

and honor to Him. He is always moving and working. Just because we cannot recognize the hand of God doesn't mean He isn't at work in the world.

For centuries, Israel had looked for the coming of the Messiah. They wondered when the Messiah would come and why He had not yet arrived. For some 400 years prior to John the Baptist, there had not even been a prophet sent by God. Where was God? Well, He was at work. He was orchestrating world events, raising up people who would obey, and maneuvering circumstances so the Messiah could come and accomplish the work of world redemption. Then, Paul tells us, "when the time had fully come, God sent his Son" (Galatians 4:4).

Was God doing nothing to bring about world redemption prior to our Lord's arrival on earth? He had been at work all along. That's what Jesus was saying in John 5:17. In the same way, God had been at work to set the stage for calling Moses.

Not only that, but He had also been at work to make Moses usable in His work/God had provided for his survival (Exodus 1:22-2:6). God had provided for his spiritual development (Exodus 2:7-10). God had provided for his education, as he grew up as a person of privilege in Pharaoh's house-hold. God had placed a passion for His people in Moses' heart (Exodus 2:11-13). God had taught Moses that God's will must be accomplished God's way (Exodus 2:11-15; Acts 7:25). God placed him in the land of Midian, where he married into the family of Jethro, the priest of Midian, who would later prove to be one of Moses' best advisors; and where he would become familiar with life in the desert (Exodus 2:16-22). All of this was of God. God was definitely at work.

Likewise, God is not only at work around us, but as a child of God, you can be assured that he is always at work in you (Philippians 1:6). This means that when God calls you to join Him in something, you can be assured that He has providentially been at work to equip you with what you will need to obey.

Reality #2 - God Pursues .

Exodus 3:1-6

God pursued a continuing love relationship with Moses that was real and personal. God took the initiative in calling Moses to Himself. God's work in our lives is always at God's initiative (1 John 4:19).

Note what God used to draw Moses to Him. The miracle was not that the bush was burning. It was a rather ordinary occurrence for a dried up bush to burst into flames in the hot desert sun. The miracle was that it was not consumed (v. 3). An ordinary event was used for an extraordinary purpose.

This is the way God works today. He often calls us to turn in His direction through seemingly ordinary occurrences, ordinary situations, ordinary people, that He uses for His extraordinary purpose. It is a mistake to insist that God's call will only be through some miraculous, extraordinary circumstance. He often calls us to Himself by using the ordinary things of life. How is God calling you to Himself today?

Notice when Moses turned toward God it was then that he heard God's voice (v. 4). If we would hear God's voice, we must respond to His call to turn our lives in His direction. It is only as we turn our lives in His direction, that we will be in a position to hear His voice.

As it was with Moses, so it is with us. God is constantly at work in our lives, even though seemingly ordinary circumstances, calling us to turn our lives in His direction, so that we might hear His voice, and have an encounter with Him that results in surrendering ourselves to be His servant.

Reality #3 - God Invites .

Exodus 3:7-10

God invited Moses to become involved with Him in His work. When God is ready to do something, He always seeks to reveal to a person or to His people what He is going to do (Amos 3:7).

Note the progression of things: God's initiative - "I have indeed seen" -v. 7; "I have heard" - v. 7; "I am concerned" - v. 7; "I have come down" -v. 8. God's invitation - "I am sending you" - v. 10 God told Moses, I am going to do a work, and I want to use you as my instrument.

Reality #4 - God Speaks .

God spoke to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways to Moses.

A. God revealed Himself to Moses - Exodus 3:13-15

He revealed Himself as a God who is sufficient for every need everyday.

B. God revealed His purpose to Moses - Exodus 3:12

God's purpose has not changed! He is at work, calling a people unto Himself who will live in such a way as to bring glory to God (Ephesians 1:11-12). This purpose of God is said to be ETERNAL (Ephesians 3:11).

C. God revealed His ways to Moses - Exodus 3:16-22

There are various ways in which God is seeking to fulfill His eternal purpose. It is in this work that He calls us to join Him. In so doing, **God will reveal His ways to us in three stages:**

- 1) He shows us WHAT He wants done - Exodus 3:7-10
- 2) He shows us HOW He wants it done - Exodus 3:11-4:17
- 3) He shows us WHEN He wants it done - Exodus 4:18-20
(v.19)

Reality #5 - We Trust .

