



# THE FOREST HILL NEWS

Volume 45

April 10, 2018

Number 15

## Forest Hill

### Church of Christ

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#### Elders:

Danny Braddock Jr.  
Anthony D. Callahan  
Warren Davenport  
Gregory D. Mangrum  
Harold D. Mangrum  
Keith B. McAlister  
Eddie F. Ray III

#### Ministers:

Barry M. Grider,  
Pulpit Evangelist  
Matthew Jones,  
Personal Evangelist  
Garrett Olney, Youth  
Hatton Allen, Youth

#### Sunday:

Bible Study..... 9:30 A.M.  
Morning Worship..... 10:30 A.M.  
Afternoon Worship..... 1:30 P.M.

#### Wednesday:

Bible Study ..... 7:00 P.M.

HOME OF THE  
MEMPHIS SCHOOL  
OF PREACHING  
[www.msop.org](http://www.msop.org)

#### Missions Supported:

Far East/World Evangelism  
Good News Today  
Gospel Broadcasting Network  
House to House, Heart to Heart  
Kakinada, India  
Murmansk, Russia  
Panama Mission  
Four Seas Bible College  
Truth for the World

Free Bible Correspondence Course  
Email: [fbiblecourse@gmail.com](mailto:fbiblecourse@gmail.com)

## Practical Thoughts For Sharing Our Faith

Kyle Butt

“We have heard the Macedonian call today, ‘Send the light, Send the light.’” So go the words of the second verse of the hymn penned by Charles Gabriel in the 1890s. As you may know, Gabriel’s lyrics refer to Paul’s divine vision in Acts 16 in which a man from Macedonia begged Paul to come and preach the gospel to him. This vision initiated one of the most successful mission campaigns of Paul’s life. Yet, the song explains that “we,” the singers of the song, hear the call “today.” From the ascension of Christ till now, the “Macedonian call” to spread the saving gospel of Christ to the lost peals across the ages and rings loudly in the ears of all God’s faithful. The call rings from the busy streets of New York City to the dirty slums of the poorest Third World country. Have you heard it?

If so, then you are looking for ways to teach lost people the gospel. Maybe you are sending out World Bible School lessons. Maybe you are showing your neighbors *Searching for Truth* DVDs or giving your coworkers Christmas gifts of books that teach them the plan of salvation by putting your fellow humans in contact with their Creator through the gospel. In light of this truth, I’d like to offer a few practical thoughts concerning the spreading of the gospel.

### Every Lost Person Is a Potential Christian

You have probably heard the one about the two shoe salesmen who were sent by their respective companies to open a new market for their products in a foreign country. The first arrived in the country and immediately called headquarters and demanded to be reassigned. He complained, “No one in this country even wears shoes. They are all barefooted. We will never sell shoes here.” The second arrived in the country and phoned headquarters, brimming over with enthusiasm.: “Send hundreds more pairs of shoes. Not a person here owns a pair yet, and they all need them.”

Like the first shoe salesman, many of us have predetermined ideas about who is or who is not a good candidate for the gospel. We have a mental checklist, and if a person fails to “pass the test,” we may decide he or she probably wouldn’t obey the gospel anyway, so we do not bother sharing it. That list may include such things such as:

1. Is already a moral and responsible person
2. Is not an active member of another religious group
3. Is not extremely wealthy or famous
4. Is not currently living with a person to whom they are not married, etc.

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Don't get me wrong, we have never put pen to paper and actually written out such a list. And in theory, we know that the gospel is for all, and we would energetically argue that God "shows no partiality" (Acts 10:34 NKJV). But on a practical level, I think we all can admit we often cross some people off our list of candidates for reasons such as these.

This "mental checklist" approach is flawed for the simple fact that there is no way to know what is going on in a person's mind and heart. Ananias did not think Paul was a good candidate. The apostles did not consider the woman at the well to be "good Christian material." The Ethiopian treasurer in Acts 8 was a member of the elite rich and famous. Matthew was a tax collector—a job synonymous with greed and theft. Simon the Zealot most likely had been involved in murderous activity. Lydia was a wealthy female merchant possibly on par with a modern New York fashion designer. And the thief on the cross was a hardened criminal on death row.

