



Preaching Report

Randy Blackaby

New Carlisle, Ohio

July—September 2008

New this past quarter

Launched congregational evangelism effort

This past quarter the elders launched a new effort to engage every member in individual evangelism. The topic is addressed in some way at virtually every assembly. We are developing business-size cards with thought-provoking spiritual messages on one side and directions and time of services on the other. These can be handed out as people talk with neighbors, friends, co-workers and even strangers.

We're planning on showing a couple of video Bible presentations that can be used as teaching tools, engaging our Sunday evening edification groups in evangelistic efforts, and developing lists of people to contact and will have computerized letters that can be customized by the groups and sent each week.

Plans call for discussion-initiation training and other helps as they are deemed needed. But the greatest effort will be simply to get us moving with everyone evangelizing. The congregation has received the effort well and we've already had contacts and a few visitors.

Lost two members

We lost two members during the past quarter. Sister Emma Ferryman moved to southeastern Ohio to live with one of her daughters. And Brother Jim Burkhart died after a prolonged battle with cancer.

Our newspaper went out of business

Our newspaper column, in Q&A format, has ceased due to the closure of the *New Carlisle Sun*, a small weekly in the community. Part of a chain of small papers, the *Sun* ceased printed publication this past quarter. There is still an online version but it doesn't appear to have much readership.

Fall meeting series

Using different preachers for each service, our fall gospel meeting was themed "*21st Century Challenges Facing the Church*." Subjects and preachers were:

"*Growing Toward Deeper Spirituality*"—Mike Grushon

"*Understanding the Role of Music in Worship*"—Jim Grushon

"*Avoiding Division in the Midst of Controversy*"—Steve Wallace

"*Re-Learning the Work of Successful Evangelism*"—John Hains

"*Establishing Homes as God Would Have Them*"—Adam Litmer

"*Preparing for Persecution as Culture Clashes with Faith*"—Keith Greer

"*Developing Elderships that Understand their Scriptural Work*"—Mike Willis

Unique situation and development plan

We commit the first Sunday evening service each month to primarily singing and prayer. At present, every male member of the congregation participates in leading songs or prayers. I think that's rather positively unique. We've been providing lessons on prayer, emphasizing a need to praise God, seek help with spiritual matters and our worship—and not just asking for health, recoveries, etc. Some of the men who are leading singing lack certain skills, so we're planning on importing some song leader training (not one of my talents).

Continuing efforts

Monday night class in various homes: This study has 6 members now, since one has moved away. We now are studying Bob and Sandra Waldron's *History and Geography of the Bible*.

Early Risers' Study at Melodee Restaurant: This 6 a.m. class each Thursday now has about 7 regular attendees and we have been studying *Luke*.

Friday breakfast study: This 6:30 a.m. class involves a few area preachers, elders and others from area churches. We've been studying *Luke*.

Monthly preacher study in Evendale (near Cincinnati):

In September I made a presentation on "Myths about Mary."

Knollwood congregation's monthly paper—*The Messenger*: I write one or two articles a month

Classes at the congregation—On Sundays, we're studying from Robert Harkrider's class material on *Mark*, and on Wednesdays, we're studying *Prophecy*, using material I created in house

Weekly bulletin—*The Christian Builder*—This bulletin continues to be published weekly and contains teaching material, as well as a duty roster, news, prayer list and a Bible quiz.

Other publications: I contribute articles to *Truth Magazine*, *Bible Basics* and *Focus Magazine*.

Upcoming

Gospel meetings in 2009

- Spring: Simon Harris
- Fall: Steve Brewer

Statistics

Average attendance:	Sunday a.m.	Sunday p.m.
	52	47
Number of members:	51	
Average weekly contribution:	\$1,180	
Total contributions in quarter:	\$15,333	
Bible studies in quarter	26	
Visits in quarter (estimate)	19	
Baptisms	0	
Deaths	1	
Moved in	0	
Moved away	1	
Restored	0	
Withdrawn from	0	
Regular visitors	3	

Our financial support

New Carlisle.....	\$2,500 p/month.....	\$32,500 p/year	(\$625 p/wk)
Douglass Hills, Louisville, KY.....	450	“	
Knollwood, Beavercreek, OH.....	350	“	
Kettering, OH.....	500	“	
Northern Kentucky, Florence, KY.....	150	“	
Trader’s Point, Indianapolis, IN.....	300	“	
TOTAL:	\$4,458	\$53,500 p/year	

Sermons preached

July

- 6 “The Divorced Christian: Options and Obligations” Part 1
Singing and prayer service
- 13 “Get Thee Behind Me Satan”
“The 10 Commandments” Part 3
- 20 “The Divorced Christian: Options and Obligations” Part 2
“The 10 Commandments” Part 4
- 27 “Demons: Do They Plague Us Today?”
“The 10 Commandments” Part 5

August

- 3 The Jericho Road”
Song and prayer service
- 10 Hobert Kendrick (one of our elders) preached
“The 10 Commandments” Part 6
- 17 “Rebekah: A Model Wife”
“The 10 Commandments” Part 7 .
- 24 “Resisting the Devil”
“The 10 Commandments” Part 8
- 31 “The Gospel’s Power to Cancel Sin”
“The 10 Commandments” Part 9

September

- 7 Longsuffering and Endeavoring for Unity”
Song and prayer service
- 14 GOSPEL MEETING: “Growing Toward Deeper Spirituality” w/ Mike Grushon
Services cancelled due to power outages, damage from Hurricane Ike
- 21 “Must A Woman Wear a Covering?” Part 1
“Understanding the Role of Music in Worship” by Jim Grushon (this lesson was scheduled during the Gospel Meeting the previous week, but was delayed due to storm)
- 28 “Must A Woman Wear a Covering?” Part 2
“Growing Old Gracefully”

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