Exodus 3:11; 13; 4:1; 10; 13

God's invitation to work with Him led Moses to a crisis of belief that required faith and action. As Moses looked to his resources and ability, he could see how what God was calling him to commit to could be done. He had to get to the place where he no longer looked to his resources or ability, but to God's resources and ability. As we read this exchange between God and Moses, we see God pointing Moses toward His resources and ability. Eventually, Moses emerged as one who was willing to trust God.

When you believe that nothing significant can happen through you, you have said more about your belief in God than you have said about yourself. Moses had to turn from looking to himself to looking to God (Luke 18:27).

This was an overwhelming task that God was calling Moses to be part of when you think about it. Moses and the people were in the desert, but what was he going to do with them? They had to be fed, and feeding 2 or 3 million people requires a lot of food.

According to the Quartermaster General in the Army, it is reported that Moses would have to have had 1500 tons of food each day. That much food each day would require two freight trains each a mile long. They would have to have water. If they only had enough to drink and wash a few dishes, it would take 11,000,000 gallons each day, and a freight train with tank cars, 1800 miles long, just to bring water. They had to get across the Red Sea. It would require a space 3 miles wide so that they could walk 5000 abreast just to get across it in one night. Each time they camped at the end of the day, a campground two-thirds the size of the state of Rhode Island was required, or a total of 750 square miles long. Do you think Moses figured all this out before he left Egypt? Moses believed in God. God took care of these things for him. Now do you think God has any problem providing you with whatever you need to walk in His will?

Reality #6 - We Adjust .

Exodus 4:20

Moses had to make major adjustments in his life to join God in what He was doing. Experiencing God is not matter of getting God to come to where I am, but getting me to come to where God is. God does not come to us on our terms, but we must come to Him on His terms.

A recent news feature chronicled the growing search for stress relief through spas, massage, pills, and exercise tapes. The craving to ease tension has spawned an entire industry, including walk-in backrub stores in shopping malls across the country. The report ended by saying, "Although people will pay to fix their stress, they are not about to change the lifestyle that is causing it."

No matter what the problem, our initial response is to treat the symptoms rather than the cause. The same is often true of us spiritually as Christians. It doesn't matter how often I come to church, if I am not willing to make the adjustments in my life that God says are necessary for me to get where he is calling me to be, I will forego the blessings of experiencing God at work in my life (Isaiah 1:19).

Whatever needs to change in order to get in on what He has in mind for you and me, we must be willing to change.

Reality #7 - We Experience God.

Listen to these two quotes from well-known men.

"Moses came to know God by experience as he obeyed God and God accomplished His work through him. Oh, that we would content ourselves with the world's definition of success, but rather, let us understand that true success consists of knowing God's will and being in the center of it" (George W. Truett).

"God willing, I will push and politick no more . . . the mountains are too high, history is too long and eternity is longer. God is too great, man is too small, there are many of God's dear children, and all around there are men (and women) going to Hell. And if one man and a small group of men do not approve of where I am and what I do, does it prove I've missed success? No; only one thing will determine that — whether this day I'm where the Lord of lords and King of Kings wants me to be." - Francis Schaeffer

Conclusion

Where are you in your present experience with God? Are you where He wants you to be?

Are You Experiencing God?

Raising Evangelistic Temperature

The following is adapted from Kevin G. Harney's new book: *Organic Outreach for Churches, Updated and Expanded Edition: Infusing Evangelistic Passion in Your Local Congregation*.

Bro. Allan ☺

Every follower of Jesus has an outreach temperature, whether it's hot, cold, or somewhere in the middle. This temperature impacts the way we live and interact with those who are far from God. It is our responsibility to increase this temperature so that our hearts burn hotter for those who are spiritually disconnected. The One-Degree Rule is a simple concept that can help followers of Jesus see their need to grow and then take a practical step to increase their passion to reach out.

