From the Senior Pastor’s Desk

By Freddy Fritz

Participate in Christianity Explored

Earlier this summer the officers of our church (the elders and deacons) went away for an overnight retreat. The purpose of the retreat was to spend time in fellowship, pray, and discern God’s leading for our church for this coming year. The officers came away with a sense that we wanted to focus on three things for this coming year: kingdom-focused prayer, leadership development, and effective outreach.

With regard to prayer, we began our ministry year with a Concert of Prayer on Sunday, September 6. That went very well, and we will certainly have several more opportunities for prayer throughout the year. One regular opportunity is to join me for prayer every Wednesday evening in my study at the church from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m.

On Sunday, September 20 we began the Leadership Class. This class meets in my study on Sunday mornings during the Adult CE&F hour (8:45 – 10:00 a.m.). The officers would like to see all teachers and leaders go through this class. And we are praying that God will use this class to raise up men to serve as Ruling Elders or Deacons in our church.

Finally, the officers agreed that we would like to encourage the entire church to participate in Christianity Explored. Christianity Explored will take place on Sunday evenings for seven Sundays, beginning on October 4 and running through November 15. The course will meet for 2 hours, beginning with a meal at 5:00 p.m., and concluding at 7:00 p.m. Pastor James

Our Mission: To bring people to Jesus Christ and membership in his church family, develop them to Christlike maturity, equip them for their ministry in the church and life mission in the world, in order to magnify God’s name.
Nichols will be running the course.

Let me encourage you to participate in Christianity Explored. It is a course primarily designed for people who are willing to investigate Christianity. Unchurched or non-Christians really don’t know who Jesus is and what he has done. And so, in a very non-threatening environment Christianity Explored gives these people time to think about the big questions of life, and to explore the life of the person at the heart of the Christian faith – Jesus Christ.

The reason the officers want our entire church to attend is to help all of us give a better defense of our faith, and also to know what a great course it is to invite unchurched or non-Christians to attend.

I plan to participate in Christianity Explored, and I pray that you will too!

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for the Welcome Team and the Narthex Greeting Team. Please see Ted Jefferies if you interested.

Volunteer Sought to Help Church Planter with Church Bulletins

Have you ever wanted to lend a hand in church planting, but wondered how to serve? MNA SecondCareer Ministry may have the answer for you. For example, Pastor Dan Millward of New City PCA in Detroit, MI is seeking a volunteer who owns or has access to the InDesign software program to assist him in preparing and editing his weekly bulletins. This job could be done over the internet with no need to travel. Learn more about this and other opportunities to serve at www.pcamna.org/second-career or contact Gary Ogrosky at gogrosky@pcanet.org (phone 770-695-4811).
Thoughts from the Associate Pastor
By Rev. James Nichols

Not Again!

I have often heard the saying that we spend the first few years of a child’s life teaching them to stand, walk, and talk. Then, we spend the next many years trying to get them to sit down and be quiet. Another example might be when a child gets an instrument for the first time. The first few minutes of them playing are wonderful and exciting. However, after a few hours, we are wishing that we had a soundproof room. In that same vein, I am sure that you are tired of reading articles by me where I encourage and challenge you to evangelize and live like Christ in your daily life. Probably the best thing for me to do is to just stop and assume that you know what I am going to say. That way no one has to feel convicted if they are not evangelizing or they won’t get annoyed as I say similar things again and again. However, today is not that day!

I am kidding around of course, but I wanted to make the point that we are constantly tempted to have satisfaction complacency. One of the great temptations of the devil is to get Christians to be satisfied in their position and not do anything else. I have seen good men and women who thought that they were getting into Heaven based on their perfect attendance at worship. I have also seen good men and women who thought that since they were a Christian and didn’t feel “called” to ministry, that it was alright for them to just show up at worship and not participate in any way. The scriptures are so clear that we as believers are to do more than show up for worship! Chief among those is discipleship and evangelism. We cannot obey the Lord if we have a “me and God” attitude and do not follow his commands in scripture.

