



The Fellowship Journal

Rooted in Grace, Growing in Love

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January 2017

8 Steps to Reaching a Lost Loved One.

From Chuck Lawless



Three years before my father passed away, he turned to Christ for salvation. It was amazing, actually. My dad had quite a temper prior to his conversion. My childhood memories of his displays of anger still echo in my mind. Though my grandmother was a strong believer, Dad never showed interest in Christianity. In fact, he first believed that many routes lead to God; “we’re just following different paths,” he told me.

We prayed for more than 30 years that Dad would become a believer. Then, it happened. Dad called my little brother to say he wanted to talk about following Jesus . . . right then! God so transformed my father that we spent the final years of his life getting to know a new man. He was a trophy of God’s grace, an undeniable example of 2 Corinthians 5:17a—“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation” (HCSB). God graciously answered our prayers.

Are you praying for non-Christians to turn to Christ? In my book, *Serving in Your Church Prayer Ministry*, I describe a simple way to pray evangelistically by praying the acronym, “GOD’S HEART.” I’m grateful to my friend Chris Schofield, whose writings about prayer first helped me to think about this kind of process.

Maybe this pattern will help you as you pray evangelistically for others:

G = Pray believers, beginning with yourself, will appreciate *God’s grace*. When we really appreciate what God has done for us, we naturally want to tell others about Him. That’s why new believers are often most willing to do evangelism—their salvation is so fresh they almost can’t avoid telling the story. We stop evangelizing when we take grace for granted.

O = Pray for believers to live in *obedience* to God. We can’t change another person’s heart. Only God can do that, as He did in response to our prayers for my dad. If we’re not walking in obedience to God, though, our disobedience hinders our prayers (Isaiah 59:1, 2). Abiding in Christ really does matter when we pray (John 15:7).

Church Office Hours
Mon-Fri 9AM-1PM

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The Church office will
be closed January 2 for
the New Year Holiday.

D = Pray believers will **decide** to tell others. Evangelism doesn't just happen. Telling the story of Jesus is a choice . . . an action . . . a decision. Too many Christians know they should do evangelism, but decide not to do it. Pray that won't happen.

S = Pray that believers will **speak** the gospel fearlessly and clearly. In fact, that's the way Paul taught us to pray in Ephesians 6:19-20 and Colossians 4:2-4. If Paul – the apostle extraordinaire – needed others praying for him to do evangelism, how much more do we need that kind of support?

H = Pray for nonbelievers to have a receptive **heart** to the gospel. Apart from Christ, all people are dead in their sin (Eph. 2:1), held under the devil's sway (Acts 26:18). Only God can make our hearts open to the good news.

E = Pray their spiritual **eyes** will be opened. Non-believers are blinded to the truth of the gospel (2 Cor. 4:3-4), and the "god of this age" does all he can to keep them in darkness. Nothing we do apart from the power of God can open their blinded minds.

A = Pray they will have God's **attitude** toward sin. Understanding God's remedy for sin begins with understanding our sickness. We're all sinners (Rom. 3:23), and we must see our sin as God sees it – as wrong against a holy God.

R = Pray non-believers will **repent** and believe. The message of Christ is clear: we must turn from our sin and trust Christ for salvation (Mark 1:15). God gets the glory as He frees nonbelievers from the domain of darkness (Col. 1:13).

T = Pray their lives will be **transformed**. Only God can change a man like He changed my dad. Here's the good news, though – He's still doing that! When God does that, the non-believing world takes note.

Who is praying for you to speak the gospel boldly and clearly? Are you praying for other believers to be evangelistic? Are you praying for non-believers? Are you asking God to save and transform a specific person?

Maybe these steps will help you if you're trying to reach a lost loved one.

Five Keys to Renewing Evangelistic Growth in Your Church

From Thom Rainer



"What can we do to help the churches become more evangelistic?" "We need more good evangelism programs. Why aren't we providing them?" "Why are we reaching fewer unchurched people than we used to?" Those three questions were asked of me in the span of a just a few days. Each of them came with hints of frustration, confusion, and anger.

It is true. Most churches reach fewer lost and unchurched people than they did in the past. It is no longer necessary to be a part of a church to be culturally accepted. That pool of immediate evangelistic opportunities has been reduced dramatically.

Is there hope? Absolutely!

