



I would like to invite you to join us for our 2011 Evangelism and Discipleship Conference here at Gateway on September 25-28. God has given us a great line up of speakers that will truly challenge our hearts and ministries. The need of the hour is for the church to get back on mission with God, and our mission is making disciples. The conference will challenge us and educate us on how to stay on mission with God and fulfill His plan for our lives and for our churches. There will be strong, Spirit-filled Bible preaching and insightful, practical sessions that will be helpful for us all. Make plans now to join us. If we can assist you in any way, please let us know.

Pastor Karl Sexton

the
ARROW
September October 2011
Volume 45 Issue 5



Ken Cash

Pastor Ken Cash serves as the Senior Pastor of the Trinity Free Will Baptist Church in Greenville, NC. Pastor Ken was saved at the age of 17 through the ministry of Columbia City Free Will Baptist Church in Indiana. He is a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Dr. C. Wayne Johnson

Dr. Johnson has served as the Missions Pastor of Medora Community Bible Church in Hutchinson, KS since December of 2008.

Wayne Johnson and his wife Lorri (Polley) Johnson were married in 1989, and have four children; a son, C.J. (1992), and three daughters, Courtney (1994), Audrey (1995), and Jacquie (1997).

Dr. Randall E. Sawyer

Dr. Sawyer was born in Gastonia NC in 1956. He was raised in a devout Christian home where he was converted to Christ as a child.

Randy Sawyer has spent 25-plus years in local church ministry. He and his wife Terri (Teresa Lynn Cupp) were married in 1976, and have three children,



Sunday, September 25

- 9:30 AM Sunday School
Men in Auditorium/Ladies in Chapel
Dr. Wayne Johnson
The Great Commission is Still Great
Mrs. Lorri Johnson
Becoming a Woman of the Word
- 10:45 AM Morning Worship
Dr. Randy Sawyer
Bruised, but Not Broken
- 6:30 PM Evening Worship
Dr. Wayne Johnson
Developing the Local Church

Monday, September 26

- 9:00 AM AM Session
Dr. Wayne Johnson
Life Touching Life
- 10:00 AM Session
Joey McCreight
Directing Your Outreach
- 11:00 AM Chapel
Dr. Randy Sawyer
Confidence in a Day of Confusion
- 7:00 PM Service
Ken Cash
It's Time To Be Bold

Tuesday, September 27

- 9:00 AM Session
Ken Cash
The Pattern of Growth
- 10:00 AM Session
Men in Auditorium/Ladies in Chapel
Dr. Wayne Johnson
What Do We Use to Disciple?
Mrs. Lorri Johnson
The Ministry Woman and Her Man
- 11:00 AM Chapel
Ken Cash
I Don't Have To
- 7:00 PM Service
Joey McCreight
The Battle To Surrender

Wednesday, September 28

- 9:00 AM Session
Men in Auditorium/Ladies in Chapel
Joey McCreight
Discipleship Defined
Mrs. Lorri Johnson
The Ministry Woman and her Mission
- 10:00 AM Session
Ken Cash
Practical Ideas
- 11:00 AM Chapel
Dr. Wayne Johnson
Practical Principles for Discipleship
- 7:00 PM Service
Dr. Wayne Johnson
True Followers



SCHEDULE

Never Too Old to Learn

Pastor Karl Sexton

One characteristic I admire in my spiritual leaders is their willingness to learn. They are learning from others, they are learning from study and they are learning from their past. I guess I am dating myself, but the older I get, the more I realize how much I thought I knew that I now know I do not. This year, God has been teaching me many things. It has definitely been one of the most trying times in my life; yet, it has been a time of growing in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. He has been teaching me from His Word, from others and from my own failures. I want to share a few of these lessons that the Lord has been teaching me in hopes that it can help some of you, as well.

First of all, the Lord has been teaching me how to really pray and to pray more than I ever have. I have always known the importance of prayer, but recently I have experienced it. I am just completed a series on "The Most Powerful Force on Earth" that has changed my priority and perspective on prayer. I have learned that I can accomplish so much more for His glory through genuine prayer than through human effort. I am truly praying with the disciples, "Lord teach me to pray". Prayer changes things and prayer changes people! I want to be involved in the kind of praying that changes both.

