



Family

West Chicago Church of Christ

Volume 40, Issue 11 • March 16, 2008

A Preacher's Perspective

Does the dandelion picture make you want to sneeze? Sorry about that! But, it does illustrate an important spiritual point. Without seed-scattering and pollination, the spiritual harvest (or any other kind of harvest) is severely limited.

Maybe you've heard about the bees? In the last year, the world has seen an incredible drop in the number of bees. Like 30%! If you're like me, you may think, "So what?" But a

recent documentary I watched made it clear that life on planet earth is pretty dependent on the presence of bees. I was amazed to learn that hives are transported all over the country to pollinate crops. The blueberry farmers of the northeast spend over \$900,000 annually to the rent-a-bee owners.

There is major research about the cause of the dwindling bee population. No one is sure. It may be viruses, it may be the frequencies from cell phones. But without a cure, our ability to create food will be seriously compromised.

Consider how basic are the bee and the dandelion. The fragile plants, toys to children and a nightmare to lawn lovers, gently give up their seeds to any friendly breeze and the hearty crops of the rascally weeds testify to the effectiveness of God's design.

Would that we should do so well as bees and dandelions. One of the challenges to virtually all American churches is the lack of growth of the number of new believers. Statisticians, such as George Barna, say there is almost no real conversion going on. The mega-churches we see all over our urban area are really filled with "shifters" rather than "seekers." Church attenders seem to be looking for that full-service, family-friendly facility which meets all their needs, and has Starbuck's, too.

Do you really think that's what Jesus had in mind?

I think His idea was more of the bee and dandelion variety. I think He meant for us to be relentless spreaders of seed and constantly engaged in pollinating the fields which He described, in His day, as "white unto harvest."

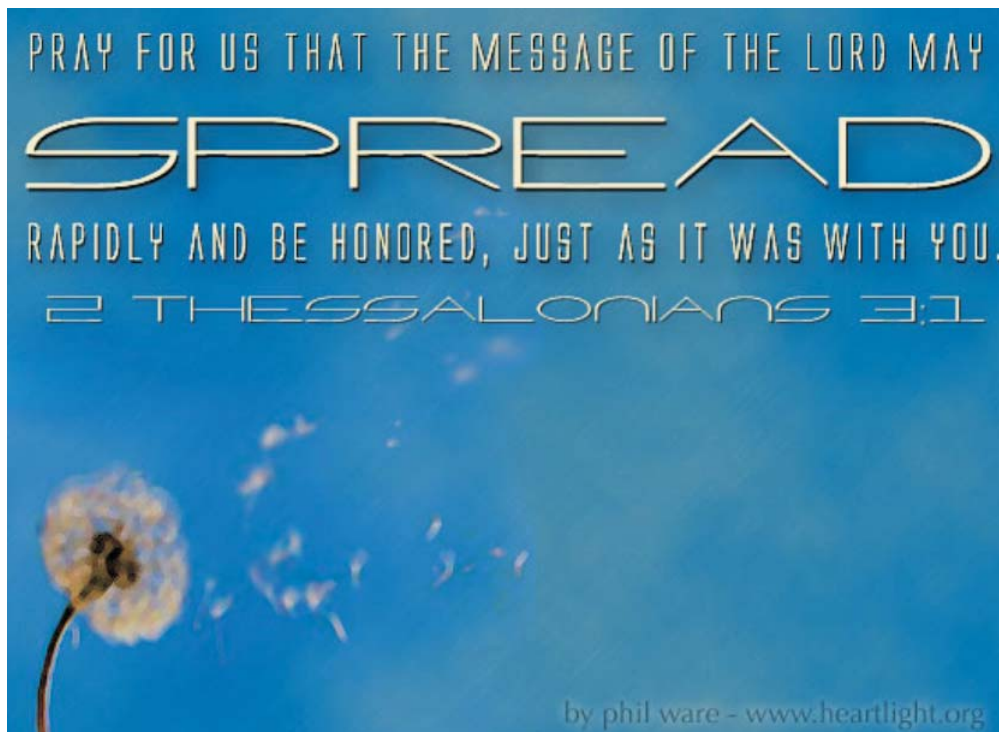
Today's question is, when He returns, will He find faith

on the earth?

