

PARK HILLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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A Word Or Two (or three) From Wally

Henry Blackaby, in his book, Experiencing God, said that instead of planning programs and asking God to bless them, we should find out what God is doing and join Him.

God is working and is changing lives and it's our honor to partner with God in whatever venture He offers to us. That means getting out of our comfort zone and doing things we have never done before. It means stretching and seeing what God is doing and not seeing my inconvenience.

There seem to be two opportunities rising for us.

- The first one involves soldiers and Fort Bliss.

We have been involved with the host family project, providing a place for young soldiers to get to know a family in El Paso.

We are advertising in the Fort Bliss monitor as two families are paying for this and we are seeing visitors from that.

Rhea Bullock, who plays the bass in the church band, and is a Chaplain's Assistant in the Army Reserves, wants to do something for the young soldiers stationed here. He's looking at using our church to offer a meal for soldiers and a place for them to go Saturday afternoons and evenings.

He wants to partner with the host family program and with businesses. He also wants to have older people present to fill the parent and grandparent role for the soldiers here.

Some of these will probably attend church on Sundays. Talk to Rhea if this lights a spark in your life and you'd like to help.

- Secondly, Church on the Street is reorganizing after a time of struggle and will have 3 pastors leading their discipleship program.

Ron, the pastor said he likes the spirit at Park Hills and believes his men will be helped attending here at Park Hills on Sundays. Who knows what man or men we may be able to help come out of a hopeless life situation and find a growing walk with Jesus.

Our prayer team has been asking God to send us people we can help and those who can help us. That prayer is being answered. What does that mean to us? Changes will happen.

We may not sit in our same pew on Sunday or will need to come early to get it. We may need to bring 3 dishes to fellowship dinner or a large casserole and a dessert.

Most of the people we are talking about will not have a kitchen. We may need to go last through the food line at lunch and take what is left for the benefit of others. We may need to visit with strangers at lunch rather than our friends to be Jesus for them.

We can be the home away from home for many, helping them make good decisions for the future. Some may find Christ as Savior and become part of God's eternal family.

Barry Cutchie, a Bible College classmate of mine in Australia, was ministering a few years after graduation in a downtown church in Melbourne, Australia.

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In order to reach Asian college students they started a ministry after church where the church kitchen was open for the students to cook and stay for lunch.

After about a year, there were 125 students doing studies together at the lunch. Many came to Christ and they have gone on to make a stand for Christ throughout the world.

I'm sure someone griped about the church smelling of garlic but that didn't stop the program. The church had no idea the long-term effect they were making for Christ.

Pray that God will show us how to join Him in what He is doing.

See you Sunday,
Wally



Did You Know?

➤ **That the next four weeks have been set aside to teach us to *Just Walk Across the Room*?** This church wide effort to increase the effectiveness of our evangelistic efforts will make sharing our faith as easy as *Walking Across the Room*.

➤ **We sent 83 gift boxes to Samaritan's Purse for Operation Christmas Child?** These boxes help teach 3rd world children about the most important gift ever given, Jesus Christ.

➤ **The estate sale for long time member Julie Decker will be held January 27th at 3312 Emerald Drive?**

➤ **Our annual church retreat will be held February 23 – 25 at Bonita Park Retreat Center in Ruidoso, NM?** Reservations for this retreat, costing \$95.00 per person, students Half-price and children under five free, must be in by February 8th.

➤ **The search is on for talent?** The Annual PHCC Talent Show will be held on Saturday March 3rd at 6:30pm with refreshments provided. Please see Rob or Barbara Baldwin to be placed on the program.

➤ **That with Easter on the 8th of April this year our LIVING LAST SUPPER will be held on the 5th?** To volunteer and audition for new parts in this live portrayal of Da Vinci's Last supper, musicians are needed, or to claim former parts see Wally.

➤ **The annual rummage sale for Women's Fellowship will be held Saturday April 14th?** Start saving your unwanted garage sale items (no clothing) to help our women raise money for our Missionaries.

➤ **Our Men's Group, studying the book *For Men Only*, will be meeting this Saturday at 8:00am here at PHCC?** This eight week small group will meet the 1st and 3rd Saturday's of the month, with breakfast provided for only the cost of the food.

Praises and Pra yers

Mary Bradley has been in church the last three Sundays following her recovery from a diabetic coma and heart attack.

Sergio Alvarez is at home following his recovery from complete liver failure.

After seeing God work in the lives of these two individuals after doctors had given up any hope, shows us that He continues to work in the lives of people **to His glory**.

Watch to see His hand in the lives of:

- Donna Porter in Providence Hospital with heart-valve failure.
- Dorothy Wearden in Sierra Medical Center with congestive heart failure.
- Gene Dawson in a Houston Rehab Hospital rehabbing from paralysis caused by an airplane falling on him.

Allen's Thoughts . . .

Most of you were here several years ago when we as a church family participated in the *40 Days of Purpose* program.

Recently I have heard a few people mention, "Oh no not another program," upon hearing that we have set aside the next four weeks for *Just Walk Across the Room*.

While it is true that PHCC did not see explosive, miraculous growth as a result of Ric Warrens book, we cannot deny that for many of us, change did take place in our own individual lives. The kind of change that while unseen is definitely worth the effort we expended.

Many who were at best occasional attendees are now a regular part of our fellowship. Others have for the first time made their faith the most important part of their lives. Growth for some has even resulted in positions of leadership and responsibility, while others serve more joyfully than ever before. But all that is history and the question is now what is the next step.

As Christians our only responsibility, other than the worship of God, is the sharing of the gospel with those outside the Saving Grace of Jesus Christ. For most of us there is nothing more frightening than to be asked to *share our faith*.

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Bill Hybels, author of *Just Walk Across the Room*, says that, "If we declare that we follow Jesus, then it's time to start planting our feet in the footprints of our Leader, agreeing with Him that the most important steps we'll ever take are those that help point another person toward faith in God."

Are you ready to start moving? Are you ready to lose the fear of evangelism that for so long has bound you in silence and guilt? Then join us as we learn to share our faith clearly, concisely and without condemnation. Learn to take your faith story and use it for the glory of God.

I can hear you know asking, "OK Allen, what are you going to make me do?"

Well the answer is six simple things, some of which you may already be doing.

1. Purchase the book *Just Walk Across the Room* and the Participants Guide by Author and Pastor Bill Hybels
2. Commit to attend the next four weekend services without fail.
3. Participate in all four "Simple Steps you can take" activities.
4. Read each week's portion of *Just Walk Across the Room* by Bill Hybels.
5. Commit to attend each week's small group session.
6. Complete all four "Individual Strides" segments on your own between small group sessions.

Six simple steps to being the effective Christian you were meant to be.

I have always wondered why the Devil should have all the good catch phrases so join with us as we strive *to be all that we can be* as Christians.

Seeking the Harvest with You
Allen

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But it should not be that way. For the next four weeks, we will be learning that sharing our faith should be no more complicated than a simple walk across the room.