

Church News

Spiritual Angling

Fishing, (particularly fly fishing for trout), has always been a favorite pastime of mine. I love the quiet solitude and peacefulness of a mountain setting, and the gentle bubbling of a mountain stream.

The proper presentation of a tiny dry fly to a feeding trout; the rising of that fish and its acceptance of my offering and the releasing of that fish, to live again, has always brought great satisfaction and joy to me. I have often wondered if that trout lived to produce others of its kind, and if it did, how many others had the satisfaction which I experienced, because I had given my fish a new chance at life.

In Matthew 4:18-19 Peter and his brother Andrew were going about their daily activity of fishing, (for they were fishermen). If there was one thing Peter and Andrew knew how to do, it was "how to fish." However, on one occasion, all their knowledge and expertise was to no avail. In Luke 5:1-7 Jesus instructed Peter to cast his net into the sea and catch fish. Peter's reply was,

"Master, we have fished all night and have caught nothing." However, when they followed Jesus' instruction they caught more than they could manage. In Matthew 4:19 Jesus instructs us to follow Him and He will make us "*fishers of men*."

Now some may say, "I have no ability to witness to others therefore I cannot be a "fisher of men."

The success of winning others to Christ is not completely of our own initiative or ability. It is only when we follow the one who instructs us to do so, and do it in His power, will we have great success and satisfaction.

Many of my fishing adventures did not meet with success. It was not properly prepared and my offering was not properly presented; therefore it was not accepted. With time and adequate preparation my presentations were more frequently accepted.

In Mark 1:17, Jesus said, "I will make you to become "fishers of men." A feeling of inadequacy is normal for most of us, but Jesus

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Spiritual Angling

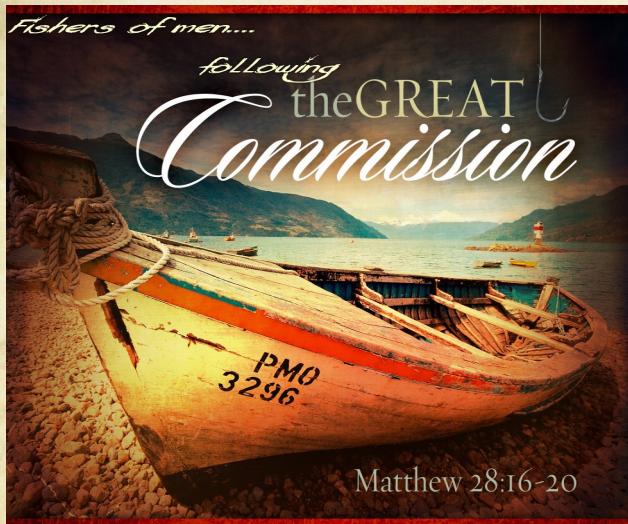
gives us a promise that will enable us to do His bidding. In Revelations 3:8 Jesus gives us a promise that will enable us to fulfill His bidding; "I know thy works: behold I have set before the an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength and hast kept My word, and hast not denied My name."

When there are no barriers between the believer and the Lord, He provides the opportunity for us to tell others what Christ has done for us. Simply telling others is most often the most effective witnessing we can do, and when it comes from a pure heart filled with sincerity it accomplishes much for the Lord.

Will every effort at witnessing produce immediate results? No! The Apostle Paul says in I Corinthians 3:6-7 "One plants, one waters, but it is God who gives the increase." So then, as in fishing, not every attempt will bring immediate success. Paul says in I Corinthians 3:9 "We are laborers together with God." When God opens a door for us to speak to someone, tell them what Christ has done for you. That will be the best cast you will ever make and your Spiritual Angling will be a great success. Jesus said, "You shall be witnesses unto Me." (Acts 1:8)

A sincere, humble Christian Life is the greatest testimony for Christ the world will ever see.

- Bob Misner



Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.

-Psalm 19:14

CHURCHevents

- 4.1—Luis Lopez & Luncheon
- 4.6—Good Friday Service 1:00pm
- 4.8—Resurrection Sunday
- 7.9-13—Day Camp
- 7.23-27 VBS

Checkmate;

Menelik II was the Emperor of Ethiopia from 1889 until 1913. News of a successful new means of dispatching criminals reached him. The news was about a device known as an electric chair. The Emperor eagerly ordered one for his country. Unfortunately, no one bothered to warn him that it would never work because Ethiopia at that time had no electricity. Menelik was determined that his new purchase should not go to waste. He converted the electric chair into a throne.

There was another occasion when an instrument of death became a throne. On a Palestinian hillside about twenty centuries ago a cross became a throne for one named Jesus of Nazareth. To this day that ancient instrument of torture and death is converted into a powerful symbol of life, hope, and resurrection. Millions of people around the world see the cross as God's way of indicating His refusal to let death and destruction have the final word.

