



April 10, 2008

SUNDAY NIGHT VISITATION

This past Sunday evening Ben Murray and I teamed up to do some intentional evangelism. We were assigned two units who have recently visited one of our services. Unfortunately, neither was home; however, we were not to be denied. I like teaming up with Ben because he likes cold call knocking at least as much as I do, probably more. We gathered a stack of tracts, randomly picked a house and went to the door and knocked. Nobody was home. We went to the house next door and knocked. A lady kindly took the literature we offered, and we invited her to a worship service in a fruitless attempt to get a conversation going. We went to the next house where a lady in her forties hesitantly answered the door. A conversation that started out tentatively quickly gained steam. She shared with us she grew up Pentecostal, then became Catholic and then left organized religion altogether. Then a few weeks ago, the Mormons came and knocked on her door and have been coming to her home every two weeks for an in-home Bible study. She asked us what we thought of Mormons and baptism for the dead.

Thirty to forty minutes later we had shared the Gospel with her extensively. Though she was not ready to pray to surrender her life to Jesus Christ, there is a great chance she will attend one of our services on Sunday.

I'm thankful to those who participate in our Sunday evening outreaches. Taking the Gospel to where people live is an honor and a privilege. I want to invite you to join us one of these days. I can assure you, you will never regret it.

LADIES' TEA

Will you join me in praying for the ladies' gathering this coming Saturday? It is going to be a meaningful gathering. The event is designed for women to be encouraged by the Word of God. The greatest benefit anybody can receive is to be presented with biblical thinking. Biblical thinking confronts unbiblical thinking and at that point, the individual must choose which they want. When one chooses the former, though it may be uncomfortable, there is an immediate sense of release and joy as a result of the new found obedience to the Lord. The Truth indeed sets us free.

I'm so proud of the ladies who have invited lost friends to attend. Sure, some will think that biblical thinking is ridiculous. 1 Corinthians 1:18: *For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.* So, we won't be offended if others scoff

at biblical thinking, on the contrary, we expect it. We will press on with doing what we do at NEHBC, simply stating what the Word of God says—no more and no less. We will strive to not take Scripture further than God intends for it to go nor stop short of how far He intends for it to go. By the grace of God, we will declare what the Bible says in the way it says it. We will do so with a confidence that comes from knowing the Bible is a living organism, trustworthy and sufficient, with the power to change lives.

202 women have purchased tickets. The decorations will be arranged. The tables will be set. The tea will be hot. The pastries will be delicious. The speaker will be prepared. We are trusting God to change lives.

IMB BOARD MEETING

This week I made a quick trip up to Dallas for board meetings of our International Mission Board (IMB). We elected a new slate of officers to lead us for the '08-'09 fiscal year. I am well pleased with the selection of our new chairman, Paul Chitwood. He loves the Lord, his wife and kids. He is fair, patient, forthright, and biblically decent. He will lead us well.

Long, brutal meetings spent discussing missionary candidate applications, interviewing missionaries, making international real estate decisions, allocating large amounts of money, and the like are all made worthwhile when we appoint the approved missionaries. This week, 92 new missionaries were appointed to move to places all around the globe to spend the foreseeable future telling people the Good News.

By the way, sometimes the simplest pleasures in life are most enjoyable. This trip afforded me the opportunity to try out Continental Airlines' newly rolled out PDA check-in system. I didn't have to print out a boarding pass from my online check-in. Continental's website sent my boarding pass to my PDA and when I went through security and boarded the plane, I simply held out my PDA and they scanned the barcode off the screen. Now that is what I call efficient. Technology is a beautiful thing.

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him, above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost*

The word "doxology" comes from two Greek words meaning, "glory" and "word". Traditionally, in the church, it has referred to a short song of praise to the Lord. A variety of doxologies exist, but the one I provided at the start of this article is the most common in the American church.

Some do not know the history of this particularly well know doxology. It was written in 1674 by Thomas Ken, an Anglican bishop of the Church of England. An accomplished churchman and scholar, he would also serve as chaplain to England's Princess Mary, and later to King Charles II.

Ken wrote this timeless song for the students at his school, Winchester College. They were supposed to use it during their morning and evening prayers. Doctrinally rich and accurate, centered on the very being of God—the Trinity—the song has been sung in churches for many decades and is often sung in

the Lino household as our thanks to the Lord before a meal.

We sung this song this past Sunday in the 8:45am service. The 10am and 11:10am service can expect to learn it very soon.

We are going to start using this song in our worship services in a variety of ways. Sometimes we'll sing it as the last song before the sermon and sometimes as the closing song of a service. We will also sing it as our response to God in light of great things He does in and through our church family. I anticipate this song playing a special role in the life of our church family.