

### Schedule of Services

#### Sunday

Bible Class 10:00 AM  
 Morning Worship 11:00 AM  
 Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday Bible Class 7:00 PM

#### Leadership

Elders Hayward Blanton  
 Jerry Casey  
 Clint Smith Sr

Deacons Clint Smith Jr  
 Robby Stocksdale  
 Joe Sweeney

Pulpit Minister Eric Welch  
 Associate Minister Irvin F. Williams

#### Missions

Panama Mission Pablo Sanchez

We Offer Free Personal Bible Studies and  
 Bible Correspondence Courses

For further information please contact us at

(812) 284-3125 or email: church@hamburgpikecofc.org

Visit Our Website: www.hamburgpikecofc.org

### Those Privileged to Serve

#### A.M. Worship Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins  
 Opening Prayer Bill Cravens  
 Scripture Reading Greg Blanton  
 Sermon Denicio Miranda

Lord's Supper Message

Table Attendant Hank Tincher  
 Table Attendant Mark 15:1-37  
 Closing Prayer Grover Blanton  
 Irvin Williams

#### P.M. Worship Service

Song Leader Rick Martin  
 Bible Reading John Keaton  
 Selection 24  
 Opening Prayer Doug McArthur  
 Sermon Joe Moon  
 Closing Prayer Brandon Slotman

#### A.M. & P.M. Services

Announcements Robby Stocksdale  
 Lord's Supper Prayer Clint Smith Jr  
 Offering Prayer Harold Tincher  
 Usher Jerry Montgomery  
 Count Offering Harold Tincher  
 Assist Count Hank Tincher

#### Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning To Be Announced

Sunday Evening To Be Announced

#### Last Sunday

Offering: \$2,496 Attendance: 94

### **A Barrier to Growth**

Peter wrote to Christians living in difficult times, when suffering was their routine lot. They frequently found themselves at odds with government officials and mistreated in the marketplace. The apostle's first epistle outlines useful advice on how to handle the adverse situations. At the heart of Peter's counsel is the valid assumption that the process of living the Christian life will present opportunities for sharing one's faith in Christ. To take advantage of these openings Christians must possess the ability to clearly explain their belief. He wrote:

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed" (1 Pet. 3:15-16).

Convincing evidence must be offered to explain the lifestyle of a committed Christian. The most powerful evidence to be proposed would be the Word of God. It alone would carry the authority to convince and the ability to convert. The greatest testimony against faith is for the world to ask and the Christian to be unable to explain the very Gospel they profess to believe.

David Bragg <http://www.davidbragg.org/>

# The Worker

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## Do Religious People Need Conversion?

By James D. Burns

Should we attempt to convert religious people, or should the Gospel be presented only to those who have no religion? Some contend that we should "leave religious people alone" when it comes to attempts at conversion. Let us examine the cases of conversion in the book of Acts as they relate to this question. Were any measures taken to convert the already religious?

Those in Acts 2 were "devout men" (v.5) who had come to Jerusalem, a religious center, for the day of Pentecost, a religious observance. Truly, they were religious. Yet, the apostles successfully attempted to convert them to Jesus Christ - about 3,000 were converted (v.41).

The Ethiopian nobleman is mentioned in Acts 8. He was a religious man who had traveled all the way to Jerusalem to worship (v.27). Returning home, he was reading from the book of Isaiah (v.28). Yet, Philip "preached unto him Jesus," which resulted in his conversion.

Lydia was a woman "who worshiped God." She found a place of prayer and engaged in religious activity on the Sabbath, a religious day (Acts 26:13-14). Yet, she was converted to Christ by the word presented by Paul. Saul of Tarsus was zealously religious, circumcised the eighth day...a Hebrew of Hebrews...as touching the righteousness which is in the law, found blameless (Phil. 3:5-6), yet he was converted to Christ (Acts 9).

Centurion Cornelius, although not of Jewish lineage, was a deeply religious man (Acts 10:11). Yet, Peter made a special trip to his home to convert him (Acts 10:19-48).

The masses of Ephesus were devotees of the goddess Diana. Yet, this did not deter Paul from preaching Christ to them (Acts 19).

