

## The Importance of Fellowship

Did you ever want to go back in time and be a member of the early church? I'm sure many have wanted to do that. Perhaps there is an assumption that the early church was somehow more holy than the church we see today.

In reality, Paul, Barnabus, Peter, Apollos and the other early church leaders were constantly battling Satan's influence in the church - warning against infiltrators who were trying to pervert the gospel. We must be on our guard in the same way today.

But I believe there are examples in Scripture of the church before Satan mustered his forces against it, and I think the examples are quite instructive. The early church was a community of believers committed to prayer, the teaching of Scripture and the distribution of material wealth to those who needed it.

Immediately after the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, Peter explained to the gathering crowds what was going on. Thousands believed, and Scripture describes their early fellowship this way:

**Acts 2:42-47**

*And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. (KJV)*

The first results of this Holy-Spirit-inspired model church were joy, unity, worship, a good reputation among unbelievers, and a steady inflow of new converts. The change in the community was so great that the leaders of the Sanhedrin jailed John and Peter, and told them to stop speaking in Jesus' name. Their response to persecution was prayer, which was answered when the Holy Spirit gave them the boldness to break the laws of the civil and religious authorities. God blessed the church as it obeyed Him rather than men:

**Acts 4:32-37**

*And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need. (KJV)*

In the second passage, we see a maturing of the church. Unity is no longer just a result, but a foundational characteristic. A system exists for distribution of gifts and offerings to the poor. They understood possession as a stewardship task given by God, who truly owns all things (Ps. 24:1). In the rest of Acts we see anecdotes of believers who repented from evil and filled specific roles in the church of Christ as it continued to mature:

**Acts 4:36-37**

*And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus, Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet. (KJV)*

**Acts 9:36**

*Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did. (KJV)*

**Acts 19:18-20**

*And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed. (KJV)*

I could give you more, but for the sake of space I will not. The greatest effect on the members of the church was behavior to honor God. The effect on unbelievers ranged from admiration to rioting - mostly rioting.

It is important to note the difference

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And all that believed were together, and had all things common -Acts 2

# Member's Needs



# For Sale



Housing for Christian couple with one child. Becky: 548-0978 (3)

Vita-Mix - Becky: 548-0978 (2)

6 - 8 Bibles needed for a group of kids that want to evangelize their neighborhood and their friends. Brandon: 662-0247 (1)

Dishwasher in working condition at low price or free. Rebecca: 548-0978 (1)

Snowblower. Walk behind model that is 22" - 24" wide. Gary: 246-7231 (3)

Weight Bench. Sheri: 463-3114 (3)

Infant car seat that has a base that is left in the car with a detachable, lightweight carrier/chair. Michelle: 542-2998 (3)

Vacuum cleaner in good working condition. Kim: 871-9511 (3)

Freezer: Becky: 548-0978 (3)

Wringer washer. Movable, uses hose to empty and is not attached to water or sink. Jeanne (414) 677-0359 (2)

Canning Jars. Jeanne: (414) 677-0359 (2)

Washing Machine. Carolyn: 228-5138 (2)

Mens shoes, tennis shoes and boots in size 9 1/2 - 10 1/2. Girls shoes in size 1-2 Sherry: 662-0247 (1)

One or two wooden chairs. Sherry: 662-0247 (1)

Large tarps with corner grommets in good condition. Also needed, tent poles suitable for "pitching" the tarps, tarps with no grommets, and a garden hose. Paula: 662-2685 (1)

Baby food jars and plastic jars with lids such as peanut butter jars. Also needed are clear 2 liter bottles. Sherry: 662-0247 (1)

Curriculum: 2nd and 3rd grade math, 7-9th grade Earth Science, World History with a Christian perspective. Sherry: 662-0247 (1)

Bedroom Set including dressers, double size bed and headboard or frame. Also needed are twin beds and a kneehole desk. Libby: 571-1923 (1)

North Face Tent - Lunar Light. Brand new, compact, lightweight, freestanding, quick pitch system, aluminum poles with locking tips, flysheet with vestibule for storage, raised floor seams with waterproof bias tape, interior storage mesh sockets. Dimensions: 84"x 54", Height: 43". Originally \$239, asking \$175. Rose Marie: 781-3346 (2)

White zigzag sewing machine with cabinet. \$60. Rose Marie: 781-3346 (2)

Westinghouse upright freezer, white, \$150. Rose Marie: 781-3346 (2)

