



# WindSong NOTES

CHURCH OF CHRIST

SERVING THE GREATER LITTLE ROCK AREA



Volume 5

April 6, 2007

Number 4



## Purpose, Ministry, and Mission Part 4

Bobby B. Boaldin

As we continue our series exploring the mission and ministry of WindSong, this month brings us to yet another purpose for the church that is revealed in the New Testament. Not only does the church exist to celebrate God's presence and to communicate God's word, it also exists to educate God's people. Jesus, himself, identified this purpose as an essential part of discipling when he included "teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" as part of the Great Commission. If we break this well-known passage down in the original language, the verb is "make disciples" and the manner, means, or mode by which disciples are made is by "baptizing them" and "teaching them." Those who would become disciples of Jesus must be taught or educated.

Furthermore, those who are already disciples of Jesus must be taught as well. Repeatedly in the gospel accounts, Jesus is not only addressing the crowds and those who would be his disciples, but he is also recorded to provide instruction for those who were already his disciples. In fact, most of the in-depth instruction seems to occur after one has become a disciple. The writer of Hebrews chastens his readers to "leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instructions about baptisms, the laying on

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This Little Light of Mine



Fifty-three children sponsored since September 2006

Our dear secretary, **Vanny**, and I went to the village of Tom Nop Thom to deliver new shoes for the children we have been sponsoring for school since September 2006. What a sight when we drove into the church yard! Their teacher, **Sokha**, had all the children seated in rows and was singing with them and testing their knowledge of God. These children have discovered God for the first time through Sokha's loving care and teaching each Sunday. Her class has increased from fifty-three to one hundred since January 2007, and Sokha has been able to train a new teacher to help.

Sokha wanted me to talk to the children. What could I say to one hundred children, from three to fifteen years old, all seated together looking at me with their bright, dark, beautiful eyes? I talked to the new children first (who will also be sponsored in the future) and asked them if they were happy to come here to Bible class every Sunday. I then told them that today they would receive shoes, because we know they must have shoes to attend school.

I told the children to go back home today and tell their families that next September they will enroll in school. I said, "If your parents look sadly and say, 'we can't afford that,' respond with a big smile and say, 'Yes, we can because someone is helping me!'" Tell them, "God loves me! I have learned every Sunday how God cares and loves all of us, and because I am going to Bible class to learn more about the true, living God, He is blessing me and our family. I will go to school and God will provide."

You see those children really are a little light to their families who have never heard of the living God. Can you imagine a little seven-year-old child bringing the Good News to his family? Thank you for blessing these children by sending them to school for a better future and by showing their families that yes, **He** cares, and so do we.



Without shoes children cannot attend school.

Marie-Claire McDonough

## ARE YOU STIRRING UP THE BRETHREN?

Christians are to “stir up one another.” Or, in the language of the King James Version, “provoke” (an unfortunate word choice for our day and time). Sadly, some have apparently failed to read the entire sentence because they have majored in bickering, quarreling, and stirring up strife—the very opposite of what is required. In case you have forgotten, the Bible actually says, “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works” (Hebrews 10:24 RSV). Any stirring we do should be toward the goal of “love and good works.”

Recently I asked my Bible class how we could accomplish this task, and they replied with the following suggestions:

Give yourself to encouraging others rather than discouraging them.

Commend rather than condemn.

Be patient toward all.

Set the right example (In worship attendance, acts of service, disposition, friendliness, caring, etc.).

Lead others by seeing something that needs to be done, and doing it.

Pray for all, and especially for those who are spiritually weak.

Brainstorming with other Christians about implementing Hebrews 10:24.

More fellowship and interaction with other Christians.

Obviously, this list is not exhaustive so feel free to add to it as you seek to stir up those around you to love and good works.

