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“Preechin to the choir”

- All that’s necessary for evil to win is for good people to do nothing.
- Holding a grudge is letting someone live rent-free in your head.
- The heaviest thing to carry is a grudge.
- Satan’s greatest wile is “Wait a while.”
- Worry is a waste of the imagination.
- Happiness is an inside job.
- It wasn’t the apple on the tree, it was the pair beneath.

## “The Hannah Project”

In Mark 10:45 Jesus said, “For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many” (KJV). Jesus’ words were directed as a response to a question posed by two of his disciples concerning who would be greatest in the Kingdom of God. He, being the great teacher He was, shared a lesson that should be the guiding example for all of God’s children to follow.

I recently experienced this in action with an opportunity that was presented to our association and other Christians. It involved the plight of a 77 year old lady, Hannah Guy, was staying by herself in terrible living conditions. That is, until a couple of good Samaritans, Beth and Randy Finch, who had never been formally introduced to Hannah, were touched by the Lord to stop and check on her.

That initial contact quickly developed into a ministry opportunity as Beth and Randy invited Hannah to move into their residence. The only problem was that the Finches needed an additional room large enough to accommodate Hannah at their residence.

As Beth began to seek God’s direction for resources I was contacted by a mutual friend and was also touched by the story. Contacts were made with Social Services, Pat Johnson (CVBA Missions Team Leader) and a sister church – FBC, Matthews, NC. Funding was made available by the Department of Social Services, the Mission Fund of our association, the folks at FBC, Matthews, as well as a few other personal donors. Pat Johnson spearheaded the initial effort to get the footers and concrete pad poured, the walls erected, and the roofing trusses installed. Pat did all of this even though his wife Dana was experiencing serious health concerns. His strong work ethic and devotion to the mission work touched my heart.

After this, five men came from FBC, Matthews, NC to install the metal roofing, siding, to do the electrical work, the insulation and the sheetrock. Even though these men were working in less than 20 degree weather they continually displayed a wonderful attitude. It was the second time where they worked alongside the folks from our association. The painting was done by a lady, Teresa Olinger, from Heritage Church. And, both the carpet and bedding were donated. On Christmas eve Hannah was able to spend the night in a brand new bedroom on a brand new bed!

I was truly amazed at the way God touched hearts and provided funding and labor for such a worthy cause. This was what attracted me to the Clinch Valley Baptist Association back in 2003. Looking back, I saw the vision for missions being demonstrated and not simply discussed.

I believe the Hannah Project was a Jerusalem effort made possible by God’s people who were willing to be His servants.

May God help us to continue to be His servants in 2010!

Respectfully,  
Larry Browder  
Pastor, Heritage Church

**Pastors, Write an Article and Send it to Us for Future Issues**

## The Campus Comes to You!

Partnering with the John Leland Center for Theological Studies, the Southwest Virginia Christian Leadership Network offers college-credit Bible classes in Southwest Virginia. These classes are ideal for ministers, those exploring a call to ministry, volunteer church leaders, or those who simply desire growth in their Christian walk.

### SPRING 2010 COLLEGE/DIPLOMA CLASSES

Classes begin the week of January 25  
and conclude the week of May 10

#### Baptist Student Center, UVA-Wise

**PH 245 – Philosophy of Religion** An introduction to the philosophical foundations of religious beliefs, including traditional arguments for God's existence, the immortality of the soul and life after death. **Instructor:** Steve Collins, pastor of Nickelsville Baptist Church. Monday, 6:30-9:20pm

**TP 202 – Christian Theology II** A study of the foundations of systematic theology of the Christian church, with a historical and philosophical emphasis on Classical Christian doctrines. **Instructor:** Michael Moore, pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church. Tuesday, 6:30-9:20pm

#### Bonsack Baptist Church, Roanoke

**BS 170 – Johannine Literature** A study of the Gospel of John, the Epistles of John and the Revelation. **Instructor:** Scot Finley, senior adult minister of Bonsack Baptist Church. Tuesday, 1:30-4:20pm

**MS 430 – Christian Education** A study of the philosophical, theological and psychological foundations of Christian Education as the mission of the Church. **Instructor:** Judy Hetherington, Roanoke Valley Baptist Association. Thursday, 9:30am-12:20pm or 6:30-9:20pm

