November 8, 2026

West Hill Church of Christ

All In

Focus 2026

Reaching Secular People

By Spencer Clark

How do we reach people who have little to no interest in Christianity? In America, we face a unique situation: many Americans have a general awareness of Christianity and may even identify as "Christian" and expect to go to heaven, yet their lives remain largely unchanged by the gospel of Christ.

A helpful biblical parallel may be the Syrophoenician woman mentioned in the Gospels (Mark 7:26). Although she was born outside Jewish culture, she had some awareness of the "scraps" of truth that fell from the "table of the children" (7:27). This is true of many secular people today. They have been influenced by the remnants of Western "Christian" culture without possessing a true knowledge of God or His will for their lives. Their lives may be sinful by comparison with those of believers, yet they retain an awareness of morality and truths that ultimately derive from a biblical worldview.

How do people become secular? Increasingly, children are born into homes with little or no faith or awareness of Christian teaching. Their parents or grandparents may once have believed in some form of Christianity but later abandoned their faith for various reasons. Others may have deliberately rejected Christianity after encountering secular philosophy in school, faith-related trauma, negative church experiences, or the power of sin in their lives. Interestingly, many of these people still believe they "should" attend church or "should" do what is right, yet they remain completely alienated from God.

So how do we reach such people? First, we must recognize that they are not starting from the same place we are. They may not know who Abraham, Isaac, or Jacob were. They may not know the parables or miracles of Jesus. If we speak to them as though they should already understand these things, we may create shame or indifference and push them away. Instead, we need to meet them where they are and communicate in a way they can understand. This may mean helping them make sense of Christianity in ways that they can understand rather than what comes easily to us.

Second, we need to expose them to the reality of Christianity. This means introducing them to faithful Christians so they can see what genuine believers are like. It means teaching them the truth about Christianity rather than allowing pop culture or a Netflix documentary to define the faith for them. It means showing them what true, authentic worship looks like—not a worldly Christian entertainment complex that is all about making us feel better. They need to see what real Christianity looks like, rather than remain trapped in misconceptions informed by their environment. Through all of this, we must direct them to the truth of the gospel with a prayerful heart, trusting God to give the increase.

Secular people represent one of the more difficult populations to reach, yet they also offer tremendous opportunities. They are people without hope or a greater meaning beyond themselves. Above all, they need the saving power of the gospel of Christ. How will you seek to reach secular people?

Sunday: Worship 10:30am & Class 5:00pm
Tuesday: Benevolence 9:00-10:00am & Young at Heart Class 10:30am
Wednesday: Class 6:30pm

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Replacing your Sword
The Sword Series

When people are warned about _____ looming…what do they do?

Jesus has been giving several warnings…

- "I am going to _____"
- "Rome will _____ Jerusalem"
- "They will _____ you"

Luke 22:36 – "It's time to buy _____"

_____
_____
_____

Luke 22:49-51; Matthew 26:52 – Jesus and Peter in the Garden

_____
_____
_____

Have we become the _____ Culture?

_____
_____

Something we all need to remember: The world without Jesus will act like the world

_____ _____

- _____ are not bad
- But does being _____ or having people _____ us allow for "Cutting off their ear?" No.
- Have we Forgotten: "Farther _____ Them," "_____ the other Cheek," "Love your _____" "Pray for those who _____ you"

What can we do?
Do the Next _____ Thing

1. Maybe Keep your _____ _____

- _____
- Pray

2. _____ Self with _____

- _____ did NOT do this

3. _____ God

- _____ did this years later

Reemplazando tu Espada
La Serie de la Espada

Cuando se advierte a las personas de un _____ que se aproxima… ¿qué hacen?

Jesús ha estado dando varias advertencias…

- "Voy a _____".
- "Roma _____ Jerusalén".
- "Los van a _____".

Lucas 22:36 – "Es hora de comprar _____

_____
_____
_____"

Lucas 22:49-51; Mateo 26:52 – Jesús y Pedro en el huerto

_____
_____
_____

¿Nos hemos convertido en una cultura que se _____ por todo?

_____

Algo que todos debemos recordar: El mundo sin Jesús actuará como un mundo _____ _____.

