

Family Focus

SHEPHERD'S CORNER

DO WE REALLY GET IT?

Until sometime after the resurrection of Christ, the many followers and even the disciples themselves never really understood Jesus. They did not really 'get it'. They heard great teachings of God's ways, but did not understand the connection between the words and walking in them. They heard parables of the ways of the kingdom, but had to ask their meanings and still did not understand. They witnessed countless miracles of physical healings, but failed to understand the true healing powers of God. They were there when demons were cast out, but did not begin to know the spirit of God. They experienced nature being under Jesus' control, but could only marvel and wonder rather than comprehend. They handed out food to thousands starting with only a few pieces, but seemed to get nothing more from the experience than some exercise from gathering up the leftovers. They even went out with powers of healing, but returned joyous at what 'they' had done.

Maybe, though, we should not be too harsh on this group. In Luke 10:21, Jesus praised God for revealing things to 'little children'. Perhaps this indicates that there still needed to be growth to become mature in understanding. We have the completed words of the Bible, but still have some problems with understanding and certainly applying all things ourselves. Do we not read and believe the words, yet have trouble walking in them daily? Do we put our trust and faith fully in the power of God to work in our lives today? Do we allow the Holy Spirit to dwell in us and work with us in a daily walk in the kingdom? Are we reaping benefits from the experience of the indwelling of God in our lives, or just exercising religion?

There certainly are 'little children' in this congregation, new to the words and ways of Christ, but there are also many mature 'daily walkers' in this family. I pray that the energy and drive of the young work along side with the wisdom and steadfastness of those mature, and that united together, we grow as a family to the glory of God.

In His Service
Britt Newby

Shepherds' Vision Goals

Overall Goal:

To grow spiritually and numerically as "a family growing people to the glory of God".

Goals for the next 12 months:

1. Increase participation by at least 10% in these areas: Sunday Worship, Bible School, Ministry Works, and Small Groups.
2. Make a list of 5 folks to pray for & invite to Small Group or Worship.
3. Add 20 new teachers.
4. Total Congregational giving challenge - increase giving by 28%.

Want to learn more about specific plans to reach these goals? Ask an elder or minister or go to our website: www.fairviewroad.org.

Our Shepherds

Glen Godsey, Charles Martin, Britt Newby, Don Osburn,
Jerry Templer, James Treece, Dee Vanderburg