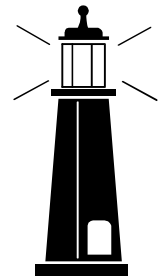




The Berryville Church of Christ

# Bible Beacon

"Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)



Volume 1, Issue 13

April 21st, 2002

## What Does It Take?

Kevin Cauley

What does it take for a congregation to grow? What does it take to have a successful gospel meeting? What does it take to have a successful VBS or Youth Rally? What does it take to have any successful endeavor within the church? These are questions that have been thought about since the beginning of the church. They are questions that the members think about. They are questions that the preacher thinks about. They are questions that the deacons and elders think about. The Bible has the answers to these questions, and in this article I would like to look at three things that it takes for the church to be successful.

First, there must be a yearning on the part of each individual to do God's will. We must want to please God and practice his word in our life more than anything else in the world. This must be our number one aim in life and should embody our greatest efforts of thought and action. Jesus said in Matthew 6:33 "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you." We can and MUST seek first God's kingdom. There were some in New Testament times, however, that did not seek God's kingdom first. We read about them in Revelation 3:15, 16. There Jesus says to the church at Laodicea, "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." Here were some that did not seek God's kingdom first and Jesus couldn't stand the taste of them. Let's not be like the Laodiceans, but let's have that yearning that we need to have to seek God's kingdom first in our lives.

Second, we must take advantage of our opportunities. Jesus said that the field was white unto harvest (John 4:35). There were opportuni-

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## Kevin's Korner

Our Youth Rally is THIS COMING WEEKEND!!! Shout it from the rooftops! Send the message to the hills! We LOVE the youth of Carroll County and we want them to learn and know God's will for their life! The theme of this year's youth rally is "In His Image." What a wonderful thought that we are made in the image of God; that we can conform to the image of His Son Jesus; that we can be in his likeness in His resurrection; and that we will be like Him in glory! If YOU (Yes, You), know of any young people in this community who would benefit from this wonderful opportunity to study, please, PLEASE, PLEASE do not hesitate to share this invitation with them! We want to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to them. We want their parents to know that we love this community! Let's be evangelistic for this wonderful event.



Thursday morning on my way to work, I found a turtle. It was in the middle of the road and I did not want it to get run over, so I stopped and picked it up. It looked like an eastern box turtle. I took it home to show Charlie and he would NOT touch it. I think he was scared of it, but I think the turtle was more scared of us! After that, I decided to take the turtle to Austin's school. This week, the class will be studying reptiles, so it was good timing. They kept the turtle at school for two days and sent it home with us for the weekend so we could take care of it. The class named the turtle, "Lena."

When I first found the turtle, it completely closed up. All I could see was a hard shell. But after a while, when the turtle learned that I was not going to hurt it, it came out and wanted to run around. How many times do we close up to God because of fear? Let's determine not to close up, but to "run around" as God's servants!



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ties before the disciples that they had not begun to ponder. We must pray that God will open our eyes to the opportunities that are before us. We certainly don't want to be like that one talent man who went and buried his talent in the sand (Matthew 25:24-30). We also want to remember the words of James in speaking of the man who sees an opportunity to do good yet fails to do it. James says that this is a sin (James 4:17). Let us pray for opportunity and then pray that we will use our opportunities wisely.

Third, members of the church need to be ubiquitous. This means that we are everywhere. People in the world know us when they see us. We go into the community and let people know what we are doing. We speak to our neighbors regarding the gospel. This is what those in the first century did. We read in Acts 8:4 ". . . they went everywhere preaching the word." It was said of the Christians in the first century that they had turned the world upside down (Acts 17:6). Everyone knew who they were; they knew where they were; they know what they taught! Do people in our community today know about us? Are we ubiquitous?

These three things are just a few that help the work of the church. There are many, MANY more that we could discuss. But there is a fourth that stands out among these three that we need to recognize. It comes from these three things itself, **Yearning, Opportunity, Ubiquity**. Do you see it? That's right, the fourth thing is **YOU**. Ask yourself today, what have I done to help the church? Do I have that yearning that I need to have. Have I given proper attention to the opportunities that are before me? Do people know who I am and what I stand for in the community—am I ubiquitous? Yes, **YOU** are the key to success in the church. God uses men and women just like you and me to work in His kingdom, but we must choose to work.

