



The TrumBulletin



A **Publication** of the Trumbull Church of Christ, 2 Drew Circle, Trumbull, CT. 06611

203-261-5201

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Is Influencing a Few Good Enough?

A man returning from a fishing trip was asked if he had caught any fish. "No," he replied, "but I influenced a few!" I think if someone actually said that to us, we would think that their fishing trip was not a successful one. If you go fishing and do not catch any fish, then whatever "influence" you made is meaningless. However, in terms of evangelism this makes perfect sense. In terms of evangelism, "influencing" as well as "catching" is a very important part of our responsibility in evangelism. Often we think that if our witnessing to someone does not end with their decision to respond to the Gospel, we have failed. But this thinking is mistaken for two reasons.

First, thinking that unless there is a commitment to the Gospel we have failed, mistakes our role for God's role. God does not judge us on "outcomes." God judges us on faithfulness. God and only God can save. Only He can bring about a genuine decision to follow Christ. Our success in evangelism is judged in terms of faithfulness. Jesus said, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." (MK. 16:15) God judges our success on whether or not we have been faithful to Him. 1 Corinthians 4:2 says, "It is required of stewards to be faithful." With evangelism, being faithful means sharing the good news. Our success is not measured by the outcome of our sharing the good news, only that we shared it.

Second, thinking that we have failed unless there is a decision to obey the Gospel, is judging prematurely. We do not know how our witnessing will serve to influence someone for Christ and lead to a later conversion. It might be that we will plant a seed that another will water and cultivate later on. This is an analogy the apostle Paul used when he said in 1 Corinthians 3:6, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow." This is how the gospel advanced in Corinth. Paul went in first with the gospel, and some were saved. Apollos came in later and picked up where Paul left off, and a lot more came to Christ. Paul planted, and Apollos watered. But it was neither Paul nor Apollos that actually caused the success. God is the one who made the church grow and worked on the hearts of those who obeyed the Gospel.

So, when you are fishing for people, you may not catch any, but while trying you may very well influence many! God may send you to someone simply as an initial contact. Through you God may first capture his or her attention. Then God may send another to continue the work where you left off. Then again God may use you as that second or third or 100th contact that actually results in someone's conversion. Do not be discouraged or think you are a failure because you do not see instant results. Be faithful, and in your faithfulness be assured of God's approval, and be encouraged in it. God saves! God gives the increase! God gives us the awesome privilege of being a part of the process. At the end of next week you might be able to say you "caught" a few. Or you might be able to say you have "influenced" a few. Faithfulness in any part of this process is success in the eyes of God.

~

Ron Saracino

NEWS & NOTES

Wed. Night Bible Study via zoom -7pm

Ladies and teen girls Bible study- **Friday Aug. 11 @7pm**
@ Paula's house.

Barnabas Project if interested in joining contact Mary Lou (475) 529-5751

Fri. Sept 8 @ 6:30 pm Young Adult Devo at the building.
Ages 18-29

Tidal River Christian

Camp-flyers on the back table. If able to help out with camp contact Pat Keller..