I use a scale of one to ten to help identify where we are in our evangelistic passion. In our individual lives, a ten represents a heart that is sizzling hot for evangelism. When we are at a ten, we pray often, notice people who are spiritually wandering, and enjoy making time in our schedule to connect with those who are far from God. In these seasons, our lights are shining, we speak of our faith often, we share stories of what God is doing in our lives, and we share the gospel naturally.

When our personal temperature is at a one, our hearts have cooled off. We walk right past

opportunities to let the light of Jesus shine and hardly notice. In the same way, we can also identify the outreach temperature of our church ministries.

The value of the One-Degree Rule is that it doesn't matter what the starting number is. The purpose is to commit to raise that number by one degree. The real issue is not whether a particular ministry's temperature is at a three or a seven; the One-Degree Rule begins a conversation about the steps needed to raise the temperature one degree higher. If the church board identifies the church's temperature as a seven, even if they have overestimated, they will still begin strategizing to raise it one degree. If the children's ministry temperature is a five, add some fuel and get them thinking about how to raise it to a six.

There are many ways to turn the temperature up one more degree in your church or ministry. Here are five ideas.

1. Celebration

Plan regular celebrations of those who have repented of sin, left their old lives, and entered a joyful friendship with Jesus Christ. This can be done as a whole church at the time of baptism or through public declarations of faith. One way to build a bridge at these times is to be sure that the people making a public step of faith are encouraged to invite their nonbelieving friends to attend. It is natural to share the gospel in these settings. Celebrations like this should feel like a party! Have cake. Make it fun.

2. Accountability

One of the most effective ways to keep the outreach fires burning hot is to create a culture of accountability. We can inspire one another with good questions that spark conversations that turn things up another degree. Here are some questions that Christians should ask one another on a regular basis:

- ◆ Who are you praying for who is not yet a follower of Jesus? How can I support you in prayer?
- ◆ Who are you spending time with who needs to know God's love and grace?
- ◆ What is your outreach temperature in this season of life, and what are you doing to turn it up one degree?

3. Prayer

There is more power in prayer than we dream or imagine. I guarantee that the flames of outreach will grow hotter in your ministry after you make evangelistic prayer a normal part of your time together. Here are two examples:

- ◆ Pray as a congregation in worship services for hearts so in love with God and with people that we naturally share the joy and hope that are found in Jesus alone.
- ◆ Pray as ministry teams, as a board, and as a staff anytime you gather for God to send workers into his harvest fields (see Matthew 9:38).

4. Proximity

The outreach temperature of any ministry will go up when we are engaging people who are far from God. It's all a matter of proximity. We need to move the church out into our community. In our personal lives, we need to be committed to make time, on a regular basis, to be with family and friends who are far from God. And in our ministry to others, we need to seek opportunities to get close to those who are far from God. Some of these people might visit your church, but many will not. Creatively find ways to get close to them. This can be done in countless ways, and I look at this more closely in part 3 of my book *Organic Outreach for Churches*. Here are just a few ideas to get the juices flowing:

- ◆ A children's group can visit a retirement community once a quarter to sing praise songs or old hymns for those who live there.
- ◆ A youth group can serve meals at a mission.
- ◆ Small groups can support a family in the community that does not attend church but has lawn-care or house-cleaning needs.

We will find our temperature going up as we come into closer proximity to people in our community, who in turn will get to know us and see that we really do carry the love of Jesus in our hearts.

5. Stories

Few things inspire us and increase our outreach temperature like hearing stories of changed lives. Every time we hear a testimony of God's power to save, we find ourselves wanting to be part of the adventure of evangelism. As a church, we need to create places for these stories to be told and heard, over and over again.

One way to do this is to have people share their stories in your worship services. This can be done by showing a testimony video, having a person read their story during a service, or conducting

an interview. At our church, we share most of these stories of faith through video. We show them in services and then make them available on our website so people can watch them and share them with others.

Finally, we should seek to create a culture in which people naturally share their stories of faith. We should encourage people to think of different ways of sharing their faith in Jesus, depending on the circumstances and the person they are talking with. We don't have just one story of our conversion. We have daily stories of God's faithfulness and power unleashed in our lives. As God protects, leads, heals, and loves us, we can tell these stories.

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Ken Nice, Fred Kerns, Don Sharp

Alternate: ? ? ? ?

