



# WindSong NOTES

CHURCH OF CHRIST

SERVING THE GREATER LITTLE ROCK AREA



Volume 5

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Number 3



## Purpose, Ministry, and Mission Part 3

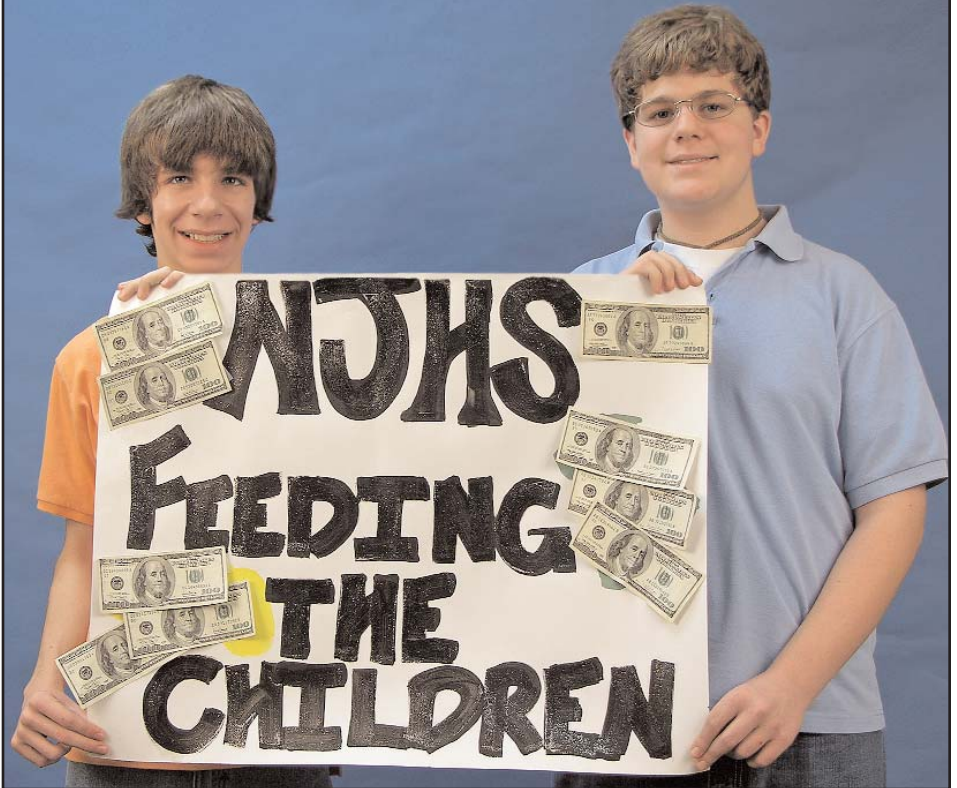
Bobby B. Boaldin

This month we continue our series exploring our mission and ministry as a congregation. In the previous *WindSong Notes* we noted that there are at least five purposes revealed for the church in the New Testament and last month we examined the first of them: The church exists to celebrate God's presence. This month we'll examine the second purpose: "The church exists to communicate God's word." Why is this statement a part of the mission of the church? Communicating God's word is part of the mission of the church because this purpose was central to the mission of Jesus. Here are a few passages to consider. "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost" (Luke 19:10). "This is why I was born and came into the world: to tell the people the truth" (John 18:37b). "I must tell the Good News about God's kingdom...this is what I was sent to do" (Luke 4:43).

Not only does Scripture reveal that communicating God's word was integral to the mission of Jesus, Scripture also reveals that sharing God's word is integral to the mission of the church. The Apostle Paul shares with us, "His [God's] intent was that through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be

—Continued on Page 3

## STUDENTS DONATE NINE HUNDRED DOLLARS TO FEED CHILDREN IN CAMBODIA



Inspired by recent youth group conversations, **Daniel Agin** and **Christian Harrison** approached their sponsor for the **National Junior Honor Society** at **Central Arkansas Christian High School** with plans to raise money for a meals program organized through Partners in Progress. A few weeks later, this poster decorated with \$900 was presented to Partners in Progress to help feed the malnourished children of Cambodia. The students donated enough money to provide almost three hundred children with nutritional supplementation for an entire month. Go to [partnersinprogress.org](http://partnersinprogress.org) for more information on how you can help.