From these examples we can see that most, if not all, of those in the first century who were converted were religious in some way. Yet, inspired teachers did not hesitate to convert them. Any whose religion does not conform to that presented by Jesus Christ are proper subjects of conversion to His way.

- James D. Burns; via the weekly bulletin of the Harrisburg church of Christ in Harrisburg, IL. You may visit their website at <http://www.harrisburgchurchofchrist.org>

## **Generations**

Eric Welch

In our study of Numbers, we will learn about two generations of Israelites. The first generation that came out of Egypt appears in the first fourteen chapters, but they disappear from the story after their rebellion. The second generation appears in chapter 20. Will they be like their parents?

Sociologists have grouped American generations, and it is insightful how each generation judges the others. The “greatest generation,” born between 1915-1925, endured the great depression and fought in World War II. The “silent generation” followed between 1925-1945. The “baby boomer” generation came next (1946-1964.) This “me” generation has much control of today’s political situation. Generation X, my generation, (1965-1981) had to endure New Coke, leg warmers, mullets and an unprecedented number of divorces from their boomer parents. Millennials, born roughly between 1982-1995, are now receiving the brunt of previous generations’ heat. They are referred to as the entitled generation whose self-esteem was protected by Barney the Dinosaur and participation trophies. Generation Z or the “Net Generation” (1996-?) is being touted as perhaps the most conservative generation since the “greats?”

How can the generations within the Lord’s church work to build better relationships with each other? How they perceive each other first should be different. The Bible does not the previous sociological classifications. The church is a family, and we should relate to each other as we do in a family (1 Timothy 3:15)?

To those older than we are, we should treat them as if they were our parents (1 Timothy 5:1). Don’t lash out with a verbal fist, but speak respectfully (Proverbs 16:31; Job 12:12; Leviticus 19:32). They want to be valued for their contribution (Psalm 71:9, 17-18). Visit them at home. See if they need anything. Change a light bulb, tighten a doorknob or change a battery. Teach them to use email and Facebook or even to play a video game. Learn from them.

To those younger than we are treat them as our brothers and sisters (1 Timothy 5:2). Don’t be suspicious and overly critical. You were once young, and, from age 16-25, you had to make major life-changing decisions with little experience. Instead, be patient, gracious and forgiving. Showing hospitality and mentor them. Learn from them.

The church can promote inter-generational activities, such as hosting a youth devo at your home, Vacation Bible School, singings, fellowship meals, sweetheart banquets around Valentine’s Day, Trunk or Treat, etc. etc.

In the church wisdom meets energy as the older and younger interact with each other and it all goes back to one simple, yet powerful, instruction from Jesus: “And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them” (Luke 6:31).

Jesus saved us to be part of His story. May we never disappear from it in rebellion against Him.

## **Hamburg Pike Happenings**

We have 2 guest speakers scheduled for Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup>: Denicio Miranda will present the sermon for the morning worship and Joe Moon for the evening worship.

Attention all youth and their families: we are planning a canoe trip for June 17<sup>th</sup>. See Michael for details.

Our VBS is scheduled for July 10<sup>th</sup> thru July 13<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. each night. Please plan to attend and invite your family and friends.

Clint Jr needs all the applications for camp by Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup> in order to get the early bird rate. Any applications after Sunday will have to be sent in and paid for on your own. Our week at camp is All Age #2 June 25<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **Parable of the Pencil**

The Pencil Maker took the pencil aside, just before putting him into the box.

"There are 5 things you need to know," he told the pencil, "Before I send you out into the world. Always remember them and never forget, and you will become the best pencil you can be."

"One: You will be able to do many great things, but only if you allow yourself to be held in Someone's hand."

"Two: You will experience a painful sharpening from time to time, but you'll need it to become a better pencil."

"Three: You will be able to correct any mistakes you might make."

"Four: The most important part of you will always be what's inside."

"And Five: On every surface you are used on, you must leave your mark. No matter what the condition, you must continue to write."

The pencil understood and promised to remember, and went into the box with purpose in its heart.

- Author Unknown; via Kevin Rayner, who preaches for the Highland church of Christ, Tecumseh, OK

<http://hamburgpikecofc.org>