

Shadrach Youth Ministry

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Witnessing for Jesus

~About two weeks ago, our family was having a fire out in our fire pit. After we had finished eating, Johnny, a neighbor boy, came over and played four square and basketball with us. When we had finished, Dad asked him if he'd like to have family devotions with us. He did, so we sat outside and read out of Pastor Schultze's devotional and then we read out of the Bible. Just after we had read out of the Bible, Johnny's sister and a friend came and joined us. It was quiet for a little bit and I felt the Lord putting it on my heart to ask them a question. So I said, "Do you know why Jesus died on the cross?" They didn't, so I told them why He did. It was such a blessing to be able to do this because they come from a rough background. Jesus helped because I was not even thinking about witnessing to them at that moment.

-Jordan Clark

~I was thankful the other day to witness at a shoe store. I was checking out and suddenly felt that maybe I should encourage the cashier. She was a young African American woman. After I paid, I looked her in the eyes and told her, "May Jesus give you a great night." She kind of gave me a strange look but she kept smiling and said thanks. Before this, I had been listening to the Shadrach tape about our witnessing experiences. On the tape, after everyone had shared, Don started talking and said something like that he trusted God would help us to be encouraged by the witnessing experience and be able to do it again and again. I feel like He is helping me to be more mindful of witnessing and to not miss opportunities. Praise the Lord!

-Lauren Vickers

EXHORTATIONS FROM JOHN WESLEY

"God Rejoices in the Few"

Alas! How few are there that do nothing to another which they would not want another to do to them! How few who are clear before God from acts of injustice or unkindness! How few who do not offend with their tongue, speaking nothing unkind or untrue! What a small proportion of men and women are innocent even of outward transgressions! And how much smaller a proportion have their hearts right before God, clean and holy in His sight! Where are they whom His all-searching eye discerns to be truly humble? Where are the deeply serious, who sense their needs, as sojourners on the earth, meek and gentle? Where are the ones who are not overcome by evil but who overcome evil with good? Where are those thoroughly athirst for God, continually yearning for a renewal in His likeness? How thinly scattered over the earth are they whose souls are enlarged in love for all mankind, who love God with all their strength. They have given Him their hearts and desire nothing else in earth or heaven! How few are they who spend their strength doing good to everyone, ready to suffer all things, even death itself, to save one soul from eternal death! *Are you one of those few?*

We are currently working on a new website for Shadrach. Please pray for the design and financing. Thank-you!

Videos, Tapes, and Pictures from Shadrach Retreat 2005: If you ordered pictures or audio from the retreat please send in the money to Kokomo Christian Fellowship. Checks can be made out to Shadrach. Cost: pictures \$15. Audio is \$26 for girls and \$24 for the boys. Videos will be sent out in the next couple of weeks. Videos: \$30 for girls and \$25 for boys.

A report on Gladys Aylward

My story was about a woman named Gladys Aylward who grew up in Great Britain. She was a great woman of God who was called to be a missionary in China. She had little money to make it there on so she really had to trust in the Lord. After days of traveling, she finally reached China. A good period of time had passed by and she was asked to take charge of making sure people did not bind their feet anymore because it was recently outlawed. She used this job as an opportunity to witness to people and tell them about Jesus Christ and how he died for our sin. Later she adopted one kid and after a while she ended up with as many as 100 kids in an orphanage she started.

War ended up breaking out between the Chinese and the Japanese. Later, the war got too hard for

Gladys and the children to stay in that area. They started off through woods and over mountains and after about two weeks, they came to where they thought they could stay. It ended up so they could not stay and again set off. After about 26 days they finally reached safe land. Gladys soon found that it was God's will for her to move back to Britain and witness to people in prison. Later she ended up staying in America where she felt she was in God's will.

Many people were saved because of this one woman obeying God and putting herself in danger to reach out to people who needed God. If everyone would obey like Gladys Aylward, this world would truly be a better place.