In addition to the biblical examples, most of us could cite numerous instances in which the most "unlikely" people became Christians. I remember sitting by a preacher at a fellowship meal several years ago. He pointed to a lady across the room and explained that she was the most evangelistic person in the congregation. He proceeded to tell me that she had been an extremely active Bible class teacher in a denomination for more than fifty years. One day her neighbor asked if she wanted to study the Bible. She agreed, saw the truth, became a New Testament Christian, and began trying to convert as many of her denominational friends and family as possible. How tragic it would have been if her neighbor had reasoned that, since she had been active in a denomination for so long, she was not a good candidate for conversion. On another occasion, while on a trip to Latin America, I was introduced to a man who at one time was a war-hardened soldier renowned for his sinful behavior. On his way to be baptized into Christ, it was said by those watching that if this man could become a Christian, then even the devil himself had a chance. Not only did this man become a Christian, but he went on to be powerful gospel preacher who brought thousands of others to Christ. You just never know who is seeking the truth.

### **Don't Be Ashamed of the Gospel**

"Ashamed of the gospel? Are you crazy? The gospel is God's power to save. It is the beautiful story of the love of our Creator poured out through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. It is the most sublime narrative of divine love the world has ever seen." Yes, that is true. But there is an aspect to the gospel we sometimes try to downplay. You see, in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, we are told that the gospel is the *death*, burial, and resurrection of Christ. In order to obey that gospel, each person must die to sin through repentance (Romans 6:5-6). Knowing how hard and, in some ways, heartbreaking repentance can be, we can be tempted to "soften" the gospel by avoiding the parts we know other people will have the most difficult time with.

For instance, suppose you are working in a country where many couples live together, have children, and have set up a home yet are not married. You are studying with the woman of the house, and she seems very interested in the gospel. In the course of your study, you learn she has three children with the man she has been living with for years, but they are not married. You also learn the man does not want to get married, and he is her sole source of income. What should you do? If you have ever been in this situation, you know how hard it is to talk practically about what must be done in order to repent.

We must remember, however, that Jesus never shied away from discussing the aspects of the gospel He knew His listeners would have the most difficulty obeying. When the rich young ruler came to Jesus, their interaction seems to have lasted only a few brief moments. There were so many things the young man and Jesus agreed upon. They both understood that the God of the Old Testament is the true God. They both respected the Mosaic law. Jesus could have spent hours discussing all the things the young man was doing right. But he didn't. He could have reasoned that the young man would eventually see his need to repent and that there was no need to bring up such painful information this early in the process. But He didn't. Instead, our Lord cut straight to the heart of the issue, the one aspect of the young man's life that demanded repentance. And Jesus let the young man make his own choice, which is exactly what we must do. If each person is going to be able to sit down and first count the cost of discipleship (Luke 14:28-33), he or she must be made aware of what the true cost is. Who are we to "screen out" the parts of

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**PRESIDE:** Andy Ammons  
**ASSIST:** Cole Bennett  
 Brad Bynum  
 Cason Grider

Warren Davenport  
 Kalon Brown  
 John Connell  
 Gene Kuehn

**A.M. OPENING:** Francis Fairley  
**A.M. CLOSING:** Daniel Fairley  
**P.M. OPENING:** Tom Wacaster  
**P.M. CLOSING:** Lewis Elliott

If you are unable to lead prayer or serve at the Lord's table, please contact Cedric Huff or Paul Connell.

### RECORD, WEEK of April 8, 2018

BIBLE STUDY:	230
A.M. WORSHIP:	295
P.M. WORSHIP:	185
CONTRIBUTON:	\$18,908.00

### OUR SICK

**ILL AT HOME:** Ashley Alston, Bob Bergstrom, Doris Jean Cole, Toreda Earls, Dorothy Mosher, Cecil Sowell, Avis Terry, and Steve Ulrich.