So here comes the “not again” portion of the article. We are called to be light in the darkness, examples to the sojourner, lovers of people, followers of Christ, worshippers of the Lord, and ready to give an answer. There is no way that we can be obedient to Lord without helping other people to see the Lord. We are called to be his witnesses whenever we can. I understand the trepidation that people have in that they do not feel like they know enough or are afraid that people won’t want to hear what they have to say. When we don’t tell people about Christ, we are effectively saying “My comfort level around you is more important than the potential of you spending eternity in Hell.” I know that we don’t think like that and that none of us truly dislike someone enough to desire them to spend eternity in Hell, but our selfishness is keeping us from sharing the truth! If you are not sure what to say, please join us for a Share Your Faith Workshop. We do these three times a year, in January, May and September. Please find one that you can come to. If you are talking to someone, and finding some of their questions difficult, invite them to Christianity Explored. In fact, please plan on coming to this fall’s Christianity Explored. We are running it this time for the congregation so that you know what the program looks like. It is a great opportunity to be reminded of the gospel, encouraged in your faith, and excited to share. So please, take advantage of the opportunities that we have. If you cannot make it to one of these, but still want to learn more, feel free to talk to me anytime. I look forward to many great stories in the future of the opportunities that you have had to share the greatest news in the world! God bless.
In an effort to be praying for both local and global missions, the Missions Committee wants to focus on different ministries that we know about and are affiliated with. One of our local church plants is Sojourner Presbyterian Church. This church is led by Rev. Steven Light and meets near USF on 56th street. This is a fairly new congregation and they had some prayer requests as they seek to grow and serve the Lord in the Temple Terrace/USF area:

- Sojourner is a young church in every sense. Please pray for our thorough care and training of our covenant children, and for young families.
- Please pray for the numerous college students and their life on campus with many pressures and temptations.
- Please pray for the maturing of new converts and young Christians.
- Please pray for efforts at reaching out to our neighbors, such as ESL ministry (hoping to start in January), Muslim outreach, and other efforts.
- Please pray for financial provision
- Please pray for the faithful preaching and teaching of God's word.
- Please pray that we would grow as a praying church.
OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES
1—Mr. & Mrs. George Noel
12—Mr. & Mrs. Mike Bowman
13—Mr. & Mrs. Jody Todd
23—Mr. & Mrs. Joe Burns
28—Mr. & Mrs. Chris Atkinson

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS
1—Jim Childers
4—Betty McQueen
11—Joyce McNulty
12—Barbara Bentley
13—Micah Dixon
16—Lindsay Montoney
17—Lou Bentley
17—Bonnie Hutton
21—Zack Tomasello
23—Mike Bowman
23—Ellie Maggi
23—Alan Polasky
26—Lexi Becker

Missionaries Supported by TBPC

Mission to the World
Peter & Lauren Dishman
Esuie & Natacha Etienne
Ken & Tammie Matlack
Carla Stevens

Reformed University Fellowship
Jeff & Jenny Lee

New Harvest Missions International
Nathaniel & Cherita Adawonu

Serving In Missions
Rene & Lili Palacio

Wycliffe Bible Translators
Don & Judy Vander Ploeg
Kevin & Gertrude Nicholas

Ven Con Nosotros Church
Dr. Oscar & Elizabeth Alvarez

PRCC
Chaplain Ted Hamm
Chaplain James Cochell
October Events

Our Fall Sister to Sister is scheduled for October 24th at the home of Nancy Kirkpatrick from 11:00 – 1:00. Please note this change as it was previously advertised to be at the home of Sherrie Kaw. Due to family circumstances and the grave illness of her mother, we will have Sherrie hostess at a future event. Please keep her and her family in prayer. Mark your calendar and plan to attend for food, fellowship, fun, and an opportunity to draw closer to Christ with your covenant sisters. The focus will be on gratefulness, which will bring to mind, in this season of Thanksgiving, the great blessings we have in Christ. Your invitation as well as directions to Nancy’s home will be available as an insert in the Sunday bulletin as well as a flyer on the WM bulletin board. All women and young ladies, as well as friends and family members are welcome to join the fellowship. Please bring a luncheon dish to add to the buffet table.

We will again this year be taking a collection for the Women's Ministry Love Gift. This year the offering will go toward education for women in the RUF ministry. Please read the bulletin insert for more information and look forward to a ministry moment from Peter Dishman and Melody Barber. Keep this collection in prayer for generous hearts and extended blessings to those college students who are taught and encouraged to live their lives by the Christian values we all hold dear.

Looking Ahead

We are already planning for the 27th Annual Christmas Brunch which will be on Saturday, December 7th. We are now looking for volunteers to be table hostesses. As in the past several years we are planning for family style service. The hostesses will be required to set a table with their own table settings (dishes, silverware, serving pieces, a centerpiece, and personal décor) and make their guests feel welcome just as they would at home. The WM will provide favors and game prizes, so you will not need to plan for these items. If your spiritual gift is to share your table and welcome guests, you will surely want to be a table hostess! There is a sign up sheet on the WM bulletin board across from the ladies’ room. We would like to have our hostesses lined up before November 1st. If you have questions about hostess requirements please contact Molly Knox at mollyknox@hotmail.com or by phone 813-451-002.

