

A Few Words From Your Pastoral Staff

Volume 1, Number 3

Dear Member of the Auburn Church Family,

The American humorist, Will Rogers, once said, "Even though you think you're on the right track, if you just sit there, you're still going to get run over."

What he was trying to say is we can say that we want change in our life, our church and our country, but unless we choose to act there will be no change.

Our Church Mission Statement reads, "Because we believe Jesus is returning, our mission is:

To attract and grow passionate followers of Jesus through Worship (where God is present and participating), Relationships (that are life changing), and Service (that shows how God feels about people).

In order to attract and grow passionate followers of Jesus, we have to be passionate growing followers of Jesus ourselves. In other words, it is one thing to talk about being a worshiping, relating, serving follower (disciple) of Jesus and quite a different matter to act on our desire. The same is true of us as a church. We have to be doing more than talking about attracting and growing passionate followers of Jesus, we as a church, each of us individually and corporately, have to be engaged in making disciples. Gambling is not the only place where it can be accurately stated that "Talk's cheap!" That is why the Elders of your church family are actively praying about how we can make our actions consistent with our claims.

So, what are the bare minimum requirements for being a growing follower of Jesus?

First we must do our ABCs.

- **A** - Active, regular, involved, engaged attendance at Church. If you've ever sat around a camp fire you will understand how important this is. If you take a coal and pull it out, away from the other coals in the fire, pretty soon it goes out. The same is true of followers of Jesus.
- **B** - Be intentional to engage in regular, personal, devotional time with God and fellowship with other followers of Jesus. If it is important to eat regular, nutritious food every day, how much more important is daily intake of spiritual food for the life of a growing follower of Jesus.
- **C** - Contribute our time, energy, finances, and talents in service. It has been documented again and again, that you cannot grow if you are not serving.

Leaving any of these out is like trying to write this letter leaving out some of the letters. It just doesn't work.

So, how much do we want to grow in your relationship with Jesus? The choice is only our own.

Cordially,

Pastor Dan M. Appel

Information You Can Use

This next week our speaker is Mark Witas, the pastor of the Pacific Union College Church. Mark spoke here several years ago and you will appreciate his message again! The occasion is "Teacher Dedication Sabbath." It is when we as a church family dedicate the teachers in our congregation and school as they begin the school year. All teachers and their families - PHAA, Public School, Retired, Home School, Charter School, etc. are invited to be a part of this special Sabbath and to join us for the Barbeque meal after.

The following week I will be speaking the next in our "Vacation Series." The topic will be: "Getting Through Customs."

Then on September 19, many of us will be on our Church Campout. There are a lot of campers who have reserved spots and many more who are planning to come up for the day. Pastor Jim Brewster has a great program planned for those who cannot come on the campout and our visitors.