

Scottsdale Presbyterian Church

The Messenger



June, 2017

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Issue 6

Since 1958

Pastor's Column

"But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry."

2 Timothy 4:5



A "closer" is person who is skilled at bringing a business transaction to a satisfactory conclusion. On television, actress Kyra Sedgwick played the fictional title role of "The Closer" working in the Los Angeles Police Department, a Deputy Chief who was particularly effective at closing criminal investigations. She was a police closer.

In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul encouraged his young pastor friend Timothy to be a closer for the Christian faith. Paul said "do the work of an evangelist" meaning be effective in bring other people through the transition of considering Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior to accepting Christ as Lord and Savior. Multiple studies have revealed that only 5% of Christians are closers in that sense. Only five out of a hundred Christians are effective in leading other people to Christ. This begs the question what are the other 95% of Christians called to do?



Some years ago, Wheaton College Professor James F. Engel developed a tool for helping answer that question. Engel's Scale represents the journey from no knowledge of God through to spiritual maturity as a Christian believer as different points along a straight line. Engel originally labeled these numerically from "-8" (no knowledge of the Gospel) to "0" (a decision to follow Christ) to "+5" (developed stewards of the Gospel). The scale of been refined and adapted over the years. One adaptation can be seen here.

If you have ever been part of helping another person change from a hostile attitude toward Jesus to a neutral one, well that is very significant. That too is evangelism. Maybe you have been there when someone new to the Christian faith made their first mistake and were convinced they were going to hell for it. If you were able to calm their fears, correct their misunderstanding about God's amazing grace, and help them seek forgiveness again; that too was part of evangelism. In fact, the Great Commission's call to make disciples of all people takes more than simply closers. It takes Christians with all sorts of personalities and skills: teachers, helpers, encouragers, organizers, truth-tellers, and grace-givers. All of us play a role even if not the particular role of leading one person across the finishing line of giving their heart to Christ. That's not really where the task of disciple making ends although it is a crucial step in the journey. As St. Paul said elsewhere, "The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God's service" (1 Corinthians 3:8-9).

May God help each of us play our part in God's harvest.

In His service, Pastor Bruce

"And I am surely with you always..." Matthew 28:20

Heartfelt appreciation to the
as they conclude the
Already looking forward
2017-2018



Choir and Handbell Choir
2016-2017 Season.
to next fall and the
Season.

Have a wonderful summer!

Yesterday my Ethiopian girl friend, Abeba and I spent the day together. We agreed it would be a day free from responsibilities or interruptions which we both needed. Each of us knew individuals who we wanted to visit so we decided to make that our goal.

We started with a young family Abeba works for who had recently welcomed a lovely daughter into their family. It was the mother's birthday so we stopped in to wish her a happy birthday!

Our next stop was to look in on Hal Koontz in the rehab facility he was moved to. We enjoyed a great visit with Hal! We talked about God's faithfulness — so evident in both of these situations.

Our final stop was to visit Donna Beggs in her lovely new place. We sat outside and enjoyed a cool breeze under the ramada just outside her door. It's always great to spend time with Donna!

Abeba and I prayed with Hal and Donna and we also shared with the family of the new baby that prayers were said by both my church family and Abeba's for their family. They expressed such gratitude.

After visiting the bank and sharing a lovely supper together, Abeba and I decided we had been blessed by this great day! Abeba reminded me throughout the day, "you have done it unto me" - of course Jesus words.



God bless you! Carol Petersen, Director of Music



Prayer Requests

Our prayer chain consists of people who would be happy to pray for you, your loved ones, and for any other praises or concerns you may have. Please call the church office 480-946-4207 or email info@scottsdalechurch.com to have your requests added to the prayer chain.



Preaching Schedule

June 4	Acts 1:1-11	A Goal in Mind
June 11	2 Timothy 1:1-18	The Constructive Way
June 18	2 Timothy 2:1-26	The True Way
June 25	2 Timothy 3:1-9	The Brave Way

Harvest America Volunteers



As you know, Harvest America is happening on Sunday, June 11th, at the University of Phoenix Stadium. It will require over 6,000 volunteers to serve those who are going to be coming that day. You too can serve as either an usher, a follow-up worker on the field, be a part of the 2,000-voice choir, or in the intercessory prayer room. Go to serve.harvestamerica.org where you can sign up and get all the check-in instructions.

“Remember the prisoners as if chained with them—those who are mistreated—since you yourselves are in the body also.”

Hebrews 13:3 (NKJV)



WORLD SUMMIT
IN DEFENSE OF PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

Sponsored by Billy Graham Evangelistic Association
BillyGraham.org/Persecuted

“And I am surely with you always...” Matthew 28:20

Report from the World Summit in Defense of Persecuted Christians

The World Summit in Defense of Persecuted Christians was held May 10-13, 2017 in Washington, DC. Hosted by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, the meeting brought together 600 delegates from over 130 countries representing the wide breadth of Protestant, Evangelical, Catholic, Orthodox, and Apostolic traditions. All were gathered because of what several speakers termed “the ecumenism of suffering.” Today’s mass persecutions of Christians in the Middle East, Africa and other regions is unprecedented both in terms of sheer numbers and in the heinousness of its brutality.

