



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 42

December 1st, 2002

## The Mission and Work of the Church – Edification

*Kevin Cauley*

Last week we discussed the work of the church that deals with reaching out to those who have never been saved. This is the work of evangelism. However, the church has an equal responsibility to minister to the saved. There are those among the saved who may be tempted to leave the church and return to the world (2 Peter 2:20-22). There is also the need to engage each member in introspection so as to not let Satan have an advantage over us (2 Corinthians 2:11). The church also has a need to produce additional men who will be able to lead in the office of eldership and to preach the gospel as evangelists and teachers (2 Timothy 2:2). There is also a certain amount of special instruction that needs to be given to the young, both men and women (Titus 2:1-10). I am sure that there are more things that go on in the area of edification within the congregation and this is not intended to be an exhaustive list. Suffice it to say that this is sufficient information to conclude that a local congregation must have a program of edification.

Perhaps the most obvious program of edification within the local congregation is the support of a local preacher. A large part of the preacher's responsibilities have to do with edifying the local congregation (Ephesians 4:12). If the preacher teaches Bible class and delivers regular addresses to the local congregation, he provides the bulk of spiritual instruction to the local church. This is not to say that the local preacher is the ONLY source of edification within the local congregation. The bible teaches that there are many sources (Ephesians 4:12). However, the local minister has heightened responsibilities in this regard as Paul wrote to Timothy (2 Timothy 4:1-5). It is incumbent upon the local preacher, therefore, to

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Kevin's Korner

Well, it is the month of December! That means that we are less than a month away from Christmas time. Seems like that time of the month comes around more frequently every year. It is amazing to me to have seen this year go by so fast. January will mark working with the congregation here one whole year. Like one frog said to the other, "Time sure is fun when your having flies!"



My family and I had a wonderful time with the Glenn Williams family on Thanksgiving day. I wanted to express publicly my appreciation to them for inviting us over and sharing with us their thanksgiving feast. We had a good day there and shared some good memories. We got to see some bald eagles perching outside their house. Dena said that she counted around twenty of them at one point in the day. They are most beautiful birds.

This past week we also had the opportunity to spend one night and a day with Moises and Maritza. First, let me publicly apologize to Maritza for having spelled her name wrong in the past. You may notice that I put an "S" on the end, but it is supposed to be a "Z." So please make that correction in your minds. We had a wonderful day this past Tuesday just visiting the local places where I work among the community during the week. We went to the community center and also to the nursing home and hospital. We visited Austin's school for a few minutes as well. When I was in Costa Rica, I asked Moises if he wanted to learn how to drive a standard automobile and he said, "Yes" so I took him up to the church building and we drove my old blue pickup truck around a little. We then went out to the rifle range with

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

make sure his teaching is of sound doctrine (Titus 2:1).

The eldership has a role in edification as well. Their role is one of ensuring that the congregation is fed with the proper diet of spiritual matters (Acts 20:28). They are to oversee the local congregation and its activities (1 Peter 5:1-4). Again, the bulk of this edification is going to come from the decision regarding the local preacher and their working with him to ensure that the congregation has a proper diet of spiritual nourishment. Elders should also consider the work of teaching Bible classes and even preaching from the pulpit from time to time. One of their qualifications is that they be "apt to teach" (1 Timothy 3:2). Within this qualification we find the need both to be able to evangelize and to edify.

Deacons have specific roles in edification. There may be a deacon who has the responsibility of looking after the activities of the congregation. There may be another deacon who looks after education depending upon the size of the congregation. Whatever the assignment of the deacon is, there is the inherent responsibility of edification of the congregation within that assignment. We find that the first deacons (Acts 6:1-7) were largely involved in this role and as a result of the great work that they did, the church was edified and grew.

Perhaps the most often overlooked role of edification, however, comes from the individual members. Hebrews 3:13 says, "But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." Each individual member has the responsibility to encourage those who are around him or her. This can be done through many different ways. We can visit the sick or those in the nursing homes. We can prepare cards or flowers. We have monthly fellowships and potlucks in which we can participate. We can call one another on the phone and just make sure that everything is OK. When we sing hymns one to another we are edifying each other (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16). There is no shortage of work that can be done in this area and each individual member has the responsibility to work in this area of edification.

