

Focus on Jesus

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ONE PERSON DOES MATTER

How many times have you heard people say, “My vote doesn’t count. I’m only one person.” That statement is far from the truth but I’m sure each of us has felt that way at times. Every vote counts and every vote matters. In fact it is amazing what a single dedicated person can accomplish. The key word is “dedicated.”

Single individuals with worthy goals can change the world they occupy. These souls focus on a goal and they never give up attempting to achieve it.

Do you have a goal? Is there something you want to achieve or do you just want to sit around and slide off to eternity?

Once I was working in a very small church located in a small rundown settlement. Membership was sparse to begin with, but it finally dropped to almost nothing. Each Sunday I was preaching to three people. The congregation consisted of one elder and his son and daughter-in-law.

The whole thing was a mess. They didn’t particularly like me and I had about the same feeling for them. I knew of several things that were wrong in our relationship but I had become hardheaded and really didn’t want to do much to help the situation. You know the Lord didn’t intend for me to act in such a manner.

Never the less, the three members found two or three inactive members and they planned a meeting to vote to close the church.

As with so many secrets the intended action of this group became news several days before the actual meeting was to occur.

Just as the meeting started a well known member of the community burst in to the room and shouted, “You can’t close this church!”

This action was shocking. Not the action itself but the man who made it. He was an avowed atheist and an arch enemy of the church! He continued talking and citing reasons for continuing the church. The members felt they needed to talk with me about the situation.

I told them that we needed to have the possibility of growing the congregation to about thirty-five. They related this number to the “atheist” who replied he would work on gathering such a group.

The following Sunday thirty-six new people showed up for our worship service!

From this new beginning we produced an excellent youth group and a fairly loyal and interested congregation.

You say one person can’t make a difference? God took this one man and worked through him to bring others into the kingdom.

Don’t sell yourself short. Remember you are not alone. The Lord

has promised us that He will never desert us and will always walk beside us.

You can make a difference here and now. We can be speakers for the Lord.

AN INVITATION

A few years ago I read that ninety percent of church members had joined the church because a friend or family member had invited them to join.

I'm not sure of the percentage figure but it does bring up an interesting subject.

How many of us have invited a friend or family member to join our church? So often we assume folks will join with us if and when they want to. We just leave it up to them to decide about Jesus and salvation. People often say that we should never discuss religion or politics. That's a bit risky since we are refusing to talk about our present life and our future life.

Why not get cracking and invite someone to join your church? Remember that you are making that someone aware of the greatest gift mankind can receive, the gift of eternal life.

HAVING LOTS OF FUN?

I hope your answer is "Yes!" I know that most of the time things go well for me, but at other times I can become a "bit" crabby (My wife Alice might want to substitute "very" for "bit"). Anyway at times I need to change my attitude.

The best cure I have found for crabbiness is to reach out to others and try to add something to their lives.

As you know growing old isn't for sissies. There is always something out of whack or just plain broken. Get over one thing and another appears.

I find that talking with others about their problems is a great way to solve my problems. Consequently when I get low or crabby I grab the telephone and begin reaching out to others.

Helping others is balm for our personal difficulties. We need to seek out situations in which we can serve others.

Think for a moment about Jesus.

- Water into wine.
- Feeding the five thousand.
- The woman at the well.
- Calming of the sea
- Raising Lazarus from the grave.

In all of these cases Jesus was reaching out to others.

If we all start reaching out to others we will all have lots of fun and satisfaction.

ONE PERSON REALLY DOES MATTER

If we reach out to just two (2) people each week we will contact about a hundred (100) people in a year.

You and I will be happier and also make some other folks happy. In fact we just might find more people attending church to hear the gospel messages from Pastor Steven.

HAVE FUN CALLING!