Paul wrote to the brethren at Ephesus, "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen" (Ephesians 3:20, 21). God's power works "IN US!" His glory is "IN THE CHURCH!" We must seek to glorify him through our lives and let His power work through us toward the salvation of souls in the world. **YOU** are the key! Will you let God's power work through you?



## Congregational Development

Barry Hatcher

Text: Acts 14:21-23

**C**ongregational development is not a new idea. God was careful to give instructions so the church could develop during the Christian dispensation. Congregational development is expected and implied in our text, Acts 14:21-23. The Apostle Paul is concerned with continued growth and development among brethren. On his return to Antioch, he revisited and encouraged churches in cities where he had previously worked. He admonished them to "continue in the faith," and desired for them to develop their congregations further by selecting qualified men to be elders.

The office of elders and the work of deacons are part of God's ordained scheme of leadership, and every male member should make an effort to mature and fulfill the qualifications to become a deacon and an elder one day.

Women are not excluded from responsibility to actively support good leadership and congregational development. Sisters in Christ should make every effort to develop as a Christian. Before marriage, one should consider the power of her Christian influence and work hard to develop a proper Christian character united with Christ through his word that will follow her throughout life. Once married, one should continue to grow and exert influence in the right way by working in unison with her husband and build a strong and spiritually developed family. The fruit of her efforts will be realized when husbands/fathers desiring to become deacons and elders will have supportive and scripturally qualified families to help them do their work.

One brother defined "congregation" (the church) as, "a group of baptized believers over which Christ is head, wherein he rules through his word." "Development" means to go through a process of growth, from a weak condition to a certain level of strength, from ignorance to an educated state, and from immaturity to an acceptable level of maturity. Every member shares the responsibility to participate in the growth process of a congregation. You are the one who will determine if your congregation moves forward in a positive manner, from a weak condition to a certain level of strength. Will a congregation ever have elders? It depends on whether or not you

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initiate your spiritual development. Unfortunately, some members wait on the "congregation" to develop them. It should be the other way around.

Congregational development is cyclical in nature. First, the congregation needs the individual to take the initiative to grow in knowledge of the truth. One must not wait on the congregation to feed him. (We might consider there should be a "work ethic" for every Christian. Reading, studying the Bible and practicing Christianity daily. This is the initiative expected of us by God, 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Corinthians 15:58.) Second, the individual needs to be encouraged by the congregation to continue striving for perfection in every part of his Christian life. The congregation should be a place where the skills of the individual are put to good use, and the activities of the group should always key on the strengths and abilities of the individual. By so doing, much work will be accomplished, and the individual will be motivated to continue his individual spiritual progress.

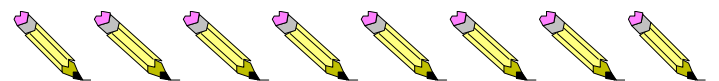
The Lord's church is not like every organization. One important characteristic among many that makes it different is the voluntary nature of the church. You are a member of your local congregation because you have voluntarily chosen to be a part of the organization through your obedience to the gospel and added by God to the church, Acts 2:47.

Why is it important to understand the "volunteer" characteristic of the church? Because, your congregation needs you, of your own free will, to accept all of the responsibilities placed upon you by Christ. Forcing someone to love the lost does not result in reaching the lost, because it is impossible to force someone to love. Voluntarily accepting and fulfilling your responsibility before God is the most elementary truth of personal spiritual development and is the only principle that will cause positive development of the church. Because, through your voluntary determination to do right, you will become active in the work of the local church. You will get involved and

perhaps even lead in the programs of work of the church, and, when men and women in your community look at your congregation, where the members are voluntarily active, they will see faith, unity, goodness, honesty, integrity, holiness and much more. This is the picture of congregational development. I sometimes think, if only Mohammed had seen true Christianity in his day, perhaps he would not have sought to create a "new religion"?











If you understand the purpose of the church, if you are willing to accept your responsibility, and become active in personal spiritual development, then you will help the church. If you do not accept these responsibilities into your life, then you have chosen to be a weak and immature member, and you will hinder the growth of the congregation. Do you love your soul and the souls of others? Do you as an individual initiate every possible way to grow through study and training? Can your congregation rely upon you to help with the work? Does your congregation encourage and help you live the Christian life? Do you value your congregation?

