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Shadrach Youth Ministry

Don & Karin Litchfield
Administrators, 260-447-8732
dklitchfield6@verizon.net
www.schultze.org

2536 E. Fairfax Ave.
Ft. Wayne IN 46806
260-447-8732

Reimar Schultze, 765-452-1638
Michael & Carla Hubbard,
616-846-5419
Nicky & Jenn Farmer
231-740-2856

A Word from Pastor Schultze…

The Magic Bullet!

Most all of us at one time or another were looking for a magic bullet, that, if meeting its target, would indelibly hand us a silver platter of happiness and ease the rest of our lives. Although most of us eventually grow out of this fantasy – yet a few persist – even until their last breath in searching for "their bullet."

Well, I am happy, happy, happy today to demystify that "magic bullet." I am happy today to strap that bullet from its mythological wrappers that prevent it to move through the barrel of the gun. And that bullet, my friend, that always reaches its target, is called "and they continued steadfastly."

Some of you who attended the Shadrach retreat in WV came spiritually limping. You came not having had devotions every morning, not having witnessed, prayed, or obeyed much. You came perhaps as usual looking for the magic bullet at an altar call as before, not to find it as before. Well, friend, have you looked around and seen others who came into the camp with the joy of the Lord and the testimony of victory? What is the difference between these two groups but this: the former are looking for magic – for God to do something they are too lazy or undisciplined to do for themselves, the latter are those who have simply started at one point "to continue steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship and breaking of bread and in prayer…and in praises. (Acts 2:42, 47)" That led to their baptism of the Holy Spirit soon thereafter. If there is any magic, it is this in the spiritual realm: the divine power comes after the obedience but never before it. When are we going to get this? By "continuing steadfastly," students get on the honor roll and into graduate school. By continuing steadfastly, men and women run marathons and get their trophies of gold, silver and bronze in the Olympics. By "continuing steadfastly," the weak are made strong, the poor rich, the followers become leaders and the failers become succeeders.

Every one of the three thousand saved on Pentecost, every one of them continued daily with all the spiritual disciplines. Every one of them was at the next prayer meeting. Every one continued to praise God daily. Hardly any new convert today is found at the next prayer meeting. Hardly any one of them is heard praising God after the day of their salvation.

Because these new converts immediately "continued steadfastly' they became fire brands for Jesus - in a matter of days.

Friend, stop dreaming, stop fantasizing, stop looking for victory where it cannot be found. Do as the cripple in the Bible who was healed – end your crippled spiritual state once for all by heeding Jesus' words: rise up and walk! And steadfastly continue to walk until you get THERE.

Obedience unlocks the door to the supernatural work of God
in our hearts and lives. . .

Why Shadrach?

The name Hananiah (or Shadrach) means 'Jah (God) has favored', meaning (in my opinion) that we Christian youth are His chosen people and He guides, protects and looks after us.

I believe that God is using the Shadrach Youth Ministry to make better people out of us all. I also believe He wanted us to have a godly example from the Bible; Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were three of the godliest youth in the Bible. Why God chose Shadrach out of those three I don't know, but I'm sure He has a reason.

–Holly Branson

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Witnessing Report

During the Ratings Festival, I had a chance to witness, and I took it. I was attempting to roll a large instrument and also a piano amp to the auditorium, but I was not succeeding. A band parent saw my struggle and came to my rescue. She volunteered to roll the amp, and I would roll the large instrument. After we had began our trek, and the wheels were bumping along, the lady asked me what school I was from; I said that I was homeschooled. Then we began talking about the New River Youth Symphony and Chorus that had started last summer. There was a pause in the conversation, and I remembered all the times that God had helped our little Symphony get started – He has prepared many things ahead of time and arranged things that we could not have, making our Symphony prosper. I felt like I ought to share this with this lady; after all, God deserves the credit, and it is the obvious truth – God is taking care of and making our Symphony flourish. So I told her that a man can try and start something, and it would probably die away, but God has started the Symphony because it has bloomed and blossomed. I also told her about the time that we did not have a double bass for a certain student to use and how God miraculously provided one, right when we needed it. God is so good. –Chrissy

Witnessing Report

They were having a mock crucifixion of Jesus outside of a church uptown and my dad told me that if I wanted to see it then he would drive me by it. I decided to go, and while we were driving by it, I told him that it was something to think that Jesus really did go through that...that He did it in our place. He agreed. Later on, he mentioned that he may come to church with me this Wednesday. Then, I was telling him how I wish Mom could come too. God helped me to press pass my fear of talking to my dad about Jesus. Praise God!

