

SAINT LOUIS

CHRISTIAN COLLEGE JOURNAL



SLCC

SERVING THE CHURCH

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Pass It On . . . Teaching Doctrine in the Local Church

by Dr. Mike Chambers

Teaching sound doctrine is one of the central privileges—and duties—of Christian leaders. The gospel—a statement of truth meant to be believed, shared, and defended—is the heart and foundation of our faith (I Cor. 15:1-8); the practical necessity of doctrinal instruction will not pass away until the end of time. “The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also” (II Tim. 2:2).



Christian doctrine addresses our minds. The very form of Scripture (words, sentences, books); the primacy of instruction in the life of the People of God in both Old and New Testaments; the teaching ministry of Jesus; the preaching, teaching, and writing of the apostles; the evangelistic vocabulary of the book of Acts—all affirm that “faith comes by hearing” (Ro. 10:17).

Here are some simple suggestions for teaching sound doctrine in the local church:

- Make it a leadership priority. Teaching doctrine carefully and well is not easy. Our current popular culture often promotes mere entertainment at the expense of thoughtfulness, critical thinking, and self-sacrifice. Our own habits and expectations of Christian life, worship, and fellowship, not to mention our understanding of the mission of the Church, are affected by such misdirected energies. Unless we intentionally talk, pray, and strategize about teaching sound doctrine, we are less likely to develop and maintain effective means of honoring the gospel.

- Preach the whole Bible. Preaching inspired by the whole range of Scripture is one of the best ways to avoid doctrinal error and to develop in our hearers both an appreciation for the scope and unity of the Bible and a genuinely Biblical perspective on life and the world. Try preaching through the Bible in a year, or coordinating sermons and small group studies around a Bible book-of-the-month. Planned preaching is one of the best ways to ensure that we, like Paul, “deliver the whole counsel of God” (Acts 20:27).

- Identify specific targets for the Bible school. Age-appropriate instructional goals for both children and adults are reinforced and expanded as learners mature. Preschoolers can tell where Jesus was born and name his earthly parents; fourth and fifth graders can name the 12 apostles and the 12 tribes, spelling them correctly and locating them on a map of the Near East; and so on. Adults should be included in the plan. Enlist teachers and parents in determining the targets.

- Offer advanced instructional options. Try including an occasional Bible school elective, summer intensive, or weekend retreat for those who can “go to the deep end of the pool.” Consider elementary instruction in the Biblical languages, verse-by-verse study of a Bible book, lessons in How to Study the Bible, or an orientation to the expanding world of electronic Bible-study sources.

- Ensure that leaders are doctrinally established. Many churches are so confused by denominational teaching that their leaders either disagree openly with each other about doctrinal matters or adopt a kind of doctrinal vagueness in order to avoid confrontation. When leaders share a systematic study of Scripture and history that builds on sound teaching, they are far more likely to agree on doctrinal essentials and defend them with confidence.

- Demonstrate the practical beauty of sound doctrine. Bible truth effectively taught and properly understood makes an observable and attractive difference in our lives. The effective leader reflects in his temperament, family life, management of time and finances, sexual behavior, general decision making, and response to crisis, an appreciation for the practical wisdom of the Bible’s message and a serious devotion to following Christ. Scripture has stern words for those who artificially separate faithful talking from faithful living (James 2:18).

The Value of Preaching for Evangelism

by Keith McCaslin

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." This familiar statement from Romans 10:13 is followed by several rhetorical questions, each preceded by the interrogative "How?" The question I want to address is this: "How can they hear without someone preaching to them?" Since it is rhetorical, the answer is obvious. People cannot hear about salvation in Christ unless someone tells them about Him.



