



The Pearland Harvester

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF SERVICE, BUILDING UP
THE BODY OF CHRIST

WELCOME—PART 2

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The basis of this article, like the previous one, was taken from an article on church growth by Nick Batzig in *The Christward Collective*, February 26, 2015. There is always the temptation to throw away or ignore the methods of bygone years and look for new ways to grow, but often the successful strategies of the past are the key to future growth. The strategies explained in this two-part series are proven and worthy of being implemented. The first four, by way of review, are:

1. Regularly pray for a set number of new families and individuals. With the expectation that the fervent prayer of the righteous can accomplish much (James 5:16-17), the focused prayer for growth then becomes the basis for planning and efforts. It demonstrates reliance upon the Lord for growth (1 Cor. 3:6) and a personal commitment to Great Commission commandments (Mt. 28:18-20). This should become a constant strategy to be repeated with each success.

2. Intentionally sit by someone that you don't know. This is probably the least utilized and yet most strategic step that can be taken to become a welcoming church. When we sit next to visitors, we can explain what is happening, demonstrate worship by example, and find ways to help them. It isn't a comfortable strategy because it takes us out of our comfort zones, but it is a logical extension of the prayer of faith that we are praying.

3. Go out of your way to talk with someone you have not yet met. Visitors are not going to be impressed by the song service or the sermon, but they will be impressed by what happened or didn't happen to them when they made themselves vulnerable in coming to worship with us. Purposefully speaking to them leaves a deep and favorable impression that can only be bested by the negative impression, "No one spoke to me at all."

4. When you meet a visitor, introduce them to others in the congregation who may have common interests. This takes some thoughtful effort, but it is so important. We have school teachers, realtors, and doctors. We have families of the same age, singles of the same age, and people with the same interests.



5. Allow the greeting team to do its work. It is easy to get caught up in conversation with those who serve on the greeting team. Because they are the first people you see when you walk in the church building, it almost seems rude to greet them and go on. But they are there to identify and assist visitors and to get their contact information. The greeting team needs to be alert to new families that are coming for the first or second time. They should be free to focus on these families and individuals. They need to be free to take a family to places in the church like the nursery or children's Sunday school classes. If the members of the church are standing by them and talking to them, they may be inadvertently keeping them from being most effective in welcoming visitors.

6. Be prepared to invite a visiting family or individual to your home for lunch. Plan ahead and get in the practice of having a meal ready for visiting guests. Then, seek out visitors after the service. You will find that almost anyone visiting will jump at the invitation to come to your home for lunch. If no one is visiting on that particular Sunday and you have a meal prepared for you and another family, invite a family in the church over. This fosters a spirit of outward-focused hospitality and congregational fellowship. This is a win-win.

7. Make Use of Social Media. It takes two seconds to ask someone if they are on Facebook. Finding a visitor on Facebook and adding them is a great way to make them feel welcomed. Almost no one who visits us here for the first time uses a phone book to find us. They use the internet to find us. We should use the internet to encourage them. They're already comfortable with the concept.

Keep studying and keep serving! DC Brown ©2016

Weekly Bible trivia question. Please submit answers to the elders. The first correct answer reported to the office will be recognized and published in the next bulletin. Here goes...Who possessed two navies? AND list their anchorage, AND describe the purpose of each.

Daily Bible chapter reading schedule, beginning Thursday, April 21, 2016:

Thursday—1 Corinthians 5-6

Friday—Genesis 40-43

Saturday—1 Samuel 1-5

Sunday—Psalms 30-32

Monday—Job 21-22

Tuesday—Isaiah 56-61

Wednesday—Mark 1-2

The correct answer to last week's question

was: James (farmer 5:7; fires 3:5-6; rain 5:18; bridles 1:26; grass 1:11; gold 2:2; silver 5:3; reptiles 3:7; moths 5:2; creatures of the sea 3:7). As far as we know, no one gave the correct answer.

