

Crossville Church of Christ

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COMPASS

Using God's Word to Chart The Course
Of A Congregation

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July 29, 2018

Wednesday Night Summer Series (2018)

OH I WANT TO SEE HIM!

Join us each Wednesday from 6:00-7:00 p.m. July-September

Elders:

Frank Bohannon
Jonathan Loveday
Larry McDuffee
Brian McLaughlin
Jon Tatum

Deacons:

Jim Bell
Charles Evans
Kyle Fairman
Dale Hennessee
Mike Isaacson
Doug Loveday
Don Napier
Tom Parham
Mark Roberts
Jason Wyatt
Jerry Wood

Ministers:

Alan Judd
Ken Mears

Missionaries: (India)

Don Iverson
Jim Waldron

Service Times

Sunday Bible Study	9 AM
Sunday Worship	10 AM 6 PM
Wednesday	6 PM

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Ladies Bible Class	
Tuesdays	11AM
Prayer Meeting	
Tuesdays	10 AM
Joyful Generation (Youth Devotional & fellowship)	
1st Sunday	7:00 PM

JULY

July 4: "Oh I Want to See the One Who Created Me"

Wayne Lankford, Murfreesboro, TN

July 11: "Oh I Want to See the One Who Provides for Me"

Steve Higginbotham, Knoxville, TN

July 18: "Oh I Want to See the One Who Comforts Me"

Glenn Randolph, Fairfield Glade, TN.

July 25: "Oh I Want to See the One Who Teaches Me"

Jason Gann, McMinnville, TN

AUGUST

August 1: "Oh I Want to See the One Who Came For Me"

Justin Morton, Knoxville, TN

August 8: "Oh I Want to See the One Who Lived For Me"

Alan Judd, Crossville, TN

August 15: "Oh I Want to See the One Who Died For Me"

Clarence DeLoach, Cookeville, TN

August 22: "Oh I Want To See the One Who Rose For Me"

David Lipe, Cookeville, TN

August 29: "Oh I Want to See the One Who Mediates for Me"

Dale Barger, Wheeler Hill, TN

SEPTEMBER

September 5: "Oh I Want to See the One Who Forgives Me"

Ben Bailey, McMinnville, TN

September 12: "Oh I Want to See the One Who Encourages Me"

Jeff Archey, Cleveland, TN

September 19: "Oh I Want to See the One Who Loves Me"

Derrick Coble, Sparta, TN

WHY NOT WEDNESDAY NIGHT?

STEVE HIGGINBOTHAM

If you visit church websites, receive church bulletins, or travel much, you will soon realize that church attendance on Sunday and Wednesday nights is in a free fall!

So what is the problem? Why is there such a drop-off in numbers? Typically, when this question is asked, we begin to blame the people who don't attend for their spiritual immaturity, misplaced priorities, lack of commitment, etc. While the "non-attenders" make themselves easy marks, there is plenty of blame to go around. Seldom is the leadership blamed, but that might be part of the problem. Consider these seldom acknowledged reasons for poor attendance.

Quality. If we are going to offer a mid-week Bible study following what, for many members was a long, hard day at work, we had better guarantee that what we are offering is worth their investment of time and energy. Ill prepared teachers, irrelevant studies that lack personal application, and a format that discourages questions and dialogue all contribute to a decline in attendance. Mid-week attendance should be more than a "test of faithfulness" (You know, Abraham had to offer up his son, and I have to sit through this class).

Youth driven focus is out of focus. We have bought into the idea that if we provide for the children, their parents will come. However, I believe the reverse is maybe more true. If we provide for the parents, they'll bring their children with them. We often give the best we have to offer to our children, and just "make do" in the adult classes. We must do better than this or the adults will "send" or "drop off" their children. In reality, neither the youth nor the adult classes should be neglected. We need to invest our best efforts in both the youth and adult classes.

