

BIRD STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2
ISSUE 4: VOL. 5



19 GO therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in¹⁸ the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

IN THE GREEK/HEBREW BIBLE –

MISSION STATEMENT:

WE, The FAMILY of GOD's people at 428 Bird Street are devoted to:
Worshipping GOD,
Loving One Another,
Caring for Those in Need,
Growing in the UNITY of the SPIRIT, and Sharing the Gospel of JESUS, so that CHRIST May Be GLORIFIED!

2020 PREVIEW THEME: RISE UP AND GO

- ✚ EPIC WEDNESDAYS
 - ✚ The Harvest is Plentiful – But the Laborers are Few – Brother Ralph Thompson
 - ✚ Preparing To Be Sent – Brother Lance Bennett
 - ✚ Evangelism Is Not A Dirty Word – Brother Christopher Jackson
- 2020 - RISE UP and GO!!!!**

THE MEANING OF
GO – SIMPLY A
COMMAND

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:
10:00 AM – SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 AM – MORNING WORSHIP
5:00 PM – SUN. EVENING
WORSHIP
* 5TH SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP
6:00 PM – WEDNESDAY NIGHT
BIBLE STUDY
* * 4TH WEDNESDAY NIGHT
PRAYER AND SONG SERVICE

JOHN 13: 4, 12-15

⁴so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.

¹²When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. ¹³“You call me ‘TEACHER’ and ‘LORD,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴Now that I, your LORD and TEACHER, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵I have SET you an EXAMPLE that you should DO AS I HAVE DONE for you.



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SEE SUNDAY BULLETIN:

-  PRAYER REQUESTS
-  SICK AND SHUT-IN
-  MEMBERS AT HEALTHCARE FACILITIES
-  BIRTHDAYS
-  YOUTH ACTIVITIES/SPOTLIGHT
-  ANNIVERSARIES
-  NEW MEMBERS
-  RESTORATIONS
-  ANNOUNCEMENTS

[BIRD STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST PRAYER WARRIORS \(Group\)](#)

[BIRD STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST @ BIRDSTREETCHURCHOFCHRIST \(Page\)](#)

WWW.BIRDSTREETCOC.ORG

VISIT BIRD STREET ON FACEBOOK:

IN 2020

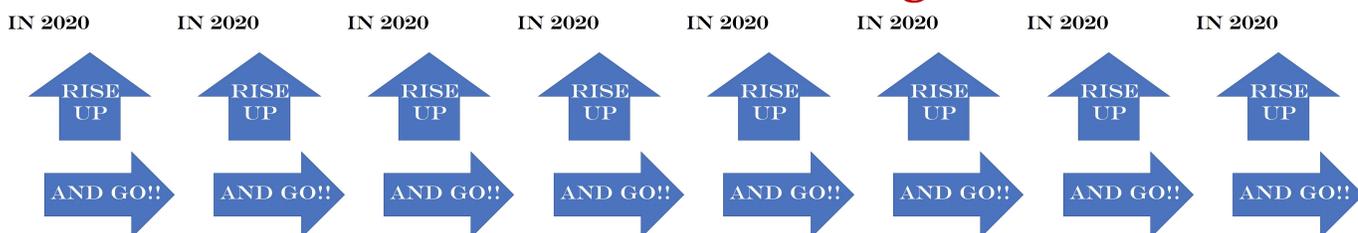


EVANGELISM

FINAL COMMAND OF JESUS

¹⁹GO therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in_(b) the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have

commanded you. And behold, I am with you always,
to the end of the age.”



THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL BUT THE LABORERS ARE FEW -THE HARVEST IS HERE – BRO. RALPH THOMPSON – EPIC WEDNESDAY #1 - 11/6/2019

MATT 9/35-38 and JESUS went about all the cities and villages, teaching in the gospel of the kingdom and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, the harvest is plenteous but the labourers are few; 38 **PRAY YE THEREFORE THE LORD OF THE HARVEST, THAT HE WILL SEND FORTH LABOURERS INTO HIS HARVEST.**

Matt 4 JESUS is on the move and in the midst of his ministry. This ministry was charismatic and therapeutic and the multitude followed

Matt 5-7 The Sermon on the Mount

Matt 8 Comes down from the mountain and begins to heal:

- ✚ HEALS THE LEPER
- ✚ HEALS THE CENTURION'S SERVANT
- ✚ HEALS PETER'S MOTHER IN LAW
- ✚ HE CALLS ON OTHERS TO FOLLOW HIM
- ✚ HE SENDS THE EVIL SPIRIT INTO THE SWINE AND OFF INTO THE SEA...HE TOLD THE SWINE TO GO too-but for a different reason of course than his command to us!