Camp Bandina (for 7th-12th graders) will be June 5-11, 2016. Applications are available from Paul, or you can register online at <https://campbandina.wordpress.com/full-registration/>. Please sign up quickly, as space is filling up fast.



The Arms of Hope Grocery Run will be the week of **May 2-6, 2016**. We need to collect the following:

Paper Towels
Toilet Paper

Please bring your items by Sunday, May 1. Arms of Hope did not specify quantity, but let's have a generous donation.



Thank you so much for all the lovely anniversary cards—38 years together is something to celebrate! Chuck and I are settling in very nicely. The weather here is wonderful. It still drops down to the 50s at night, which is not so wonderful; but it is in the pleasant 70s during the day. I miss you all and pray for you often.

Sheila Banyai

KEPT IN PRAYER

Mark Pridgen, Betty Pridgen's son, was not able to have lung surgery on Sunday due to a staph infection. Tests have been run; the doctors are waiting for the results before rescheduling the surgery.

Continuing Need:

Our Members: Fran Barnhill, Annette Bumpers, David & Libby Clayton, Evelyn Cordell, Daisy Dees, June Evans, Bennie Sue Galindo, Ross Genaro, Dorendia Hamilton, Charlyne Harper, Minnie Harris, Murrell Hill, Judy Indest, Kaliya Kelly, Wanda Kirby, Dorothy Kirkland, Von Knight, Wanda Knight, Jan Lemoine, Mary Means, Becky Nicholson, Vi Price, Betty Pridgen, David Smith, Loma Stone, Sandy Stone, Doris Stuteville. **Others:** Brianna Aaronson, Mary Alford, Leona Anderson, Timothy Anderson, Harold Anglin, Lincoln Backward, Mike & Cindy Barnhill, Ted Bowers, Margaret Brown, Ray Craycraft, Catina Davis, Brooke Dempsey, Billie Dykes, Marcia Ellison, Linda Evans, Richard Fairservice, Darrell Farmer, Glenda Garner, Betty Goad, Bo Herrington, Cody Holcomb, Robert Holmes, Charles (Huck) Huckabee, Christy Indest, Carol Jackman, Ed Jones, Charles Layton, Sr., Kerry Lemoine, Dave Manley, Blake McAdams, J. S. Miller, Pat Miller, Steve & Gayle Miller, Lauren Murphy, April Parker, Carolyn Cheshier Peters, Jillian Polete, Cloey Pruitt, Jayson Romano, Martha Salyer, Henry Schaefer, Don Scott, Sherly Scott, Frank Staten, Margie Stephens, Rick Stone, James Thabiso Taylor, Heather Thomas, Larry Thornhill, Pedro Vasquez, Kinnie Warren, Anna Young.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gary Adams is our contact elder for **April**. If you would like to schedule a meeting, please see **Gary**.

April 2016

27 Ladies' Bible Class—10 AM—Annex

May 2016

2 Secret Sisters—TBD

4 Wednesday Night With The Master—Meal to be served at 6 PM in the Annex. The elders are in charge of the meal for May.

9 Golden Agers' Luncheon—11:30 AM—Location TBD

11 Ladies' Bible Class—10 AM—Annex

14 Ladies' Prayer Breakfast—8 AM—Kelley's

14 Elders-Deacons-Ministers Meeting—9 AM—Elders' Conference Room

25 Ladies' Bible Class—10 AM—Annex

29 Friends & Family Day



The church-wide encampment is set for April 22-24, 2016, at Cagle Recreational Area which is 6 miles west of New Waverly on FM 1375. Take I-45 north to New Waverly, take FM 1375 west for 6 miles to Cagle Rd. All sites have water and electricity for tents and full hookup for RVs. Two nice bathhouses, hiking trails and paved roads throughout. The campground is 80 miles north of Pearland. Each camper is responsible for making reservations.

