



September 2023

THE APPLE PRESS

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

For years now I have finished every service with a prayer for each of us to be ready to share the hope we have in Jesus Christ with anyone that God would send us to (1 Peter 3:15). I have prayed for years that the Lord would put His heart for the lost in me and He is doing that more and more. I am also praying that Jesus changes all of our hearts to see His love for this valley and those around us that need Him.

Reaching the lost / Evangelism is something that has been declining in our country. Jesus commanded us in His great commission (Matthew 28:19-20) to go and make disciples, yet we don't do that as we should. Recently I received the following blog from one of my professors that is sent out to pastors/churches around the country. As you read it, I invite you to challenge yourself and me on these five issues... and help me strive to keep Evangelism alive and a priority here at Appleton Christian.

I love you all, Dan

The Death of Evangelism: Five Issues We Must Address

by **Thom S. Rainer**
Founder & CEO

The issue may be the biggest surprise of my ministry.

On the one hand, I am surprised at the decline of evangelism in most churches. But that is not the biggest surprise. The issue that perplexes and surprises me the most is that very few church leaders and members are even acknowledging the death of evangelism in their congregations and denominations.

As but one denominational example, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), the largest Protestant denomination in the United States, measures evangelistic effectiveness by baptisms. Annual baptisms have declined from a peak of 445,725 in 1972 to 180,177 in 2022, a 60% decline! But when the 2022 statistical report was released, many of the comments noted that baptisms had increased 16% from the previous year. While that is true, we cannot use 2021 as a valid comparison year because churches were still regathering from the pandemic.

Likewise, it is becoming increasingly common for local churches to neglect, or even forget about, evangelism.

For both denominations and churches, denial is not a good strategy.

Cont. p. 2

What is discipleship? Recall how Jesus called his first disciples, Simon and Andrew, in Mark 1:17: “Jesus called out to them, ‘Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people.’” Also, recall his last words on earth to his followers in Acts 1:8: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people everywhere – in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Jesus’ ministry on earth began with evangelism and concluded with evangelism.

Why, then, is evangelism dying or dead in most churches? Why do denominations seem to be talking about everything but evangelism? Here are five issues that we must address to answer these questions:

- 1. Denial is not a good evangelistic strategy.** Many church leaders and church members, as well as denominational leaders, do not talk about the anemic evangelism in their churches. Some have evangelistic amnesia. Though it’s cliché, we can’t address the problem of evangelistic lethargy until we admit we have a problem.
- 2. Evangelism is spiritual warfare.** Jesus was physically present with his first disciples when they traveled and shared the gospel. Jesus promised us the power and the presence of the Holy Spirit when He ascended to heaven. Simply stated, evangelism is at the forefront of spiritual warfare. We can’t go it alone. We must have the Holy Spirit leading us and empowering us. Satan will do anything in his limited power to stop the spread of the gospel.
- 3. Prayer must accompany evangelism.** Since evangelism is spiritual warfare, we cannot and must not attempt to share the gospel in our own power. The most effective evangelistic churches strategically wed prayer and evangelism.
- 4. Churches must learn to celebrate evangelism.** It’s another cliché, but you become what you celebrate. Celebrate conversions, baptisms, and professions of faith. Celebrate faithfulness of church members who are sharing the gospel. Celebrate the changed lives of new believers.
- 5. If your church does not have enough time to prioritize evangelism, you have ceased to be obedient to the call of Christ.** We work with pastors and other church leaders to learn how to prioritize their work. Evangelism, preaching, prayer, and small group leadership are critical. If you are too busy to lead in evangelism, you are too busy.

The most common trait of churches who address these five issues is that they have a pastor who personally prioritizes evangelism. While we would never suggest that churches look at a pastor as a hired hand for evangelism and growth, we can say unequivocally that an evangelistic church must have an evangelistic pastor.

Evangelism is dead or dying in most American churches. Perhaps God is awakening you and your church to reverse this reality in His power.