## SHACKED UP COUPLES

When I turned on my computer this morning I was greeted with an item which said, "Turns out getting married is becoming downright old-fashioned. Shacked up couples now outnumber those who've tied the knot."

Woe to those unmarried couples who have financial quarrels over rent, utilities, credit cards, etc., and show up before "Judge Judy." In no uncertain terms she will tell them that if they don't have a marriage license our courts have made no provision to settle such disputes, and they are on their own.

Does it seem to you that we are getting to the point in our society where the difference between right and wrong is either not discerned or else willfully ignored?

Or consider the overt promotion of homosexuality. Has some law been passed that requires every TV show to have at least a token homosexual? We must have "tolerance," our society says.

Those who offer objections are immediately branded with a sneer as "Fundamentalists." Yet fundamentals are absolutely imperative today. Athletes who ignore fundamentals make for losing teams. In fact, mastering the fundamentals is absolutely necessary in any discipline.

As a nation we enjoy the benefits of Christianity while tending to reject the source of those benefits. In the words of Richard Halverson, "Like parasites we are feeding on lingering blessings produced by the spiritual leadership and dedication of earlier generations; the blessings are fading, ethical and moral levels decline toward the increasingly degenerate society." We want to sow to the wind without realizing that we will reap the whirlwind.

An ancient prophet warned, "*Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!*" (Isaiah 5:20). Will we be wise enough to heed his warning?

**JOHN GIPSON  
WINDSONG CHURCH OF CHRIST**



## Learning to Understand the Will of God

Bill McDonough

What a thrill it is to work with people who want to know the truths of God's Word. Our new Christians here in Cambodia are enjoying discovering how to use their Bibles and are learning to discern the will of the Lord.

On Sundays we are studying how to understand the Bible. We divide the congregation up into groups of five or six and give them a problem to solve. The members go to the Word of God, look up all the scriptures concerning the topic, and then decide if the practice or teaching is adding to or taking from God's word, or if there is a direct command or example, or if the practice is inferred and expedient. These new Christians have had lots of fun discovering how to learn God's will and how to be sure that what they are doing is His will and not just man's desire.

For example, one new Christian asked if we should use Coke if fruit of the vine is more expensive. Another asked if using just one drum to praise God in our worship services would be pleasing to Him. Another member wanted to know if we needed to come to worship regularly or just when we felt like it, as the Buddhist here go to the pagoda. By learning how to read the scripture, they can answer all of these questions for themselves, and it is a thrill to see them so anxious to be pleasing to God as they search the scriptures for answers.

Coming from a society which has no Christian influence or traditions adds to the difficulty of understanding. However, once they appreciate God's word, the Bible, as the absolute authority and learn to search the scriptures for answers, they understand and obey.

Visit our websites

[www.partnersinprogress.org](http://www.partnersinprogress.org)  
and  
[www.windsongchurch.org](http://www.windsongchurch.org)



## Vegetable Soup

Joe Chesser

I guess I must be a better cook than my mother (I hope she's not reading this). The following is offered as proof. When I was a boy, supper time quite often consisted of meals like homemade vegetable soup. Now, even as a kid I didn't mind vegetable soup so much (I tolerated it), but it was the frequency with which we seemed to eat it that bummed me out. I'm sure mom didn't actually fix vegetable soup more than a few times a month. But, it seemed like twice a week I'd come home from school only to be disappointed to find a pot of vegetable soup simmering on the stove.

I'm also sure that I was less than grateful with the words and body language I used to relay my true feelings. Come to think of it, I'm sure I was not very grateful at all, perhaps even rude at times, to my mother who was just doing her best to keep us fed. I was only worried about getting what I wanted. Had supper been something I wanted, if I had always gotten my way, I'm sure my attitude would have temporarily been better. But, like most kids, I didn't make the connection as a child that it's not all about me. It's rarely about me. But how am I to get my way if it's not about me?

Jesus taught us that if we want to live the best life, then we'd better focus less on ourselves and more on the needs of others, even with the simple things in life like what's for supper. He taught us to put others' needs before our physical comfort and reputation (Matt 5:38-47, John 4:7-9), to do what's right in the face of physical harm (Matt 8:2-3), to be looking for ways to do what's right—not just talk about it (James 2:14-17), and to keep our eyes open for ways we can be of service (Matt 25:31-46).