-Josh Davis

Go for the Bread

“And there went forth a wind from the Lord, and brought quails from the sea, and let them fall by the camp... And the people stood up all that day, and all that night, and all the next day, and they gathered the quails.” –Numbers 11:31-32

The quails that Israel thought would bless and satisfy them gave them nothing but trouble. *“And while the flesh was yet between their teeth, ere it was chewed, the wrath of the Lord was kindled against the people, and the Lord smote the people with a great plague”* (Num. 11:33). Israel received her hearts desire. But because Israel’s heart was not kept, it carried within itself the seeds of selfishness, lust, disappointment, corruption, and death. Israel had to learn by experience that getting what the heart desires is dangerous, unless the heart is sanctified. Thank goodness, we do not have to learn that by experience, but we can learn that by history. Oh, my friend, we learn from Israel that every time we get out of God’s perfect will and into God’s permissive will by the gate of lusting, pressing, impatience, and self-interest, we are asking for double trouble. Let us keep our hearts with all diligence so that all of our heart’s desires may be holy. Let us not seek for anything but God’s perfect will. If we do so, we shall be saved from quail blessings, quail marriages, quail homes, and quail vacations. Anything with quail in it will lead to disappointment. The people asked for quail, but God satisfied them with the bread of heaven (Ps. 105:40). Go for the bread!
-July 18th *Abiding in Christ* by Pastor Schultze (pg. 202)

Dear Shadrachers,

It gives me great joy to announce that at 5:15pm, Wednesday, July 13, I proposed to Jenn Johnson and she said yes. I look forward to sharing the whole story of how the Lord has been working with us over the last year and am very eager for Him to receive all the glory for this wonderful thing that He has done.

Just now, however, I do want to share a small part of the story because I feel that it is a good reminder for all of us. Prior to proposing to Jenn, I did not carry on any email correspondence with her, nor did I call her on the phone to chat, nor did I show her any special attention at retreats, even though God had been dealing with me about her for the last year.

Some of you may ask why I behaved like this. Here is my reasoning: If I had communicated to Jenn, by my actions, that something might happen between us, and later realized in prayer that this was not God’s will, then I would have been careless with her emotions and thus committed sin. I decided to wait until I was 100% certain of God’s perfect will (with the help of other godly people who I could trust) before I even emailed Jenn.

If I may be so bold, I would encourage you to abstain from emailing (or calling) other Shadrachers of the opposite sex, even only on a friendship level. My prayer is that every one of you would not settle for anything less than 100% of what God has for you.

-Nicky Farmer

Note from Leadership:

It has been a policy in the past that the boys and the girls in Shadrach should not e-mail or call the opposite sex. One reason is that it is too easy to become emotionally attached. Also, imagine your mother e-mailing another man on a regular basis and carrying on a friendship with him. Or your father calling up another woman to talk once in a while. That is not pleasing to God and that is what we are doing when e-mailing or calling members of the opposite sex, even though you may not be married yet. Thank you for being careful in this area.

Malcolm Webber teaches on the Witness of the Spirit

I learned something from that experience: a person who will not submit to the clear teaching of the Word of God usually has some vested interest in another direction that they’re trying to justify through their own "inward leading from the Holy Spirit." I have seen a number of people over the years follow their own inward impressions in spite of the clear Word of God, and end up destroying their own lives and the lives of others around them. The Holy Spirit, however, will never lead someone in a direction that contradicts the teaching of the Word of God. You will grow and mature in this ability to discern the inner witness of the Spirit.

You will mature:

- as you grow in God,
- as you learn His Word and your mind is renewed,
- as you overcome temptations on a daily basis,
- as you resist sin and its hardening of your heart,
- as you endure the sufferings and tribulations He allows you to experience, without being offended with God or man,
- as you grow in your prayer life,
- as you allow God to break your pride, self-will and stubbornness.

As you mature in God, then your ability to hear His inward voice will become clearer and clearer. It will also help if you read some books on this subject. For example, *The Practice of the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence, or *Experiencing the Depths of Jesus Christ through Prayer* by Jeanne Guyon. There is no substitute for spiritual maturity. Furthermore, there are no crash-courses in spiritual maturity. It is a growth.

Assignments Due on October 10th: One book report, one servanthood report, and one witnessing report. ***Note: to reach the Litchfields by phone, call: 765-438-1625