Matt 9 More of the same and Ch 9 is a BACKDOOR TO THE FRONTDOOR of Ch 5

Ch 5/35 JESUS talks about the earth being his footstool but Jerusalem is the city of the great KING – JESUS was then in his MISSIONFIELD working everywhere by teaching, preaching and healing -sending forth his message.

Preaching the Kingdom of GOD was needed but when he sees the multitude and “let me drop a little something in the gumbo”-JESUS SEES Everything!! Sees good and evil and when you see good you should try to get behind it. Some had every kind of sickness and JESUS was moved to COMPASSION – COMPASSION IMPLIES PITY WITH A DESIRE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

He moved toward getting in/under your skin because JESUS has been in the skin and knows what we are going through – compassion will cause you to move. People out there are hurting and feeling beaten down

- we should want to be moved to compassion to seek those who are like sheep without a shepherd and are running all over the place. Sheep need a presence to keep them in their lanes/on the right path/

Biblical compassion assumes there is a need. Assume feeling of need and do something about the need.

We should assume there is a feeling of need and want to do something about the need. There are sheep out there without a shepherd - there is no guidance I will be everywhere all over the place and they need a presence please needs someone to be moved by compassion. Like sheep without a shepherd there is a biblical and spiritual need. There is a need for spiritual food.

Verse 37 comes the power! The harvest is truly plentiful. There must be gathering - reaping but the laborers are few. At hospitals, at work ,in prisons - the harvest is abundant but you must get out the front door of the church building to see this. Church has a dark and bad unemployment rate because nobody wants to go to work - there is a lack of desire, cooperation and willingness to get out of/outside the building.

There needs to be a concern for this generation - laborers are needed for the cause of Christ-dedicated to JESUS

- faith in Christ the convicted stand firm and true. There are those who have rejected, denied and postponed the calling of GOD!

What are we going to do about this? JESUS left an answer: HE said PRAY!!!!

PRAY YE THEREFORE THE LORD OF THE HARVEST, THAT HE WILL SEND FORTH LABOURERS INTO HIS HARVEST but sometimes we look at the Bible as a Classic - Everybody's got the classic, but nobody reads it. There are lost souls everywhere - we have a responsibility/obligation/COMMAND to be laborers and gather the Harvest - WE are needed because JESUS came to save that which was lost.

Everyone knows someone that they want to be saved!!!! We've got to plant some seeds so that GOD will provide the increase!

A great example of the effect of lack of laborers can be seen in how the immigration bill in Georgia affected the laborers. The immigration bill removed much of the immigrant labor force so that when the harvest was ready there was no one to gather the harvest. Therefore; crops were lost, businesses such as restaurants who depended on the produce were affected - any and all entities connected with the harvest - over \$140 million was lost. The laborers had all been sent away which caused a detrimental effect to the farm economy and connected businesses.

Where are the laborers - without laborers there can be no harvest and no gathering of the harvest John chapter 4 verse 29 through 36.

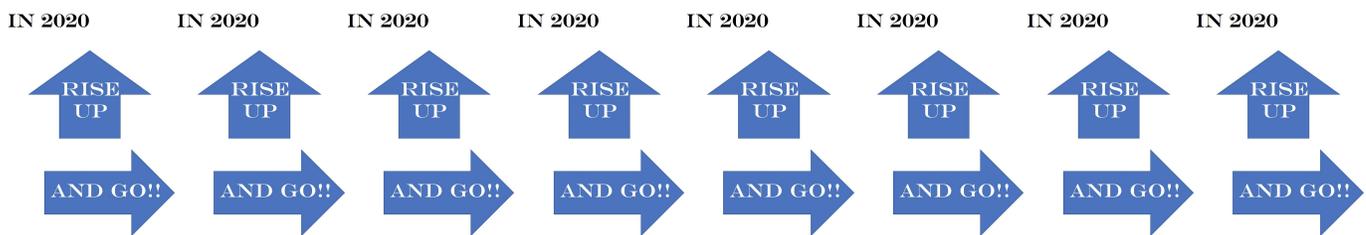
29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

30 Then they went out of the city, and came unto him.

31 In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat.
 32 But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of.
 33 Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him ought to eat?
 34 JESUS saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.
 35 Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.
 36 And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.