Ken Hemphill is correct when he argues in the book, *Handbook of Contemporary Preaching*, that evangelistic preaching is much more than soul-stirring sermons by the preacher. He says evangelism is largely dependent on a healthy climate in the church. He cites the need for a warm evangelistic atmosphere, a pervasive spirit of love, a spirit of excitement and expectancy, a sense of urgency, an awareness of the supernatural at work, a team spirit, and a shared vision. All of these conditions are important. But people may be won to Christ with one or more of these conditions being absent. But a person cannot be won to Christ without hearing about Christ. And that occurs in the preaching.

We live in an era of infatuation with technology. We are informed that the younger generation is so accustomed to the marvels of the electronic age; they are virtually unequipped to grasp instruction that does not include such eye-boggling accompaniment. I asked one of my students in class one day, "Don't you feel it is insulting to your intelligence to be told your generation is not capable of learning by simple instruction without accompanying visual graphics?" His response was, "We've been told so many times we can't learn without them, we have come to believe it."

I readily admit that graphics, power point, and other marvelous amenities to learning are great. But God's power for producing faith and winning souls is in the preaching of the Word. "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."

Preachers!!! Use all the visual aids you have at your disposal. But do not permit that which is visually spectacular take the place of well-planned, prayerfully-bathed, urgently-presented doctrinal messages of salvation in Jesus Christ. Preach the Word. Do the work of an evangelist. The souls of mankind depend on the faithful proclamation of the truth of God.



Special Gifts

In Memory of...

Carl & Dema Millsap
Randy & Karen McKenzie

Guthrie Veech, Jr.
Mabel Ann Veech

Marian Sneed
Mabel Ann Veech

Helen Thacker
Randy & Karen McKenzie
Anita Newlin

Clifford Stock
Joyce & Deborah Stock

Emra Edwards, Jr.
1st Christian, Gillespie

Luke & Gladys Perrine
Harold & Cheryl Belzer
Harry and Marlene Karichner
Jim & Charlotte Daniels

Kenneth & Dorothy Durbin
Bruce & Jan Sprenger

Vernon & Mona Newland
Jim & Marcia Haverly

Noble Boyd
Wilma Boyd

John Webster
Phyllis Webster

Sarah Jane Webster
Phyllis Webster

Paul Grahn
Helen Grahn

Harold Kast
Sandra Kast

Carlos Elmore
Richard & Susan Steckler

Tom Wallace
Ruth Pinkston
John & Norma Williams
Harold & Cheryl Belzer
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Myrtle Owings
Max & Norma Whited
Norma Baker
Don & Judy Hampton
Richard & Susan Steckler
Bill & Nadine Maynard
Linda Wallace

Kay Medler
Anita Newlin

Dora Myer
Anita Newlin

Wilma McGee
Keith Sproat

In Honor of...

John Newlin's 95th Birthday
Randy & Karen McKenzie

Anita Newlin
M/M Sonny Krutsinger

Bryan Hampton Family
Don & Judy Hampton

Billy Campbell
Doug Gorrell

James & Cindy Bourne
Peggy Bourne

M/M Darrell Adams
Anita Newlin

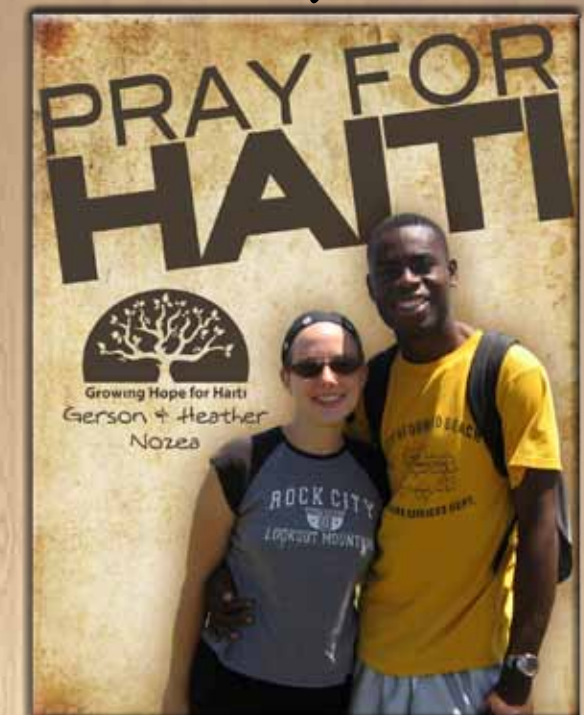
M/M Neil Jolliff
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Wm. E Maynard
Larry & Joan Forsting

