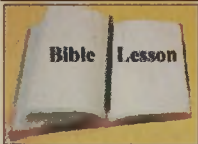


5B

RELIGION

Life 1B



Witnessing for God

2 Corinthians

When we think about witnessing to someone, chances are that we do not initially think of giving as one of the vehicles or methods to share Christ.

Witnessing is traditionally thought of by the sharing of Scriptures or a personal testimony with another person-anticipating that God's Word or some moving story of how God delivered us from the promise of eternal separation from Him to eternal life through Jesus Christ.

While tradition continues to serve a tremendous purpose in the above two examples, there is another way that we can show others that we are of God by imitating what our Father taught us, we can give generously to those in need. Givers and recipients alike should be overwhelmed by the magnitude of God's gift to them. A question to consider is, how should reflection on God's gift motivate us as givers?

LESSON BACKGROUND

Paul had an in-depth knowledge of the Corinthians since he stayed over 18 months with them. He knew how sincerely and zealously they desired to give to those in need. He boasted to the Macedonian church about how eager the Corinthians were in their giving. The Macedonians were also encouraged to give by completing "the doing of" what they had begun (2 Cor. 8:11 NKJV). The Macedonians were so eager to give that they begged Paul to allow them to share what little they had with the believers in Jerusalem (2 Cor. 8:4). The Macedonian church considered giving not an obligation, but an honor. Paul had taught them to imitate their Father.

Christian giving is an outpouring of God's grace through the believer or the giver. While the Corinthians had begun their collection over a year ago, it was Paul who pushed for them to finish the deed-as he was sending Titus and two other helpers to assist the Corinthians in what they had started.

QUESTIONS: GIVING EAGERLY:

1. Who were the brethren Paul was sending to Corinth? (2 Cor. 9:3)

The brethren who Paul mentions in verse 3 were Titus-Paul's helper in Christ, and two other unnamed brothers. These two were presumably coworkers of Paul and representatives of the participating churches (see 8:16-24).

2. Why might the Corinthians be "ashamed" (2 Cor. 9:4), or embarrassed?

Paul was in Macedonia when he penned this letter (see 2 Cor. 2:13 and 7:5). When he departed for Corinth, there were Macedo-

Please see WHY/6B

Black churches pitching in to help Norfolk State University

Virginia congregations pledge \$232,500 over next five years



PHOTO: NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY

Five African American congregations in Virginia's Tidewater area have pledged financial support to Norfolk State University. The churches pledged a total of \$232,500 to the publicly-funded university over the next five years, aiding in a \$15 million capital campaign.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NORFOLK, Va. — Black church support was critical to Norfolk State University's founding. Now the churches are pitching in again.

Five black congregations in Portsmouth and Norfolk have pledged a total of \$232,500 to the publicly funded university over the next five years, aiding in a \$15 million capital campaign at the histori-

cally black university.

"We think their role is critical for the success of the campaign," said Phillip D. Adams, associate vice president for development at Norfolk State.

The participating churches in Norfolk are First Baptist Church on East Berkeley Avenue and Second Calvary Baptist Church and First Baptist Church on East Bute

Street. Third Baptist Church and Grove Baptist Church are in Portsmouth.

Local black pastors helped organize the school in 1935 as the Norfolk branch of Virginia Union University, a Richmond institution with Baptist connections.

According to a school lore, black congregations raised scholarships. Please see BLACK/6B

Man mocks Islam outside U.S. lawmaker's post

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BALTIMORE — A protester staked out the home of a Muslim candidate for the Maryland House of Delegates, holding a sign and wearing a T-shirt that mocked Islam.

Timothy Truett sat in a folding chair Saturday on the street outside Saqib Ali's home in suburban Gaithersburg with a sign reading "Islam sucks," and a shirt with the slogan, "This mind is an Allah-free zone."

Montgomery County police sent a trespass notification form to Truett warning that he would be subject to arrest on tres-

passing charges if he steps onto Ali's property within the next year.

Truett called his protest "an experiment," explaining, "I had heard that Muslims were generally intolerant of views other than their own, and so I thought I would put it to the test."

Ali took several photographs of Truett but refused to speak to him, saying he did not get the impression that Truett wanted to start a constructive dialogue.

"We don't waste our time talking to people who hate us," Ali said Sunday.

Truett said he did not think the sign or the T-shirt expressed a message of hate.