This week we will be visited by some pretty good pollinators and seed-spreaders, Gailyn and Becky Van Rheenan (see p. 4). They have worked all their lives in spreading the gospel: in Africa, through training mission workers, and now in planting churches in American cities.

Come visit with them on Wednesday night so we can learn better how to spread the word.

Chuck Miller



Welcome to the West Chicago Church of Christ

If you are visiting with us, we especially want to welcome you. We pray our time together worshipping our Father in heaven will be uplifting and encouraging.

Bible classes are available for all ages. Babies can be taken to the nursery located at the back of the auditorium. All other children meet in classrooms downstairs. Teens meet in the teen room, which is also located at the back of the auditorium. Adult classes meet in the auditorium and in the fellowship room downstairs.

Our Small Group Fellowship program takes place during the fall, winter and spring months and is on the first and third Sundays of each month and is in lieu of the Sunday evening worship. The Small Group Fellowship schedule does change occasionally due to holidays.

You are an honored guest and we want to thank you for being a part of our worship this morning!

- Sunday Morning Bible Class 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
(The Sunday Morning Worship is interpreted for the deaf.)
- Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
(No evening worship on Small Group Fellowship Sundays)
- Wednesday Evening Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of our elders.

Elders:

- Don Brewster Bob Jett
- Chuck Miller Bob Voigts

Deacons:

- Justin Avey:** Benevolence, Fellowship, Stewardship & Leadership
- Jay Hearn:** Worship & Pulpit, Communications, Outreach, Education, Benevolence
- Cliff Plummer:** Fellowship, Benevolence, Education
- Curt Robinson:** Education, Stewardship & Leadership
- Rick Root:** Communications, Education, Stewardship & Leadership
- Paul Stirrup:** Stewardship & Leadership, Benevolence



350 East James Avenue
West Chicago, Illinois 60185
(630) 231-2062
wcfamily@wcfamily.org
www.wcfamily.org

This Morning...

Please take a moment to fill out an attendance card, especially if you are a guest this morning. Please pass them to the aisle to be picked up before the sermon. Prayer cards are also available in the pew rack. You may choose to have prayers by the elders, a prayer warrior or by the whole church family. If you choose "whole church family" it will be announced following the sermon.

Order of Worship

- Welcome
- Singing - Dewayne Smith
- Announcements - Paul Mullins
- Singing
- Prayer - Scott Fordyce
- Singing
- Lord's Supper - John Johnson
- Contribution and Prayer Card Collection
- Sermon - Chuck Miller
- Singing
- Prayer Card Responses and Prayer - Bob Voigts
- Announcements
- Singing
- Closing Prayer - Paul Mercer

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- March 19 Pat Brewster
- March 22 Linda Vantrees

Dates to Remember

- March 16 Small Groups
- March 19 Seniors Breakfast
- March 19 Mission Alive Visit
- March 23 Easter
- March 28 Friday FUN Night
- March 29 Ladies Day Out/Quilting
- March 30 VBS Picnic Meeting
- March 30 Sunday Night Light/Teens

Records You Helped Make

- Sunday Morning Bible Class 67
- Sunday Morning Worship 114
- Wednesday Evening Bible Class 45
- Contribution \$4,804.04

Please Note:

The March calendar that was distributed last Sunday is missing the last day of the month - March 31st. There are no events, birthdays or anniversaries on that day.

In Our Prayers...

Bob Czernik, Chris's husband, is experiencing many complications due to cancer.

Doug Dorsey, Al's son, is having lung problems due to mold and asbestos.

