

Compassion Cards

By Rob Whitacre

When examining the explosive growth of the first century church, there is a foundational verse that rings out loud and clear. Luke recorded, "Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47). The people of the first century liked the church of Christ. How did these early Christians gain the favour of the people? The answer is also in Luke's record. And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, and laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need (Acts 4:32-35).

The early church was a caring church. People knew they were genuine. They helped the least among them (lame man in Acts 3), and they had a spirit of unity that bound them together (Acts 2:44). They were benevolent to those in need. They not only preached about our loving Savior, they also walked in his footsteps!

We can reach the lost today by using the same first-century inspired principles and examples. Preparing meals, visiting, and sending cards helps people in our local communities come to understand we care. When people know we care, they will care about what we know. This is the purpose behind our contact list. The following are some guidelines to help explain and improve our benevolent work in and among our local community.

- ◆ Divide the congregation into groups (perhaps use your visitation teams or create evangelism teams). Every family should be included. If you have been left off the list, please know it was an accident and just let us know. A list of these groups is hanging up in our foyer, will be displayed each Sunday on our media screen, and included in our bulletin.
- ◆ Each group has a team leader. The team leader is responsible for ensuring that everyone receives all the needed materials, selecting the appropriate actions to be taken, and ensuring that those actions are completed.
- ◆ The contact list is the heart of the program. This list is provided each Lord's Day by the church office. It is primarily composed of local people who are potential prospects, new converts, or members. Normally these individuals are sick, need encouragement, or have lost a loved one.
- ◆ Each Sunday evening the group will meet for about 15 minutes as the team leader provides some guidance on the appropriate actions for those on the contact list. This could include updates, additions, and deletions from the list.
- ◆ Each contact list has a box to the side of each name. If the team leader selects "single," that means the person receives one card with all the team signing it. If the team leader selects "multiple," that means the person receives a card from each person on the team with brief personal notes. It is a very powerful display of love when a person in our local community receives 20 cards from the local church of Christ. What a great way to gain "the favour with all the people."
- ◆ Cards and stamps are provided by the church, and the team leader will make sure that they are mailed.
- ◆ If personal visits are needed or food is to be provided, the team leader will help organize this effort to make sure someone does not receive too much or too little "attention."
- ◆ Each contact should receive cards for at least four weeks. If someone on the list has an extended illness, change from sending multiple cards to a single card with multiple signatures. If a Christian is placed on the list, send one card with multiple signatures.
- ◆ The purpose of this work is to cultivate contacts for Bible study prospects. The recipients will be touched by expressions of love and concern, and they will be more open for a visit from a church member. Who would say "no" to a knock on the door from a congregation that has sent 50 cards in four weeks! Ministries that cultivate the soil only work when we work them.
- ◆ Be persistent and pray. Just because you send cards does not mean that contacts will run to the building. This ministry produces around three to five baptisms annually.

Every Christian can participate in sending cards to contacts. We know from experience the value this kind of work has on reaching the lost. Sitting in the pews are those who began their spiritual journey by opening the mailbox and receiving a card from Christians who cared when they really needed it. If you know someone in our LOCAL area who is hurting and needs Christ, please let us know so we can add them to our contact list. May God bless this effort to the saving of souls.

Things you should know about...

We are sending donations to the Disaster Relief Fund quarterly. If you'd like to contribute, mark it as "DRF" or give the money to Jason. The next donation will be sent after the end of December.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Linda Whittington 11/14 Viola Schultz 11/28 Alena Brown 12/9
 Duane Kemp 11/15 Carrie Thompson 12/5 Jennifer Garren 12/9
 Heather Fourman 11/26 David Glenn 12/8 Dan Metcalf 12/10

Men's meeting after AM service on Nov. 19th

Ladies Bible Study - The Crown
Wednesday, December 6th @ 7pm

If you want to start bringing items for the Thanksgiving baskets please see the sign up sheet on the back table.

Upcoming Events:

Thanksgiving food baskets handed out - November 19th
 Congregation Holiday Party - December 9th @ 5pm
 Holiday basket/gifts handed out - December 17th

Serving AM & PM today and next Sunday AM:

Sunday Rotation	November 12, 2023 AM	November 12, 2023 PM	November 19, 2023 AM
Greeter	Brandon Fourman	Jerry Thompson	Dustin DeSarro
Announcements	Tim Bang	John McGiffin	Tom Muter
Song Leading	Duane Kemp	Jason Bang	Bryan Allen
Opening Prayer/Usher Left	Jerry Thompson	Judah Gasper	Tim Bang
Lord's Supper Comments	Tom Muter	Tim Bang	Jason Bang
Scripture Reading	Rick Ferris	Chris McGiffin	Rick Ferris
Sermon	John McGiffin	John McGiffin	John McGiffin
Closing Prayer/Usher Right	Seth Arell	Tom Muter	Jerry Thompson

This week's Bible Verse

“And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.” Acts 5:42

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**Lord's Supper Reflection**

*To Serve as our Passover Lamb*

“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said ‘Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world’” 1 John 1:29

“Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened *bread* of sincerity and truth.” 1 Corinthians 5:6-8

**Offering Meditation**

*God gives us a choice. We should WANT to give back to Him*

“And when you offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the LORD, offer it of your own free will.” Leviticus 22:29

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Remember in Prayer:

- *Our Country & leaders
- *Phyllis Caldwell - recovering from a fall, upcoming tests
- *Rena Morgan - Shut in, health
- *Ernst & Helen Sherrill (Bro/Sis in Christ from TN) - shut ins with ongoing health issues
- *Larry Bey - dealing with Parkinson's
- *Maxine Jones (Laura McGiffin's mom) - dementia and health issues
- *Debby Braefield (Alena Brown's Aunt) - health
- *Terry McGiffin (John McGiffin's dad) - health & comfort, also keep Doreen in prayer
- *Luanne Listner (wife of Tim Bang's friend, Jim) - adjusting to be back home after surgery

- *Karen Oyler (Stephanie Bang's friend) - having chemo treatments, dealing with side effects and aches/pains
- *Danielle Ross (Carol Kemp's daughter-in-law) - home recovering from hernia complications
- *Lynn Thompson - health

How can we be praying for YOU?

Please call or email John (jmcgiffin.yayo@gmail.com) with any prayer requests or announcements you have for the congregation.

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**Attendance and Contribution Record**

| Sunday, November 5 |    | Wednesday, November 8 |            |
|--------------------|----|-----------------------|------------|
| Bible Classes      | 31 | Bible Classes         | 23         |
| AM Attendance      | 39 | Contribution          | \$1,597.00 |
| PM Attendance      | 30 |                       |            |



**GREENVILLE CHURCH of CHRIST**  
CHRIST CENTERED. BIBLE BASED. FAMILY ORIENTED.

November 12, 2023

**Worship Times:**

Sunday Morning Bible class: 9:30am

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30am

Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00pm

Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7:00pm

Minister, John McGiffin

4599 Children's Home Bradford Rd

Greenville, OH 45331

www.greenvillecoc.org

Hello! We are blessed that you have chosen to worship with us. If you are visiting, we would love to have you back with us again. Please take a moment to fill out a visitor's card and let us get to know you.