I am observing carefully churches in North America that are truly making an evangelistic impact. Most of them transitioned from evangelistic apathy to growth. Though there is no formulaic approach or magic-bullet program, here are five common themes I see repeatedly:

1. **A small group of church members dedicated themselves to pray for an evangelistic harvest.** Evangelism is not a human-devised program. It is a Spirit-led endeavor. I am saddened when I see churches with no intentionality about praying for evangelism and the lost in the community. It is absurd to think we can separate prayer from evangelism. “And they devoted themselves to . . . prayer . . . And every day the Lord added to them those who were being saved” (Acts 2:42, 47).
2. **Pastors make evangelism a personal priority.** I have yet to find evangelistic churches where the pastors have not committed themselves personally to evangelism. It’s not easy. Pastors are pulled in a multiplicity of directions. It is easy to respond to the tyranny of the urgent. Pastors must make time to make personal evangelism a priority. Church members must give them time to do so.
3. **Leaders in the church teach church members to invite people to church.** Most church members do not realize what happens more than half the time when they invite an unchurched member to church. They show up at church! Such is the reason I encourage leaders to have a singular day focused on inviting people to church. Though a single day of inviting people is not another magic-bullet solution, it does typically create a positive ethos toward inviting people.
4. **These churches love the communities in which they are located.** I love the focus on the nations evident in many of our churches. I love the national church planting emphasis we see in many places. But churches that are evangelistic do not forget that the commission of Acts 1:8 begins with Jerusalem, the local community. What percent of your church’s budget goes to direct ministry and evangelism in the community?
5. **These churches have consistent, usually weekly, efforts to connect with unchurched people in the community.** The efforts may be as simple as Facebook ads or communications with new residents. It may be a basic email campaign to reach out to those who have visited the church. These efforts are not solutions in themselves, but they do help create an outwardly-focused ethos in your church.

The Matthew 25: Ministry—Helping Knows No Borders



Collection of pill bottles for the *Matthew 25 Ministry* has continued through December. More than 17 pounds of bottles have already been sent to the ministry, keep up the good work. A box is located in the lobby. Check out Matthew25: Ministry’s website at: <http://m25m.org/>

Total Offering to date: \$ 300,3000.05

Total Special Offerings to date: \$ 19,769.10

“Steady plodding brings prosperity; hasty speculation brings poverty.”

Proverbs 21:5

UPWARD BASKETBALL

UPWARD Basketball will begin practices January 2. Games will begin January 21. This year will be an exciting season, there are 268 children who have signed up for basketball and cheerleading. Basketball practices are Monday through Friday 5:30–9:00 p.m. Games are 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Cheerleading will be held in the Chapel. If you are able to help, or for more information contact Pastor Gary. Contact Alicia Murray or Mary Sue Keath for information about cheerleading.

Thank You

Pregnancy Ministries, Inc. or PMI

God Bless you this Holiday Season. Thank you for all your prayers and support for this ministry! Merry Christmas! The PMI Staff

You can support PMI while you shop at AmazonSmile. Amazon donates, .05% of the purchase price to PMI. Check out this link for more information: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-1503343>.

For The Kids of Chambersburg

“For The Kids of Chambersburg” Committee would like to start the New Year of 2017 with a **Big Thank You** to everyone that has supported us throughout the year. Many of you know that we are a group of ladies and gentlemen that get together, plan and do fundraisers to raise money to give to other non-profit agencies in Chambersburg that help hurting children. We appreciate all of you.

We invite anyone with a heart for children and who wants to be a part of a small group that helps area kids-- to our next meeting January 9th, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. at Perkins Restaurant on Lincoln Way East.



Mark Your Calendar with Upcoming Date

April 4, 2017-- Taste of the Valley. This event has 13-15 area restaurants and caterers that come and donate a “Taste” of their Specialty foods for 240 people. It is held—right here—at Brethren Fellowship. We will be holding a small live auction, bigger silent auction of donated items. We will also have some entertainment (to be announced) Good Food—you will not go away hungry and there is great Fellowship. You know that the proceeds go for a good cause-- KIDS! Tickets are \$25.00 per person and are available now! It would be a great Easter Gift for family and friends. List of Restaurants and Caterer's will be available soon.

We will be holding other fundraisers which we will announce as soon as we get them scheduled.

May Love and Joy be with all of you throughout the season and the New Year.



“Seasoned to Serve”

Jan. 19, 2017—Kick-off luncheon for Seasoned to Serve. Meet at Hickory Ridge Restaurant at 12:00 noon for lunch.

Contact Reid and Linda Pletcher for information or sign-up for events: Phone 423-5288 or email: reidlnda@hotmail.com

Our Church Family



January Birthday’s

Nathaniel Aiken
Kenneth Alleman-(*Alvarado family*)
Carlos Alvarado
Peggy Armstrong
Steven Bierbower
Charlotte Carbaugh
Dusty Collins
Tina Collins
Steven Dunn

Vernon Forsythe
Frank Keath
Carl Lehman
Jenny Newman
Missy Pfister
Madison Pryor
Ana Rhone
Rosemarie Roberts
Brenda Roof
Tyler Seibert

Larry Sellers
Leah Shatzer
Corbon Shover
MacKenzie Sites
Suzanne St. Clair
Alan Washabaugh
Camille West
Frank West
Austin Younker
Taylor Younker

January Anniversaries

Dean and Peggy Faust



Changes to Your Information

If your address, telephone number, cell phone number or email has changed please let the church office know so we can keep in touch with you. You can email Mona at brethrenfel@hotmail.com or place a note in the church mailbox. If you haven’t received a birthday card or anniversary card, please let us know the correct dates for our records.