The laborers cannot be found - we must pray that laborers are sent into the body of CHRIST TO GATHER the harvest. We must put Christ out into the world HE may not always be received but at least HE's out there - the seed will have been planted.

PRAY! PRAY! PRAY! GOD will send the laborers!!!!



Preparing to Be Sent – Lance Bennett

Rise up and go and be a church on the move -a church on the move is needed. GOD has always been a **sending GOD**. GOD **SENT**: Adam and Eve into the garden and out of the garden, Moses to deliver the children of Israel out from under pharaohs reign in Egypt, the children of Israel to the wilderness, **HE SENT** David, **HE SENT** Joseph, **HE SENT** Elijah to Zarephath unto the widow woman, **HE SENT** Joshua and the children of Israel to the promised land, the Jews into captivity, the disciples to spread the gospel, **HE SENT** JESUS to the church and Paul as an apostle to the Gentiles. GOD has always been sending HIS people.

We need to understand that following JESUS is not comfortable; however, we like to be comfortable. But the only way we as the church can impact the community that surrounds us is to get out beyond the church building walls.

JESUS explained to us that it is not comfortable in following HIM and doing GOD's work when he told us that foxes had holes but he had nowhere to lay his head. But that's because the idea is to follow him and leap in the ditch which would not be comfortable.

When I moved my family to Riverdale, Louisiana; the people are friendly but they have very different beliefs one of which is a belief in voodoo and evil spirits. It was not comfortable for them to consider following one GOD. When GOD leads us to follow JESUS – it will take us out of our comfort zone. Where GOD sends us can make us uncomfortable and take us to places where we don't necessarily want to go.

JESUS knew the amount of time that he would spend on earth and in terms of the work it was a short time. And while we may think he was not compassionate when he asked the young man to follow him, when he answered let the dead bury the dead. We must understand Jewish culture; the complete ritual of burying the dead could sometimes take in upwards of a year's time. The number of Sheep/the Harvest could not be left alone that long. The time was NOW that JESUS needed followers; there was a sense of urgency to gather the laborers. JESUS did not have that kind of time ---- to wait on someone to bury their dead when the work that GOD had sent HIM to do it was so urgent. The church cannot be afraid to get out beyond the walls when the need is now we have to follow JESUS and right now.

When we choose to follow JESUS, we cannot look back. JESUS comes first!! JESUS comes before any relationship that we have. JESUS is our number one relationship!! Luke 10 1-2. JESUS sent out the laborers two by two - not by themselves - not alone even the Lone Ranger had Tonto.

After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and **sent them two and two** before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.

2 Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.

JESUS knows the harvest and the size of it!!! We cannot convince ourselves that everyone knows JESUS!

The harvest is ripe right here in Shelbyville. Laborers are needed here because in Shelbyville there is murder, addiction, theft, robbery, divorce and many other problems along with following other gods.

There must be a commitment to get beyond the church walls because Christian/Church culture has become staying within the walls. The church building is only a training center for worship and a center for worship! People are the church and People must GO and DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS with other People who don't know JESUS. People have to love and serve (and love to serve) because the harvest is plentiful.

ARE WE PRAYING for our churches to achieve growth? Seriously, JESUS has told us that we receive not because we have asked not – Church/ People, People/Church should seek and save the lost.

People/Church, Church/People should love, serve and share **FOR THE GLORY OF GOD**. We have to understand that the only way to establish growth in the church is to reach the lost and nonchurch people - --- and guess what nonchurch people do not act like church people. Maybe that is a good thing...no judgment, no pretense just their raw reality of their experiences which requires **PATIENCE** and **TRAINING** (WHAT THE BUILDING IS FOR). Reaching out into the world to save the lost Will be uncomfortable and messy because people's lives are uncomfortable and messy because they live in a messed-up world. It is up to the church/People/People/Church to change their reality by teaching and preaching **JESUS**. People with issues, problems and messed up lives **NEED THE MERCY, GRACE, AND PROMISES OF JESUS CHRIST**.

Matthew 28/19 IS THE final command from **GOD**! **JESUS** - the final words of his final conversation **AND** when it comes to the final word of the final conversation – it is the thing you want to make the most important point ---the most important words --- the words that will count and matter the most. The final command begins with the word **GO** - here **JESUS** gives the **COMMAND OF SENDING** from **HIS FATHER** - who is **A SENDING GOD**. The church needs to **GO** we can only be Christ outside of the church walls/building - only people can get outside the walls.