September 2023

- 1-4 Family Camp@ Camp Christian
 1 Senior's on the Go, game day, 2:00 PM—4:00 PM
 1,8,15,22,29 Cantata Rehearsals, 6 PM, Season of Praise (every Friday evening)
 4 LABOR DAY, office closed
 5 Tuesday Night Bible Studies, 6:30 PM, meal 6:00 PM
 6 GriefShare, 1:00 PM –3:00 PM
 6 “Becoming a Biblical Leader” class, 6:00 PM- 8:00 PM
 9 Meal Prep
 10 Congregational Meeting, 12:15 PM
 10 Mission Team Meeting, after Congregational meeting
 12 Tuesday Night Bible Studies, 6:30 PM, meal 6:00 PM
 13 GriefShare, 1:00 PM –3:00 PM
 13 “Becoming a Biblical Leader” class, 6:00 PM- 8:00 PM
 19 Tuesday Night Bible Studies, 6:30 PM, meal 6:00 PM
 20 GriefShare, 1:00 PM –3:00 PM
 20 “Becoming a Biblical Leader” class, 6:00 PM- 8:00 PM
 24 Mexican Fellowship Potluck Meal for Casas por Cristo trip, 12:15 PM
 26 Tuesday Night Bible Studies, 6:30 PM, meal 6:00 PM
 27 GriefShare, 1:00 PM –3:00 PM

WEEKLY

- **Sunday 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM Worship Services**
 - **Sunday, 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School**
 - **Staff meetings, Tuesday, 1:00 PM**
- **Tuesday Bible Studies, 6:30 PM, meal 6:00 PM**

October 2023

- 1-6 Mission Trip to Juarez, Mexico
 2 Elder's meeting, 6:30 PM
 3,10,17 Tuesday Night Bible Studies, 6:30 PM, meal 6:00 PM
 4 GriefShare, 1:00 PM –3:00 PM
 6 Senior's on the Go, game day, 2:00 PM –4:00 PM
 6,13,20 Cantata Rehearsals, 6 PM, Season of Praise (every Friday evening)
 7,14,21 “Understanding Spiritual Gifts, 10:00 AM, new class
 8 Mission Team Meeting, noon
 11 GriefShare, 1:00 PM –3:00 P
 11,18,25 “Understanding Spiritual Gifts, 6:00 PM, new class
 14 Meal Prep
 17 Last GriefShare for this session

Office hours are: 9:00 AM—2:00 PM, M-Th.

For more information on any event, go to our website and click on calendar. Then click on the event to get more information.

<https://www.appletonchristian.org/calendar>

You have probably noticed the changes that are happening during Sunday morning worship. I love that we are continuing to seek out how we as a body can glorify God in many ways. One of the changes that I am most excited about is the addition of our children into corporate worship.

As a child, I always sat beside my family as we sang, prayed, and took communion together. It was in those times that I learned how to participate in the worship of the community. There was also an unspoken understanding that our family served God together.

Now there is nothing sinful with children not being in the Sunday service, but as a church, we believe that God has called us to be a community in which the older teach the younger. We want our younger and less mature members to benefit from the wisdom that comes with building relationships and being able to be influenced by those who are more mature. We want our more mature members to be able to benefit from the strength and zeal that the young bring.

As our children learn to be in the worship environment, please join me in praying for the children and their parents. Everyone with kids knows that feeling of hoping that our kids will not distract those around us, there can be lots of stress in that. Please be gracious and kind. Help, encourage and love one another. Let the children and the parents see that in this church we truly love one another.

May God continue to bless us and guide us as we continue to glorify his name in our lives, in the church, and in our city.

Blessings,

Alan





Before house



After house built

CASAS POR CRISTO MISSION TRIP October 1-6, 2023

Please ask God how you can help as ACC sends our volunteer mission team to Mexico to build a house for a family in need. There are many opportunities:

- 1) **pray** for the team, (Jenny Nichols coordinator)
- 2) **provide** items for the new home, (Vicki Wolfe coordinator)
- 3) **prepare** food for the mission team, (Donna Ward coordinator)
- 4) **help** with the Mexican Potluck Fellowship Meal, Sunday, September 24
(Heidi Waggoner coordinator)



This is the family we are building a house for.

Reyna—mom, Julio (26), Omardelos (22), Joel (16), Angel (14), and Abigal (13)

Our ACC mission team for this build is:

Jeanne Baker, Seth Biskupski, Agnes Dauk, Alan and Nathan Dyson, Michael Eide, Keith Kump, Bob and Joyce Labig, Sam and Eunice Marsala, Kathy Messamer, John and Thomas Wilson, Saul and Wendy Tompkins, and Ken Waggoner



Operation Christmas Child

The **September** needs are:
games, cards, puzzles, etch-a-sketch,
peg board
games, etc.

Please put donations in the box
in the lower building.
Other items for the shoebox are
always appreciated.

Questions? Please see or call
Donna Jean, 970-640-8396.