On the last Friday of His life, Jesus was faced with a heavy choice: the decision to continue and fulfill His mission or to abort it and save His life. Late on Thursday night Jesus had been with His disciples in Jerusalem for a meal in celebration of the Passover. He changed portions of that meal and reminded the twelve that they would never participate in it again without remembering Him. After the meal was completed Jesus took the eleven — Judas left alone to complete his grisly task — and went to the Mount of Olives to pray. The hours to come would be the climax of all He had been about during His entire life.

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He *is not* Here for He is Risen!

>>> The action in the gospels at this point is compressed like a steel spring in a box. There is abundant potential energy stored there. Actions were swift if not too certain. Decisions were made in a hurry. People gave their support to dark and dubious work. Political intrigue was at its height. Some reached Faustian bargains for the sake of power. Many were confused. A few were crushed. **In the end, only one man stood out with his integrity intact.**

The arrest of Jesus was accomplished easily enough. He was exactly where Judas had told the authorities to find Him. The traitor's kiss sealed the transaction and made the silver jingle in his pocket. Above all, the events of the arrest and the "trials" are full of ironies, illegalities, contradictions, and tragedies. God decided to give Himself to humanity in a new way in the incarnation. He fully accepted the risk that people would react to His son in exactly the same way people react to everything — some accept, some reject, some ignore. Even so, in love God gave Himself to bring us back to Himself. The results at first seemed like failure because the crucifixion appeared so permanent. Jesus died and was genuinely dead. That He would offer Himself that way is amazing and incomprehensible. Jesus accepted suffering as the way to bring people to God. Henry Nelson Wieman pointed out many years ago that pain and suffering are not the same thing. Suffering is a meaningful, communicable event. According to Wieman, emotional maturity is the willingness to incur suffering in order that creative good might emerge. Emotionally mature people do not necessarily seek suffering but recognize that it goes hand-in-hand with all genuine transformation.

On Easter Sunday, Christ broke out of the seeming permanence of death. That breakthrough was a sign of what lies in store for any who will come to Christ as a follower. It was also a sign of the ability of God to break through every form of barrier, hindrance, and grave that stands in His way. This happens in our lives when we accept Him. It happens when God gets "under the skin" of even the most outward pagan.

Someone has put it this way;

God played chess with the devil
And the pieces were human beings.
The devil was ahead
Until God became one of the pieces.
"Check," said the devil at Golgotha.
Three days later
God replied, "Checkmate!"

The empty tomb is a symbol of hope — the hope that is ours when God says "Checkmate!" It is a hope that comes our way when we live as part of the family of God.

April *blessings*

- Spring
- Freedom
- Sitting in the sun
- Angles watching over us
- Those who pray for us
- Beauty of Worship
- Signs of the Lord's return
- The beauty of His Resurrection
- Eternal Life
- Phillies won their 1st. Game (2011)
- Was able to be flexible
- Day off of work
- Parents health
- Special gifts
- Encouragement
- Relief from pain
- Wind to dry the parking lot
- Dedicated church staff
- Good report on heart
- Warm weather
- Sunrises
- Cell phones for emergencies
- Talk with a friend
- Neighbors

April Blessings 2011

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spiritual Healing• Psalms 119:11• The indwelling of the Holy Spirit• An Attitude of Gratitude• His help as we search His Word• The Still small voice of God• He gives me compassion• When we are weak, He makes us strong• Enduring Love of God | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• He leads us in paths of Righteousness• If God be for us, who can be against us• He delivers us from evil• He restores my soul• For the love of my life• Day of rest• Abundant life in Christ• He has a plan and purpose for our lives• Nice weather for expo | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A son's love• Emergence Rx for CHF• Hospital care• Great nurses• Encouraging cards from friends• Concern of my doctors• Medical Insurance• Great to be home• Enjoying visitors• The name of God and their meaning• God's Holiness• God's Sovereignty• God's conviction of sin• Crowns we will receive• Spiritual warfare• God's armor• God never sleeps nor slumbers• God never get weary of me |
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Today we welcome Luis Lopez, one of our missionaries in Uruguay. Join us for the luncheon to follow the Morning Service
- Continue to pray for our shut-ins—Art, Connie A. Marge S.
- Support and pray for our Kids Klub. They meet every Friday night at 6:30pm.
- Pray for wisdom and encouragement for our Kids Klub leaders.
- Mothers day is May 13th.
- Fathers day is June 17th.
- Visit our church website—trinitybiblechurch.net
- The church's e-mail address is office@trinitybiblechurch.net

MEMORYverse

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.”

-John 3:16