

Yes, You Can!

By Don Truex

One question asked with frequency is, "What can I do as a member of this local congregation?" That is truly a fine inquiry and manifests a spirit that is much needed today. To be happy in the work of the Lord is to cultivate a real sense of belonging. To legitimately feel that you are a vital part of the work. To be active in the work of the Lord is to have concern for that work and a genuine love for those who share in that same work with you. There is much that you can do today to share the good message of salvation that has graced your life. You can:

- Concentrate, one on one, in leading a soul to Christ.
- Entertain a group of members in your home in order to cultivate better friendship and relationships. Take a personal interest in and responsibility for the peace, harmony and growth of the church.
- Invite a friend or family member to Bible study and Worship. Countless people are sincerely searching for truth and would cherish and accept your interest in them.
- Take an active interest in the visitors to our assemblies. Greet them with warmth and friendliness. Talk to them, sit with them, encourage them. Never allow them to merely be lost in a sea of humanity, and thus leave feeling that their presence is not important and valued.
- Through a card, visit, or call, encourage those members who are absent from our assemblies. Absenteeism is a symptom of a deeper need which must be addressed immediately.
- Write a note of appreciation to someone who has truly influenced your spiritual life.
- Forgive someone who has set himself to be your enemy. Ask God to help you rise above anger, revenge and ill will. Pray for that enemy and do him good. Always conduct yourself as a Christian in both word and action.
- Do something thoughtful for a sick or home bound person. What better way can one illustrate love for those less fortunate than our- selves?
- Make a special effort to show hospitality to someone who has lost a loved one or is struggling with some grave personal challenge.
- Pray each day for the Kingdom of God (His people) on earth. You see, there is much you can do in using this day to the glory of God and the betterment of His Son's kingdom.

Ten Little Christians

Ten little members standing in a line,
One disliked the preacher and then there were nine.
Nine ambitious workers offered to work late,
One forgot his promise and then there were eight.
Eight creative members with ideas good as heaven,
One lost enthusiasm, then there were seven.
Seven loyal members got into a fix,
They quarreled over programs and then there were six.
Six members remained with spirit and drive,
One moved away and then there were five.
Five steadfast members wished there were more,
One became indifferent and then there were four.
Four cheerful members never disagreed,
One complained of meetings and then there were three.
Three eager members, what do they do?
One got discouraged and then there were two.

Two hard working members, our rhyme is nearly done
One joined a health club and then there was one.

One faithful member was feeling mighty blue,
Met with a colleague and then there were two.
Two earnest members, each enrolled one more,
Doubling their number and then there were four.
Four determined members, just couldn't wait,
Until each had won another and then there were eight.
Eight excited members found sixteen more,
In another six verses, there will be a thousand twenty four!
---Bruce Neal, Fayetteville, AR

Grizzly Bear

"See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven..." (Heb. 12:25).

A former park ranger at Yellowstone National Park tells the story of a ranger leading a group of hikers to a fire lookout. The ranger was so intent on telling the hikers about the flowers and animals that he considered the messages on his two-way radio distracting and switched it off. Nearing the tower, the ranger was met by a nearly breathless lookout, who asked why he hadn't responded to the messages on his radio. A grizzly bear had been seen stalking the group, and the authorities were trying to warn of the danger.

Any time we tune out God's message to us, we put our souls in great danger. Let us give earnest heed and never refuse Him who speaks from heaven through His revelation.

Answered Prayer?

They built a raunchy nightclub right next door to Saint Lukewarm Baptist Church of God in Christ. The good folks of SLBCOGIC decided to start a prayer vigil. Amazingly, the nightclub's business dwindled so much they had to close the doors. This wasn't altogether good news, you see; the owner of the nightclub brought a lawsuit against the members of SLBCOGIC, accusing them of ruining his business with their prayers. The attorneys for the church argued there was no way their prayers could have had any effect on the poor performance of the club. The judge agreed. He ruled in favor of Saint Lukewarm, saying, "While the nightclub owner strongly believes in the power of prayer, the church membership does not." [Dana Key, By Divine Design, Nashville, 1995, p.13] We sometimes say, "Prayer changes things." If we really believe it does, then let us not be so easily affected when things look so unpromising. Let us pray and then trust.

A Moments Wisdom

- Too many people are praying for mountains of difficulty to be removed, when what they really need is courage to climb them.
- Those who know God will be humble, and those who know themselves cannot be proud.
- Admitting you are wrong proves you wiser now than you were before.
- We must strive without strife; we must contend without malicious contention.
- Of all the commentaries on the scriptures, good examples are the best.
- If you want to get even with someone, start with someone who has helped you.
- Only man, among all living things, says prayers, or even needs to.

--We have no one to blame but ourselves when our enthusiasm and zeal are gone, if we have failed to feed them. --Robbie J. Cox

--Companionship with God is one of the greatest things we can possibly get from prayer.

--Leaving in a huff is some folk's favorite form of transportation.