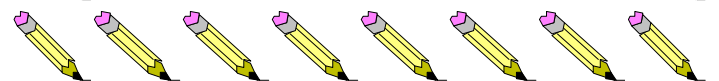
When you became a member of the church, did you think, "What will the church do for me?" Or, "How will the congregation keep me interested, faithful, and motivated?" Brethren, we must save ourselves from sin through our obedience. That requires personal initiative to fulfill God's will. Please carefully evaluate how much you are willing to sacrifice in order to be faithful, or do you expect your faithfulness to be dished out to you in weekly doses of Bible classes and sermons? What have you done, and what do you plan to do for the church? Congregational development is directly and unconditionally tied to your voluntary development and progress as an individual member. The best thing you can do for your congregation is initiate individual personal spiritual development and, in time, everything else will take care of itself.



## Our Record

Week of 1/27

	Sunday Class .....	69	
	Sunday A.M.....	80	
	Sunday P.M. ....	65	
	Wednesday .....	52	
	Contribution.....	\$1732.23	



## Sunday's Sermons

For February 19th

**Morning ..... To the Blind He Gives Sight**  
Scripture..... John 9:1-3

**Evening ..... Questions About Death 1**  
Scripture..... Genesis 23:1-4, 19

## News, Notes and Prayer List



• Please remember the following in your prayers: Geneva Atchley, Regina Horton, Opal Hull, Raymond Kimes, Elsie Meadows, Mary Patterson, Debbie Smith, Dena

Williams.

- There are two families having babies who need our prayers. The Weems family is a friend of Rusty and Tiffany. Marie Adams' grand-daughter Angel is having twins as well. Please pray for these.
- Geneva Atchley is still in the hospital as of my last visit, but she is improving. She is out of ICU and into a regular room now. Please continue to pray for her.
- Lucille Wright is in room 504 of the Berryville nursing home. Jessica Lovelady is also in the nursing home in room 307. Edith Mischler is in the nursing home in Eureka Springs.
- The Youth Rally is THIS WEEK! Check with Brent or Rusty today for their needs!
- There is a gospel meeting in Cassville MO starting today with Walter Buchanan. The meeting lasts through Thursday evening and starts at 7:00 PM. We will take a group Tuesday night. Please meet at the building at 5:30 if you wish to attend.
- This afternoon is our potluck. Please stay after the morning worship for food and fellowship!
- Our elders and deacons meeting is tonight after the evening services.
- During the elders and deacons meeting those who would like to stay and help with "House to House" are welcome to mail out those periodicals.
- Remember ladies Bible class Wednesday morning at 10:30.
- The Pantry Item for this week is Aluminum Foil.



## Men to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
<b>Sunday Morning:</b>	April 21st, 2002	April 28th, 2002
<b>Song Leader:</b>	Bill Fort	Brent Stevens
<b>Preacher:</b>	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Clay Bozarth	Clyde Atchley
<b>Scripture:</b>	Brent Moore	George Eddings
<b>Lord's Table:</b>	Leon Duncan	Bill Fort
	Ken Smith	Rusty Windle
<b>(assist)</b>	Larry Elliott	Bob Moore
	Perry Foster	Brent Moore
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	George Eddings	Glen Quigley
<b>Sunday Night:</b>		
<b>Songs:</b>	Glenn Williams	Rusty Windle
<b>Preacher:</b>	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Rusty Windle	Glenn Williams
<b>Scripture:</b>	Ray Duncan	Dale Pinkley
<b>Lord's Table:</b>	Raymond Kimes	Leon Duncan
	Dale Pinkley	Clay Bozarth
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Hugh Atchley	Bill Fort
<b>Wednesday</b>		
<b>Songs:</b>	Glenn Quigley	Bruce Foster
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	George Eddings	Dale Pinkley
<b>Invitation:</b>	Rusty Windle	Kevin Cauley
<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	Dale Pinkley	Larry Elliott

**Elders:** Clay Bozarth, Bill Fort, Glenn Quigley

**Deacons:** Leon Duncan, Bruce Foster, Dale Pinkley, Ken Smith, Brent Stevens, Rusty Windle

**Preacher:** Kevin Cauley .....870-423-6707

## Times of Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class: .....9:30 AM  
 Sunday Morning Worship: .....10:30 AM  
 Sunday Evening Worship: ..... 6:00 PM  
 Wed. Evening Bible Class: ..... 7:00 PM

The "Berryville Bible Beacon" is published by the Berryville church of Christ. Please contact Kevin Cauley at work at (870) 423-3068 or at home at (870) 423-6707 or e-mail [bvccoc@alltel.net](mailto:bvccoc@alltel.net) to contribute information.

For questions or comments, please call (870) 423-3068 or write us at:  
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