

Goldsby Zone Newsletter

February 2008

Issue 3



WILL YOU BE MY VALENTINE?

By Pastor Dave Schaaf

How come relationships are so tough? We all need and want someone to care about us, and we all receive good feelings by loving others. What makes loving so hard? Authors Henry Cloud and John Townsend put it something like this:

We all come from a dysfunctional family - the family of Adam. In that family we all come to adulthood underdeveloped. God looks at us and says, "You need more than help. You need a new start." So He gives us new birth in Jesus Christ and then the Body of Christ to strengthen and nurture us.

Pretty well said, I think. So, since February is a relationship focus month, let me encourage you to take your relationships one step further. If there is someone who has needed your forgiveness and you've been holding back, go ahead and work it through. Maybe you have a son or daughter in the teen years who doesn't seem to need you until they desperately need something "right now." Take your frustration to the Lord, accept the fact that teens can be labor intensive, and then think of a way you can communicate your love in his or her language. Do you have a husband, wife or even ex who needs to know

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"...effective small-group ministry must accomplish three goals:

1. Provide nurturing relationships in the presence and to the glory of Jesus Christ.
2. Invite others to faith in Jesus Christ.
3. Reproduce a new set of leaders so new groups can be formed."

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LIVING LOVE

By Steve Leavell

Valentine's Day is a time in our culture that celebrates romantic love. God's love requires more. Have you ever seen the God kind of love? It is the kind of sacrificial love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7:

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres.

My parents have both gone to be with the Lord, Mom in early 2005 and Dad in early 2006. Even in their later years they continued to be an example of this kind of loving relationship.

Mom in her later years had lost her hearing and her sight, but she never lost her sense of humor or love for the Lord. For the last number of years of her life she had a series of mini strokes and TIA's that affected her ability to communicate and otherwise function. Mom needed constant care and sometimes would wake up several times a night confused and disoriented.

Dad had health problems of his own and the stress didn't help much. My siblings and I became concerned that Dad's health was deteriorating as a

result of his taking care of Mom. He needed help. He did allow someone to come in for a couple of hours a week to allow him to do the grocery shopping. But we felt that maybe Mom needed to be in an assisted-living facility.

Dad told us that he didn't want to do that and didn't until the last 2 weeks of her life. His reason....he made a commitment when he married to love "until death do us part." He believed that his sacrificing his own comfort and health was obeying the call of God to love even as Christ loved the Church. No one could love or take care of Mom like he could, and did.

I remember, as a youth growing up I heard Dad preach one particular sermon several times in various churches and Navy chapels. It was from 1 Corinthians 13:13. He would always end the sermon with the words:

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

And so Dad lived out his life true to what he had taught us by demonstrating God's sacrificial love.

Thanks Dad.

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. We love, because He first loved us. If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.”

1 John 4:18-20

Will You Be ... (Continued from page 1)

you appreciate some role they have played in your life? Call on God to give you the grace to be grateful. That might be a stretch. OK. Fine. We can all benefit from some stretching when it comes to love.

Did you notice the common theme? Call on God. Human relationships are so much more life giving when our love is energized by God's. Have you ever considered that the phrase "We love because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19) could apply to

your ability to love today? Do you need God to "first love" you today? Ask Him for a fresh wave of His love, but this time ask him specifically so that you can give and show that love to someone you might be taking for granted.

NOTE: The comment about loving in his or her language comes from an excellent resource: "The Five Love Languages" by Dr. Gary Chapman. You can check it out and some helpful resources online at www.fivelovelanguages.com.



Lydia Lynne Froescher
(Goldsby's great granddaughter)

For God so lo **V** ed the world

That He g **A** ve

His on **L** y

Begott **E** n

So **N**

T hat whosoever

Believeth **I** n Him

Should **N** ot perish,

But have **E** verlasting life.”

Saying Goodbye to Loved Ones

It is with a mixture of joy and sorrow that we report the Home Going of the mothers of two members of our zone.

Ilene Louise Sargeant
(April 4, 1928 – February 2, 2008)

Marie Loudermilk's mother went to be with the Lord on Saturday. Margie and I were privileged to be at the service when Marie and her siblings shared in very personal ways what an amazing woman their Mom was. Her many ministries included teaching people to read. One young lady testified about how greatly she had been helped by Ilene tutoring her. Before Ilene went home to the Lord, a baby was born in their family and she was able to hold this latest member. Marie commented, "Mom was birthed from this life into the very presence of God and a new life was birthed into her family here. God is good!"

Bernice Joan Ray
(March 1, 1933 – Feb 3, 2008)

Patty Ray also said goodbye to her mother this week. Bernice went home to be with Jesus on Sunday afternoon. Bernice was a member of City Harvest Church and loved the church, her pastor, and the worship here. She enjoyed serving in the nursery, and loved helping with the summer children's programs. She had a real heart for single Moms and often could be found at CPR visiting with them.

Christians have a deep sense of grief when they lose their loved ones, but we have a hope that the heathen do not have. As eternal beings, we will be reunited again. In that we have great comfort and joy, even in the midst of sorrow.