Spooner House is in dire need of nonperishable items

*Pray for **Irene Aschen**, she will be having hip replacement surgery Sept. 6th.
 *Pray for **Emille Jones** who will be going for a second opinion soon.
 *Pray for **Wiley Mullins** who is home from the hospital recuperating.
 *Pray for **John Westkott**, (Friend of the Pancoast's) who has salivary gland cancer.
 *Pray for **Karen McMullen** who will be having surgery on her esophagus.
 *Pray for **Mark Shoemaker** (friend of Ron & Lisa), he lost his house to fire, also lost 3 of his dogs.
 *Pray for **Maria Margarloli** (Lisa's friend's mother), recently had a stroke.
 *Pray for **Simone Beans** who is having several health challenges.
 *Pray for the **Repecko family** as they go through a difficult time.
 *Pray for **Carolyn Farris** whose husband recently passed away.
 *Pray for **Frank Martini** who needs open heart surgery,
 *Pray for **Stephanie Robinson's** daughter who was shot in the head. (Of Esther Aggrey)
 *Pray for **Corey Kastner** who is recovering from a stroke.
 *Pray for **Dorthea** who is having an interventional pain procedure On her spine.
 *Pray for **Kimberly**, (friend of Greg Saracino) who has been diagnosed with a serious illness.
 *Pray for **Nana Aggrey** who continues to have abdominal Pain.
 *Pray for **Doreen and Skip French** (friends of Jay & Flo's) Doreen is struggling with a brain tumor and pray for their Granddaughter, **Kylie**, for healing.
Esther Aggrey is participating in an effort to help young children in Ghana, she will be collecting school supplies and other items (see list in back) until October.

*Pray for those dealing with cancer and chemo treatments- **Judith Gomez, David Fritzinger, Cohen** (Ron's friend), **Sarah** (Angela's niece), Tom Byer
***Prayers for all those who have lost loved ones this past year.**
 *Pray for adult children to develop a relationship with God
 *Pray for our **country & our leaders in government first responders and health care workers.**
 *Pray for **families, relatives, friends and people we are reaching out to**, that they may turn to the Lord.
Special prayers for our church leaders.
 Prayers for all families caring for their elderly or sick loved ones: Allie Saracino-Cherie, Bob and Joanne Discala-Virginia
***Pray for those suffering from long term illnesses:**
 Jeremy Sazone, Flo Repecko, Pat Yaglowksi. Meegan and Irene, Sylvia Sandoval, Nuris Gomez, Mildred, Karen O, Angela's mom Connie Scalzo, Anthony Katz., Jasmyn Malagutti, Daniel Ruiz., Zak Pappas Fernandes. , Jim Walkup's brother (Sam), Cyrus (Zach's friend) dad who has brain cancer, Lance Flood, Zach Saracino, Joshua Ruiz, Brody Streety & all children with diabetes.
 *Anyone interested in helping with **World Bible School**- contact Ron
***Opportunities** to serve: any men willing to participate in worship service in other capacities for the church, please contact Bruce Post. Anyone interested in leading and/or helping with the building or church house maintenance please contact Bruce Pancoast.

Please bring nonperishable food items for the **Spooner House** - a list of all items needed is on back table: Jelly/Jam/Peanut Butter, Cereal/Oatmeal, Canned Meats: Chicken, Tuna, Corned Beef Hash, Canned Ravioli/Tomatoes, Pasta Sauce, Canned Fruit/Applesauce, Crackers/Snacks, Pancake Mix/Syrup, Ramen, Hamburger/Tuna Helper, Baked beans/Pork and Beans, Canned/Dried Beans (i.e. Black, Chick Pea, Cannellini, Kidney, Pinto), Rice/Rice-A-Roni, Soup/Stew/Chili, Instant/Canned Potatoes/Yams. Bring these food items to the building to be delivered to the Spooner House. Please make sure that items do not have expired dates. Thank you

Wednesday Bible Classes: 7:00 p.m
 canceled til further notice, participate online via Zoom
Elders: Bruce Pancoast 203-452- 0426
 203-913-8345

Minister: Ron Saracino 203-913-8345
Spanish Ministry: Elmer Sandavol
 914-914-486-9146

Deacons: Ray Fernandes 203-502-8871
Luis Ruiz 203-610-2396
Bob Discala 203-521-7252
Patrick Keller 203-218-9517

Bible class 10 am, Worship service 11 am
Online bible class and worship service
Go to our website :
trumbullchurchofchrist.org

Week of 0730//23
Song Leader: Derin Wilson
Lord's Table: Luis Ruiz
Closing Prayer: Andrew Langalis
Usher: Gerg Payne
Week of 7/23-7/29
Donations: \$2788
Expenses: \$2688

