

The Bishop Charger

Energizing God's People

the Bishop Circuit Newsletter

November, 2009

The Circuit Rider's Note

Doug Bower, Ph.D.

Mission work plays an important role in the ministry of the Church. I was personally influenced by two mission efforts while growing up. One was secular. It was the work of Tom Dooley, M.D. in Southeast Asia. I read "They Night They Burned the Mountain" and was greatly moved by his work providing medical care under great adversity. Unfortunately, he died of cancer in his early 30s.

The other was religious in nature and involved the work of Albert Schweitzer who had a reputation as a genius in 3 fields, music as an interpreter of Back, medicine as an outstanding physician, and theology as a person who addressed the Quest for the Historical Jesus. He established a medical ministry in Africa.

Locally, our former D.S., Robin Lindsey became involved with an effort to Bulgara which still involves this district. An effort is being made to raise \$3600 for that project.

I tend to be interested in local missionary work. I believe that all of us in the local church are actively involved in this automatically by virtue of being believers. Whether we work in a hospital or volunteer with a civic club, our involvement in projects and situations around us is our mission field.

A sign I saw as I left a Baptist Church after turning around in its parking lot read, "You are Now Entering the Mission Field." John Wesley said, "I look on all the world as my parish."

It makes a great deal of sense to view our immediate world as the mission field while supporting mission fields in far away places as well.

A day of gratitude and friendship

Most Americans, learning about Thanksgiving's origin, hear or read about the destitute Pilgrims who suffered greatly during their first bitter winter in America. Many Pilgrims got sick, and half of them died.

What we don't focus on enough is the fact that Native Americans took pity on the Pilgrims. They befriended the newcomers and gave them food. They taught them how to survive the vicious cold months.



Then, when the earth grew warm again, the Indians taught the Pilgrims how to grow various crops and how to store any surplus. It was primarily because of the natives' friendship and helpfulness that the Pilgrims began to eke their way from disaster to fruitfulness.

It's no wonder that when the Pilgrims had their first successful harvest, they invited their Indian neighbors to celebrate with them. The natives didn't come empty-handed. They furnished venison, wild turkeys and probably vegetables from storage. It was, more or less, a potluck affair. The Pilgrim leaders prayed gratefully at the occasion.

We can be confident that an unseen but not unexpected Guest was very much present that day.

Special Dates

- All Saints' Day, November 1
- Daylight-Saving Time ends, November 1
- Visit from Wesley Foundation, November 8
- Veterans Day, November 11
- Christ the King Sunday, November 22
- Thanksgiving Day, November 26

Weekly Circuit Schedule

Bishop 10 AM Sunday School
11 AM worship every Sunday
12 PM choir practice each Sunday
High Shoals 10 AM worship every Sunday
except the 5th Sunday (joint community
Sunday School)
11 AM Sunday School

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