Secondly, the Lord has been teaching me the priority of my family. I must confess that though I have been warned and often I have warned others, I have fallen prey to putting my family second to ministry. Thank the Lord for a patient and forgiving family, but it has taken its toll on them all. I realize more than ever how much I need my family, and my family needs me. I am also discovering that putting my marriage and my family where it rightfully and biblically belongs has not hurt my church at all. My church is better for me having my priorities in proper order. I urge everyone to take an honest look at your priorities.

The final lesson that the Lord has recently been teaching me is that it is best when I get out of the way and just let God work. I know we hear that often—and I have preached it often—but in recent months I have experienced it in a fresh way. I am not speaking of getting lazy or becoming passive. Anyone who knows me knows that is not the case; however, I am learning to trust Him more and let Him do what He does best: change lives. I can only preach, teach, reach out, pray and love folks; but God must transform lives. I cannot change people, and I cannot change circumstances. God has been teaching me to not only pray, but also to wait upon Him and let Him work.

There are many other things that the Lord has been teaching me, and some are too personal to mention. However, through it all, I am so thankful for God's patience with me and His willingness to give me a second chance to love Him and serve Him the way He longs to be loved and served. I join Job who prayed, "Teach me, and I will hold my tongue: and cause me to understand wherein I have erred" (Job 6:24).

Pastor Karl Sexton



September

- 5 Labor Day Picnic
- 8-10 Picture Directory Sessions
- 9 Big Gulp Teen Activity
- 17 Senior Saint's Luncheon
- 21-23 GCS Teacher Conference
- 22-23 GCC Missions Retreat
- 25-28 Fall Bible Conference

October

- 13 Mommy & Me
- 14-15 East Coast Ladies Retreat
- 15 Iron Men's Breakfast
- 20-22 GCC Open House
- 24-28 7CAC Volleyball & Soccer

East Coast Ladies Retreat
October 14-15, 2011
hosted by
Parker's Chapel Free Will Baptist
Greenville, NC

Baby Congratulations

to the Elliott family on the birth of their son, Jonathan Elliott
to the Burke family on the birth of their son, Giovanni Burke
to Sexton family on the birth of their daughter, Makaiyah Sexton

Christian Sympathy

to the family and friends of Eddie Autry.
to Tim Lovell in loss of his grandmother.
to family and friends of Todd Glass.
to Donna Bulaski in the loss of her aunt.
to Phyllis Bass in loss of her aunt.
to Brenda Guillot in the loss of her son Tim Ortiz.
to the family and friends of Stephen Poole.

two thousand ten

I had the privilege this summer to lead a mission team from GCC to the former Soviet country of Moldova. This country has been special to our family for years and is also where we spent a decade of our life ministering. I knew that this trip would be life-changing for our students and layman that went if they would be flexible and let God open their eyes and use them. In just two weeks, the experiences of different customs and traditions, a language barrier, foreign foods and much more showed them just how flexible they needed to be; but one thing remained the same: hungry souls needed to hear God's great message of love and salvation. God blessed our group's willingness to serve, and ten children and one adult gave their hearts to Christ. Praise the Lord God does not place a cultural barrier on salvation!

Our group held vacation Bible school in two of GGM's mission villages. The whole group did an amazing job interacting with the kids. Language was an obstacle they determined to conquer by showing the kids in both villages love. Our group got out of their comfort zone and really made a lasting impact. They were flexible even with no air conditioning or indoor toilets and showers. In our last night of VBS, we had to wade out in mud and freezing rain since the storms dropped our temperature from 94° to 44°, but the students did not complain. Our hearts were full after witnessing God's power at work in Eastern Europe.

I know in my own heart that God has reminded me of the importance of being a servant. The Moldovan people are tremendous servants. They treat you like royalty even though they have nothing. Here in America we live like royalty, yet we act so selfishly. I pray that God would help me to be a better servant for Him. I've often tried putting conditions on when or how that service should take place, but God wants us to serve as He served: fully and completely, wanting nothing in return. Be flexible. Allow Him to work in and through you, and you will see Him do amazing things!

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21

Chip Henley

Director GGM

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ENGAGE
gateway global missions

be flexible

In just two weeks, the experiences of different customs and traditions, a language barrier, foreign foods and much more showed them just how flexible they needed to be; but one thing remained the same: hungry souls needed to hear God's great message of love and salvation.