**JOHN GIPSON'S BIBLE CLASS  
WINDSONG CHURCH OF CHRIST**



Sgt. Chesser

Joe Chesser

Last weekend while visiting with Sherry's family in northeast Arkansas, I was accused of being a sergeant in the National Guard. We had all gone out to dinner where a "Welcome Home" banner had been hung in honor of my nephew, Sgt. Brian Presson. I realize that my physique could easily be mistaken for that of a soldier not too far removed from boot camp (sure, whatever), but I think the fact that I'm a penny pinching tightwad was the biggest factor in the confusion. Refusing to pay for haircuts for the rest of my life, I've decided the most frugal way to keep my hair kempt is to purchase clippers and cut my own hair. So, my clipper-cut hair combined with the banner prompted a family to stop by our table and strike up a conversation with me, a total stranger they assumed was Sgt. Presson. I smiled and directed them to the real Brian.

I hadn't even thought about the possibility that the other diners in the restaurant that evening might mistake me for Brian, and I'm glad I didn't. I think that is just how God wants me to live in the world. See, Christ left us behind in this world to be his hands and feet, to live and work as he would have, to be Jesus to this needy world, and to look so much like him that people see him when they look at us. Two thoughts here: wouldn't it be nice to be mistaken for Jesus by the people we daily come in contact with and wouldn't it be awesome to be so humble we didn't even know that's what people were thinking?

That night in the restaurant I was simply acting naturally, not trying to look a part. I was mistaken for who I appeared to be when I didn't know anyone was looking—I was just being me. When we try to look like Christ "so that" others will notice us looking like Christ, we are in danger of missing the mark. But, if we are Christ-like without "acting" Christ-like, people will see right past us and catch a glimpse of the one we're trying to imitate. Do your best and let God do the lifting up.



### An Oft Repeated Horror

Bill McDonough

A twenty-two year old woman who studied with our English Bible study teacher for ten months, became a Christian last September. Full of life and energy, our new sister was an inspiration to all. Working nights at a garment factory, she would then come to study at 8 a.m. before going home to sleep.

In October, she excitedly reported that her company had selected her, and nineteen other young women, to transfer to one of their plants in another Asian country where they would all have better positions and salaries. Concerned about her spiritual life, we contacted the church in the city where she was being sent and they prepared to receive her. BUT the night before our new sister left, she was told that she would be going to another city some three hundred miles away. She immediately sent a message by phone to her Bible teacher here at Partners In Progress. Very concerned, we tried to contact her the next morning, but the young woman had already given her phone to her sister.

Not wanting to alarm the family with our concern, we decided to go to the airport two hours before her initial time of departure. We found that she had already left the country. Her boss had picked all the workers up at their houses with a van so none of their families had a chance to say good-bye at the airport. The more we learned about the situation, the more red flags we saw. By email, we urged our new sister to contact a Christian brother in her new country and ask him for another contact closer to her new location. She did make contact with local brethren and Christians came to pick her up for church and took care of her every need.

The new employer collected all the girl's passports under the guise of getting visas and refused to return them. The girls were paid only half of the agreed salary. The company refused to discuss any grievances with them, leaving them worse off than they had been at home. The women were without funds and without possession of their passports to get home.

When our sister reported this situation

### Purpose—from Page 1

of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment" (Hebrews 6:1-2).

Hence, one of the very important purposes of the church is to educate God's people. As I write, on my desk is an article written by **Stephen Prothero, Ph.D.** entitled, "Worshiping in Ignorance," from *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (March 16, 2007). Prothero writes, "Today religious illiteracy is at least as pervasive as culture illiteracy, and certainly more dangerous." He continues, "Americans remain profoundly ignorant about their own religions and those of others." If Dr. Prothero is correct, then the church needs to be even more diligent in her efforts to not only instruct God's people, but give them the tools to study and learn for themselves. We must not neglect one of the purposes for which we have been called. As always, to God be the glory.