The next Meal Prep is
September 9, 2023
(Sign up by September 3, 2023)

The meals are:

- 1) Chicken and Dumplings
- 2) Catalina Beef
- 3) Apricot Orange Pork
- 4) Chicken Burrito Bowls
- 5) Italian Chicken
- 6) Sweet Basil Country-Style Ribs



The cost is:

\$ 35.00 for 6 meals for 2 people
\$ 70.00 for 6 meals for 4 people
\$100.00 for 6 meals for 6 people

Contact Heidi Waggoner, 970-250-0588

Prayer needs

Please let the office know if your family needs help
with prayer, communion, meals, visits, etc. Please send
prayer requests to prayer@appletonchristian.org email.
or call the office 970-242-7380.



GriefShare

GriefShare Support is ongoing, and space is
still available

Wednesday's 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM.
Contact Phyllis Bolsinger, 970-216-8258



HELPING HANDS

The Appleton Care Ministry
mails cards, visits, phones, runs errands,
performs light chores, etc. If you are in
need, please let the office know. *We
must know when people need these
services to address the needs of our
congregation.*

If you would like to be part of this
ministry, please contact the office.

Camp Christian seeking a Camp Manager



This fall, Bob and Jacque Harper, who have faithfully served
as camp managers for the past 6 years, will be retiring. Camp
Christian is accepting applications to fill this position. For
more information please visit our website at
<https://www.campchristiancolorado.org/about-7>
or contact Angie Templeton at 970-250-6588.

EVERY SUNDAY

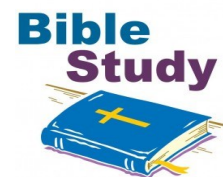
We offer refreshments for the 8:00 AM
and 10:30 AM services. If you would like
to help with refreshments, please sign up
to help at the welcome table or check with
Donna Ward or Jeanne Baker for more
information.



Tuesday night Bible Studies have resumed at 6:30 PM.

For more information
contact Alan, 928-580-9856 (men's)
or Kari, 928-581-2735 (women's)
or Levi, 303-653-8620 (children's).

A meal is offered
at 6:00 PM.



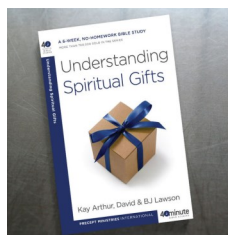
PASTORAL CARE

If you know of anyone in need of pastoral care or a visit, please call Pastor Dan 970-822-2717 or Pastor Alan 928-581-9856

[Please notify the office](#) of any address, phone number, or email changes you may have, so we can keep the directory updated each month. If you would like a printed copy or information on how to get the instant church directory app, please let the office know.



Welcome to the new and current Deacons as we pray for them. They were prayed over and set aside this past week. The deacons are: Jeanne Baker, Mary Bybee, Nancy Hagerman, Keith Kump, Malinda Lyons, Kelly Messamer, Heidi Waggoner, Donna Ward, Lacey Weber, Levi Willis, and Charlotte Zangerle.



Look for an **upcoming class** beginning Saturday October 7, 2023 10:00 AM called Spiritual Gifts. This class will be taught by Phyllis Bolsinger. This class will also be repeated in the evening on Wednesday's beginning October 11, 6:00 PM taught by Alan Dyson.

Understanding Spiritual Gifts takes you straight to God's Word to discover answers from the Gift-Giver Himself. As you dig into Bible passages about God's design for each of us, you'll find out that spiritual gifts aren't complicated—but life-changing. Here you will uncover what spiritual gifts are, where they come from, who has them, how they are received, and how they work within the church. As you study, you will have a new vision for how you can use your God-given gifts to bring hope to your home, your church, and a hurting world. This is a 6 week class with no homework.

Potluck Dinner



Join us on September 24, 12:15 PM for a Mexican potluck fellowship meal. Bring your favorite casserole and join us in a festive celebration and kick off for our Casas por Cristo mission trip, Sunday Oct.1-6.

Sign up on the Welcome back table.

Congregational Meeting on September 10, 2023 at 12:15 PM. Discussion will be on the building remodel. Please join us to see what Appleton Christian renovations will look like.