It takes time to make a disciple but baptism will help bring you closer to **JESUS**—you must continue to grow – Continue to get out of your comfort zone – Also, there is no room for racism **GOD** loves everyone no matter color - no matter rich - no matter poor!!!! **GO to all nations that means everyone**— Live like **JESUS**—**JESUS** is with us as we **RISE UP** and **GO**.

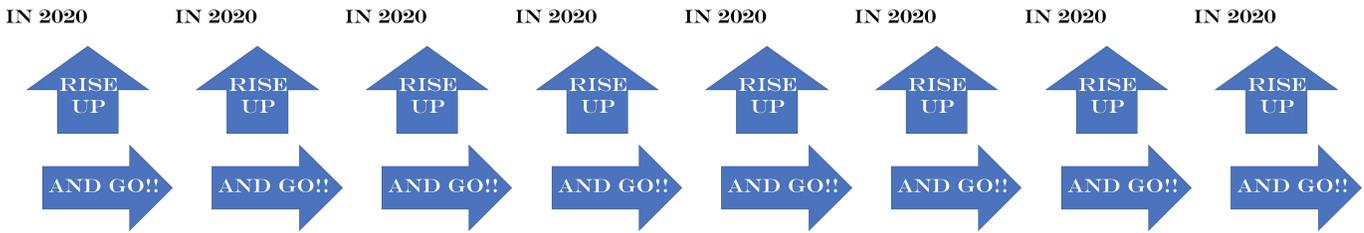
John 14 12-14

12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, **HE THAT BELIEVETH ON ME, THE WORKS THAT I DO SHALL HE DO ALSO; AND GREATER WORKS THAN THESE SHALL HE DO**; because I go unto my Father.

13 And **whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do**, that **the FATHER may BE GLORIFIED IN THE SON**.

14 **If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I WILL DO IT**.

Ask it in **HIS** name!!!! Will we do greater works? Are we going to try and remain content? Are we going to just sit and listen to sermons? Or will we **RISE UP AND GO** to seek and save the lost! Will we be in the streets, in the community, in the workplace? **THE SENDING GOD** is sending us to make a difference in 2020 - we are leaving the building to go share to be churches that are sent as we rise up and go.



Evangelism Is Not a Dirty Word – Chris Jackson

John 1/36-42

36 Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I AM the Son of God?

37 If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not.

38 But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.

39 Therefore they sought again to take him: but he escaped out of their hand,

40 And went away again beyond Jordan into the place where John at first baptized; and there he abode.

41 And many resorted unto him, and said, John did no miracle: but all things that John spake of this man were true.

42 AND MANY BELIEVED ON HIM THERE.

Have you ever been distracted while driving it could be texting, the radio, children, movies playing in the car to keep the children distracted. Unfortunately, the Lord's church can be distracted as well. When the Lord's Church is distracted; there may be good stuff, but not the best - it may get to everything, but the main thing - it can be helpful, but not purposeful - it can be beneficial, but not right - so we get distracted with everything but saving souls.

Matthew is teaching them to observe all. In order to make disciples/the first step of discipleship **is to evangelize** - that's the main thing! But sometimes, the fire gets burned out and we have not gotten to where we should be!

Tonight's focus is to talk about **EVANGELISM** - what it is - why it is done -how it is done.

John is the **GOSPEL OF BELIEF** – to read it should cause one to give their life over to JESUS! JESUS performs the various miracles are penned in John; such as water to wine,

raising Lazarus from death, raising the nobleman's son to name a few! There are plenty of "I AM" statements; such as JESUS is the good SHEPHERD, I AM the resurrection, HE's the door, HE's the truth, the way, the life! Reading John will/should make you want to put on CHRIST because what JESUS IS to Us. We also see the personal testimony of others giving the followers evidence. BEHOLD the LAMB of GOD – JESUS IS GOD's real Passover LAMB. Is there a question of what you were looking for when you came to the Lord - when you decided to follow JESUS?

JESUS said come and see to Andrew and he and the other follower are spending time with JESUS and when the time with JESUS was concluded - Andrew was excited to go and share! So, he went and found his brother and invited him to come and visit with JESUS. Andrew received JESUS word. Peter received a personal invitation to follow JESUS. This is the first example of evangelism - Andrew went and found who a family member and invited him to know JESUS.

EVANGELISM CAN BEGIN WITH YOUR FAMILY - FIRST KNOCK ON THE DOORS OF YOUR FAMILY!!! Andrew let's Peter know that we have found the Messiah.

For the Jews, *Messiah* meant the anointed – the one set aside for a special task – and at that time to the Jews it meant the one who would free them from Roman captivity/confinement/oppressiveness.

