



# WindSong NOTES

CHURCH OF CHRIST

SERVING THE GREATER LITTLE ROCK AREA



Volume 8

June 4, 2010

Number 6



## The Power of a Personal Invitation

Bobby B. Boaldin

Last month I introduced our Sunday night summer series of lessons entitled "Understanding the Unchurched to Reach Them." I pointed out that a primary source for this series would be Thom S. Rainer's book, *The Unchurched Next Door*. In the introduction, Dr. Rainer elaborates on "Ten Surprises from the Unchurched" that his fifteen person research team discovered while interviewing three hundred six men and women who, admittedly, did not attend church on a regular basis. Surprise #4 struck me as significant: "82 percent of the unchurched are at least *somewhat likely* to attend church if they are invited." Dr. Rainer continues, "Perhaps we need to pause on this response. Perhaps we need to restate it. *More than eight out of ten of the unchurched said they would come to church if they were invited.*"

Can you believe that? Can you get your mind around that? The information coming directly from the unchurched themselves is that more than eighty percent of them would be somewhat likely to attend church with a friend, neighbor or coworker if they would just receive a personal invitation to do so. Can it really be that easy? Aren't Christians already inviting unchurched people to attend? Rainer writes, "The heartbreaking answer is no. Only 21 percent of active

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# CONGRATULATIONS SENIORS!



DANIEL AGIN

Daniel plans to attend Oklahoma Christian University and major in Mechanical Engineering.



TYLER OBIOL

Tyler plans to attend the University of New Orleans and major in Environmental Science.



JOSH PERKINS

Josh plans to attend Pulaski Technical College and major in Physical Therapy.



DEVON WEDDLE

Devon plans to attend the University of Arkansas and major in International Relations and minor in European Studies.

# God Bless You!

## THE ABILITY TO DISTINGUISH

Dean Inge once said he had no ear for music, that he could not tell the difference between the songs “Pop Goes the King” and “God Save the Weasel.” Poor Dean! He lacked the ability to distinguish.

That inability can be a very sober and serious thing when it comes to spiritual matters. The Hebrew writer must have known some ‘Peter Pan’ Christians. (You remember Peter Pan. He was the boy who refused to grow up). Listen to the rebuke given to such immaturity: *“For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need some one to teach you again the first principles of God’s word. You need milk, not solid food; for every one who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their faculties trained by practice to distinguish good from evil”* (Hebrews 5:12-14).

Did you notice? The ability to distinguish good from evil comes from having our “faculties **trained by practice**” (exercise). It is through constant practice that one becomes proficient in any line of endeavor, and it holds true in Christianity. A little child does not know “how to refuse the evil and choose the good.” It is through training and exercise that one becomes mature and consciously discriminative of “good and evil” whether in doctrine, ethics or morals.

We must “try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord,” lest as children we are “tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the cunning of men, by their craftiness in deceitful wiles.”

May God help us to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ,” and to sharpen our spiritual perceptions on a daily basis till we arrive at the ability to distinguish good from evil.

JOHN GIPSON  
WINDSONG CHURCH OF CHRIST



### Church Planting from Scratch

Bill McDonough

In a new area, church planting is always a challenge. When there are no study aids (not even a concordance), tracts or Bible class materials for children—you start from scratch. We have done, and continue to do a lot of “scratching.” As previously reported we translated a scripture reference guide with two thousand references, wrote a daily devotional guide and also a children’s Bible story book.

**Marie-Claire**, with the help of **Yvonne Davis** and **Carol Randle**, has been working on two volumes of children’s Bible school materials. These volumes include illustrations, hand work and teaching aids, as well as a step-by-step teacher’s guide. This material will be in book form so that we can give it to each village church and that they can use for years to come.

The Back to School Program has been so successful that World Vision is now copying it and other organizations are looking at it. Recently, high school students have been recruited as volunteer tutors for the younger children. They are working without pay and are being rewarded with coupons that they can exchange for rice, notebooks, bicycles etc.—like the Book Club children are doing.

*The Ship of Life* continues to be a blessing to thousands who live along the Mekong River. We are now negotiating with the Cambodian government to move the ship for a three or four month voyage on the Tonle Sap Lake. This lake is the largest in Southeast Asia, the size of Lake Erie. The poorest people in Cambodia live in this area. More than 30,000 of them live in three floating villages out in the middle of the lake. Two-thirds of their children die of disease caused by contaminated water. We are investigating the possibility of providing some sort of water filtration system. Then these people could come to the ship to get clean water. (Any water filtration experts out there with advice?) Later this summer,



### Green Grass

Joe Chesser

A few years ago I wrote down half a dozen or so minor goals I’d like to accomplish (and for the record, this was long before *The Bucket List* became the popular name for such a list). No deep meaningful significance, no big hurry, no real strict timeframe—just some things I would like to experience. One of those goals was to thru-hike the Ouachita Trail, a two hundred twenty three mile footpath from Talahina, Oklahoma, to Pinnacle Mountain State Park in Little Rock. I’m nowhere near ready for such an adventure! After **Tyler Obiol** and **Caleb Austin** agreed to hike it with me this spring, I started calculating just how many days this would take. Before we knew it, and after a couple of revisions, we had settled on tackling the Buffalo River Trail first (a thirty-six mile adventure). This proved to be more than enough challenge for now.