More than 120 of the delegates had themselves been imprisoned, tortured, or forcibly exiled for their faith, and the relatives of many modern martyrs were also present. Two of their stories are perhaps emblematic of the entire summit. The first story embodies solidarity. Amongst the delegates were family members of the 20 Egyptian Copts beheaded by the Islamic State on a beach in Libya in February 2015. Egyptian Anglican Bishop Mouneer Anis explained that the 21st man to die with them was from Chad, although first reported as Ghanaian. When he had been captured, Mathew Ayairga did not share the Egyptians’ Christian faith. However, Ayairga was so moved by their witness and courage, that—when challenged to reject Jesus—he declared, “Their God is my God.” Thus, he was beheaded alongside them. Bishop Anis told how he had met the mother of two of the Egyptian martyrs, and she had said, “I’m glad they didn’t denounce their killers. I pray that the Lord will forgive and guide those killers in the right way”.

The second story embodies grace. Iraqi Chaldean Catholic priest, Father Douglas Al Bazi had been kidnaped and tortured for nine days because of his faith. Father Bazi explained that, at one point, the extremists wanted to militarize the Christians. They offered them arms. “Arms?” he explained, “We already have two good arms: the arm of love and the arm of forgiveness. We don’t need your arms.” The extremists began blowing up Christian towns but the results were not what they had expected. “The Islamic State, the ISIS, they destroyed all our villages and houses. Now we became one house. They destroyed all our churches, Now, we became one church. So, thank you because Jesus united us again. We are still that salt in the food. Without us, it’s gone. Without forgiveness, that means asking for revenge will be acceptable. But forgiveness, that means it’s over. So, what I am asking here is to forgive them. We have to forgive.”

The stated purpose of the Summit was to raise global awareness about the plight of persecuted Christians, show solidarity with those who suffer, and look for solutions. The topics of the afternoon breakout sessions reflected the complexity of sorting through various causes of the current global persecution: religious extremism, militant secularism, oppressive governments, dominating religions, and opposition from deep-seated tribal beliefs. All sessions were conducted in English with simultaneous translations in six other languages.

At the close of the Summit, a final declaration was adopted in which delegates all committed to six ways of responding to the global crisis: (1) promote awareness, (2) pray for the persecuted, (3) provide practical assistance whenever possible, (4) advocate on behalf of the persecuted, (5) comfort and edify one another, and (6) continue the work of evangelism boldly, unapologetically, and without compromise.



SPECIAL OFFERING MOTHER'S DAY

An offering will be collected on May 14, Mother's Day, to support the Harvest America Event at University of Phoenix Stadium. The total cost of holding this evangelistic gathering in our state comes to \$15 for every seat in the football stadium. We are being encouraged to sponsor a one of more seats with a gift of \$15 or more on Mother's Day. Then our church will also begin praying the people who will be sitting in that section of the stadium that was sponsored by SPC. Our prayers will be joined with the prayers of other congregations who are doing the same thing. It is an investment, through gifts and prayers, it what God soon will do in the lives of our neighbors.



Cafe Justo Coffee will be available for purchase in the Narthex on June 25th.

Thank you for your continued support of this mission which helps Mexican Coffee Growers and their families stay together and improve their living conditions.

If you have a special order, or just want to be sure we have your favorite, contact Liz Hill at Lannh25@gmail.com



...and Give a Prayer and Praise

Please keep the following people in your prayers this month:

President Donald Trump, Governor Doug Ducey and Mayor Jim Lane.

Prayers that our Youth will be filled with the Holy Spirit and God will do mighty things in their lives.

For our church: That we will love God, one another and our neighborhood. Pastor, Staff, Elders, **Family Focus Team** & Vision Team.

For those receiving medical care and for homebound/long-term care:

For Our Family Focus Team: Nellie Schwartz, Gail Widner, Pat Reynolds, Heather George and Ginny Mountain, Sherry Blanchard, Pat Cook, Natallie Day and Patti Otto.

For Our Elders: Jeff Barton, Judy Davis, Tina Sedlock, Terry Linnig, Haley Linnig, Eric Palumbo, Brett Recen and Hal Koontz.

For our Vision Team: Pastor Bruce Johnson, Carol Petersen, Bob Howard, Liz Hill, Rick Widner and Jeff Barton

Be in prayer for our troops, as well as their families, who are serving abroad for our freedom. Please be in additional prayer for PC(USA) Missionaries Greg and Chris Callison, Carolyn Kurtz, Dorothy Hanson, and Pastor Tazera Belachew.

And last but not least:

- 1. Tuesday Bible Study will start again June 6th in the Lounge from 10:00 - 11:30 am. We will be studying the Gospel of John. See Craig Reynolds for more information.**
- 2. Thursday Night Women's Bible Study is on Break. Contact Teresa Wilbur for more information.**
- 3. Thursday Prayer gathering is at 3 pm in the Church office. See Craig Reynolds for more information.**
- 4. Vista del Camino needs our help. Donation items for April are: Dish Soap & Laundry Soap. These items may be dropped off in the Narthex on Sunday morning or in the Church Office during the week.**



June, 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Prayer 3 pm	2	3
4 Praise Band 8 am Worship 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:45 am	5	6 Bible Study 10:00 am	7	8 Prayer 3 pm	9	10
11 PraiseBand 8 am Worship 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:45 am	12	13 Bible Study 10:00 am Family Focus Team 2 PM	14 	15 Prayer 3 pm	16	17 Men's Breakfast 7:30-8:30 am Randy's Café Chaparral & Hayden
18 Praise Band 8 am Worship 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:45 am 	19	20 Bible Study 10:00 am Newsletter articles due Session 7 PM	21	22 Prayer 3 pm	23	24
25 Praise Band 8 am Worship 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:45 am Cafe Justo Coffee Available Today	26	27 Bible Study 10:00 am	28	29	30	

Our Mission Statement
Scottsdale Presbyterian Church joyfully follows the Lord Jesus Christ. Moved by His power, Motivated by His love, Equipped for His ministry, So that our community and our world, Will know His grace.

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