

PASTOR'S CORNER

19th & C Streets, Antioch, 778-1893

January – March 2011

**With intensity the lady said her response to God would be,
“You shouldn’t let me in because I hate you...”** God Help us all to be

better listeners and not be quick to judge...When people have a strong reaction against the gospel there is always a story behind it. If we can learn not to react to the emotionally charged moment and instead keep our heads and invite the person to share their story, we may connect in a very real and potentially life changing way.

I had a brief conversation with a couple at a gas station in Antioch. They had come to the COC for dinner that night and we had given them a voucher for some gas. Later, as I was putting gas in my own car, I noticed the couple next to me putting gas in their car. We had some conversation earlier in the night and I thought, “I am not going to just stand here and be silent...I want to go deeper with this couple if I can.” I wondered what to say and just simply asked, “Were you exposed to any church growing up as kids...?” The man said, “Yes...many churches” and the woman said, “Yes catholic.” I asked what they thought happened to people when they leave this place...? He said, “Heaven or hell” and she said, “They come back as someone else.” I asked, “What would you say if you stood before God and He were to say to you, why should I let you into my heaven?” The guy talked about good works and she said with a tone of anger and bitterness, “I would say, you shouldn’t let me in because I hate you...and you can go to h _ _ _.” At this moment, I affirmed her pain and asked her with tenderness, why she had so much anger towards God in her...She then opened up to me about being molested as a child and how her mom knew it was going on but did nothing...and how God allowed it to happen to her and did nothing. My heart hurt for her and tears filled my eyes as she talked. She could see I wasn’t judging her. I just listened and hurt with her. After the conversation, she paused and told me she needed to tell me something. She said, “Thank you for not preaching to me or giving me a bunch of psychobabble. Thank you for listening to me and giving me something to think about.” I had told her that the God she hated was not the God of the Bible and though there is no good answer for why what happened to her happened, I know God loves her and I encouraged her to look at the life of Jesus to see how He could help her find great purpose now. She was deeply encouraged by the conversation and so was I.

If I had responded to her hatred towards God by going straight to Jesus...I don’t think we would have had such a positive conversation. I think she would have forcefully shut me down, but because I spent the time listening to her story and empathizing with her, it opened the door for further and significant dialogue. God help us to grow better at listening to others...God help us to be quick to listen...slow to speak and slow to become angry...

We want to see an Army of sympathetic believers going out listening to and loving people. We have a huge assignment to follow-up with over 200 families and individuals who attended our Thanksgiving dinners or some COC event...We could use your help. If you are available...just show up and we will put you on a team directed by a trained leader...All our visitation now meets at the Antioch Campus...(1800 Woodland...across from Fosters Freeze). Schedule below...By the way...I know some other churches are represented in our data base and we invite any of you to join us...When we go out...we are doing kingdom work and ultimately hope to introduce Jesus...and then segway people into any good church...Your participation is welcome.

Join Us Sometime...We go out Every Tuesday...Thursday and Saturday Mornings

At the Antioch Campus...Prayer @ 9am...Fellowship and Discussions @ 9:30am...Team Formations @ 9:50am...Dispatch Teams @ 10am...Return and Report @ 11:45am...Done by Noon

Gospel Class Outreach Ministries

The following is from the heart of Jerry Turley...concerning the ongoing event outreach ministry...

Last summer we were visiting people at the Garden Court Apartments in Antioch, going door to door, to see if people had a church home or not...and to just be available...Several key relationships began...using the gospel questions...(questions we learn in the gospel class). Having formed some great relationships we decided to treat the complex to a BBQ with hot dogs, hamburgers, beans, macaroni salad, and many home made dishes.



There was face painting, caricature drawings, and games for the kids. The barbeque was wonderful for everyone.

One week before Halloween, we decided to have a pumpkin give away at the Antioch church. We gave away 60 pumpkins, a bag of candy and an ice cream cone to every kid that went to Sunday school that Sunday. We invited all the children in the Garden Court Apartments and tried to encourage their parents to take them. That Sunday was the largest attendance the Antioch church has ever had.



One week or so before Thanksgiving, we handed out invitations to all the people at the Garden Court Apartments. The Golden Hills Community Church Thanksgiving dinner was held at the Veterans Hall on 6th St. We saw and served many of the people we invited from the Garden Court Apartments.