Congregational Meeting

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
<p>Service 8:00 am & 10:30 am</p> <p>8:45am - Deacon installation</p>	<p>Dave Downey</p> <p>11am - DOK meeting</p> <p>4:30pm - Counseling 430-530, rm</p> <p>6pm - Stand for the Constitution,</p>	<p>Louise Vig</p> <p>1pm - Staff meeting</p> <p>6pm - Meal at 6</p> <p>6:30pm - Women's Bible Study</p> <p>6:30pm - Men's Bible Study</p> <p>6:30pm - Youth Group</p>	<p>1pm - Griefshare, 1:00 PM - 3:00</p> <p>4pm - Counseling sessions, rm 3</p> <p>6pm - NEW "Becoming a Biblical</p>	<p>Linda Mann</p> <p>5pm - Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>Family Camp (\$75/Adult, \$50/Child 6-17) @ Camp Christian, 2915 Co Rd</p> <p>Steve Nancy Hageman</p> <p>2pm - Seniors On The Go - game</p> <p>5pm - Counseling rm 3</p>	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p>Family Camp (\$75/Adult, \$50/Child 6-17) @ Camp Christian, 2915 Co Rd</p> <p>Service 8:00 am & 10:30 am</p> <p>LABOR DAY</p> <p>11am - DOK meeting</p> <p>4:30pm - Counseling 430-530, rm</p> <p>6pm - Stand for the Constitution,</p> <p>6:30pm - Elder's Meeting</p>	<p>9am - Desert West Chapter</p> <p>1pm - Staff meeting</p> <p>6pm - Meal at 6</p> <p>6:30pm - Women's Bible Study</p> <p>6:30pm - Men's Bible Study</p> <p>6:30pm - Youth Group</p>	<p>1pm - Griefshare, 1:00 PM - 3:00</p> <p>4pm - Counseling sessions, rm 3</p> <p>6pm - NEW "Becoming a Biblical</p>	<p>1pm - Griefshare, 1:00 PM - 3:00</p> <p>4pm - Counseling sessions, rm 3</p> <p>6pm - NEW "Becoming a Biblical</p>	<p>Building in use - Meal Prep</p> <p>5pm - Counseling rm 3</p>	<p>Meal Prep</p>	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<p>Elaine Powers</p> <p>Service 8:00 am & 10:30 am</p> <p>12:15pm - Congregational</p> <p>12:45pm - Missions Team</p>	<p>Patriot Day</p> <p>11am - DOK meeting</p> <p>4:30pm - Counseling 430-530, rm</p> <p>6pm - Stand for the Constitution,</p>	<p>1pm - Desert West Stitch-in</p> <p>1pm - Staff meeting</p> <p>6pm - Meal at 6</p> <p>6:30pm - Women's Bible Study</p> <p>6:30pm - Men's Bible Study</p> <p>6:30pm - Youth Group</p>	<p>1pm - Griefshare, 1:00 PM - 3:00</p> <p>4pm - Counseling sessions, rm 3</p> <p>6pm - NEW "Becoming a Biblical</p>	<p>Christian Women's (not meeting)</p> <p>Jack Costello</p> <p>5pm - Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>5pm - Counseling rm 3</p>	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<p>Service 8:00 am & 10:30 am</p>	<p>11am - DOK meeting</p> <p>4:30pm - Counseling 430-530, rm</p> <p>6pm - Stand for the Constitution,</p>	<p>1pm - Staff meeting</p> <p>6pm - Meal at 6</p> <p>6:30pm - Women's Bible Study</p> <p>6:30pm - Men's Bible Study</p> <p>6:30pm - Youth Group</p>	<p>Jane Sloan</p> <p>1pm - Griefshare, 1:00 PM - 3:00</p> <p>4pm - Counseling sessions, rm 3</p> <p>6pm - NEW "Becoming a Biblical</p> <p>7pm - Beading Group, Ark room</p>	<p>Adrienne Hageman</p> <p>DOK Ministry (not meeting here)</p> <p>5pm - Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>Maria Kelley/Kandy Cloyd</p> <p>2pm - Kids Count Training set up</p> <p>5pm - Counseling rm 3</p>	<p>8am - Kids Count Training</p>
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<p>Service 8:00 am & 10:30 am</p> <p>12pm - Mexican potluck lunch</p>	<p>11am - DOK meeting</p> <p>4:30pm - Counseling 430-530, rm</p> <p>6pm - Stand for the Constitution,</p>	<p>1pm - Desert West Stitch-in</p> <p>1pm - Staff meeting</p> <p>6pm - Meal at 6</p> <p>6:30pm - Women's Bible Study</p> <p>6:30pm - Men's Bible Study</p> <p>6:30pm - Youth Group</p>	<p>1pm - Griefshare, 1:00 PM - 3:00</p> <p>4pm - Counseling sessions, rm 3</p>	<p>Carlene Wood</p> <p>5pm - Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>5pm - Counseling rm 3</p>	



Contact Us:

Senior Minister Dan Baker
pastordan@appletonchristian.org
Senior Associate Minister Alan Dyson
pastoralan@appletonchristian.org
Music Minister
willis.levi.t@gmail.com
Elders:
elders@appletonchristian.org