- Las _____ no son malas.
- Pero ¿el hecho de sentirnos _____ o de que _____ nos lastime nos da derecho a "cortarle la oreja"? No.
- ¿Acaso hemos olvidado estas enseñanzas?: "Padre, _____", "Pon la otra _____", "Ama a tu _____" y "Ora por los que te _____".

¿Qué podemos hacer?
Haz lo _____ en el siguiente paso
1. Tal vez sea mejor _____ la boca

_____

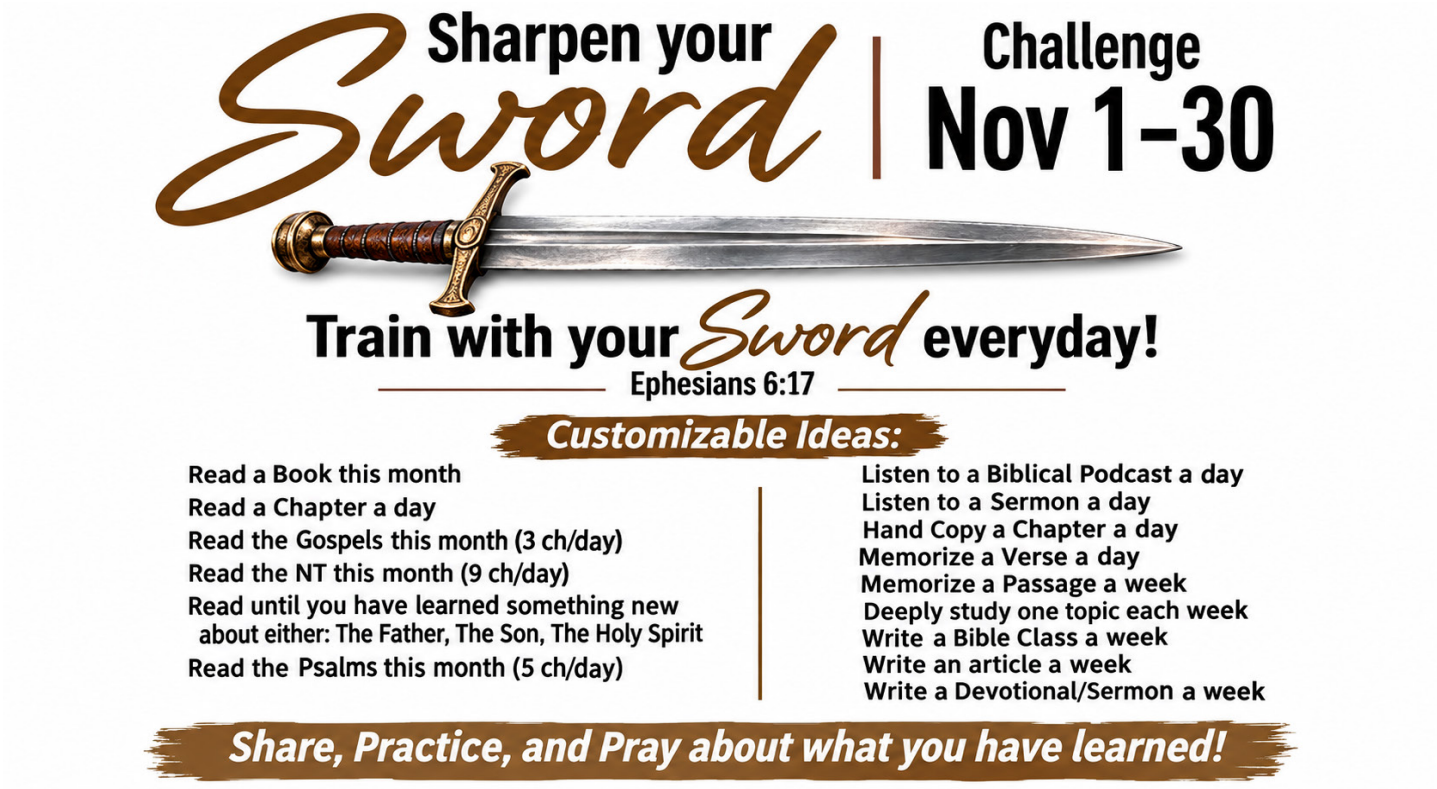
- _____
- Orar

2. _____ ocupado haciendo el _____

- _____ NO hizo esto.