Abuse of Time. Homework and bedtime schedules compete with Mid-week evening Bible studies. That's why it's important to respect everyone's time. Habitually going 15-30 minutes longer than scheduled will especially negatively impact families with young children. We cannot ask for an hour of a person's time and habitually take an hour and a half. Starting and stopping on time is a matter of respect, and when it is violated, it is resented, and that resentment is expressed through lack of attendance.

Relationship/Community. I have visited churches that "cleared out" and "locked up" in 10-15 minutes after church is over. Pity the preacher who stands in the path to the exit doors! That says relationships aren't being built; burdens aren't being communicated and shared; and love and concern is not being expressed for one another. That's a recipe for a declining, dying church! On the other hand, a church that routinely has dozens of people talking an hour to two hours after services have ended, is healthy and is meeting the needs of people who need relationship and community.

Ruts/Tradition. I'll be the first to admit that I like my "ruts," but I'll also be the first to admit that times change and so must our traditions. We have at our disposal, methods of communication and teaching that were not available to prior generations. Don't be wedded to your traditions. Can we truly say what Paul said, "I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some" (1 Corinthians 9:22)? Or would the following be more truthful, "I have become some things to all men, so that I may by some means, save some?"

Lack of Assessment & Accountability. When is the last time we assessed what we are doing and how well we are doing it? Are we merely maintaining what was handed down to us? Have we questioned whether certain methods work or not? Have we assessed what might work best for us, and not overly concern ourselves with what works at other congregations? We should always "inspect" what we "expect." If we have expectations for Bible study, then we should

(Cont.) inspect how it is being done and assess where we need to make improvements. Where there is no assessment and accountability, quality wains.

As I stated, the “non-attenders” are easy marks. They’re easy to blame. What’s more difficult to admit is that we, “attenders” may have some blame to share as well. If we, “attenders,” would address some of the items listed above, maybe this would go a long way in removing obstacles from the path of “non-attenders” and help them to grow to a place where their faith is stronger, their priorities are more God-centered, and their commitment is greater.

HIS FIRST WORDS

ALAN JUDD

Somewhere in a book with plastic protected pages and old pictures, or in this digital age in an MP3 file on a smartphone or computer, or perhaps only deep within the recesses of the memories of our mothers, you can discover what your first spoken words were.

For many children, no doubt due to the constant harassing of parents and grandparents, "Ma Ma" or "Da Da" are usually the initial audible offerings from little lips around the first year of life. Some children show greater aptitude and advancement in language expression; I think that Anderson's first word was Czechoslovakia or it might have been gastroenterologist.

Regardless, we are delighted when their babbling becomes more understandable, at least for the first few years or months or weeks and then we spend our time trying to get them to stop talking. If you succeed at developing a formula or method that works, please share it with me. Jewish children were encouraged to first speak the words of the Shema, the formula uttered in prayer throughout the day and recorded in Deuteronomy 6:4-5: “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

Have you ever stopped to think about the first words of Jesus? We don't know what they were, but the first words recorded by the Holy Spirit are found in Luke 2:49 when at the age of 12 our Savior stated: “Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?” Jesus told Mary that she should have known He would be in the temple and concerned with His Heavenly Father's business, as the NKJV correctly translates it.

Some have interpreted these words as being disrespectful, but I do not believe that our Lord was ever unkind or disrespectful; certainly not to His mother. Out of all the places to go in Jerusalem and things to do, at the age of 12 our Savior was interested and engaged in the work of God. He subscribed fully to the instruction of Solomon in Ecclesiastes 12:1: “Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth.”

Will your children hear and speak words that communicate love and respect for God, Jesus, the Bible, the church, and other terms from their youth? They will if you make these things a priority.

Additionally, no matter what your age or your job, occupation, or business pursuits; God's people must prioritize God's work in their lives. Jesus did this from His earliest years and we must emphasize the importance of serving the Lord to our children from infancy. Are you focused on your Heavenly Father's business? If not, why not? Put Him first today and every day!