#### Lebanon Association Building, Glade Spring

**MS 415 – Preaching and Communication** A practical introduction to sermon preparation, delivery and communication. **Instructor:** Chad Johnson, pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church. Monday, 6:00-8:50pm

**HC 301 – Church History** A study of the history of the Christian religion and Church from the first century to the beginnings of the modern period. The course highlights the theological and sociological developments in the Early Church, the Middle Ages, the Reformation and post-Reformation periods. **Instructor:** Jack Garland, pastor of Riverside Baptist Church, Chillhowie. Tuesday, 6:00-8:50pm

#### First Baptist Church, Nickelsville

**PH 245 – Philosophy of Religion** An introduction to the philosophical foundations of religious beliefs, including traditional arguments for God's existence, the immortality of the soul and life after death. **Instructor:** Steve Collins, pastor of Nickelsville Baptist Church. Thursday, 6:30-9:20pm

For more information contact: Dr. Gary Chapman  
866.223.9344 (toll free)  
gary.chapman@vbmb.org  
Tuition for college-level classes  
Credit: \$375/class Audit: \$188

## “LEADERSHIP MOMENT”

### *Dream Big. Serve Humbly.*

We're familiar with that account in Matthew 20 when the mother of James and John approached Jesus with a request.

“Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom.” In that teachable moment, Jesus gently reminded his followers that, “whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.”

Interestingly, when the other ten disciples heard about this request, they were indignant and jealous, likely because these were positions they desired just as much.

All of us long to make a lasting difference in our world. The desire for greatness is enormous. I don't think Christ faults our having dreams and ambition. But, the motivation that drives those dreams and ambitions must be one of servant leadership.

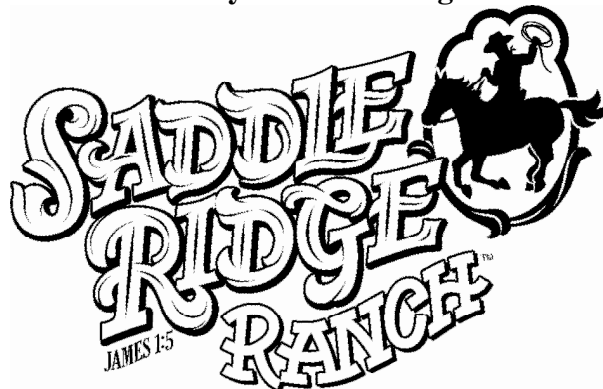
As Christians, we talk a lot about “servant leadership” – and rightly so. After all, that is the model of leadership taught and modeled by Jesus. But, what does it mean to be a servant leader? Does servant leadership mean I'm here to meet everyone's wants or preferences, to satisfy their every whim? After all, that's what a servant or a slave does, don't they? And, isn't that what church members expect of their ministerial staff?

In a chapter she wrote for *Christian Reflections on the Leadership Challenge* by James M. Kouzes and Barry Z. Posner, Nancy Ortberg clarifies the essence of servant leadership: “Jesus did not talk about leadership very often, and every time he did, he talked about serving. When Jesus served people, he called for them to turn their lives upside down. He was constantly going for the deeper motivations and the part in them that was created in the image of God – the part that says, ‘I can be more than this.’ He didn't just walk around getting coffee for people and patting them on the back. That's not what it means to serve. Serving means that when this person leaves my leadership sphere of influence, he or she will be a better person and leader because of the time spent with me.”

Let me encourage you to “chew on” Ortberg's statement during the coming days. What are some practical implications for that style of leadership for business, family and marriage, and the church?

Dr. Gary Chapman, Director  
Southwest Virginia Christian Leadership Network

### Is' Never Too Early to Be Planning for VBS 2010



## “A Resolution to Consider”

Written by Kelly Boggs

ALEXANDRIA, La. (BP)--According to a poll conducted on USA Today's website, 80 percent of Americans will make at least one New Year's resolution. But research indicates that many of those setting New Year's goals will have broken them by March.

Even though most of us have a history of breaking our New Year's commitments, year after year we continue to make them. Why? I think it's because deep down we really want to improve.

