



The Weekly Jog

Volume 2, Issue 20 Jog: to nudge, to give a reminder, *jog* the memory

May 14th 2008

“The New Plymouth Church Family Experiencing and Sharing the Transforming Power of Jesus.”

Insightful words from Flaviel Yeakley on Reaching the Lost.

Some Christians think that people would be attracted to our congregation if we just had a new building in a better location, more parking spaces, an attended nursery, contemporary music led by a "praise team," two services, small groups instead of Sunday or Wednesday evening services, etc. There are at least two major problems with this kind of thinking. First, it puts the emphasis on the church rather than on Christ. And second, it defines success in terms of attracting as many people as possible to the church. Some people think that this is what the Church Growth Movement is all about, but they are wrong.

The final authority, of course, is what the Bible says. But the Bible clearly teaches that some people will be receptive to the gospel, but others will not. In II Corinthians 2:14-16, Paul uses an unusual figure of speech to explain the nature of sharing the gospel of Christ. He said that our task is to spread "the fragrance of the knowledge of Him." Paul said that in our lives and in our message, others are to experience "the aroma of Christ." But he also said that the response to that aroma will be dramatically different among two classes of people. Among those who are perishing, we are the smell of death. Among those who are being saved, we are the fragrance of life.

In II Corinthians 4:3-4, Paul explained why some people are not receptive to the gospel. He said, "And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." That is what happened to the Pharisees. In John 8, Jesus explained to the Pharisees why they did not believe. In verse 37, Jesus said that it was because "you have no room for my word." In verse 43, He said, "Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say." And in verse 47, He

said, "He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."

The church is not supposed to be attractive to everyone. The purpose of the church should be to attract, reach, teach, and convert all of those who love truth. But if the church does this, it will be repulsive to those who do not love truth. If there are things about our methods, customs, or traditions that get in the way of reaching the honest truth seekers, we should change. But if we are changing in the hope of attracting everyone, our strategy is misguided. (esj)

Freedhardeman students arrive Wednesday 10am. Lets give them a warm welcome and make them feel at home with our Church family in New Plymouth.

The students will be involved in different outreach efforts and various activities within the congregation. I would hope that every member would be involved in some way with what's happening over the next few weeks. Do not hesitate to ask me where we can use you. This is a team effort of reaching the lost and promoting the Church in our community. I am reminded again of (Ephesians 4:15-16) every member involvement.

super Saturday

24th May 2008;

2pm- 4:30pm.

Activities and Bible stories plus the sausage sizzle.

Mom and Dad come along with the kids.

"Come and meet Daniel and the lions!"



This Home Protected By M.O.M.

Teresa Hampton

After worship two sisters decided to walk home. It was the country, you know, where people never locked doors. Tugging on the little sister, the older girl went through the front door and immediately heard the backdoor close. Goosebumps popped out on her arms. She immediately took the little girl to a bedroom and locked the door until the family arrived home. Earlier that morning, in a rush to feed and dress seven children, the mother placed some cash on the telephone stand. The stand was bare. Her mother said she would never put cash on the stand again. And from that time on, the doors were locked.

Families these days spend millions of dollars on home security. Moms are diligent to make sure alarms are set and keys are in pockets. However, the family's spiritual protection is even more vital! What can mothers install in their homes that will give protection against the spiritual home invader, Satan?

Burglars do not want to confront their real enemy by light. Like the burglar, Satan loves darkness, evil thrives in dark places. Spiritual home invaders flee from light, so one of the keys to securing our homes is flooding them with light! *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path"* (Psalm 119:105).

Burglars are watching to see inconsistencies and a lax approach to security. Like the burglar, Satan delights in families who become lax in the study of God's word and worship. So another key to spiritually securing your home is guiding them to regular home Bible reading, Bible study and consistent worship.

When improving the security of your home, don't exchange safety for security. A family could feel quite secure in their home, thinking all the while that everything is fine, but the bars on the windows may keep them from exiting a home fire. In that case, the house was secure, but not safe. The security we have in fine homes, fashionable clothes, social status, or money, is temporary, at best. Priorities are needed. Jesus said, *"Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal"* (Matthew 6:20).

What measures can a mother take to improve the spiritual safety of her home? Light. Consistency. Priorities. Any Christian mother has the ability to install this security system. It's a simple, but workable plan.

This Home Protected By M.O.M.

Today's Verse: *"For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed, but he who does the truth comes to the light..."* (John 3:20-21).

Allan's Psalm Journal.

Psalms.8.

- 1- To me this psalm is about the glory and power of God displayed in creation of which we can all see. The only proclamation I can say is, "Oh Lord how excellent is thy name!"
- 2- Verse 5 talks of the fact that man is the crowning glory of the creation. (Gen 1-2). I am awed at the fact that God, as the creator and as great as He is, considers mere mortal man.

Allan