Prayer Needs

- \$2,400 for ministry vehicle in Haiti
- monthly support for GGM
- wisdom for future projects
- the Wolf's Haiti trip 09/19-10/31

Our Missionaries

Boise, Idaho	<i>Russ and Samantha Stillman</i>
Haiti	<i>Michael and Sherry Wolf</i>
Croix de Bouquets, Haiti	<i>Gilles Chesnel</i>
Hinche, Haiti	<i>Raymond Orelus</i>
St. Michel, Haiti	<i>Philippe Richarson</i>
Cite' Soleil, Haiti	<i>Numa Mitch</i>
Michoacan, Mexico	<i>Jorge Zacarias</i>
Eurasian Director	<i>Jora Falcianu</i>
Valea Mare, Moldova	<i>Victor Bailuc</i>
Cornesti, Moldova	<i>Victor Labman</i>
Firladeni, Moldova	<i>Slavic Banari</i>
Ceadir Lunga, Moldova	<i>Vitali Paunov</i>
Tvarditsa, Moldova	<i>Ion Iordanov</i>
Aluat, Moldova	<i>Jora Kovach</i>
Baurci, Moldova	<i>Nicolai Ekyshu</i>



Spotlight on a National

Ion and Tatianna Iordanov

Tvarditsa, Moldova

Bro. Ion and his family work with the Russian people in southern Moldova. They have been ministering there for several years. It is a very difficult village in which to minister. There have been numerous times when his life has been threatened for preaching the Gospel. In spite of the opposition, God has used this young family to plant a church for His honor and glory. Please pray for their safety and protection as they continue to reach out to the Russian speaking Moldovans with the Gospel. Also pray that God would continue to use them to build a strong, local church for His honor and glory.

Team Moldova Speaks

I'm very thankful for the chance I had to go to Moldova; I will forever have their smiles, hugs, and faces in my heart.

Chelsey Martin *GCC '11*

On this trip I learned that God is able to provide everything that we need, and will point us in the path we need to take if we just believe that He is able.

Kendall Williams *GCC '13*

If I could summarize what I learned, it would definitely be servanthood. Being a servant is more than just helping others; it is a mindset of putting the needs of others before your own.

Caroline Anderson *GCC '12*

One thing that really stuck out to me on this trip was the true brokenness of the Christians. I have never seen adults weeping at an altar before, not afraid of what others may think of their brokenness. That really challenged me as a Christian.

Julia Cullipher *GCC '14*

In a Russian church we sang "How Great Thou Art". We sang in English while the church people sang in Russian. Hearing music like this always reminds me just how awesome God is! We may not be able to understand each other but God hears our praises.

Taylor Greer *GCC '14*

I never fully realized the poverty and darkness that is in other parts of the world until I went to Moldova. Yet, in the midst of their poverty, I found an amazing generosity of the people. I went there hoping that God would use me to touch some of their lives but found instead that God used them to change my life.

Mark Lewis *GFWBC*



Greetings from Boise

In early June, my wife and I made the long trip from Virginia Beach, VA, to Boise, ID. We traveled over 2,500 miles in four days. America is a beautiful country, and we saw a lot of things along the way. We are excited to be here and look forward to everything God has planned for this church.

The church we are working to replant is First FWB Church of Boise. We have about 6 people who regularly attend. The church members are all excited to see what will happen in the future, and we are thankful for their support.

Also, in June my wife and I found out that we are expecting a son. Seth Edwin Stillman is due November 21. Everything is going great so far with this pregnancy. We are all healthy and enjoying our new home in Boise.

We want to thank everyone who have been praying for us and supporting us financially. God has provided all our needs just as He said He would. We do have a specific prayer request we want to mention. On September 11, we will be having a homecoming day at our church. It is the 40th anniversary for this church and we are planning to use this day for promotion. Please pray for this important day for us. A lot of work will be done in preparation, including a lot of invitations. We would like to introduce the people of Boise to our church.

Please pray that God will continue to provide. Thank you again for all your prayers and support. Please continue to pray for us as we continue God's work in Boise.

Russ Stillman

Prayer Needs:

- New contacts and relationships to form
- Evangelistic outreach
- September 11th anniversary outreach



\$5 Campaign

We are so thankful for the monthly support that is being given for GGM to continue reaching around the globe with the Good News of Jesus Christ. If you have taken a packet of our monthly support envelopes, please do not forget to put them in your church's offering plate or mail them directly to:

Gateway Global Missions
5473 Virginia Beach Blvd
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

Below is a letter we recently received. This letter was accompanied with a \$5 bill. Thank the Lord for our prayer partners and financial supporters!

