



Our adult Sunday school class at Third Presbyterian Church uses the Wired Word curriculum. Last Sunday, our news article was about the Bay Area Fellowship in Corpus Christi who got visitors in on Easter Sunday by offering \$4 million in prizes. Prizes included cars, flat-screen TVs, bicycles, guitars, furniture and other big-ticket items. In addition, 1,500 people who didn't win the big prizes received gift bags with certificates for \$300 worth of free goodies and services. The Ultimate Give-Away appears to have been a great success with attendance booming from the normal 7,000 to 23,500 on Easter Sunday.

This week I have been wondering what Jesus would think of the Ultimate Give-Away? Would he consider these prizes legitimate "bait" to do the fishing for people that he commanded us as his disciples to do? Or would Jesus be ready to go into the church to throw out the money-changers as he once did in the Temple? Is it appropriate for the church to use its culture to bring people to Christ or should the church take a more counter cultural approach to evangelism?

I'll let Jesus answer for himself on the first question, but as to the last question I think the answer is yes. Yes, we should use our culture to bring people into the Kingdom and Yes we should be counter-cultural. It isn't a question of which extreme is right, but where is the line? When and how is it appropriate to use our culture? As Paul said, "I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some." (1 Corinthians 9:22b) On the other hand, Jesus in John 17 reminds us that while we are sent into the world we are not of the world. When do we need to stand counter to the world to proclaim our message? I believe finding that line is one of the greatest challenges for the church as we seek to minister to our culture which more and more finds Jesus to be anything but relevant to its life. It is our calling to bring people to Christ and it is something that we need to learn to do better in the PC(USA). However, as we bring people to Christ, we must make sure our methods are consistent with the teachings of Christ and the Kingdom of God. People aren't going to stick around long if once they get into the church they find all the promises they have been given are false advertising.

Will the Ultimate Give-Away gain new members for the Bay Area Fellowship and new disciples for the kingdom of God? That remains to be seen. According to their website, the church set a new non-holiday attendance record on the Sunday following Easter with 8,700 in attendance. However, it must be noted that the church did continue to give away prizes last week too.

As you consider evangelism in your own congregation one tool you might use is *Unbinding the Gospel: Real Life Evangelism* by Martha Grace Reese. Copies are available in the presbytery office.



NURSES NEEDED!!!

The Presbyterian Camp on Okoboji is looking for nurses, doctors, EMTs, or any person with equivalent certifications that would love to spend a week on West Lake at the camp! IF you are interested in spending a Sunday through Saturday at camp dispensing meds, administering first aid, and simply having a great week with campers and staff, then this is the volunteer job for you!

Please contact Heather Stanek by phone at 712-337-3313 or email heather.stanek@presbycamp.org if you have questions or need more details!

Thanks for helping us out!

Please be our guest for the installation service of

Pastor Dan Lozer

Sunday May 2, 2010 4:00pm

United Church
719 Tenth Street
Hawarden IA 51023
712-551-1420

Lunch will be served after the service in the Fellowship Hall



Synod School 2010 – “Grace Notes”

<http://www.lakesandprairies.org/school.html>

is coming in July and registration is now open!

Synod School runs July 25-30 at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. It is a week-long learning and personal enrichment experience for people of all ages.

Additional printed catalogs are available from the synod office by calling 800.328.1880 or by e-mailing your request to Mary Kes at mkes@lakesandprairies.org.

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MINUTE REVIEW	APRIL 20	SIoux CITY, IA	6:00PM
PW SPRING GATHERING	APRIL 22	CHEROKEE, IA	9:00AM
MINUTE REVIEW	APRIL 24	PRESBYTERIAN CAMP	10:00AM
SEARCH COMMITTEE	APRIL 26	PRESBYTERY OFFICE	5:30PM
JR. HIGH RETREAT	APRIL 30-MAY 1	CAMP ON LAKE OKOBOJI	
COM	MAY 11	So SIOUX CITY, NE	1:00PM
PRESBYTERY MEETING	MAY 11	So SIOUX CITY, NE	5:30 PM
PPH ANNIVERSARY	MAY 19	PRESBYTERY OFFICE	
MEMORIAL DAY	MAY 31	PRESBYTERY OFFICE	CLOSED
SYNOD PW GATHERING	JUNE 16-19	BUENA VISTA UNIVERSITY	
GENERAL ASSEMBLY	JULY 3-10	MINNEAPOLIS, MN	
TRIENNium	JULY 20-24	PURDUE, INDIANA	
SYNOD SCHOOL	JULY 25-30	BUENA VISTA UNIVERSITY	

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Presbytery Communications