Dan Baker 970-822-2717
pastordan@appletonchristian.org



ways to send
Prayer Requests:
 Prayer card on Sunday (check the box to be included in the weekly email distribution);
 OR email
[prayers@appletonchristian.org/](mailto:prayers@appletonchristian.org)
 OR call
 Nancy @970-241-0858 or the church office @970-242-7380

For **shut-in communion**, please call 970-242-7380 during office hours or contact a person listed below:



September
 3- Alan Dyson
 10-Chris Weber
 17-Jack Costello
 24-Dan Baker



Clip and post in your home as a reminder when you serve

Communion & Offering ~~Meditation~~

First Service <u>September 2023</u> 3-Bob Labig 10-Alan Dyson 17-Heidi Waggoner 24-John Wilson October 2023 1-Bob Labig 8-Alan Dyson 15-Heidi Waggoner 22-John Wilson 29-Levi Willis	Second Service <u>September 2023</u> 3-Bob Labig 10-Alan Dyson 17-Jenny Nichols 24-John Wilson October 2023 1-Bob Labig 8-Alan Dyson 15-Jenny Nichols 22-John Wilson 29-Levi Willis
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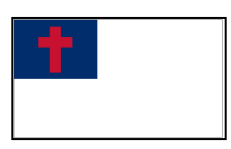
SUNDAY GREETERS

First Service <u>September 2023</u> 3-Keith Kump 10-Judy Devine 17-Norma Jean Griffin 24-Linda/Dick Mann October 2023 1-Keith Kump 8-Judy Devine 15-Dick/Linda Mann 22-Norma Jean Griffin 29-Jim Kellogg	Second Service <u>September 2023</u> 3-Donna Jean Ganss 10-Lisa O'Connor 17-K & K Messamer 24-Cris Hoche October 2023 1-Cris Hoche 8-Connie/Louis Martinez 15-Jenny Nichols 22-Donna Jean Ganss 29-Jeanne Baker
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SEPTEMBER PRAYER FAMILIES & SCHOOLS

3- Mike Clemmer
 Debbie Coffing
 Rim Rock Elementary
 10- Dave & Mary Colby
 Brandi Coleman
 Rocky Mountain Elementary
 17- Hal & Tracy Cook
 Michael & Kami Costello
 Scenic Elementary School
 24- Jack & Carla Costello
 Evelyn Cronk
 Shelledy Elementary School

**ALWAYS
 REMEMBER
 TO
 PRAY FOR**



- GRAND JUNCTION, FRUITA, PALISADE, CLIFTON, AND ORCHARD MESA COMMUNITIES & SCHOOLS
- THE STATE OF COLORADO
- THE GOVERNMENT
- THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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Search for other members, and then email, call or text – right from the directory app.

It's Easy!

1. Go to your device's App Store.
2. Search for Instant Church Directory.
3. Enter your email as it's listed in our church directory.
4. Enter the assigned password into the app to begin synching.



You can also access the directory on your computer.

Go to: <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/> to create an account using the email address you have listed in the directory. You will receive a confirmation email and once you click on the link, your email address will be validated. You will then need to log in, just as an email account, every time to access the directory. You will be able to view the information, but the phone numbers and email are not hyperlinked as with the smart device app.

Connect with us:

970-242-7380

970-242-3682 fax

Senior Minister Dan Baker

pastordan@appletonchristian.org

Senior Associate Minister Alan Dyson

pastoralan@appletonchristian.org

Music Minister

willis.levi.t@gmail.com

Elders:

elders@appletonchristian.org

To sign up for Applets, Newsletter, or Directory PDF updates, please send an email with **Subscribe to Applets, or Newsletter, or Directory PDF in the Subject line.**

prayers@appletonchristian.org

To sign up to receive prayer requests, please send an email with

Subscribe in the Subject line.

appletonexchange@appletonchristian.org

www.appletonchristian.org

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The Bible affirms the power and importance of prayer and we, as a church, are committed to pray for each other. Let us know your request and we will lift you up in prayer.



The Apple Press
2510 I-70 Frontage Rd
Grand Junction, CO 81505

SEPTEMBER 2023

*Our Mission
To grow fully devoted followers of
Jesus Christ.
Matthew 28:19-20*

8:00 AM, 10:30 AM Worship
9:30 AM Sunday School for all ages

A CORE
OF TRUTH
—
WITH A
LOT OF
APPEAL



Unsubscribe: If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please contact us with your address or email with **UNSUBSCRIBE** in the Subject line. Thank you.