Tom McGee
Keith Sproat

SLCC Students Raise \$1,000 for Haiti

Gerson Nozea, a senior at Saint Louis Christian College, is from Haiti. The earthquake struck very near his hometown. After a few days without communications, he received word that his family was not hurt, but most of the area was destroyed. Gerson and his wife Heather made the decision that he would take a sabbatical from his education for one semester and return to Haiti to aid in the restoration work. Heather is in Haiti for the short term and will return to St. Louis to resume her work at a doctor's office. They have purchased water purifying and solar equipment to assist in rebuilding Haiti. If you would like to support their ministry, send checks to Growing Hope for Haiti, Gerson & Heather Nozea, 927 Wooden Drive, Florissant, MO 63033. Dr. Guthrie Veech, President of SLCC, plans to take a group of students to Haiti in March.



Alumni News

BIRTHS — Congratulations to:

Steve (att) and **Kristi** (att) **Doering** on the birth of Abigail Jane, December 1. Steve is the youth minister at First Christian, Bethalto, Illinois. Proud grandparents are **Rich** and Jackie **Wisnasky**.

Randa-Kay (AA '95) and Muncher **Woods** on the birth of Kinlee Carene, February 9, 2009. Proud grandparents are **Rod** and **Jan Farthing**.

Marti (Allen) ('06) and John **Hilderbrand** on the birth of Troy Benjamin, October 13.

Nathan (att) and **Ruthie** (Malave) ('08) **Sprigg** on the birth of Ella Renae, January 16.

WEDDINGS — Congratulations to:

Jessica Jordan ('09) and **Nick Reed** ('09) who were married October 17.

Shandi May (AA '09) and **Ben Harris** ('09) on their marriage October 24. Ben is on staff at First Christian Church, Rolla, Missouri.

Kerri Pollard (AA '09) and **Aaron McCaleb** ('09) who were married August 1. Aaron is the youth minister at the Ferguson (Missouri) Christian Church.

NEWS AND NOTES

Dave ('08) and **Trista** (AA '06) **Altman** are living in Altamont, Illinois, where Dave is the student minister at the Christian Church.



Tom Wallace
VP of Development (1989 - 2005)

Gary Kins ('69) will be returning to Wisconsin to minister to the Sparta Christian Church.

Congratulations to **Kevin Pigg** ('93) on receiving his D.Min. degree from Londen Institute, part of Hope International University. Kevin is the senior minister at the Crossbridge Christian Church, Houston, Texas.

Jeff ('93) and **Ann Dee** ('96) **Bent** moved to Olney, Illinois, where Jeff is the senior minister at The Christian Church of Olney.

Eric Allen ('96) is the senior minister at the Bluff Creek Christian Church, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Doug Junkins ('07) is the Associate Minister at South Telegraph Christian Church, St. Louis, Missouri.

Jarrett Samuels ('08) is the Children's Pastor at the Jeffersonville, Indiana campus of the Southeast Christian Church, Louisville, Kentucky.

Ryan Loucks ('09) is serving the Stronghurst (Illinois) Christian Church.

Alex ('09) and **Samantha** (att) **Foltz** live in Macomb, Illinois, where Alex serves as youth minister at Maple Avenue Christian Church.

Jason ('09) and **Andrea** ('07) **Allmon** moved to Bainbridge, Indiana, where Jason is the minister at the Christian Church.

