

Shadrach Youth Ministry

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What Happens When You Obey God?

Jenn and I stopped by at a house about a block from home to visit a little girl that used to be in her day-care class. After introducing my wife, the young parents invited us into the fenced yard full of multi-colored-play-things. Well, I didn't have a whole lot to do while my wife was catching up on old times with this six year old, so I figured that I would put into practice what I had just preached (the Sunday after we returned from Shadrach) about witnessing. I just started reviewing with the dad what God had been doing. I told him how God spoke to me and called me to be the pastor of Kokomo Christian Fellowship. A young, friendly grandmother appeared out of the house and started to ask me about my accent, so then I had to share about how God brought me to the U.S., saved my soul and delivered me from the misery of dry Christianity.

So far, it was bog-standard witnessing; nothing out of the ordinary. But then things changed. The young mother of Zara – Dawn – started to share how broken she was about her lawless two-year-old called Damion. We prayed for him and Dawn burst into tears, so I knew God was working. Jenn and I shared more testimonies about how God brought us together and talked about, sin, repentance, hell, and salvation. Dawn gave her heart to Jesus, then the dad, Brandon, did the same.

A few days later, we went back to visit them and a friend of theirs called Ben gave his heart to Jesus, but he didn't have anywhere to sleep that night since he was homeless. So I took him to the mission. The next morning, when I went to pick up Ben for breakfast, we met another young man called Randy. He got saved, too.

Later, God was dealing with Dawn about being reconciled with one of her old friends. Her old friend came to church, and later that night she gave her heart to Jesus, as well.

It's been an interesting chain of events and we praise God for it. I didn't know any of this was going to happen the night we stepped into little Zara's front yard, but we thank God for the grace to open our mouths for him everywhere we can. —Pastor Nicky

(My wife has suggested that some of you might find my Sunday message on witnessing useful. Send her an email, and we'll get you a copy ready in time for the next retreat.) —Pastor Nicky

One Command Has the Power to Turn the World Right Side Up!

Have you ever thought of the 10 commandments as a 'basic set of rules to help us stay out of trouble'? Well, there is a lot more power than that in these commands! G.D. Watson puts things in perspective by discussing what would happen if we keep the *one* commandment, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength":

"But if the sons of men would from the heart, keep the first commandment, what heavenly changes would in a few weeks pass over the face of the world. All the politics of every nation of earth, as they now exist, would entirely cease. Jails, penitentiaries, court houses, police forces, armies and navies, would pass away. Thousands of occupations for greed, or ambition, or sinful pleasure, would never more be pursued. The industries of men would be simple, perfectly honest, without guile, without overtaxing the worker, and filled with happy labour. The educational institutions would turn the intellect away from false philosophy into the true science of creation, and open up beautiful fields of knowledge in every direction, finding God everywhere.

Even though sickness and death should remain, yet so much would be done to care for the poor, and sick, and so many prevailing prayers of faith offered up to God, that trouble and sickness of all kinds would be reduced to a minimum. Only think what immense changes would take place on earth, by the worldwide keeping of only one commandment of our God. This helps us to get a larger view of Who God is, of what His Word is, and of what His love is; when one single short commandment has enough in it to turn this almost demonized world into a veritable paradise." (G. D. Watson, *Our Own God* [Shoals, Indiana: Old Paths Tract Society Inc. 1999], pg. 22)

The Kingdom success in this command will be unleashed as we each, one by one, endeavor to love God

**Fall Weekend:
October 26th – 28th
in Kokomo, Indiana.
More details to come.**

with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. Let's pray that our Father would truly take preeminence in every choice that we make and each thought and action we

have. What power there is as we surrender! Let's brighten the corner where we are! –Karin

Servanthood Report:

I helped my grandma for two to two and a half hours. I swept, dusted, cleaned her porch, and ran errands. –Christa

Tract by Christa Neal

Many people believe that they will get to Heaven by being a good person, praying every once in a while, going to church regularly, or reading their Bible every day. The truth is NO ONE is good. The Bible says, "For ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23, emphasis added)." That means that no matter how "good" you may be, you still have sinned at one time or another. One "small" sin is all it takes to separate us from God forever. People that are "religious" are not guaranteed eternal life, for God's Word says, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father in heaven (Matt. 7:21)." In short, that means that you may look like a great Christian on the outside, but unless you are doing God's will you are not on your way to heaven.

You may ask, "How can anyone be saved?" God in His love and mercy provided us a way to be reconciled to Him. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16)." All that you have to do is repent and ask Jesus to live in your heart, believing that He is God's Son and that He is able to free you from your sins as soon as you repent. Repentance is not only saying you are sorry and asking forgiveness, but it is showing by your actions that you are truly sorry. For example: let's say I steal a watch, but after I steal it I feel bad and decide to take it back and ask the person to forgive me. The next day I see a hat they have and I take it because I like it. Now, did I really repent the first time? The answer is no. If you truly repent of your sins, the way you live your life will be changed.

Do you have peace? Will you spend eternity in heaven or hell? It is your choice. Salvation is for whosoever will. Will you choose the road of repentance today and ask Jesus to come into your heart? He is waiting. "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in (Rev. 3:20a)." Anyone is welcome to open the door of their heart and let Him in. Jesus will not turn anyone away.

Assignments Due:
1st Trimester – October 5, 2007
Practical Book Report
Servanthood and Witnessing Report
Memorize: 2 Peter 1:3-10
Shadrach Manual Report #1: Dedication

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Shadrach Retreat Report 2007

God gave us another wonderful Shadrach Retreat. He led, blessed, taught, encouraged, and helped us the whole week.

One special memory I have is when the girls had dorm devotions together on the porch in the evenings. It was dark and peaceful, and we would sit all spread around on the porch with contentment. We discussed what had happened that day and talked about what God was doing with each of us individually. We sang and prayed together. What a sweet and lovely time!

Another special thing God did was on Thursday night. In the gazebo with Esther, I came to a place I had not been to before, a place of realization, that if I sought a happy life, I would never have fulfillment. God was offering me the life He had planned for me – one filled with thrills, romance, and adventure – but I had to choose to give up my own pursuit of happiness and follow God wherever He led. After I forsook all that night, God gave me great joy!

After I returned home, I found it was all too easy to pick my life back up again by trying to plan my future, decide which college to attend, and worry about what I should be doing to make my future happen. But I have learned that I must be content with not knowing the future. I found out that trusting God is not praying and begging Him to tell me what I am to do the next four years; it is trusting Him in this moment, not knowing where His next step will lead me. —Christina Bailey

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Quote from An Arab Christian:

“My grandfather said Christians are...always swimming against the current, against the world. He said the ways of the world are always against the ways of Christ. Though they may struggle, the fish that swim against the current are full of life. Those that swim easily downstream with the current – the world – are dead,” (Voice of the Martyrs, Sept., 2007, *Christians Against the Current in the Arab World*, pg. 3)