



From our Pastor Search Committee

[Philemon 1:16b NLT](#)

...for he is a beloved *brother*, especially to me. Now he will mean much more to you, both as a man and as a *brother* in the Lord.

[Ephesians 2:19-21](#)

So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers...you are citizens along with all of God's holy people. *You are members of God's family*. Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. *We are carefully joined together in Him*, becoming a holy temple for the Lord.

[Romans 12:4-5](#)

Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. *We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other*.

[1 Corinthians 12:24-26](#)

So God has put the body together...This makes for *harmony* among the members, *so that all the members care for each other*. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.

[1 Corinthians 12:27](#)

All of you *together* are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.

Today I'm feeling *thankful*—thankful for two very specific truths. First of all, I'm thankful because the Lord “*loved me and gave Himself for me*”...for *ME*! How wonderful it is to have a Savior who willingly went to the cross with (unworthy!) *ME* on His mind! His *personal* love for me was proved when He “*gave Himself for me*” at Calvary. His love for *me* (and *you*—through faith in Him!) is so big, so pure, so much better than anything, that when I *think* on His love for me, it makes me respond, “Thank You, Lord! I *LOVE* You, too, Lord! I *SEEK* You, my Beloved King! What can I do today to show my love for *You*?”

As for the other truth for which I'm thankful, it's no less mind boggling: it's the fact that my Lord made me a member “*of God's family*.” Folks, our family members are no longer limited to those related by birth—our family includes *thousands* of beloved brothers and sisters in Christ to which we are now related *through His blood*. Through faith in Him, we now have a *heavenly* Father, *thousands* of beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, and even more remarkable—we are part of a *LOCAL* body of brothers and sisters! This local body that we are part of, “*God has put....together!*” “*We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other!*” Moreover, “*all the members care for each other*” physically and spiritually! As we spend time together (in worship, in service, in Bible Study, in fellowship, in prayer, in spreading the Gospel, in taking care of each other), we are *STRENGTHENED in HIM*! This makes me want to hang out with my local brothers and sisters in Christ even *more*...

Take time today to reflect on both these blessings, beloved: your Savior died for you (personally!), and He's given You *THIS* church body so “*carefully joined together in Him!*” With our eyes on Jesus and our hope in Him, we brothers and sisters in Christ can thank Him and trust Him...as we wait for our new pastor!

JUST WHAT IS A STEWARD?

Our church is about to embark on a three week series of Wednesday evening workshops on the topics of stewardship and giving. We all have an understanding of what “giving” constitutes, but what about “stewardship?” Turning to scripture, we find one of the best examples of what it means to be a steward in Genesis 43-44. This is the story of Joseph, son of Jacob, as second in command only to Pharaoh in the hierarchy of Egyptian political power. The word “steward” appears multiple times in those two chapters each referring to the same person so very greatly trusted by Joseph.

Let’s first look at the dictionary definition of the word. Merriam-Webster who has been producing dictionaries since 1828 tells us that “a steward is one employed in a large household or estate to manage domestic concerns as the supervision of servants, collection of rents, and keeping of accounts. Alternatively, he or she is a fiscal agent. In simple terms, a steward is a manager of someone’s assets.

Now let’s look at Genesis. Joseph directed his steward in 43:16 to take his as yet unrevealed brothers to his home, have an animal slaughtered, and a meal prepared for when Joseph could join them. Joseph’s steward guided them to Joseph’s house, provided them with water to wash their feet and fodder for their donkeys in 43:24. Both verses show the steward to be managing Joseph’s assets.

Genesis 44 shows even a greater degree of management by the steward and trust of the steward by Joseph. Joseph in 44:1-2 directs his steward to fill the sacks for each of the men with as much food as they can carry, to put the proper amount of silver in each sack, and to put Joseph’s silver cup in the sack of the youngest as a trap. Joseph then directs his steward in 44:4-5 to follow the men, and following a search of their sacks, take custody of them for having stolen Joseph’s cup. Genesis 44:6-13 offers the story of that confrontation, and the steward managing the situation, the assets, and Joseph’s brothers all on behalf of Joseph.

So how does this apply to us today? As Christians, we should know that God created us and everything else, and that He exerts ownership over all. *“The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.”* (Psalm 24:1). God owns it all, He gives to us out of His own abundance, and we need to recognize and remember His ownership of our time, our talents, and where our resources truly come from. We are the asset managers of what God has given us; we are His stewards! Hopefully and prayerfully, these upcoming workshops will remind all of us that we are stewards for Our Heavenly Father, and of using what He entrusts to us to support FBC, Newman locally, and fulfillment of the Great Commission in our neighboring communities, and around the globe.

*In Christ,
Carl Hughes*



‘THE GREAT MISUNDERSTANDING’ with Dave Ramsey

will be the Stewardship Workshop on (3) consecutive Wednesday’s...May 3rd, 10th & 17th from 6:30 to 8pm. At the halfway point we will serve finger foods, meats & cheeses with rolls, salads, desserts, coffee and tea. There’s a sign-up sheet in the foyer and we

would ask that you bring one of the above to share with everyone. We are praying that you join us for this special time of fellowship.

THE BIG PICTURE IN THE WEST

Since January, we have had in our weekly bulletin a series of prayer requests for specific North American Mission Board missionaries, church planters and the people groups they are working with throughout North America. While those weekly prayer requests will continue, your Mission Committee thought it would be helpful to provide you with the statistical big picture for some key urban areas in our region of the country, 'The West'. The chart below shows major western cities NAMB has identified as SEND Cities (targets for their 2017 efforts at church planting). For each city, the population is provided along with the percentage unaffiliated with any religious body, the percentage affiliated with an evangelical church, and the ratio of Southern Baptist churches to residents.