During the month of November you will be able to purchase memorial poinsettias. More information about price and dates will be available later this month.

Also, in November, we will have our annual “Hanging of the Greens” from 9:00 – 11:00 AM. This usually takes place the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Exact information will be in the November Trumpet. Please accept our invitation to participate in this ministry to glorify God by beautifying His church. We welcome all those who have helped in the past as well as first time decorators. There will be a job for everyone!

We will have our next WM 15 on November 8th in room 23 following worship. Molly Knox will lead the meeting and update progress on the planning of the Christmas Brunch. Please attend to share ideas and help to plan future events.
Missions and Microloans  
By: Martine Extermann  

You might have noted that in the latest set of requests from New Harvest Mission International, the mission agency led by Nathaniel Adawhonu, there is a desire to develop a microloans program. NHMI is not the only mission agency doing that. World Vision, for example, has a microloan program. So what are microloans and why are missions interested in them. Are the missions going bonkers or is there a link?

Microloans are small loans of typically $100 or less. The story of microloans started in Bangladesh. Muhammad Yunus, a professor of economics at the University of Chittagong, noted through his research that poor village women who were making bamboo furniture were paying usurious prices for their material. So in 1976, he lent a group of 42 of them $27 of his money, and they made each a 2 cents profit on the loan. Thus he created the microloan. This grew up into the Grameen Bank, which functions on a cooperative principle. Poor people apply for a loan as a group, and hold each other accountable for the repayment. This has proved to be a very effective means of developing poor rural areas, and for his work, Pr Yunus and his bank were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006. It has inspired multiple similar endeavors in multiple countries. This format leads to amazingly high loan repayment rates. I have heard the number 95% articulated, likely in large part due to peer pressure.

Now why are missions interested in them? Two reasons are often cited. One is that they help poor people get out of dependency in circles of financial exploitation, or help victims of human trafficking rebuild their lives by giving them a trade and the means to start it. This is for example why World Vision has a microloan program. The other is to help local churches support themselves. This is why NHMI is starting this program. The Sahel area, where NHMI works, is a poor region to start with. Furthermore, when Muslims come to Christ, they are often rejected by their family and cut out from their social networks. So giving microloans through a church community provides them both with a possibility to support themselves by starting a small business, and an accountability network. The hope is also that as they are improving their resources, they can support their church, and NHMI can reinvest in further church planting. I like this idea. The goal of each mission is to run itself out of a job and leave an autonomous church behind it. This involves pastor and community training of course, but also economic viability. In other words “durable development” and healthy church communities.
As a part of the Outreach Team’s Vision of “Ordinary People Living Ordinary Lives with Gospel Intentionality,” we wanted to help you think through some ways that you can practically live this out. One way that we thought of to help was to spend some months thinking through examples of ways that you can fulfill the vision statement. To that end, we will be taking the next year to look at examples of ways that you can be an ordinary person living and ordinary life with gospel intentionality in three spheres: where you live, where you work, and where you play. The purpose of this exercise is to help each one of us realize the opportunities that we might be overlooking for sharing God’s love and the gospel in our day to day lives. There are many times, situations and places that we can be ministering to those around us if we will just think about it and be praying for open doors. We will be talking about where we live. How can you bring the gospel into the neighborhood or place that you live? What does it look like to be intentional with those around you? We will talk about where you work. I often hear “How can I share the gospel in such a restricted environment as my workplace without getting in trouble?” We will talk about that and ways that you can be a light in the workplace. Finally, we will talk about where you play. Do you try to get to know people and bless them where you eat, work out and shop? Do you know the names of the people who regularly serve you?

If you have any suggestions or questions that you would like to see answered in these articles, please let Pastor James know. Also, if you have any stories, I would love to share those as well. We as a team look forward to encouraging you and helping you see the many ways that the Lord can be working through you throughout the day, no matter where you are. God Bless!

Who is Jesus Christ? Some people love to claim Him as Savior, but not Lord. They love to claim that their sins are forgiven, yet still conduct themselves as a reprobate. However, Scripture knows nothing of the so-called “carnal Christian.” The question, rather, is not whether one has Jesus as Savior and Lord, but whether one has Jesus as Lord and Savior. What do I mean by that? Regardless of whether one is a believer or not, Jesus is everyone’s Lord whether they acknowledge Him or not. Being God makes Jesus Lord by default, does it not? As believers, we bow the knee and give Jesus the glory due His name, thus we can claim Him as Savior. However, do we pay Him homage as Lord? What does Jesus as Lord really mean? For our answer, let us turn to Scripture and find out.
Lord

noun

1: one having power and authority over others:

a: a ruler by hereditary right or preeminence to whom service and obedience are due