All this requires effort on our part, it doesn't happen by accident. We have to approach each day and each

## Purpose—from Page 1

made known..." (Ephesians 3:10). "And God has given us the privilege of urging everyone to come into his favor and be reconciled to him... This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell others" (2 Corinthians 5:18b). "I want to carry out the mission I received from the Lord Jesus—the mission of testifying to the Good News of God's kindness" (Acts 20:24).

As Christians, as the church, as members of God's Kingdom, we have been given the privilege and responsibility of carrying the Word of God to others. This privilege and responsibility we not only share collectively, but individually. Every Christian must adopt this purpose as part of his or her mission. Communicating God's word to others is not something that someone else is paid to do, or something that someone else does because they are specially trained in what to do. If you are a child of God, if you have been born again, if you have been clothed with Christ and put on Christ, then communicating the Good News of the Gospel IS A CENTRAL PART OF YOUR MISSION. Just as attending worship and celebrating God's presence is part of your purpose, so is sharing the love of God through Christ Jesus. God will give the increase. Our responsibility is to share the message. What, specifically, are you doing to communicate God's word to others?

Next month, Lord willing, we will continue our examination of why the New Testament church exists by exploring our responsibility to educate the body. To God be the glory, honor and praise forever!

## Soup—from column 2

person we meet as an opportunity to model Christ's genuine love and concern. It's a better way to live.

Now about my cooking, my boys get excited when vegetable soup is served. So...the way I figure, I must make better soup than mom did! I'm in so much trouble now...quick change the subject. Ask me why our ceiling over the stove was green....

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## BULLETIN BOARD

### OUR FEBRUARY RECORD

Average Attendance.....194  
Average Contribution.....\$12,840

Membership and Restoration  
**Ronnie Hart**

### CONNECTIONS

Welcome to **Ronnie Hart** who placed membership on Sunday, February 25. Ronnie is **Leatrice Reynold's** grandson. Be sure to meet Ronnie, if you haven't already done so, and welcome him into our WindSong family.

**Bob Bishop** has accepted a job as a consultant with Deloit Consulting Company out of Washington, D.C. He will be flying back and forth until school is out and then make a decision whether or not to move to Washington.

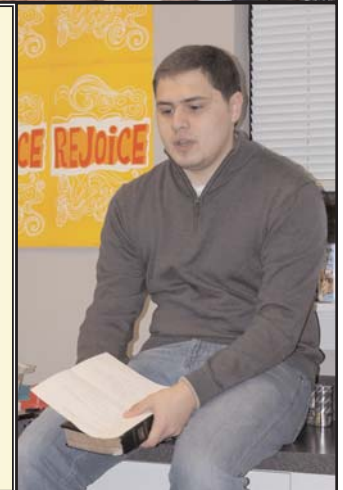
**George** and **Dottie Schraudt** have moved to Searcy. We will miss them, but wish them well in their new home.

**Linda Powell** has a new job as Operations Director for LogistiCare, a non-emergency medical transportation administrative company for Medicaid in Arkansas. Our congratulations, Linda.

Congratulations to **Kelly Shields**, who was chosen #1 Vehicle Supervisor for Enterprise Rent-a-Car in the United States for the month of January 2007. Kelly oversees the care and repair of all Enterprise's vehicles in the state of Arkansas.



**SATURDAY,  
FEBRUARY 24  
WINDSONG  
MEN'S  
BREAKFAST**



### *With Sympathy To...*

**James and Leah Sears** on the death of his father, **Dr. Jack Wood Sears**, on February 5. A memorial service was held February 8, in Searcy, Arkansas.

The family of **Dr. Jerry Holton**, who died February 6.

**Chad and Kerry Hatman** on the death of his friend, **Alan Shaw**, on February 9, in Iraq. The funeral was February 20, with the burial on February 22, in Arlington Cemetery.

**Sam and Kathy Palmer** on the death of **Russell Kurtz**, a soldier and friend in Sam's unit, who died in Sam's arms in Iraq on February, 11.

**Hanna Boaldin** on the death of her friend, **Jason Ferguson**, who was killed in a car wreck.

The family of **David Wright**, who died on February 10. The funeral was February 13, in Little Rock.

**Nancy Walker** on the death of her brother-in-law, **Joe Stallings**, on February 17. There was a memorial service on February 20.

**Kim Milam** on the death of her aunt, **Colene Chapman**, on February 21, in Jonesboro, Arkansas. There was a memorial service February 24.