During our hike, there were very few places where the ground was level and the walk was gentle or easy. Level and easy landscape doesn’t make for great hiking trails. Great hiking trails are rugged and full of large hills to climb and descend. Both ascent and descent, however, make hiking difficult. When we were ascending the thousand foot climb from Beech Creek up to Slaty Place, the hill never seemed to end. Our legs burned under the load we asked them to bear. Naturally we wished we were going *down* the hill instead. However, when we did finally find ourselves descending the hill, we realized just how hard it is on your feet to hike *down* a hill. So, as we hiked up, we longed to go down, but when we were headed down, we longed to hike up. In other words, the grass always seemed greener on the other side of the fence. We always longed for that which we did not currently have, and once we attained it, we longed for something else.

So here’s your assignment this month, examine your life: relationships, attitudes, career, family, finances, friends...your life. What grassy fields are tempting you? What current situation has you looking for

### Personal Invitation—*from Page 1*

churchgoers invite *anyone* to church in the course of a year. But only 2 percent of church members invite an unchurched person to church.”

If the research is correct, and we have every reason to think it is, then Christians are faltering at the most simple and basic way to expose their lost friends and neighbors to the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are failing to even invite these precious souls to attend worship assemblies of the Body of Christ. The power of a personal invitation cannot and should not be ignored. Eight out of ten unchurched people you know are waiting for you to personally invite them to services. Who will you invite today? To God be the glory!

### Church Planting—*from column 1*

ten young evangelists from the School of Preaching in Siem Reap are to begin working with us to plant churches around the lake.

Your prayers, hands on assistance and partnership continues to make the difference in thousand of people’s lives. Many will meet you in eternity because you cared enough to share your blessings with them.

You may not know, but **Ann Baker** is retiring. I am personally indebted to her for her work with this bulletin. She has edited and rewritten my articles for you to improve them. I will miss her and deeply appreciate her service to all of us. Thank you, Ann.

### Green Grass—*from column 2*

greener pastures? Now, ask yourself, “Is the grass truly greener?”, “Is this new field going to grow my relationship with God?”, or “Is my current situation possibly an opportunity God is using to help me grow?” Now look up the following verses and pray about the value of being content: Philippians 4:11-13, Hebrews 13:5-6, and I Timothy 6:6. May God bless your journey towards contentment.

Visit our websites

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

and

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

## BULLETIN BOARD

### LAST MONTH'S RECORD

Average Attendance	234
Average Contribution	\$10,787
Building Fund	\$255

#### Membership

**Megan Dossey, Deborah Mobley,  
Jonathan Wells**

### *With Sincere Sympathy To...*

**Kara Stanphill** on the death of her cousin, **Lynne Dulaney Crow** of Mt. Home, AR, on May 25. Funeral was May 29, in West Memphis with the burial at Cypert, AR.

**Melissa** and **Bob Casper** on the death of her uncle, **Ulan Hartwick**, on May 21. The funeral was May 24, in Sheridan, AR, with a burial following at Clement Cemetery near Grapevine.

**Linda Pruitt** on the death of her mother, **Nadine Daniels**, on May 8. The funeral was May 12.

**Tom** and **Margie Pullam** on the death of her mother, **Mary Ruth Ulm Nolan**, on May 10. Burial services were May 15, in Algiers (New Orleans), LA.

**Martha Denton, David** and **Dawn Denton** and **Tina Lord** on the death of Martha's father, **Lee Beaver**, on May 8. The funeral was May 12, at Beebe, AR, with the interment at the National Cemetery in North Little Rock.

**Martha Denton, David** and **Dawn Denton** and **Tina Lord** on the death of Martha's uncle, **Bill Thornton**, on May 8. The funeral was May 13, in North Little Rock.

**Andy** and **Kim Milam** on the death his grandmother, **Lillie Emerson**, on May 27. The funeral was May 30, in DeQueen, AR.

## Welcome Our 2010 Summer Intern



Meet **Chris Van Winkle**. Chris will serve as an intern this summer in our Youth and Family Ministry. He is a Senior at Harding University majoring in Biblical Languages. He plans to teach English as part of the China Now! program after he graduates in May 2011. Chris grew up in Mena, Arkansas, and moved to Little Rock in 2004 where he attended the Levy church with his family. He graduated from Central Arkansas Christian High School in 2005.

### CONNECTIONS

**Megan Dossey** and **Jonathan Wells** placed membership on May 23. **Deborah Mobley** placed membership on May 16. We are so glad to have all of our new members. Please make a special effort to met them and welcome them into our WindSong family.

We rejoice with **Nan'dor** and **Angela Cse'ti** on the baptism of his mother, **Agnes**, on May 10, in Debrecen, Hungary. Agnes made quite a journey in the past eighteen years after finding an advertisement for English lessons based on the Bible and encouraging her children to participate.

**John** and **Megan Calvillo** arrived home from China on May 25. They have decided not to return to China next year, but plan to stay in Little Rock.

**Jessica Henderson** and her three children, **Kylie, Katalina** and **Tristan**, moved to Alabama on May 29. We will miss them, but we wish them well.



**Downtime:**  
**Learning to Pray**  
**Teen Wednesday Night Summer**  
**Series begins June 2**