January 2017 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:00a-Sunday School 10:00a-Worship Service	2 5:30-9p-Upwards Basketball Practice 6:00-7:15p- Upwards Cheerleading (Mary Sue Keath group) 6:30p-Property Team	3 12:30p-HOG Yoga 5:30-9p-Upwards Basketball Practice 6:00-7:00p Upwards Cheerleading (Tricia Murray group)	4 5:30-9p-Upwards Basketball Practice 6:15p-Prayer Time 6:30p-Youth 6:30p-Bible Study	5 5:30p-Discipleship 5:30-9p-Upwards Basketball Practice	6 5:30-9p-Upwards Basketball Practice	7
8 9:00a-Sunday School 10:00a-Worship Service	9 5:30-9p-Upwards Basketball Practice 6:00-7:15p- Upwards Cheerleading (Mary Sue Keath group)	10 12:00p-CTC 12:30p-HOG Yoga 5:30-9p-Upwards Basketball Practice 6:00-7:00p Upwards Cheerleading (Tricia Murray group)	11 5:30-9p-Upwards Basketball Practice 6:15p-Prayer Time 6:30p-Youth 6:30p-Bible Study	12 8:00a EFCV 5:30-9p-Upwards Basketball Practice	13 5:30-9p-Upwards Basketball Practice	14
15 9:00a-Sunday School 10:00a-Worship Service Newsletter Articles Due	16 5:30-9p-Upwards Basketball Practice 6:00-7:15p- Upwards Cheerleading (Mary Sue Keath group)	17 12:30p-HOG Yoga 5:30-9p-Upwards Basketball Practice 6:30p-Finance Team 6:30p-Deacons 6:30p-Outreach 6:00-7:00p Upwards Cheerleading-Tricia	18 5:30-9p-Upwards Basketball Practice 6:15p-Prayer Time 6:30p-Youth 6:30p-Bible Study	19 5:30-9p-Upwards Basketball Practice	20 5:30-9p-Upwards Basketball Practice	21 8:30a-4:00p Upwards Games
22 9:00a-Sunday School 10:00a-Worship Service	23 5:30-9p-Upwards Basketball Practice 6:00-7:15p- Upwards Cheerleading (Mary Sue Keath group)	24 12:30p-HOG Yoga 5:30-9p-Upwards Basketball Practice 6:30p-Chairs of Leadership Team 7:00p Upwards Cheerleading-Tricia	25 5:30-9p-Upwards Basketball Practice 6:30p-Youth 6:30p-All Church Prayer Time	26 12:00p-4:30p-CTC training workshop 5:30-9p-Upwards Basketball Practice	27 5:30-9p-Upwards Basketball Practice	28 8:30a-4:00p Upwards Games
29 9:00a-Sunday School 10:00a-Worship Service	30 5:30-9p-Upwards Basketball Practice 6:00-7:15p- Upwards Cheerleading (Mary Sue Keath group)	31 12:30p-HOG Yoga 5:30-9p-Upwards Basketball Practice 7:00p Upwards Cheerleading-Tricia				

a=A.M.
p=P.M.
Weekly Pray Time is held downstairs

All Church Prayer Time is held in the Chapel
STS-Seasoned to Serve

All HOG Yoga classes are held in the Chapel

Winter Time

S A M T S I R H C I C E M E G
 E T Y R E P P I L S M I L N S
 D C N A G G O B O T T T I W B
 N S A A N L G E F T S H E O L
 A O N L P O S R E A S A L L I
 B L A O P V E N C I T R L Y Z
 D S M N W E S A F S D A A M Z
 A T W G Z S R T H R X E B P A
 E I O E K N H I A W I W W I R
 H C N I I A R O F E C R O C D
 O E S V I T B N E T I E N S B
 C D A L Y W D E L S C D S T L
 K L D O O W E R I F L N O O A
 E O S N O W F L A K E U U O C
 Y C S H O L I D A Y S B P B K

BLACK

CARNIVAL

COLD

FIREPLACE

FREEZE

HEADBAND

HOLIDAYS

LONG

PANTS

SLIPPERY

BLIZZARD

CASTLE

DOO

FIREWOOD

GLOVES

HIBERNATION

ICE

MITTENS

SKI

SNOW

BOOTS

CHRISTMAS

EGG

FISHING

HAIL

HOCKEY

ICICLES

OLYMPICS

SLED

SNOWBALL

SNOWSHOES

STEW

SOLSTICE

SWEATSHIRT

SOUP

TOBOGGAN

SNOWBOARD

SNOWFLAKE

SNOWMAN