3. _____ a Dios

- _____ hizo esto años después.



Deacons
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Shepherds
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Paul Stewart - 903.872.3464

Ministers
Anthony Warnes - 430.775.0196 (Pulpit)
Brandon Watson - 903.771.6359 (Family)

Staff
Jay Mahoney - 903.467.9093 (Office)

Community Outreach
Addiction Recovery Counseling
Benevolence Program
Food for Fitness
Forever His

Local Missions
Bear Valley - Wayne Jones
Cherokee Children's Home
Disaster Relief
The Jenkins Institute
Knoxville School of Preaching
Memphis School of Preaching
WVBS *school.wvbs.org*

U.S. Mission Points
Tilton, NH & Mesa, AZ

Foreign Missions
Cameroon Preacher Training
India Preacher Training
Philipines Missions & Med. Evang.

Prayer Needs:

Sandy Perryman – undergoing heart evaluation at Medical City Heart & Spine.

Baby Hank – Recovering from tracheotomy.

Donnie Beal – Recovering from foot surgery.

Addie & Baby Nors – Recovering following procedure.

Becky Newman – Recovering from knee replacement.

Sharon Mahoney – Eye pressure follow-up after glaucoma procedure.

Haley & Drew Burnett – Expecting Baby Barrett Nov. 9.

Tanya Rowden – Awaiting great-grandchild.

Jeanie Slaughter – Shoulder surgery Nov. 10.

Barbara Mounce – Hip replacement Nov. 18.

David Mahoney – Foot procedure Dec. 4.

Regina Albert – Judy Smith's sister; recently passed away.

Continue to remember: Bronny & Ruth Watson, Dan & Rita Dominy, Eula Henry, Louie & Patty Williams, Nick Tooley, Bill & Beverly Abercrombie, Loyd Ander, Tiffany Smith, Myrna Haufe, Larry Green, Steve Phillips, Joyce Miles, Don Ewing, & Nancy Sloan

Announcements:

Clothing Exchange – Nov. 14: Join us from 9 a.m.–noon. Remaining items will benefit the Eastside Church of Christ Clothing Closet. Questions? Contact Sandy Zaayer or Judy N. Smith.

W.O.W. Ladies' Retreat – Save the Date!
Jan. 29–30, 2027. Registration opens Nov. 15.

Cherokee Home Christmas Gifts: Child assignments and gift instructions are posted in the back of the auditorium. Gifts are due Sun. Dec. 6. Thank you for your generosity!

Young at Heart Classes — Tues. morning @ 10:30am

Westhill ARC (Addiction Recovery Counseling) meets weekly - contact Jay Mahoney

Staffed nursery available for babies up to 2 yr old.
Nursery Attendant this week: Andria Warnes

Sun. Safety: Paul Wells & James Horn
Wed. Safety: Tyler & Grayson Baumgartner

Records for November, 2026
AM Worship.....210
Contribution $8,189

This Week's Birthdays
November 8 - Karen Rincon, Curtis Smith, & Bergan Watson
November 10 - Buck Murphy
November 13 - Jaxon Grant & Pam Thomas

Visitor Form

Thank you for joining us for worship! We would love to follow-up with you...

Privileged to Serve

AM Song Leader	Brandon Watson
AM Opening Prayer	Colton Gowan
Scripture Reading	Carson Barham
Communion Leader	Percell Milton
Communion Servers	
Luke Baumgartner	Jeremiah Parrish
Brent Stewart	James Olsen
James Horn	Levi Haden
Joseph Haden	Owen Warnes
Billy Roughton	Colton Gowan
AM Closing Prayer	Dan Gibson
PM Song Leader	Justin Williams
PM Opening Prayer	Jay Mahoney
PM Devo	Scott Barham
PM Closing Prayer	Joshua Haden
Wed. Song Leader	Listan Ellis
Wed. Devo	Brandon Watson
Nov. Worship Coord.	C. Hendrix & M. Jones
Nov. Elder of Month	Rusty Owens