For us today, *Messiah* means the **ONE** who has given us eternal life!!

Matthew 16/20– Christ means Messiah so in Peter's mind the Messiah is not supposed to die.

One can evangelize best with what one knows and even though Andrew did not have all the knowledge - he did not let that stop him! **DON'T LET WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW --- STOP YOU FROM TELLING EVERYONE WHO YOU KNOW--- WHAT YOU KNOW.** We can all let everyone we know --- that we found a MAN who can: **HEAL our hearts, GIVE us joy, GIVE us peace in the storm and DRY our tears!!!!** We may not know everything but we know HE can save souls so take the knowledge that you have and go with it.

Another weapon in our arsenal are the **testimonies in the Bible**. Our example tonight is Legion, who was controlled by the unclean spirits – he was in the tombs and was tormented by these spirits – they could not be subdued UNTI he encountered JESUS once JESUS cleaned out this evil spirits Legion wanted to follow him. He wanted so bad to go with JESUS Mark 5/18. But had Legion gone with JESUS - there would not have been the great testimony of his healing!!!! JESUS told Legion to go home to his own people/Gentiles.

Evangelism begins with those you know so go tell family and friends about JESUS! And the beauty of it is Legion didn't stop at family and friends

In the Jewish culture, **when a benefactor** paid a debt by doing something for someone that they could not do for themselves (JESUS removed the spirits from Legion)– doing **something that could not be repaid (Legion could never repay that kind of a debt) they would declare an allegiance to that person (he fiercely desired to follow JESUS) and the greater the gift – the greater the desire** (for Legion the desire was so great to show allegiance to JESUS that Legion did not just limit his allegiance to the Christ to his family and friends but **TO THE WHOLE CITY** because of that magnitude of what JESUS did for him to be gift of enormous magnitude.

When it comes to the modern law, a judge will hold a witness in contempt, if the judge determines that the witness knows what happens but won't tell it! The judge's determination is "how dare you know what happened and you won't tell that" or you won't say anything about it do or you have the evidence/information that will help but you won't say anything.

Will GOD hold us in contempt if we don't tell people about HIS SON and what HE has done for us so that others can grab hold of JESUS, too?

In 1912 when the Titanic 1300 people died for 2 reasons: 1) because three warnings were given to the crew sailing the vessel about the icebergs but were not heeded and 2) the people in the boats would not go back for fear of being overloaded which would cause the rescue boats to sink.

DO NOT BE AFRAID - DO NOT WITHHOLD WHAT YOU HAVE BECAUSE YOU HAVE FEAR OF REJECTION. We shut down – and we are losing souls because we refuse to take on the risk of rejection - going out to teach JESUS. – it should not be hard to tell people about JESUS – it may be uncomfortable but not hard JESUS is with us. We have found what we are looking for we need to help others find JESUS as well. And Patience is necessary because the fragile, new creature while mighty and powerful relationship is not going to know it all but just like we had to – will LEARN!

John 1/42 JESUS upon meeting Simon already knew him he knew what he would become and so changed his name to Peter. JESUS WILL save and JESUS WILL change everyone! So don't worry about what you can or can't do - it's not about you-ITS ABOUT JESUS-HE WILL DO THE REAL WORK.

GOD is not slacking his promises! People come to JESUS but can only come when exposed to JESUS! We have to let people know who JESUS! JESUS knows who his people are!

JESUS knows how to bring them to him but we he has to have our assistance in letting people know what HE has done for us. You ever notice with ice cream it can be so hard to get out it will bend a spoon but soft serve does not bend the spoon you don't even have to struggle – when the ice cream melts it is easy to maneuver and that is what happens to people when JESUS enters their life. It does not happen overnight for anyone – it is an evolution...we all have to evolve and grow in JESUS after we come to HIM and he will help us with the change. **EVANGELISM IS NOT A DIRTY WORD IT IS ESSENTIAL!!!**

We were looking - he found us.

EVANGELISM IS NOT A DIRTY WORD IT IS ESSENTIAL to bring others to JESUS: WHO is Mary's baby, WHO is Ezekiel's wheel in the middle of the wheel, WHO is grandmas' walking stick, WHO is granddad's handkerchief, WHO is mom's peace of mind, WHO is a SAVIOR and WHO forgave all men. BELIEVE HE has the SPIRIT that will dominate and change anyone! HE was sent to look for... what he found was Us.

His command to Us is that we GO and MAKE DISCIPLES!

In JESUS NAME, AMEN

A C T I V I T I E S