### HOMEBOUND

Bessie Berry	Albert & Ruth House
Virginia Ditto	Clarine Justice
Hazel Eskew	Jerry & Betty Robbins
Tommy & Nell Herndon	Velton & Dorothy Trimm
Anita Hopper	

**REQUESTED PRAYERS:** Lyle Summitt

**CONGRATULATIONS TO** MSOP student Doug Tibbits and wife, Susan, on the birth of a granddaughter, Brantley Eve, born to MSOP graduate Brandon Tibbits and wife Rachael. The newborn is the niece of Kailey and Katie Tibbits and Cole Bennett.

**OUR SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO** the family of Henry Herren. Service was Saturday at the Forest Hill building.

Thank you to my Forest Hill family for your concern through my sickness. Christine and I very much appreciate the prayers, cards and food that helped us through this difficult time. We are very fortunate to have you in our lives.

Allan Hart

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR BOX!**

### HEARTS AND HANDS

**TEAM "B" (WARREN DAVENPORT)** will receive assignment cards April 15.

**TEAM "G" (TOM WACASTER)** will meet Saturday, April 21 at the home of John and Rebecca Connell at 5 p.m. Maps will be provided. See Rebecca for what to bring.

### EVENTS

**LADIES AND MEN'S CLASSES** meet each Tuesday at 10:00.

**TENNESSEE CHILDREN'S HOME** spring food drive until Sunday, April 29. Items needed are listed on the bulletin board.

**YOUNG ADULT DEVOTIONAL** Saturday, April 14 at 6 p.m. at the home of Danny and Melinda Braddock.

**BRIDAL SHOWER** honoring Mallory McAlister Sunday, April 15 after the morning service. Mallory and Evan are registered at Bed Bath & Beyond, Crate & Barrel, and Paisley Pineapple.

**SALT** (for ladies) will meet Tuesday, April 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

**SENIOR CELEBRATION** Sunday, May 20 after morning service honoring high school seniors.

**YOUTH RETREAT** April 20-22 at Chickasaw State Park Group Lodge. The cost is \$30 per person/\$50 for two from same family. Checks may be made payable to Forest Hill Church of Christ. Cash is also accepted. See Matthew Jones for information/payment.

**KIRBY PINES** Retirement Community worship service each fourth Sunday 8:00-8:45 a.m., conducted by Forest Hill. Our next service will be Sunday, April 22.

**2018 VBS JUNE 4-6.** Theme: Deep Divin' (Exploring Our Relationship With God).

**2018 SUMMER SERIES** Wednesdays, June 20-Aug 8. Theme: *Add to Your Faith...(A Study of the Christian Graces)*. Various speakers.

#### *Last week's solution:*

*So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonah, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. John 21:15*

#### CORNERSTONE

**Scryptogram:** Each letter in the passage is replaced with another.  
 KIY YXI ZREOIA VH YXI UXGSTAIZ VH GBAWIS BXWSS OI  
 WB YXI BWZT VH YXI BIW, MXGUX UWZZVY OI EIWBRAIT  
 ZVA ZREOIAIT; WZT GY BXWSS UVEI YV LWBB, YXWY GZ  
 YXI LSWUI MXIAI GY MWB BWGT RZYV YXIE, KI WAI ZVY  
 EK LIVLSI, YXIAI GY BXWSS OI BWGT RZYV YXIE, KI WAI  
 YXI BVZB VH YXI SGQGZN NVT.

K=Y Solution next week. M=W

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the gospel we think others might find difficult to obey in the hopes that it will make the gospel more palatable? Let us be able to say what Paul said to the Ephesian elders: “For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God” (Acts 20:27).

Every person in the world is a potential candidate who needs to hear the gospel in its entirety. Let us strive to be faithful stewards of the gospel, sowing seed far and wide and trusting that God’s Word will accomplish all that God desires and will achieve His purpose for it (Isaiah 55:11).

*(Gospel Advocate, April 2018)*

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