Josephine Haggerton has several health issues and will be going through tests the beginning of April.

Norvell McCord, Shelby Root's grandfather, passed away on Saturday. Our special prayers are with Shelby.

Frances Shearer suffered a moderate heart attack on Tuesday. She is home from the hospital and doing well.

Chester Sitler had gall stones removed on Friday. He expects to be home today.

Darryl Vaden had knee replacement surgery on Thursday. He should be home today.

Jim Whitman is recuperating from pneumonia.

Those suffering with long-term issues:

Herman Aultman - Bobbie Whitman's brother
Andrea Bailey - a former member from California

Irene Barnes - Lynette Root's aunt

Paul & Judy Bertrand - Lynette Root's parents

Lisa Beverly - Sandy Boyd's sister who has MS

Bonnie Bingham

Leona Boston - Lynette Root's aunt

Jim Brannon - Pat Brewster's brother-in-law

Mary Brent - Joe Kirts' sister

Nancy Brewster

Jim & Julie Chavez

John Day

Lisa DeVaney - Marie Hayes' daughter

Al Dorsey

Chad Englebach - Marie Hayes' grandson

Amy Ferguson - a former member from Montana

Jean Gray - Linda Vantreese's sister

Elizabeth Griffin

Sarah Hayden & family - Maria Zeisler's relative

Mary Henkel - Mike's mother

Kathy Huml - John Pedersen's sister

Kelly Ieler

Amy Kalupski - sister-in-law of Julie Chavez's friend

Joe and Star Kuhnle - Chuck & Bobbye's foster son

Sue Lake - Marion's sister-in-law

Debbie Lawrence - Bobbie Whitman's niece

Don Lemley

Anne Librande - Joanne Johnson's mother

Steve Link

Jack Lockett - the father of Charlie, Mike, Shelley,

Julie Chavez, Missy Kissane, & Becky Pedersen

Mike Lockett - Joan's son

Laura Mahan - Shirley Rucker's daughter

Steve & Melissa Massie family

Danielle Nichols - Alyssa Milam's niece

Tim Miller

Josh Otte - Chris Czernik's nephew and the son of

Marion Lake's cousin

Doug Peterson

Melinda Poff - the sister of Jason Willis

Neal & Pat Ronzheimer

Fintan Schiltz - the infant son of the Hearn's neighbors

Kay Schrader

Chester & Phyllis Sitler

Margo Smetana - infant daughter of Steve Link's friend

Bruce Snyder - Bob Voigts cousin

Cindy Stewart - Bob Voigts' cousin

Ollie Taylor - the niece of Lynette Root's friend

Linda Vantreese

Bob Voigts

Eudie Voigts - Bob's mother

Jim & Jamie Winner

Jeremy Whitman

Rick & Gina Zamora

Mothers-to-be:

Renell Johnston - former member

Armed forces overseas:

Greg Billings - Justin Avey's employee

Dustin Meritt - Justin Avey's employee

Chris & Jennifer Roberts - Cathleen Longfellow's
sister & brother-in-law are going to Iraq for 16
months, they have a 1-year-old daughter

Shane - the son of LeAnn Sexton, a friend of

Lori Plummer's

David Teel - Justin Avey's employee

Missionaries:

Jarrold, Allison, Soledad & Levi Brown - Honduras
(especially for their adoption process of Soledad)

Obadiah Doka & Family - Nigeria

Dry Bones Ministry - homeless teens in Denver, CO

Keith, Kim, Candace, Laura & John Mark
Lango - Brazil

Makinde Olufemi - Nigeria

Shults-Lewis - the teens, their families, the
workers

Enoch & Jeannine Thweatt - Taiwan

Joe Voigts - China - also pray for the

churches and all the new Christians

Nursery Workers

Theresa & Sabrina Link



Collection Counters

Jeff Ieler, Rick Root



Visitors to the Flower Show on Friday: Chuck, Joyce, Maxine, Joan, Tom, Nancy, Cliff, Lori, and Olivia. Cole took the photo.