When all do their part in the work of edification within the local congregation, we get the beautiful picture of peace and harmony within the

church (Ephesians 4:16). Edification has a purpose—the building up of the body of Christ. When the body is edified, then more souls will be saved. Edification affects evangelism in this regard—that when the members are strong, more of the lost will be brought to Christ. This in turn also has an edifying effect upon the faithful. Let us strive to do our part in edifying the local body of Christ.

(Continued from page 1)

Leon and squeezed off a few 30-30 rounds. This was a most enjoyable time. Moises had never shot a gun before.

Perhaps, however, you have already seen one of the most interesting things that we did on Tuesday. We went to the newspaper office and Bob gave us a tour of the facility.

It was fascinating to see how a newspaper press works. After this, Moises and Maritza were interviewed for an article in the newspaper. The interview went well. It was an enjoyable experience.

The mini-meeting that we held this past week with Moises preaching was also very enjoyable. Several of our own members came out for this event and were encouraged. Moises did an excellent job preaching and we all

got to see what a fine public speaker he is. The message was edifying for those Hispanic members who came to hear Moises preach. And for those of us who were present who do not understand Spanish, we were edified by their presence. God's work is not necessarily measurable in ways that we can understand. Our job is simple. We must plant and water. God will give the blessed increase (1 Corinthians 3:6, 7)!

***"But exhort one another daily, while it is called today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." Hebrews 3:13***

**Elders:** Clay Bozarth, Leon Duncan, Bruce Foster, Bill Fort, Glenn Quigley  
**Deacons:** 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  
Ladies Bible Class: ..... 10:30 AM  
Wed. Evening Bible Class:.....7:00 PM

# I Cannot Repay!

Carl Hanson

We, of all people, are most blessed both physically and spiritually. And when we consider how graciously and richly God has blessed us we should easily be struck with the realization there is no way to pay Him back. Acknowledging this, we accept His gifts with a humble and thankful heart.

Do we feel a great sense of indebtedness to God? Seeing that we cannot possibly repay Him, does that remove us from any responsibility regarding this debt? Are we not to be good stewards of our blessings and strive to bring blessing to others?

You may have seen the movie "PAY IT FORWARD", starring Kevin Spacey, Helen Hunt, and Haley Joel Osment and directed by Mimi Leder. The idea of the school project begun by Trevor McKinney (Haley Joel Osment) was to fix something in life he did not like. His idea was to do something good for someone else and make them promise to "PAY IT FORWARD" -- that is they were to do something that helped someone else rather than returning the favor. By the end of the movie the impact ended up being enormous.

Paul felt a deep sense of indebtedness. To the church at Corinth he wrote: "For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not found vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me" (1 Corinthians 15:9-10).

And to the church at Rome he acknowledged, "I am debtor both to Greeks and to Barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you also that are in Rome." (Romans 1:14-15)

Paul, in magnanimous ways, reached out to others with the blessing of the Gospel of Jesus

Christ. He could not buy or repay such a grace as He had received and so he, allowing God to work through his life, paid it forward, thus bringing God's blessings to others. As we read through Acts and the letters of instruction Paul wrote, we see clearly how churches and individuals were impacted by His life.

Because the Christians of Macedonia and Achaia had shared in the Gospel blessing of the Jews, even though Paul noted their being pleased to give of their material things to help the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem, he noted that it was really owed anyway. (Romans 15:25-27) And the Macedonians were eager to have the privilege to give. In fact, they pleaded to be given the opportunity in sharing with them. (2 Corinthians 8:1-5)

We have been called upon to share what we have, whether it be spiritual or material, because the meeting of those needs reveals our gratitude for being abundantly blessed by God. It also reveals our awareness that we are merely stewards of those blessings.

