Smith, Barb Pittenger, Trish Dolejs, Faye Cooper, Betty McCombs, Clarabell Harlan, Margaret Jewett, and Bonnie Boone

Shut-in of the Month – Patricia (Trish) Dolejs: Trish has been a part of Franklin church since 2017. We say “shut-in” but fortunately, Trish is able to come to church and perhaps go out to eat when she has a ride. For the past year, when Sandy Cox is available, she has given Trish a ride to the church. Trish lives at The Inn at Summit Trail, a large and beautiful assisted living facility outside of Reynoldsburg. The entryway to the facility has huge wood beams and looks like a ski lodge and has a dining area that seats probably 80 people along with a nice-size movie theater. Back to Trish... She is a retired nurse and the mother of Jenny Burtnett. She also has a son named Joe; he and his family live in Arizona. Trish moved down here from Chardin, Ohio to be with Jenny and her husband, Pastor Mike Burtnett (Associate Pastor at Franklin 2016 to 2018). When Mike became Senior Pastor at a church near Xenia, Ohio, Trish decided she did not want to move anymore and chose to stay here. Subsequently, Pastor Mike and Jenny moved to Daytona Beach, Florida. Trish has six grandchildren – Joe has three children; Jenny has three children. Jenny and Mike's two sons, Peter and Johnny, both got married in the past 2.5 years!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A BIG THANK YOU: Thank you to the fourteen people who came out to make the 2024 workday a very successful all-church workday.

FCA Bible Collection: May 26th through June 9th we are collecting funds to send to Central Ohio Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) for Bibles. Under the leadership of Pastor Tim Brown, Bibles will be given to kids who attend FCA Camp. Designate \$10 per Bible. Make checks payable to: FCA.

June 9th 11:40AM – Praying for the Pre-School: New idea: Stay after church and join in a brief prayer time for the Pre-School. We will simply stand in the hall and pray for several things including children and parents to be saved! And pray for our partnership to grow even stronger! Anticipate 10 minutes of prayer.

Women's Ministry: June 20th at 6PM. Join us for food, fun, and fellowship!

Men's Group Breakfast: June 28th at 6:45AM at Tim Horton's – 7400 Fodor RD, New Albany. Join Tom Dague and others for breakfast food and spiritual food.

Want to Help Children Learn About Jesus? Volunteer to teach during the church worship hour (see Ruth Eller). Or volunteer to read a Bible story to kids of the pre-school. Bible Story is each Wednesday morning (weather permitting) 10:30AM – 10:45AM. Questions? See Pastor Mike.