### Horror—from column 2

to her newly found church family, the local Christians went into action. Knowing of the corrupt system and of similar incidents in the past, their first stop was the Cambodian Embassy. Officials at the embassy said that they could not help nor issue our sister a new passport. Those who run these human trafficking schemes are often powerful people with political connections which protect them. The local Christians smelled a rat, smuggled this sister out of the country, and got her safely back home. Typical of such trafficking schemes, the man who recruited the girls is no longer in Cambodia and no one "seems to know" where he went.

There was great joy and thanksgiving when our sister returned. She is now working with the United Nations office to help get the other girls home. Without Christian contacts our sister would no doubt be without any hope of ever getting home. This tragedy happens every day. Our sister, learned, however, a terrific lesson about love and concern in the family of God. She knows that the love that binds us all has no equal elsewhere. Not only did she come back to us with a stronger faith, but also with a great testimony for her family. Our new sister's mother is convinced the church saved her daughter's life.

(Names and places have been withheld for the security of all those involved.)

## BULLETIN BOARD

### OUR MARCH RECORD

Average Attendance.....198  
Average Contribution.....\$10,382

Membership and Restoration  
**Alan Branch, Joseph Williams**

### *With Sympathy*

**Karla Wade** on the death of her sister-in-law's father, **Don Clark** of Richmond, Virginia, on February 28. The funeral was March 3.

**Alice Gill** on the recent death of three family members: her son-in-law, **Harold Thompson**, her sister-in-law (**George's** sister), and her nephew (Alice's sister's son).

**Linda and Jim Stripling** on the death of her mother, **Inez Cook**, on March 12. There was a private memorial service on March 16.

The family of **Elsie Parks** who died on Monday, March 19. The funeral was March 22, in Little Rock, followed by a graveside service at Mount Vernon, Arkansas.

**Linda and Coy Drewry** on the death of her father, **Evan Jones**, on March 21. The funeral was March 23, in Warren, Arkansas.

**Ann and Ray Sarmiento** on the death of her son, **Tony Lemon**, on March 21. There was a graveside service on March 24, at Edgewood Cemetery in North Little Rock.



Join us for our annual  
**WindSong Family Mission Trip.**

Everyone is invited and all ages are welcome.

\$100 per person or  
\$300 per family  
due by April 29.

Make checks payable to  
WindSong.

See Joe Chesser for  
more information.

### CONNECTIONS

**Joseph Williams** placed membership on March 18. Joseph has a four year old daughter, **Katie**. **Alan Branch** placed membership on April 1. Make a special effort to meet Joseph, Katie, and Alan and welcome them all into our WindSong family.

Congratulations to **Ray F. Cox, Jr.**, who was selected as one of Arkansas' best lawyers for intellectual property law and technology law by *Best Lawyers in America*.

Congratulations to **Jacob and Tara Hudson** on the birth of a son, **Canaan Reed Hudson**, on March 7, in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

**Blaine Alexander** is one of four Arkansas elementary school principals who are the first to be recognized by the state as "master principals" for successfully completing a rigorous three-year training and evaluation program. Congratulations, Blaine.

Congratulations to **Jason and Valerie Speed** on the birth of a son, **Aubrey Marshall**, on March 10. Congratulations also go to the proud grandparents, **Clif and Lynette Gilliam**.

**John, Susan, and Noah Walker** will be moving to San Antonio, Texas, soon. We will surely miss them, but we wish them all the best in their new home.

Congratulations to **Gary and Rachel Limon** on the birth of a son, **Kylen Jarrod**, on March 28. Congratulations also go to the proud great-grandmother, **Shirley Jones**, and uncle, **John Jones**.

Congratulations to **Hannah Boaldin** on her new job as Customer Service Representative with LogistiCare of Arkansas.

Congratulations to **Craig and Nikki McCartney** on the birth of a daughter, **Brooklenn Faith**, on March 30. Congratulations also go to the proud grandmother, **Marjorie McCartney**, and uncle, **Myron McCartney**.

Visit our websites

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