IBM computer & monitor with a promising future? Ask Dan! \$70 - 662-0247

Grain Master Whisper Mill. Brand New. Free 5 gallon bucket of grain. \$258. Roberto: 645-4080 (1)

Our homeschooling family will be breeding our Golden Retriever in April '97 if we can know the puppies will go to good homes. They puppies would be available in August 1997. For more information, call Deb: 542-8285 (1)

## A Story of God's Blessing

It is such a joy to work on this newsletter. The other day I was thinking about the excitement I feel when the Lord uses this ministry to bless and meet the physical needs of His children. I would like to share a story with you. This incident encouraged and comforted me with the reminder that God IS in control.

One day I received a phone call from a woman who felt the Lord was leading her out of the workplace to be home with her children. Both she and her husband felt it necessary for her to continue to help financially by offering day care services in their home. They did not have any infants at home so she had no cribs. She was also in need of other baby items and asked me if I knew of any that were available. I did not but I told her that I would keep my eyes open for her. The next day I received a call from a

lady who was giving away a crib. The following day somebody else called with a playpen they wanted to give away. I called the woman back with the news and she was ecstatic. These two items would give her the sleeping space for infants that she needed. This wife and mother then quit her job and came home to her family. The glory goes to the Lord because He knew the needs and He provided for them by bringing these three people together.

This is just one instance of a need being met before Simply Stewardship made it to print. God is in control and He promises to take care of His children's needs. If you would like to share your story of how God has used this ministry to meet your needs, we would like to print it in order to encourage others. Just call us and we'll print it in an upcoming issue.

### NOTICE:

All ads must be updated for the next issue by April 25, 1997.

PLEASE remember, call us to place new ads AND to remove those ads that were answered. You can reach us at 662-0247. You can also Fax us at 662-0640.

# The Free Box

Luke 6:38

*Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they will pour into your lap. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.*

Kiplinger's CA-Simply Money for Windows. Fast, easy software to manage your finances. Good as new! Dan or Sherry: 662-0247 (2)

Texas Instruments OmniLaser 2108. Needs work but does print. Jeanne: (414) 677-0359 (2)

Epson Dot Matrix Printer. Needs some repair. Karen: 549-1585 (2)

Fresh Lock Food Sealer. Karen: 549-1585 (1)

Argus 300 Watt Slide Projector. Sherry: 662-0247 (2)

Girl's size 5-6, thick, hooded, winter coat. It could use a new zipper but it is usable. Sherry: 662-0247 (2)

Fluorescent lamp ceiling fixture. Two bulb, wood trim, new. Karen: 549-1585 (2)

Baby girl clothes 0-6 months. Karla: 662-3163 (1)

## Services Offered

Waukesha Bible Church will once again be hosting the Simply Stewardship Spring Clothing Drive. Set up is on April 25 from noon to 4:30 and the drive is on Saturday, April 26, from 9 AM - 3 PM. Be sure to bring your friends...see you there! Call if you would like to volunteer to help. Sherry: 662-0247 (2)

Simply Stewardship would like to help you promote your neighborhood rummage sales this season. Rummages are a great way to meet some of your family's needs and neighborhood rummages are a "time effective" way to do it! Call or fax your information to us. Remember that we need to know about two months in advance. Be sure to check the deadline date. (1)

Used Book Sale: Selection includes Christian and home schooling titles along with other hands on teaching items. There is limited room available for your table too! Join us at 520 E. Wabash Ave. in Waukesha or call for more information. Nad: 542-9669 (1)

Grorich Photography - Wedding and Portrait Photography. We've been in business for 15 years and we work together as a husband and wife team. Mike and Julie: (414) 628-0967 (2)

12 year old wants to baby-sit for your kids. CPR training. Lots of experi-

ence. References available. Oldest of 5 kids. If interested, call Ker: 542-9669 (2)

Does your Pastor and your church's Board of Deacons receive copies of Simply Stewardship? Call us with the name and address of your church. We will forward a copy to them and they can begin using Simply Stewardship to help meet the needs of their congregation. Dan and Sherry: 662-0247 (3)