URBAN AREA	POPULATION	UNAFFILIATED WITH ANY RELIGIOUS BODY	AFFILIATED WITH EVANG. CHURCH	RATIO OF RESIDENTS TO SBC CHURCHES
Denver	4,324,908	63.3%	12.2%	20,401 to 1
Las Vegas	2,069,681	64.2%	7.7%	18,316 to 1
Los Angeles	10,116,705	46.9%	8.3%	16,833 to 1
Phoenix	5,493,625	62.0%	12.6%	18,497 to 1
Portland	2,630,343	69.3%	11.2%	27,399 to 1
Salt Lake City	2,418,653	20.8%	2.3%	40,994 to 1
San Francisco	7,561,755	60.7%	7.0%	16,619 to 1
Seattle	4,660,214	65.8%	11.9%	26,783 to 1

Pray for these urban Send City areas of the West where nearly nine out of ten residents have no relationship with Christ, and where there are far too few people in the region telling them about Jesus.
Your Mission Committee

We have a verse of the year, each year for the business I work. I was recently organizing my home office and sorting through the pretty postcards that have each years verse printed on them; I keep them handy to constantly remind myself of who I'm ultimately working for. The one that has always stood out to me was last year's, taken from Colossians 3:23 "*work willingly at whatever you do as if you were working for the Lord, rather than people.*" Wow! That's a hard one to follow in any business, let alone in our everyday interactions with people. When I had first read it, I quickly "hid" it in my heart because I knew I would need it!! I recite it often in my head as I'm dealing with customers, as well as my personal interactions. It is not an easy task to work as we if we are working for the Lord when people are involved!! The same goes for working and serving in our church. I believe those two words are interchangeable. One would think church would be the easiest place to do so, but guess what? People are there! People are sinners, we aren't perfect, so serving together is not always going to go smoothly. However, when we remind ourselves that we are to serve/work as we are serving/working for the Lord, it can be glorious in His sight. I encourage you to also remind yourself of these words from Colossians, serve and work for your church, each other, your community, your co-workers, your family, as you would the Lord!

Blessings, Jennifer Lane

Serving the Lord

QUESTION: Will we have a Vacation Bible School at FBC, Newman this summer?

ANSWER: Yes, if we have 22 adults sign up to volunteer by Wednesday, May 10.

QUESTION: When is Vacation Bible School scheduled?

ANSWER: Monday, June 19 thru Friday, June 23 from 6:00PM to 8:15PM.

QUESTION: What ages will Vacation Bible School Serve?

ANSWER: From Pre-K thru Adult.

QUESTION: What curriculum are we using for Vacation Bible School?

ANSWER: Lifeway's "Galactic Starveyors" with the featured verse Colossians 1:15-16

QUESTION: What happens if we do not have 22 volunteers by Wednesday, May 10.

ANSWER: There will simply be no Vacation Bible School at FBC, Newman this summer, and we will miss an awesome opportunity to evangelize our community with the Good News of Jesus.



FOUR WAYS TO PROVOKE GOSPEL CONVERSATIONS WITH PEOPLE AT WORK

(extracted from an April 25, 2017 IMB article written by Sebastian Traeger)

1. How We Speak

The easiest way to identify yourself as a Christian is with your words. The people you work with should know you are a Christian, that your faith is central to you, and that you attend church gatherings regularly. Don't operate in stealth mode. When someone asks how your weekend was, go beyond the standard response of "Good, how about you?" Tell them about church or how you shared life with church friends. It is increasingly rare to meet Christians in the workplace. Letting others know you're a Christian makes you available to weaker believers and sets an example to non-believers.

We should also use words to encourage and build up. Go out of your way to compliment people on the work they're doing. Let them know you appreciate them. Be specific and thoughtful.

Conversely, we must be conscious of the temptation to join in grumbling and gossiping. These patterns of speech are often normal in the workplace. As Christians, we are not normal—our citizenship is with another world. You may feel the magnetic pull daily to unload all of your cynical thoughts, but don't give in.

Finally, use questions well. Questions are a great way to condition yourself to not be self-focused and self-absorbed. They draw people out, and they tend to cause people to ask you questions back. Something as simple as, "What are you reading?" can give great insight into a coworker's life and worldview.

2. How We Work

Work with excellence. When you make your faith known, you're effectively volunteering to hold a giant microscope up over your head. Expect to be quietly scrutinized.

Our work should be done in a way that reflects the creativity, purpose, and goodness of God. We should take pride in our work as image bearers and representatives of our King. But we need to expand the definition of doing good beyond just the notion of job performance and skill to include words like faithful, honest, and servant-hearted. The content of our lives at work should reinforce, not undermine, the content of the gospel message we share.

3. How We Relate

Although we don't want our coworkers to be "projects," we do want to be proactive and strategic about the relationships we build with coworkers in order to break through the professional boundaries that can form.

You can do this by using meals—particularly lunch—strategically. Getting away from the office and the usual office banter is very helpful. Along the same lines, consider having a colleague and his or her family over to your home for a meal. In helpful ways, people

are different outside the office and often more open to sharing their backgrounds, history, and life story. In addition, it's a powerful gesture of friendship that provides a window into another aspect of your life.

4. How We Live

Our life patterns can commend the gospel by:

- Being someone who speaks in ways that honor your spouse and your family.
- Being a faithful, conscientious parent.
- Being the one to take the lead to serve a colleague in need and perhaps organizing others to do the same.
- Visiting a colleague in the hospital.
- Learning the names of a colleague's spouse and children and asking about them.

These kinds of actions should be the pattern of our lives. They can powerfully provoke others to ask questions and open doors for us to share the good news of Christ.

Your Mission Committee