Among the most popular resolutions are commitments to lose weight, reduce debt and break a bad habit. These are noble aspirations and, if kept, would certainly have positive results. However, there is one area of life that is usually overlooked and one that will not only help us keep our resolutions, but also will impact virtually every area of our lives. What is this important aspect of life that is often ignored? Attitude.

A mother and her pre-teen daughter embarked on a day of shopping. Several little things went wrong before the pair left home. To add to the day's frustrations, traffic was snarled. Mom and daughter finally reached the mall a couple of hours behind the mother's intended schedule. At the first stop the mother was very short with a salesperson. As they exited the store, Mom huffed, "Did you see the look that woman gave me?" The little girl replied, "Oh, Mama, she didn't give you that look, you had it when you went in!"

"This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it," wrote the Psalmist. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," penned the Apostle Paul. These writers declare what many know to be true, and that is attitude is everything.

Several years ago, the Carnegie Institute analyzed the personnel records of 10,000 employees. The study concluded that 15 percent of success was due to technical training. The other 85 percent was the result of one factor: a positive attitude.

The Center for Creative Leadership studied 105 executives and found that successful leaders possessed stable, positive attitudes while the unsuccessful ones had outlooks that were unpredictable and critical.

A variety of Fortune 500 companies use the following criteria when considering individuals for an executive position: (1) Ambition, (2) ATTITUDE toward company policy, (3) ATTITUDE toward colleagues, (4) Supervisory skills, (5) ATTITUDE toward excessive demands on time and energy.

Your attitude is everything and will determine not only how you face each day, but also how you face life. A positive attitude will produce good results. "A cheerful heart has a continual feast," observed the writer of Proverbs. He also wrote, "A joyful heart is good medicine." The good news about attitude is that we control it.

A man at a construction site opened his lunch sack and began to complain. "Not bologna again," he whined. "I hate bologna sandwiches. I can't stand them." He lamented, "I don't think I can eat one more bologna sandwich." A friend asked, "Why don't you ask your wife to make you something else?" The man moaned, "I can't, I make my own lunch."

Attitude is a matter of perspective. You can choose to have a "rejoicing in the day" attitude. A shoe tycoon dispatched two of his top salesmen to a remote area of Africa. In just a few days he received a telegram from both. One read: "No one here wears shoes. The prospect for success is remote." The other read: "Send more inventory, no one here owns shoes."

"A positive attitude won't allow you to do everything," motivational guru Zig Ziglar once said. "But a positive attitude will allow you to do everything better." As you contemplate a New Year's resolution, why not consider one that will affect every aspect of your life. Focus on cultivating a positive attitude.

Remember you choose the "look" you take with you. Why not choose one that is positive and pleasant? This is the day the Lord has made! Choose to rejoice! Choose to be glad in it!

*Kelly Boggs is editor of the Louisiana Baptist Message.*  
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**PLEASE share your new addresses with us**



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### **“New Year Resolutions for Ministers”**

*Written by Craig Webb*

As a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ we frequently call people to make new commitments or renew old commitments to the Lord. At the end of the year, we encourage others to make resolutions for the new year. Well, if it's good for our church family, then it's good for you and me. This is a **reminder** of something you already know and have probably taught others. As you make your resolutions for 2010...

#### **Begin with areas you feel "called" to change or improve**

God is interested in every aspect of your life. The Holy Spirit may prompt you concerning your health, your time alone with God, your family relationships, relationships with leaders in your church, your continuing education and development, organization, or maybe your finances. Ask God to reveal what He wants to change or improve.

#### **Make your resolutions specific and reasonable.**

You might normally resolve to lose weight. Instead, resolve to lose 8 lbs. by June 1. Resolve to read one chapter of the Bible a day rather than simply resolving to read the Bible more.

#### **Decide on your "next action."**

What is the very next action you need to take to get started. For example, before you can make an appointment with your doctor to get direction and clearance to exercise, you need to find your doctor's phone number.

#### **Get solid and practical information.**

Whatever the resolution, use proven solutions. For example, rather than relying on fad diets, develop a plan with a doctor or nutritionist.

#### **Make it a team effort.**

You need the accountability and moral support.

#### **Start now.**

No need to wait, take your next step now.

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