Dear Gateway Global Missions,

I am only thirteen years old, but a little while ago, Mr. Chip Henley came to our church to give a presentation about Gateway Global Missions. I just wanted to tell you that during his presentation, the Lord spoke to my heart. I was really moved when I heard of how you spread the Gospel to many people, and it encouraged me to maybe one day become a missionary, also. You are in my prayers, and may God bless you for all the great things that you have done. Keep up the good work!!!

Sincerely,

Breanna Silence

Haiti Update

I just got back from the fabulous North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles. What a wonderful time Sherry and I had as we sat over two hours waiting to replace our driver's licenses! For those of you that haven't heard, while we were up in Ohio visiting churches and family, my father-in-law's van was broken into after a Wednesday night church service. The thieves made off with Sherry's Nook Color (a little computer/reader), my smart phone, Sherry's cell phone and iPod, cash...just about everything. I'm sure as time goes by, we will discover other things that were in the van and are now missing. But just so you know, the thieves that stole so much were unable to steal the sweet spirit of the services we had while in Ohio.

A dear friend of ours, Vicki Marcum, wrote us shortly after the incident. In her note she cited the song by Louie Armstrong, "What a Wonderful World" and made comment on the sin of man in this world. It made me take pause. You can dress up anything with a sweet melody, but the truth will always follow its own music, no matter how bad it is. Though greatly blessed as we are here in the States, compared to the glory of a place called Heaven this is not a wonderful world. I realize this robbery is quite tame compared to many other atrocities here on earth. That being said, the challenge to win souls comes to the front of my thoughts as God shows me again the depravity of man.

As I waited patiently at the DMV (surprising for me), the thought crossed my mind as to just how willing one can be to wait ridiculously long periods of time for something they need—something of importance. I then began to look around and see the different types of people. I could see many varied lifestyles and the mannerisms and conversations of these individuals gave short glimpses as to who they were and what they were about.

Pr 20:22 *Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the LORD, and he shall save thee.*

These were souls. Sadly I saw little to no evidence of anyone in that group being a Christian. If they were, they remained tight-lipped about it. Nonetheless, there we all were waiting

for something we needed. It was going to cost us something: our time, our finances, and for some, their pride. Not everyone is used to hanging out with "the common folk." We do so much for the hay and stubble of this world. We embrace the temporal instead of the eternal. We allow so much of our money and possessions to be wasted on the devil's distractions.

Our mission field is Haiti. Sherry and I will return there this September for six weeks. We have much to get done as we prepare for residency, and that is our main concern right now. However, there will be time for other things as we wait the six weeks for our documents from the Haitian government. Lord willing, we will be ministering in different parts of Haiti while there. One ministry we are particularly excited about is with a friend of ours, George Patton, who is in a very remote and primitive area of Haiti. Pray that we will be of help to him and those people. I welcome your questions about our ministry. Feel free to call me: 910 859 0733

*In Christ,
Michael Wolf*

Prayer needs for our September trip:

- Opportunities to witness
- For God to expedite our paper work without any problems
- Safety in Haiti
- A decent understanding of the language
- Good translator
- Good means of transportation

Contact the Wolfs!

Email: contact@stirmissions.com

Twitter: [Michael__Wolf](#)

Phone: 910 859 0733

Follow Sherry and I on Facebook

Contact Gateway if you do not already receive the Arrow

Praise Item

Only \$2,400 to go on Haiti Vehicle!

GCC Gateway Christian College



ALPHA-OMEGA SCHOLARSHIP

Helping students today & tomorrow!

Gifts to this scholarship will be divided equally: the first half goes immediately into the Alpha Fund as a scholarship during the next academic year; the second half of the gift goes into the Omega Fund where it accrues interest with the gifts of others as a lasting gift over the years. At the beginning of the next academic year, the interest from the Omega Fund is transferred for scholarship distribution along with the Alpha Fund.

What are you doing while turning around?

Do you remember the song "Turn Around?"

Where are you going...

my little one... little one?

Where are you going...

my baby...my own?

Turn around and you're two...

turn around and you're four...

Turn around and you're a young girl

going out of my door!