RELATIONSHIPS: KEY TO BUILDING LEADERS

By: Marie Loudermilk

Developing leaders is the first and primary task of a House Church Pastor. With new leaders, you will have more help to care for the beautiful people God has entrusted to you. Start with faithful people and build a relationship with them. Listen to people and see where God is leading them; then, help them fulfill that destiny. Even those who think they can't lead, can be developed if they are faithful.

As we observe Jesus interacting with His twelve disciples we see that He first built a relationship with them. We find Him eating, fishing, resting, laughing, traveling and ministering with them. He then gave them innumerable opportunities to practice and exercise the things He taught them. The pattern is to show them how; give them a chance to do it; and then encourage, correct, and let them do it.

1. I do - you watch
2. I do - you assist
3. You do - I assist
4. You do - I watch

If they are able to read a Bible verse out loud, they may be comfortable to pray out loud. As they continue to progress, they may eventually be able to facilitate the Word discussion. Each success encourages them to try the next thing. Soon they are doing the job of assistant and can become an assistant. Then, they are doing the job of House Church Pastor, and it is much easier for them to move into that role, and the House Church has multiplied.

Leaders are not born; they are developed by relationship, example, and by constructive direction as they learn how to lead. This is best done when we become close to one another.

Relationship and discipleship is the key to building leaders.



“You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.”

2 Timothy 2:2 (NLT)

EVERYONE A CANDIDATE FOR THE KINGDOM

By: John LaMadrid

Everyone that you meet is a candidate for the kingdom of God!

That's Right! Every-One!

Everyone you meet is a candidate for one place or the other. From the Avon representative to the zealous atheist, they all need to know about the Good News, the love, acceptance and forgiveness that is freely given from God our Father through the shed blood of His Son, Jesus, at Calvary. They all need to know about the resurrection that can redeem any and all who willingly believe and accept the Father's grace given through the Holy Spirit to us.

Do you think that thought should have an

effect on how we view people?

YES, everyone is a candidate for the kingdom.

YES, we should care.

Both are true but it takes action on our part to accomplish much. Have you taken time to develop your own personal action/game plan to touch others?

Many believe that those statements are true but have a difficult time telling others. They need to know that they can have a personal and intimate relationship with Father God through accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

It is important for each and every one of us to have a comfortable working knowledge of Scripture. With it we can build a “Personal Action Plan” for developing relationship strategies. Remember, it is through personal relationships that people get to know CHRIST.

What I am hoping to accomplish in these series of articles will be to share some ideas on:

- Understanding Ourselves Biblically
- Understanding Others Biblically
- Understanding Relational Action Strategies

C-U next issue.

JESUS LOVES ME, THIS I KNOW!

By Tom Hazen

I want to start by saying “thank you Jesus for being there for me and keeping me alive.” If that seems overstated, you should know that I watched my mother stab my Dad to death at age six. Both were alcoholics and my Dad suffered from the effects of serving in WW II. My mother was an untreated schizophrenic.

After my Dad’s death, we five children were sent to foster homes and my mother went to the Washington State Mental Hospital for five years. We visited her a couple of times, and when she was released, she remarried and we were able to go home to live with her and her husband. Things didn’t work out and six months later we went back into foster homes.

The foster homes were bad for me. I was beaten, molested, and confined to my room. I became angry at everyone. At 18 I quit school and joined the Army. The Vietnam War had ended, so I didn’t serve there, but I spent six years in the Army.

I married but was still drinking heavily. After five years of marriage, she walked out on me because I wouldn’t stop the drinking and doing drugs. I lost my job, house, car, and everything I had, and found

myself living on the streets.

I tried to commit suicide and was taken to the VA hospital mental ward. I went through the DT’s five times and was locked in a room by myself. After 90 days, they let me out and asked me if I wanted to go to treatment for alcohol and drug abuse. I thought I would play along and said yes. I figured I could always run away and get drunk again. It wasn’t long before I started to realize that I wasn’t sick all the time, and I felt better. I stayed, and as a result have been sober for 18 years.

In 1992, after a long period of resisting God and the people He put in my life, I accepted Jesus as my Savior. At that time I had no one to teach me the Word. I was reading the King James version of the bible but didn’t understand it. After two years, I walked away from the Lord and the church for about a year.

Then I came to City Harvest Church where things have changed for the better for me. Here I found a place where I was loved for the first time in my life. I started praying that I would accept it, and now I have become a loving person, too. I love the pastors that work with us, and I have found

love and acceptance in House Church.

My favorite verse is Jeremiah 31:3

The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying:

I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.

I feel that the words of John Newton sum it up for me:

I am not what I ought to be...

I am not what I wish to be...

I am not even what I hope to be...

But by the Cross of Christ I am not what I was!

And from far away the LORD appeared to his people and said,

“I love you people with a love that will last forever. That is why I have continued showing you kindness.”

Jeremiah 31:3 (NCV)