The West Chicago Church of Christ Story

Tom Doggett has produced a DVD about the West Chicago Church of Christ. Pick up your copy, which is the DVD with your picture on the cover, located on the table in the foyer.

Friday Fun Night

A Friday Fun Night is on the calendar for **Friday, March 28th**, but we need someone to organize an activity. Please talk to Lori or Cliff if you can help.

Ladies Day Out – Quilting

Francis Shearer will reschedule the quilting party when she has recuperated more fully from her recent heart attack.

Blood Drive

The Heartland Blood Center is interested in holding a blood drive at our address. We must have at least 20 people guaranteed to give blood for them to bring their mobile unit and at least 25 people to have it in the church building. Please sign up in the foyer and mark the areas which refer to you – whether as able to give blood or as a volunteer. Also, please refer to the information posted to find out if you are eligible to give blood. See Sally with questions.

Food Pantry

The food pantry could use cereal, such as Cheerios, Life, Rice Krispies, etc. Place your donations in the bin under the table by the restrooms. Thank you!

Also, we were blessed this month when we received the food from the Northern Illinois Food Bank. Cyndi Perez brought some of her students and their assistants to the building and they stocked the shelves for us. Thanks, Cyndi!

Wednesday Ladies Class

The book reviews continue the next several weeks with the following:

March 19 Power of the Praying Women/Wife/Parent
March 26 Ultimate Book Review: Survey of the Bible
The atmosphere is casual and refreshments are served.

National Teachers Workshop

The Sheldon Heights Church of Christ is hosting a teachers workshop, “Teaching All Things.” It will be held at the Holiday Inn, 500 Holiday Plaza Drive, in Matteson, Illinois from Thursday, April 17, until Saturday, April 19.

There is package registration or a la carte registration. Check the information on the bulletin board and sign up if you are interested. Cliff will contact you about registration. **Please sign up as soon as possible.** We are already registering late.

Youth & Family News

TEENS: The college trip to visit Oklahoma Christian is scheduled for Thursday, March 27, through Saturday, March 29. See Cliff no later than next Sunday if you plan to go.

Our next **Sunday Night, Light** is scheduled for March 30. Christian Mathews is speaking.

Mark your calendars for a **Connection Point at North Park** on Sunday, April 6.

SENIORS: The Seniors Breakfast is this Wednesday, March 19, at 10:00 a.m. at the Colonial Restaurant on Route 38 by Randall Road. Hope to see you there!

Honduras Trip

The Honduras Mission Trip is scheduled to depart on Saturday, August 2 and will return Sunday, August 10. **The commitment deadline to go is Sunday, April 20.** A \$250 deposit to the church is due that day. Apply for a passport NOW, if you do not have one. For more information or if you have any questions, see Emily Gray.

Small Groups

Today is Small Group Fellowships. Please see Don Brewster, Cliff Plummer or Bob Voigts, if you would like to join a group today. **Remember there is no worship scheduled for this evening.**

VBS Meeting

“God’s Big Back Yard” is the theme for our VBS program this summer. If you’d like to be involved and help plan this year’s program, join us for a “picnic” lunch and informational meeting on **Sunday, March 30th**. Sign-up on the sheet in the foyer.

Baptism!

Chuck Miller’s friend **Jason Thomson** was baptized on Thursday night. We rejoice in this important step in Jason’s life.

Mission Alive

On Wednesday, Gailyn and Becky Van Rheenan will be with us to share a vision for church planting in urban areas. The Van Rheenans have worked in Kenya as missionaries, and Gailyn was a missions professor at ACU. He is one of the most knowledgeable men in our brotherhood in the area of missions. Gailyn left the classroom to begin his work in starting churches in American cities. The adults will combine classes on Wednesday night to have a chance to visit with Gailyn and Becky.