

VIEW FROM THE PULPIT



The Views Expressed In This Article Are The Opinions Of The Writer.

Fulfilling The Commission

The Christian church needs to stop dead in its tracks, examine and re-examine its textbook, The Acts of The Apostle and relate its ministries to the same. Somebody said recently that ninety percent of what we do in the church have no biblical base. My prayer is that this is an erroneous statement; however, I believe that in all too many instances, we are too tradition bound. If we would be a New Testament Church, we must know what the New Testament teaches.

My burden is that of getting the church to fulfill the commission emphatically laid down in Acts 1:8. "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and in Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

The great missionary commission which appears in all four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, is confirmed in this text. This is the aim, the objective of the church. We are clearly called upon to fulfill this great commission by witnessing in four places: Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the uttermost part of the earth.

Fulfilling the commission in Jerusalem. Jerusalem represents home base symbolically. The first several years of my ministry at the Saint Paul Church was dedicated to a witness at home. We preached and taught Jesus Christ. We laid foundations, organized internally, purchased approximately twenty-three lots adjacent to the church house, held workshops, seminars, retreats, purchased three new buses, taught stewardship, expanded the sanctuary, purchased commercial kitchen equipment, expanded our staff to include a full-time Director of Christian Education, Youth Director, Administrative Assistant, Computer Operator, Secretary, Custodian and five part-time musicians, a janitor and dietician.

I mention the above to emphasize the importance of getting the witness at home in proper order first. The ministries within the church must be designed to equip and prepare us for the outside ministries. We must not tarry at Jerusalem until we are properly equipped. If a person is not a Christian at home, he/she has no witness. The most difficult place in the world to be a Christian is at home, with doors closed and locked, family inside. Anybody can be Christ-like for two hours on a Sunday morning.

Fulfilling the commission in Judea. Judea is equivalent to our immediate community. The Christian church should spend some



Rev. Paul Drummond

time in studying and defining its community. In so doing, she can relate to the needs. Fortunately, Saint Paul is located in a community where problems are numerous. Our witness in our community is ever growing. We feed the needy a full course hot meal three times per week at the expense of the church. We, in addition to putting the church on computer, purchased twelve computers and opened a computer center for interested persons. We have an effective tutorial program for all school children in our community. We are in the process of starting our own school on the elementary level to deal with some basics that our children are missing. Our 10:45 A.M. Worship is broadcast live each Sunday. We have no sponsor. We do this out of "God's pocket"—treasure of the church, our services are taped and exchanged for three dollars. Our witness in our community is in the process of being expanded to include three and one half million dollars in building and renovating.

I saw again, the ministries with the church must be designed to equip us to fulfill the commission in Judea—our community.

Fulfilling the commission in Samaria. Samaria represents the other side of the track—places and people for whom we do not care and tied with. The Christian church must be called into question with respect to Samaria. I am afraid that we have assumed a self-righteous posture. We talk negatively, look down our noses and criticize those for whom we do not care. We are long on preaching, shouting, singing, participating in our fraternities and sororities, but where is our witness in Samaria? We had rather talk about the ills of our society as opposed to doing something about

them. Let us forget, the church house is a hospital and a hospital is a place for sick folks. Some of us are sicker than others, but all of us are sick some. All have sinned and come short.

We are in the process of organizing the men of our church to take our witness into Samaria.

Fulfilling the commission in the uttermost parts of the earth. Our witness at Saint Paul is to give away ten percent of our income to Missions, Benevolence and Christian Education. We do this by supporting the objectives of the General Baptist State Convention, Progressive National Baptist Convention and American Baptist. Many of our members are involved with me in lending our witness to the uttermost parts of the earth.

Conclusion
It is so easy and simple to stay at Jerusalem. In one sense, it's safe to stay at home. When you move out to Judea, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the earth, you invite the vicious attack of the devil and all of his hellish imps—I know this full well. On the other hand, its dangerous to tarry at Jerusalem too long. In so doing, we invite the displeasure of God upon us. As Dr. Clark says, "I don't know how you feel about it, but I had rather go and do battle with the devil than to invoke the pleasure of the Almighty".

If we would fulfill this commission, we must first receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. When we receive Him, we will go as commanded and great will be our witness.

First Citizens Bank Gives UNCC Contribution

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte has been given a contribution by First Citizens Bank to fund awards to honor its faculty for outstanding research and creative activities. Since 1968 UNCC has presented awards for excellence in teaching.

Chancellor E.K. Fretwell Jr. of UNCC and Harry Nicholas, regional vice president of First Citizens Bank, jointly announced the creation of the UNCC Scholar's Awards with funding provided by the North Carolina bank.

Fretwell said, "We have long recognized that research and other creative achievement are essential to good teaching, which is our primary mission. These scholarly activities keep professors close to the cutting edge of their fields and thus make them more knowledgeable teachers."

Dean Robert Carrubba of the Graduate School of UNCC said, "Nominations are to be based on the excellence and importance of contributions in research and creative activities, for example, a scientific discovery, a book, a series of related articles, a novel, sculpture, or painting."

Nicholas stated the bank has been looking for ways to demonstrate its faith in the academic community and this opportunity presented itself at the right time. The awards are to be in the form of a cash prize and a medal and will be presented at an annual "distinctive ceremony and reception presided over by the chancellor and an official of First Citizens Bank."

Dr. William M. Britt, vice chancellor for development, thanked First Citizens for the gift which he said will provide for an annual budget of \$6,500 to cover the awards and the presentation ceremony. He said that First Citizens' quick response to the request by Charles Myerly of the UNCC Foundation and

Carrubba "is a clear signal of the bank's commitment to higher education."

The Graduate School of UNCC will administer the awards program, according to Dean Carrubba. "The

Scholar's Awards will add balance to the recognition of the faculty contribution to the University's overall mission of teaching, research and public service," he added.

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MEDIA RELEASE

The Gethsemane A.M.E. Zion Church announces the sponsorship of the child care food program. Meals will be available at no charge to the enrolled children at the center listed below and will be provided without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap.

GETHSEMANE DAY CARE

531 Campus Street

The following family size and income standards are used to determine eligibility:

INCOME CHART

FAMILY SIZE	FREE			REDUCED		
	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
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2	9,412	785	181	13,394	1,117	258
3	11,856	988	228	16,872	1,406	325
4	14,300	1,192	275	20,350	1,696	392
5	16,744	1,396	322	23,828	1,986	459
6	19,188	1,599	369	27,306	2,276	526
7	21,632	1,803	416	30,784	2,566	592
8	24,076	2,007	463	34,262	2,856	659
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