Also, I have been telling stories at the elementary school through CEF. It has been a good experience to reach and touch some of those children lives. –Becky Smith

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Book Report on *To Train Up A Child*

This is a wonderful little book. It covers many topics, such as the proper use of the rod, the difference between discipline and training, character training, homeschooling, and how to raise children that will be godly in character and prepared to enter God's kingdom.

I like how thorough Michael and Debi Pearl are in each topic that they cover. They kindly present to you what they have learned from experience and from the Bible. They do not merely present to you another philosophy of childrearing, but, instead, they are very clear as to what is the right way and the wrong way to raise a child.

What I appreciate about this book is the good news that the authors bring to you – which is: you can have completely obedient children and a joyful and peaceful home. When I look at the world around me and see a parent with a disobedient child, I wish I could give him or her a copy of *To Train Up A Child*, for it would restore the joy of parent and child!!! –Chrissy

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Our website is being updated!! Please see www.shadrachyouth.org for the additions. There are back issues of newsletters now on the site. Thanks to Ben Bailey for working hard on this project – we'll keep you posted on the progress.

Get a Vision!!!

Pastor Schultze wrote about the mythical magic bullet people are looking for in their spiritual walk. He promoted 'walking steadfastly' as the method for success in achieving what we dream for in the Kingdom. Let me offer something to add to that 'walking steadfastly' – 'getting a vision'. When we get a vision, we are no longer focused on ourselves. We are focused on accomplishing what God has called us to in the Kingdom. Hear what Wesley Duewel has to say about the Salvation Army founder, William Booth: "William Booth was converted at the age of fifteen, and within six hours he was going in and out of slum houses, witnessing to the poor. He worked from 7:00am till 7:00pm and then found time to bless others after that. He would stand on a box in the most sinful section of Nottingham, England, and tell the simple story of Jesus to the motley crowds. Every spare hour he spent reading the Bible and books about or by Wesley, Whitefield and Finney." (Measure Your Life by Wesley Duewel, pg. 207)

Booth had a vision within hours of his conversion! He didn't have time to go back into old habits because he had a vision to win the lost and acted on it right away! He wasn't focused on how he was feeling spiritually or what his flesh wanted; he was gloriously distracted by the vision God had given him. What are some ideas for a vision for you in this day and age? There is evangelization as Booth had. Going door to door. How about a discipleship vision? There are children/youth in your church who need someone to spend some extra time with them, perhaps doing some prayer and Bible study together. How about a prayer vision? Pastor Schultze mentioned getting to prayer meetings. How about scheduling some of your own…or inviting some others over for prayer? Get prayer lists from Voice of the Martyrs, your pastor or another ministry you have a burden for. Other ideas are a vision for helping your pastor or widows in a practical way or raising money for financial needs in the Kingdom. All these visions are vital needs. However, I want to emphasize that no matter who we are, we all need to have a vision for souls. Mowing a widow's grass is no substitute for mentoring or winning souls. Neither is attending prayer meeting or babysitting for a single mom. Pray for a vision for souls. When you have a vision, it will stir within you a passion for more of Christ and more of the Kingdom which will take the spiritual limp out of your system. It will be a driving force to a deeper walk and will consume all your time, energy and future. Let me finish with another quote by Duewel: "*Without vision you are in danger of drifting with the current. Without vision you will not rouse your latent abilities into sanctified service for God and others. Without vision your life will not impact your world, you will never become the person God created you to be and saved you to be.*" (Measure Your Life by Wesley Duewel., pg. 207)

—Karin

Summer Retreat

Dates are June 17-24. Remember to send me notes from your pastors regarding your Scripture memorization.