The English word lord derives its origin from the Greek word kurios. In Hebrew, the personal name for God is YHWH (cf. Exodus 3:14) from which we get the name Yahweh. The exact pronunciation for Yahweh is uncertain, however, due to the fact that the ancient Jews considered the name of God to be so holy that it should not be uttered. Instead of reading the word YHWH, the Jews would speak the word ‘adonai (“Lord” cf. Jos. 3:11). There are many more names the Jewish people ascribed to God, but they were used in a more general fashion, such as El-Shaddai (“God Almighty” cf. Gen 17:1) and El-Olam (“God Everlasting” cf. Gen. 21:33). The most important point is that the revealed name of God in Scripture is Yahweh and ‘adonai is one of His titles. In the Greek version of the Old Testament, known as the Septuagint, the words Yahweh and ‘adonai are translated as kurios. In the New Testament, this same word, kurios, is applied to Jesus Himself on numerous occasions. It bears repeating, that Yahweh and ‘adonai, the name and title of God in the Old Testament, is translated into the Greek as kurios, a title ascribed to Jesus Himself in the New Testament.

Few instances are more clear in this regard than what Paul penned in his letters to the Roman and Corinthian churches when he proclaimed—Kurios Ieosus (“Jesus is Lord” cf. Ro. 10:9, 1 Cor. 12:3). However, the greatest example of Jesus being declared Lord of all is found in Philippians 2:5-11. In verse 9, Paul writes, “Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name.” Before continuing on, we need to ask ourselves, what is the name that is above every name? The name itself is not explicitly specified. However, when we ask this question against the backdrop of the Old Testament and the context in which Paul was writing, it becomes more apparent as to what he is implying. Let’s continue on with verses 10 and 11, “So that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” The name which is above every name is not Jesus, it is Lord, which is ascribed to Jesus! According to RC Sproul (n.d.), “It is a majestic title, conveying God’s sovereignty and divine power, and it is a remarkable proof of Jesus’ divinity when it is applied to Him in this manner.”

This brings us back to our definition of the word, “lord.” Merriam-Webster defines someone with that title as “one having power and authority over others.” A secondary definition states that a lord is “a ruler by hereditary right or preeminence to whom service and obedience are due.” Does Jesus fit the definition of “lord”? Did He have power and authority over others? He had the authority to forgive sins, “But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the man who was paralyzed, “I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home” (Lk. 5:24, cf. Mk. 2:10, Mt. 9:6). When Jesus sent out the Apostles, He gave them authority over unclean spirits and diseases (cf. Lk. 9:1 et al). Jesus had the authority to lay down His life and take it back up again (Jn. 10:18). God, the Father, has given all things to Jesus (cf. Jn. 3:35, 13:3, 16:15, Mt. 11:27 et al). The most explicit declaration of His authority is found in Matthew 28:18, “And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.” There are many other texts that ascribe authority to Jesus, but I believe these examples will show that Jesus fulfills the first requirement to be addressed as “lord.” What about the second definition of “lord?” The title “Son of God” occurs 43 times in the New American Standard Bible, one of the
most literal and accurate translations available, and when “Son of God” is used it refers to Jesus each time. Jesus also spoke of God as His father on numerous occasions as well (Jn. 6:40 et al). There is no question that Jesus fulfills the requirement of “a ruler by hereditary right” for the word, “lord.”

We have proven that Jesus fulfills the requirements to be addressed as “Lord.” What do we do with that information? According to Merriam-Webster’s definition, Jesus, as Lord, is due our service and obedience. Jesus is more than our savior, He is more than our friend, and He is more than our advocate with the Father—Jesus is...Lord!


Quick Thought- Don't Give Up Your Christian Convictions

By: Alan Shelmon (Stand to Reason)

There’s no need to change your religious convictions in order to treat people you disagree with like any other person that you respect. That’s why I’m mystified by the trend of some Christians to abandon their Christian theology and adopt pro-gay theology, then go back to the Bible to try and reinterpret the biblical passages to make them sound gay-affirming.

The proper thing to do when you realize your stereotypes are mistaken is just to see this group of people as people who are made in the image of God, who are kind, thoughtful, and have hopes and dreams just like everybody else, and treat them with dignity and respect. Yet, this is exactly what I don’t see happening very often.

You don’t have to abandon your biblical theology, adopt pro-gay theology, and try to reinterpret the biblical text to become gay-affirming simply because you’ve now had a shift in your attitude towards gays and lesbians. Have your shift occur, because those who identify as gay or lesbian are deserving of dignity and respect, and leave it at that. Keep your theology. Don’t give up your Christian convictions.
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The Sunday Schedule

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