Kid Kapers is offering an educational, hands on workshop called "Windy Days". Children from 1st - 6th grade will spend 3 hours learning about our spring time winds and making several wind crafts including wind chimes and wind socks. The class will be held at Big Bend Lions Club on Milwaukee Ave. in Big Bend on March 21 from 6-9 PM. Registration is \$18 ( family max. is \$50.) which covers all materials. Registration deadline is 3/17/97. Preschool children are welcome when accompanied by a parent. If you would like this workshop offered to your group, neighborhood, or scouting club just call us. Kid Kapers is run by two home schooling moms. Sherry: 662-0247 or Paula: 662-2685. (1)

Kid Kapers is holding a Summer Youth Program in Big Bend. This program will service a maximum of 160 children by offering special Theme

Days, guest speakers, demonstrators and lots of hands on fun at several stations including a Science Station, Game Station, and Imagination Station. We are in need of responsible, teenage volunteers to help with the children. There are also several paid positions available for adult group leaders. If you are interested, call Sherry: 662-0247 or Paula: 662-2685. (1)

## Ministry Need for Clothing Drive...

**Simply Stewardship** needs someone to build two large wood signs for the clothing drive. These signs must be portable, so we can put them up at the spring and fall clothing drives.

This very important evangelism tool brings people in off the road where they can find clothing for their families and hear the gospel presented one-on-one. They also receive a tract containing the gospel message.

If you are able to provide materials, design, construction and painting of such a sign, or can help out in some specific aspect, **call Dan or Sherry at 414 662-0247.**

## From page 1

between the way the early church treated possessions and the godless political philosophy called Socialism or Communism. Socialism is godless because it interferes with the stewardship process. Godly stewardship comes when a believer chooses to distribute the wealth he or she has been given in a way that honors God. It is an act of belief and faith. Stewardship demonstrates to God the faith of the steward.

Socialism, on the other hand, is a system in which the government forcibly takes possessions away from individuals and gives it instead to politically powerful classes or people or programs. The responsibility of the individual is removed by Satan through the hand of a godless state acting in disobedience to God. The blessing of giving is stolen away. The care and love of an individual giver is usurped by a cold bureaucracy. When you really think about it in these terms, you can clearly see Satan's interest in the proliferation of godless government programs in the name of charity. Such a move cripples the ability and will of the church to fill its godly role as a picture of the love of God, and thereby worship God as described by Christ in **Matthew 5:16**:

*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. (KJV)*

And again in **John 13:35**:

*By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (NIV)*

And John writes in **I John 4:12**

*No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. (NIV)*

Whether you actively participate in the clothing drive or not, you have a responsibility to let your light shine before men so they will see your good works and glorify God because of it. The clothing drive is one vehicle you might choose to accomplish that. Remember how the early believers brought the overflow of their resources to the apostles? In the same way believers today should bring their overflow to the deacons of their churches for godly distribution in the church as a testimony to the world. The deacons of your fellowship may be able to use Simply Stewardship as a vehicle to accomplish that.

If you choose to show your love through the Simply Stewardship spring clothing drive, we could very much use your help. Here are the needs we have. Perhaps you have a gift or the time to devote to helping the church show love by volunteering in one of these areas:

- √ Flyer distribution
- √ Signs (sturdy, long-lasting wood)
- √ Set up & take down
- √ Car pooling for your area

The purpose of the clothing drive is to distribute the things over which God gives us stewardship authority more efficiently. All clothing is distributed free of cost. Both poor and wealthy believers are encouraged to bring and take clothing. For those with the means to buy clothes, please consider taking clothes from the clothing drive and distributing the money you save to the church through your board of deacons or elders.

#### Details:

The Spring clothing Drive will be held Saturday, April 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Donations of **labeled and sorted** clothing can

be brought to the church starting on April 20th. Be sure to set aside clothing that no longer fits your family as you bring out the spring clothes. **Labeling and sorting saves a lot of time, so please do!** While you're at it, you can sort the winter clothes by size for easy distribution at the fall clothing drive this fall.

Volunteers will need to help on Friday, April 25. We also need help contacting local agencies and churches, inviting them to the clothing drive. Keep in mind this is also an evangelistic outreach, so evangelists will also be needed. We can supply you with a tract that talks about spiritual clothing. To volunteer, or for more information, call Dan or Sherry at 662-0247.

#### God Bless!

## Simply Stewardship

Sherry Quakkelaar.....Editor in Chief  
Dan Quakkelaar.....Production & Layout

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### Important Note to Members

The date you see in the upper right hand corner of your mailing label is your renewal date. If your renewal date is this month, then it is time to let us know you wish to renew. If you want your name removed from the list, let us know that too!