

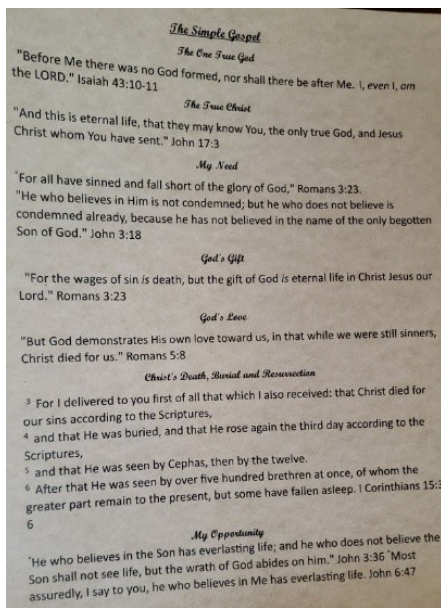


Wade's December 2024 Newsletter

What a wonderful time of year it is! Of late we have been studying the book of Philippians in our nursing home Bible Studies. In that book the Apostle Paul emphasizes joy in Christ and how to maintain it. But he also speaks of his own sorrows. That is the way it is with the Christmas season. There are many reasons to rejoice over the birth of the Christ Child but also there are sorrows and sadness over the many losses and problems we face in this life

Reaching the Elderly with the Gospel

One of the methods I use to reach the elderly in nursing homes is to print the Gospel on card stock. The stiff paper is much easier for them to hold and there are no pages to turn. The simple Gospel is presented in Scripture passages that tell us what we must know and believe to be saved. On the back is a sample prayer which helps the person express to the Lord what they believe and what to ask, i.e. forgiveness and eternal life.



For follow up I make another card stock sheet that gives passages that express how we know we are saved, i.e. assurance of salvation.

Again, there is a prayer on the back to help the person pray after reading the Scriptures. There is a brief introduction to each passage which identifies who is speaking/writing. I leave the first card for the resident to read over. Later, I go over it with them. If they have prayed for salvation or pray in my presence, I give them the card that tells them of the assurance of salvation. I hear expressions of belief and appreciation, especially with regard to the assurance of salvation. One man, a former well driller by trade, went over the Simple Gospel on his own. His wife came to me to thank me and tell me that her husband said he had “prayed the prayer.” I followed up with the Assurance card and he was delighted to get it not taking his eyes off the card as he thanked me for coming.

Another use of the card stock is to put the passage of Scripture I am teaching from in very big print. A resident who has only one functioning hand reads the Scripture passage for us just prior to the study. He gets to participate in serving the Lord and it gives a double emphasis on the passage for better memory of the residents. Also, I prepare a devotional from Our Daily Bread on card stock and the same man participates in sharing with his room mate the devotional for that day.

Church Outreaches

In my last newsletter I reported to you how our church did an outreach to the County Fair. Then in September we did an outreach to the Car Club display on main street of Torrington, Wyoming. The club meets many different places throughout the year. Our church set up a display

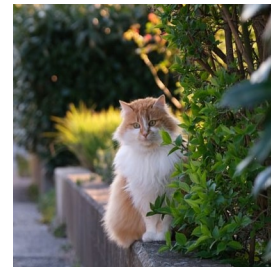


of Tracts and DVD's along with kid's games. Gradually, people began to notice and participate. Myself and others walked the street looking for opportunities to pass out DVD's of “The Jesus Movie” and “God of

Wonders” which covers the subjects of Creation, Conscience, and the Glory of God. Both DVD’s contain a presentation of the Gospel. With left over DVD’s I was able to share the Gospel with some of my unsaved neighbors as well as nursing home staff.

Unexpected Opportunity

He loved cats and cars and collected both. Bill was my neighbor for nearly 3 decades. A few years ago, I had him over for Bible study but his mind clearly was not on the Bible nor the Lord. More recently I invited him to watch a DVD on end times. He often talked of all the things wrong in the world. Again, he was not interested.



Recently he began having breathing problems and was put on oxygen. At 81 years old he was still convinced he had 20 years left and was not deeply concerned. I had planned to go to Idaho for Thanksgiving. Waiting on a couple of important phone calls postponed my departure and with storms and slick roads in West Wyoming I changed my mind and stayed home. On Saturday my friend called me from the hospital. I went to see him Sunday afternoon. He was still convinced he had 20 years to live even though the doctor had told him he had about a month. I told him “Let’s assume the doctor is right and look into the Bible.” He agreed. I started with the lake of fire and then presented the Gospel. Not the usual procedure I know but I certainly had his attention. I shared the Gospel from the Bible and returned again Monday to go through it again. By that time, he understood salvation by grace through faith. Tuesday, I returned again to review with him and a family member was there to talk about property issues. I left them to talk and returned Wednesday. The nurse told me he had been sleeping very soundly. I spoke to him softly but did not try to awaken him. I would just return the next day. Thursday his family member called to say Bill had passed

away Wednesday evening. I do not know what took place in his heart concerning the Gospel. He never said. But the way God orchestrated circumstances so I could present the Gospel to him assures me that he trusted in Christ.

Christmas Cards for the Elderly

This is a picture of the pop-up Christmas card I sent to the nursing home residents. For some it is the only Christmas decoration they have and they cherish it.



Rejoice! God with us!

Thank you for all you do to help me serve the Savior and may you have a wonderful blessed Christmas celebration.

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