"It's an opinion," he said. "I don't think there's anything intrinsically hateful about it."

Ali, a Democrat, would become the first Muslim member of the House of Delegates if elected, but has not made his religion a major tenet of his campaign.

He is considered a long-shot challenger to three incumbent Democrats, Charles Barkley, Nancy King and Joan Stern. The district has three seats, and the top three vote-getters in the primary move on to the general election.

Trade show's target: Faith-based entrepreneurs

By Cheris F. Hodges
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Friendship Missionary Baptist Church is hoping to spur the spirit of entrepreneurialism with a business trade show.

On September 9, the church will host The Friendship Business Tradeshow from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The theme is "Empowering Business to Create Entrepreneurial Excellence." There will be workshops on how to obtain financing for business growth, marketing and networking.

Dennis Kimbro, motivational



PHOTO: CALVIN FERGUSON

Friendship to host business showcase in September.

speaker and author of "Think and Grow Rich: A Black Choice" will be the keynote speaker.

"We have many members in our congregation who are business owners or seeking to start their own business," said the Rev. Clifford A. Jones, Sr., senior minister. "So we saw a need to create a ministry to support them in a Christian environment."

Free enterprise and faith may seem like strange bedfellows, but in recent years, Christian busi-

Please see FRIENDSHIP/7B



Winans sticks with trendy gospel

Vickie Winans
Woman To Woman:
Songs Of Life
Various producers
Verity/Zomba Recordings



Vickie Winans abandoned traditional gospel some years ago to mixed results. Some liked the foray into trendy R&B religious music while others left in droves.

But Winans has stuck to her guns and continues to buck traditional gospel. This two-CD set is certainly aimed at younger buyers. Even the cover has Winans striking a Cover Girl pose. But it's the music that will make or break this release.

Believe me, the music, or more accurately the songs, do make this release. Yes, it's still the radio-friendly stuff that Winans likes so much, but there is also a second disc, much of which was recorded live. It's a bit more traditional, but still in the R&B vein.

Winans has incorporated nearly her whole family in the project. Several songs were written by her sons, Mario and Marvin Jr. and various other Winans. Even her current husband, Joe McLemore, makes an appearance.

Winans has toned down her vocal theatrics a bit. She stretches on "It's Alright" but is mostly subdued. She's one of the few older artists not trying to sing as if she was 25. She's still formidable, just not as showy.

Winans' best performances are the old Walter Hawkins compositions "Try Christ" and "I Love You Lord." Both songs are nearly two decades old but still carry a powerful message.

Winans still can move an audience no matter what kind of music she sings. That's worth the price of this CD alone.



Ratings

- Classic: ★★★★★
- Excellent: ★★★★★
- Good: ★★★★★
- Fair: ★★★★★
- Why? ★★★★★
- No stars - A mess

CHURCH NEWS

The deadline for announcements in the calendar is noon on Fridays. Fax to (704) 342-2160 or e-mail cheris.hodges@thecharlottepost.com. Please put "church news" in the subject line.

August 25

Life Center Ministries of Greensboro presents a Celebration of Ministries at 7 p.m. and on August 26 11 a.m. The event will be held at Life Center Ministries of Charlotte on 331 E. Sugar Creek Road. This event is the Pastoral Anniversary of Pastor George Montgomery, Sr.

For more information please call 704-503-1970 or 336-480-8227.

August 26

Northside Church of Christ, 4435 E. W.T. Harris Blvd., will host a Back to School Jam and a 3-on-3 basketball tournament.

Back to School Jam is a one-day youth sporting event dedicated to rejuvenating physical activity by promoting recreational and educational fun for youth through a 3-on-3 basketball tournament format. Church members

have donated school supplies towards this event. The organization Men on a Mission, a mentoring program, has committed to be onsite for tutorial sign-ups for those needing assistance during the 2006-07 school year. In addition, other organizations in the community will be on-site disseminating information about their programs. The basketball tournament will start around noon. Other activities, games, and food will be operating simultaneously. There will be a dunk, 3-point, and free

throw contest, and obstacle courses as well. The event is free to the public.

Walls Memorial AME Zion Church, located at Bancroft St., will host a block party to kick off the school year. The event runs from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

New Shiloh Baptist Church will host the Big Gospel Singing Program, beginning at 7 p.m. The event features Larry Maxwell and The Golden Voices, Pastor Annie Thomas and

Please see BIBLE/8B