Paul Newland ('65) retired as senior pastor of Gateway Christian Church, Town & Country, Missouri, after serving as founding pastor more than 35 years ago. After a six-month sabbatical he will return in a part-time role on the staff.

In Loving Memory of Tom Wallace

The college family was stunned by the death of Tom Wallace on October 27, 2009. Tom served as the VP of Development for sixteen years. He made connections with many churches and individuals particularly in Missouri and Illinois. At the time of his death, he was the Director of Corporate Giving at Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri, and was named employee of the year. Tom was serving as an elder at New Heights Christian Church and directed the Men's Ministry there. He is survived by his wife Linda, a 1974 graduate of SLCC; his children: Jamie; Christopher (his wife, Megan), also SLCC alums; Jeffrey, a 2009 grad (his fiancée, Joni Geil); and Bradley, a high school senior; and two beloved grandchildren: Madison and Jackson. Tom's sense of humor, his love for others, and love for God earned him the respect and friendship of many.

How to Navigate Conflicts over Music

by Kent Sanders



Music has the incredible power to either unite or divide. Several months ago I attended a concert in Chicago surrounded by tens of thousands of people all singing along with their favorite band. It was an incredible display of the power of music to unite people. On the other hand, I recall a recent car trip with my family when each family member had a distinct opinion about the choice and the volume of music!

Music can be a source of harmony and blessing, or it can be a source of conflict and tension. Here are several suggestions for navigating church conflicts over music:

- Communicate the biblical purpose of worship music. Ps. 95:1-2 says, "... let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!" The primary goal of music is to give praise to God. We often use music for other reasons, such as evangelism, entertainment, and using people's talents. However, the main purpose of music in worship is to give glory and honor to God. Preachers and teachers need to regularly address the topic of worship to help people understand the underlying reason for music.
- Identify the cultural context of your church. I'm not speaking of "targeting" a particular group because the church is for everyone. However, we need to understand the tastes of our community. The music we use in worship should reflect the overall tastes of the people we are serving. There is no such thing as a "sacred" music style; God is much more concerned about the content of the words than the style of music. Church leaders should dialogue about the church's context and agree on a music style and strategy that best serves the people.
- Involve a variety of people in planning and on stage. Older people may feel that no one cares about them, and younger people may feel left out of the decision-making process. The solution is to involve a variety of people in planning worship and in the service. Include men and women, young and old, and those with varying tastes in music.
- Ensure that you have good worship leadership. Sometimes the problem is not the people—it is the leader! A good worship leader will embody a variety of qualities, but the two most important are: 1) Character (Do they have integrity?) and 2) Competence (Can they understand music and lead worship effectively?). A worship leader who lacks these basic qualities will always be a source of tension and strife in the church.
- Challenge everyone to pursue Christ-like attitudes. Phil. 2:3-4 says, "Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." Some complain about music because they aren't getting what they want. A simple question will determine if they have the proper attitude. Are you willing to give up what you like for the sake of another?



- Directly confront those who gossip and slander. Almost no one likes confrontation. But sometimes it is a necessary solution to the problems of gossip, slander, and backbiting. Worship and music ministries seem to be a nesting ground for conflict. If our worship is to be God-honoring, we must confront those who undermine it. Many conflicts could be alleviated on the spot if we would follow Jesus' principles of conflict resolution in Matthew 18.

Worship is the only activity from our earthly lives that will continue in Heaven. It is essential that our music and worship ministries be marked by unity, excellence, and Christian maturity which will help alleviate many conflicts.

Campus Visit Days

Want to get to know student life? Take an opportunity to come visit our campus!

Campus visit days give prospective students a look into the life of SLCC!

You can schedule a date and time by contacting the admissions office at 314-837-6777 extension 8110.

March 5 or April 9, 2010

MEN'S DAY UNDER THE HOOD

MARCH 6, 2010

FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION SEE PAGE 2



*Please join us for a reception
following the Friday evening session
at the Embassy Suites Hotel.*



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