This week we handed out flyers for a bible study class which started Friday, January 7th, at the Garden Court Apartments...This has become kind of an "adopt an apartment ministry"...Soon we will start a bible study class for the Spanish speaking people living there. If you are interested in helping as we reach out to other apartments...a senior apartment complex we treated to a Thanksgiving dinner and now has given us permission to start a bible study...and a convalescent hospital on A Street that also has invited us to come...Please call Tracie at 516-0653.

Serving a Thanksgiving Luncheon at a Senior Apartment Complex



D.L. Moody quoted the following...“Do you want to know how you can reach the masses? Go to their homes and enter into sympathy with them. Tell them you have come to do them good, and let them see that you have a heart to feel for them. When they find out that you really love them, all those things that are in their hearts against God and against Christianity will be swept out of the way.”

Example of one relationship built through outreach to a family...This is from the heart of Anthony Grose...Just around Christmas one of our visitation teams (Gail Gillin, Anthony Grose and his brother-law Albert) went to a family with 5 children and no money, food or presents for Christmas. The father was very depressed and rather disillusioned about Christmas and not really happy about the initial visit...His wife is in poor health and with severe financial distress facing the family they weren't looking forward to Christmas...After an initial, visit the family was asked if we could help brighten up their Christmas...They were reluctantly open...maybe a little skeptical. Maryjane wrote a letter to a small group of Christian friends, to let them know of the need and requested prayer and any practical help that could be given. The group responded with big hearts...Anthony made several trips to the families house with eight bags and boxes of food, ham, pies, cookies and treats. They collected over \$185.00 in cash enabling them to buy each one of the boys a gift card so that they can purchase much needed clothing. The boys received two sets of stockings, one filled with school supplies and the other filled with toys and candy. Among other items donated were back packs, blankets, baby clothes and family games. Among the items donated for the parents a \$50.00 gift card to The Outback, and a \$50.00 American Express Card. With remaining monies we purchased a warm puffy vest for the Dad and since she is scheduled to have surgery somewhere around January 19th, they purchased a robe and slippers for her. This family will never be the same...Their Christmas was transformed by the generosity of a small group of concerned people...

Anthony writes, “My prayer for the New Year for all is that God may continue to reveal himself and Love on us as we boldly step out in faith for him. He knows our every need and desire, and as our Father, he wants to bless and provide for us according to his will. <><

John 15:5- *“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”*

Prayer Every Wednesday morning at 7:30am at the Antioch Campus...Come join us for an hour of seeking God's face together for our community

Saturday Kids' Club

Julie writes about our need for help with our Saturday Kids' Club. We meet the first and second Saturday of the month at C & 19th in Antioch. Our goal is to eventually have it every Saturday, and we need volunteers to help us carry out all of the fabulous plans for these wonderful children. You don't have to commit to EVERY first or second Saturday, a few times a year would be a huge help! Everything we do on Saturdays is an opportunity to share God's love by showing an interest in His precious children and enjoying their company.

The whole year is scheduled with activities...Here are just the next four months...

January: Play puzzles and games with prizes, decorate and eat sugar cookies, and read winter stories.

February: Make winter and Valentine crafts.

March: Movie day with popcorn, soda, and other movie related treats.

April: Easter activities with an egg hunt.

Unfortunately, all of these great plans are subject to change based on how many volunteers are available on a given day. To make Saturdays a success we need you. You can help in many ways – reading a story, passing out snacks, making snacks, leading us in prayer, overseeing a craft table, or helping a child one on one, to name a few. Come down and spend a couple of hours from 10:15-12:45. I promise you will come away feeling blessed. If you are interested call Julie at 240-1128

Julie Verhaek

Field Trip Meeting Tuesday January 17th at the COC at 6pm..

This is from Angela Gallegos...Greetings to all past and present COC Field trip helpers. A planning meeting is in the works to be held on the evening of January 17th at the COC at 6pm in the Learning Center to plan the 2011 COC Field trips.

As you know it takes a village to run these monthly trips and it's really important to have everyone's input and ideas in order to make these trips possible. For 2011 our monies are very limited so we'll have to really think out of the box as we plan trips that will take the minimal amount of money.

Please carve out some time to attend this planning meeting and more importantly let me know which date works for you. If you no longer want on be on this list, please let me know and I'll remove you.

Have a blessed day! Sincerely, Angela

Transformed Conference Coming To GHCC

Ray Comfort and The Way of the Master Team are coming August 20th of this year to do a “*Transformed Conference*” at GHCC. **Our first Planning Meeting is Jan 23rd** – (at GHCC - W248 from 1:30 to 3pm).

We will need many hands to help make this an excellent conference...

Anyone interested in helping please come to the meeting...

The 8 week Gospel Class begins April 10th...