April Birthdays

23 Charlie Story

28 Lucille Adams

30 Angela Terry

25 Lacey Gartrell

28 Noelle Holmes

April Anniversaries

25 Josh & Ashley Hundley

May Birthdays

4 Josh Hundley

5 Karissa Bouillion

7 Peggy Story

8 Demetris Kelly I

9 Murrell Hill

12 Kaya Lindelof

14 Daniel Brown

18 Audrey Nelson

19 Jojimon Puliyampallil

20 David Blair

24 Morris Dyes

31 Atticus Brown

5 Charlene Bagwell

6 Hailey Hopkins

8 Heather Brown

9 Jean Adams

9 Janice Pearson

13 Jeremy Cook

17 David Clayton

19 Adam Parker

20 Fran Barnhill

23 Audrey Townzen

26 Gena Coe

31 Zack Williams

May Anniversaries

5 Chris & Ginny Lindelof

13 Brandon & Patricia Stafford

17 Derek & Tracey Mauney

9 Zack & Meredith Williams

14 Gary & Jean Adams

18 Kevin & Maresha Scarsdale

Those to Serve

Pearland Church of Christ

...equipping the saints for the work
of service, building up the body of Christ...

2217 N. Grand Blvd.

Pearland, TX 77581 • 281-485-2436

Wednesday Evening April 20	Wednesday Evening April 27
Building Lock Up—Adams	Building Lock Up—Cartwright

Morning Worship April 24	Morning Worship May 1
Opening Prayer Daniel Brown	Opening Prayer Bobby Parker
Song Leader Gary Adams	Song Leader Paul Cartwright
Communion	Communion
Presiding: Kevin Scarsdale	Presiding: Daniel Brown
Phil Godwin Demetris Kelly	James Maxcey Jimmy Terry
Gheath Alatrash Brandon Stafford	Zack Williams Tom Langford
Paul Hamilton Josh Hundley	Charlie Story Matthew Fabian
Announcements Gary Adams	Announcements Greg Fabian
Closing Prayer	Closing Prayer
Nursery Attendants	Nursery Attendants
Appeal Byers Angela Parker	Nina Layton Molly Godwin
Ushers (*indicates head usher)	Ushers (*indicates head usher)
*Jacob Carriere, Nathan Scarsdale, M Fabian	*Derek Mauney, Lynn Adams, Clifford Layton
Greeters	Greeters
Clifford & Nina Layton	Kevin & Maresha Scarsdale
Audio—Projector for AM	Audio—Projector for AM
Mauney	Williams
Building Lock Up for AM & PM—Cartwright	Building Lock Up for AM & PM—Fabian
Evening Worship	Evening Worship
Opening Prayer Charlie Layton	Opening Prayer Bob Williams
Song Leader Greg Fabian	Song Leader Paul Cartwright
Communion N Scarsdale, M Fabian	Communion James Maxcey, Jimmy Terry
Closing Prayer Gary Adams	Closing Prayer Greg Fabian

Worship Times:

Sunday

Bible Study9 am
Morning Worship.....10 am
Evening Worship.....6 pm

Wednesday Bible Study.....7 pm

ELDERS

Gary Adams 281-797-2575
Greg Fabian 713-305-1626
Chris Lindelof 281-224-2183
Kevin Scarsdale 713-447-1866

DEACONS

Bobby Parker
Charlie Story
Bob Williams

MINISTERS

D.C. Brown Pulpit Minister
Paul Cartwright Youth & Family Minister

MISSIONARIES

Benin, West Africa:
Paul Tohionon - Bohicon
Pascal Djedatin - Dassa
Blaise Atta - Bétérou
Clément Djebede - Okéwo
Gaston Nda - Natitingou
Valentine Ndimonte - Natitingou
André Assogba - Gobé
Dorotheé Tchekpo - Savé et Bessé
Paul Kouagou - N'Dali
Jonas Sambieni - Kaboua
Gabin Agbeci - Savalou
Portsmouth, Dominica, West Indies
Lewis Romain