Fellowship Dinner and Business Meeting at Noon

No Evening Service.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, July 18

Prayer / Bible Study.... 6:30 pm

Worship Team 7:30 pm

Sunday, July 22, 2018

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Gary Yarbrough, John Lewis, Joseph Coats

Alternate: Larry McKahan

VBS Begins!.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, July 25

Prayer / Bible Study.... 6:30 pm

Worship Team 7:30 pm

Up-Coming Events.....

July 15 — Fellowship Dinner and Business Meeting at Noon

— Collect for the Longs

July 16-19— Children's Camp Grand Oaks

July 22-26 — Vacation Bible School

August 18 — Biblical Manhood Conference

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

Sunday Nights

We will not have Sunday night services again until August 5. Please join us then as we will continue *A Case for Faith* with Lee Strobel. Don't miss it!

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

Come pray for the direction of our church. Please plan to attend and pray at 6:30 pm and enjoy a time of fellowship and Bible Study.

Vacation Bible School

July 22—26

Mark your calendar!

Let Ellen know if you are willing to serve and what age group. Be thinking about who you can bring.

Biblical Manhood Conference:

Our Higher Calling:

Biblical Manhood in the Home, Church, and World

August 18, 2018

8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Frederick Boulevard Baptist

The cost is \$20 per person and lunch is included with your registration. This conference is open to men and young men (12+).

Key Speaker

John Akin

North American Mission Board

Worship lead by:

Connor Scholes

Noland Road Baptist Church

Mark Your Calendars Now!

♦ July 16-20

Children's Camp
♦ July 22-26
Vacation Bible School
♦ August 18
Men's Conference
Frederick Boulevard
Baptist Church

Address Changes

Ken Nice
1501 Village Drive
Apt 212
Saint Joseph, MO 64506

Rev. A.B. Brown
Country Squire
1602 Buckingham Street
Apartment 326
Saint Joseph, MO 64506

For the Record-

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Attendance: July 8, 2018

Sunday School.....	24
Visitors.....	4
Total.....	28
Contacts Made.....	0
Morning Worship.....	38
Sunday Night.....	N/A
Children's Worship	N/A
Wednesday Night	12

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget	\$ 2,286.39
Offering Received ...	\$ 1,663.00
Long Family -June...	\$ 160.00

Offering Received by Mail:

Eric and Shelly Thompson

July Counting Team:

Fred Kerns and Jordan Lane

July Van Driver:

George Burgess

Call 232-3747 before 8 am

July Member Birthdays:

02... Mary Sharp
05... Kathryn Beavers
15... Bill Schottel
20... Dorothy Post
23... Flora McKahan
24... Allan Lane
26... Jack Conard
26... Annette Schottel
30... Bill Haskins

July Anniversaries:

Don and Mary Sharp
July 3, 1970
Gary and Sharon Yarbrough
July 8, 1978
Don and Marcia Hart
July 15, 1973
Larry and Flora McKahan
July 29, 1966

Prayer Requests ...

Vacation Bible School
Sandy and Stanley Wilson
Jim and Brigida Winans
Annette and David Schottel
Marcia and Don Hart—blessings
Blake Conner—Swymeler's Grandson
Mike Green—knee recovery
Larry McKahan—infection
Arlette Duty—strength
Sharri Duty—surgery recovery
Donna and Bill Dunn—health
Jack and Flo Conard
Peggy & Gary Fewins—Peggy's health
Gina Harr—strength
Tammy Panning, Emily Jones & Liam
Cynthia Burdick—cancer recovery
Karissa and Matt Long and family
The Waters Family—guidance
Stephanie & Jason Terpack
Shawna Hughes—recovery
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister
Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter
LoLeta Middleton—strength
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister
Rev. A. B. Brown Betty Campbell
George Ferbert Kevin Duty
Nellie Reynolds Ann Riddle
Don Beavers Tim Izer
Kathryn Beavers Keon McKahan
Jozy Winans Kenny Duty
Pat Means Buddy Means

Bill & Juanita Debbie Sands
Pat Puckett Curtis Conard
Brenda Burgess Roscoe Lane
Carolyn Houts
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service people
Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