To the church at Corinth, Paul's generous spirit is noted in his words, "And I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls. If I love you more abundantly, am I loved the less?" (2 Corinthians 12:15).

We cannot repay the debt that Christ paid on the cross for our sins. We continue to be indebted to Him for that and every other blessing given us by God. But as we touch the lives of others by sharing generously (whether spiritually or physically) we are serving a purpose to which God has called us. As we are mindful of "PAYING IT FORWARD" we will glorify God, reveal our gratitude for His blessings, display our trust for His further provision, and will be allowing Him to continue His work of meeting needs through our life. Let it be so!

Have a great day BRINGING BLESSING TO OTHERS!

## Sunday's Sermons

For December 1st

Morning ..... "I am the resurrection."

Scripture.....John 11:25, 26

Evening .....Four Commands to Live By

Scripture..... 1 Peter 2:17

## Our Record

Week of 11/24

Sunday Class .....78

Sunday A.M.....89

Sunday P.M. ....60

Wednesday .....59

Contribution.....\$1615.71

## News, Notes and Prayer List



• Today is a day that the Lord hath made. Let us thank Him and be glad. We welcome our visitors to our regularly scheduled services. Please make yourself at

home and let us get to know you!

- Please remember the following in your prayers: Virgil Butler, Justina Goucher, Bill Hunt, Bridget Stanley, Francis Ward.
- Lucille Wright is in room 504 of the Berryville nursing home.
- Edith Mischler is in the nursing home in Eureka Springs.
- Art Roberts and Mary Patterson remain at home.
- Next Sunday night we will have our youth devotional at the church building. Bring drinks, chips, and snacks.
- There will be a youth work day on Sunday, December 8th after morning services. All young people are encouraged to attend. Lunch will be provided. After lunch, everyone will go and rake leaves for some of our elderly people. If you need your leaves raked, please speak with Rusty Windle.
- This coming Friday we have our Christmas party at Debbie and Ken's house. Remember to bring a gift (under \$5.00) and one for your child as well. Also bring a Mexican dish. It can be either spicy or mild.
- The children's home will be coming this week to pick up the items in our pantry. If you have not already put something in the pantry, please do so today!
- All things are possible through Christ. Let us pray that he opens many opportunities for the gospel here in Berryville!
- The Pantry Item for this week is Coffee.



## Men to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
<b>Sunday Morning:</b>	<b>December 1st, 2002</b>	<b>December 8th, 2002</b>
<b>Song Leader:</b>	Clyde Atchley	Larry Elliott
<b>Preacher:</b>	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Leon Duncan	Rusty Windle
<b>Scripture:</b>	Brent Moore	Perry Foster
<b>Lord's Table:</b>	Bruce Foster	Bob Moore
	George Eddings	Brent Stevens
<b>(assist)</b>	Ray Duncan	Bill Fort
	Perry Foster	Brandon Foster
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Bill Fort	Clyde Atchley
<b>Sunday Night:</b>		
<b>Songs:</b>	Glenn Williams	Rusty Windle
<b>Preacher:</b>	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Dale Pinkley	Matt Bassing
<b>Scripture:</b>	Brandon Foster	Glenn Williams
<b>Lord's Table:</b>	Rusty Windle	Dale Pinkley
	Bob Moore	George Eddings
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Ken Smith	Ray Duncan
<b>Wednesday</b>		
<b>Songs:</b>	Kevin Cauley	Clay Bozarth
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Clay Bozarth	Glenn Quigley
<b>Invitation:</b>	Glenn Quigley	Leon Duncan
<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	Hugh Atchley	Larry Elliott
<b>Monthly Assignments</b>		
<b>Announcements</b>	Glenn Williams	
<b>Worship Coordinator</b>	Rusty Windle	
<b>Communion Prep</b>	Susan Elliott	Donna Henderson
<b>Communion Carry</b>	Leon Duncan	Clay Bozarth

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:  
**Berryville Church of Christ**  
**909 West Trimble Street, Berryville, AR 72616**