This song has been sung by various singers and has been adapted to pertain to either a young girl or boy. But, no matter the singer, or the gender of the child, the meaning is very clear. Children grow up, and our time with them goes by swiftly—before we realize it.

Earlier this month, my wife and I were reminded of this fact as our youngest child boarded a plane to leave home for yet another school year in St. Croix. Where has the summer gone? It seems as though we were picking her up from the airport just yesterday. Where have all the years gone, for that matter? Christ was just two...or was it four? Apparently, according to the song, we must have turned around a few times!

Serving in the ministry of Christian education, I have the privilege to interview with young parents who are looking for help and guidance in teaching and training their children. Like all of us, these parents are busy "turning around", and before they know it, their children will be all grown up and out the door. Here, in a nutshell, is the advice I give parents trying to raise godly children while they have the opportunity:

- First of all, children need a godly, Christ-centered home. Mom and Dad must be openly and consistently living for Jesus while teaching their children to make Him first place in every area of their lives. Jesus deserves and expects

our very best!

- Secondly, children need to be actively involved in a Christ-honoring, Bible believing church. Let your walk match your talk. Don't tell your children how important Jesus is if you can't be actively committed to His church. They will see right through your hypocrisy.

- Thirdly, children need a good, quality Christian education that will re-enforce what they are taught at home and at church. Christian education will help sharpen their academic, social, and spiritual tools so that they can effectively live for Christ wherever God may lead them. Christian education becomes the stabilizing leg in this three-pronged model for teaching and training children for Christ.

Last night, we had one more reminder of how swiftly the years pass by as we celebrated Christi's birthday. My dad (Christi's grandpa) asked her how old she is. Grandpa guessed, very sincerely, "Seventeen?" Christi smiled a little (laughing on the inside) as she kindly told him she is 24 years old. Wow! Where have the years gone? Grandpa must have turned around a few times himself!

Yes, life flies by for all of us. The question is not, "Are we turning around?" but rather, "What are we doing while turning around?" Our children will grow up; they will go out the door. Will they be prepared when that time comes? Will they be ready to go out into this world, stand for what is right, and make a positive difference for Christ?

For those of you who have school-age children, I encourage you to consider Gateway Christian School & Academy. We can help during your "turn around" years!

Sam Postlewaite

Finding YOUR *Sweet Spot*

For a grand slam swing, a baseball player must use the bat's sweet spot: that place on the bat that sends the ball soaring high over the fence. Every bat has one, but it is the batter's job to find that spot and make the connection with the ball.

Each of us has a sweet spot in our life, as well. It was placed there by our Creator so that we could joyfully perform the work He has called us to do. When we align our talents and obedience with God's Word and His guidance, then we will definitely soar to new heights.



Come to GCC Fall Open House and discover your sweet spot.

Two Extremes of the Modern Church

Colossians 2:8 states, "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." This is a verse I especially like, and I have sought to heed. Recently, it's become more meaningful to me. My thoughts will be best presented as I comment on each phrase of the verse.

"Beware lest any man spoil you"

This is not speaking of spoiled (rotten) milk or a spoiled (belligerent) child, but of an army that is taking captive, looting, or robbing their enemy. Paul is challenging the people to not let the fortress of their religion to be taken captive by an anti-Christ philosophy.

"through philosophy and vain deceit,"

At first glance, this may appear to be two different things, but a couple of versions and commentators lump it as one enemy. For example, the NIV calls it "hollow and deceptive philosophy." But what is a philosophy? By way of a simple

definition, it is the reason for doing something. Practice speaks of what you do and philosophy is why you do what you do. Without philosophy we have pointless actions. In this verse Paul is challenging believers to have a philosophy in the first place: to understand why we do what we do. This is implied in the word vain. Furthermore, Paul did not want these believers to be deceived by the wrong kind of philosophy.

"after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ"

Not only are these philosophies empty and deceptive, but they are not of Christ, for Christ, or through Christ. In our modern Christian circles, a philosophy "after the traditions of men" would appear to be externally correct but would have faulty motive; while a philosophy "after the rudiments of this world" may have pure motives but external actions that reflect the world's system. Either extreme is wrong.

I'm not sure there is a verse in Scripture that better describes the modern church. I want to be a child of God who has a heart for the things of God and an understanding of his Word that causes my actions to reflect His will. Likewise, I want to be part of a local church and a movement that does the same.

Daniel Webster

How Can We Help?

As Sue and I started to get close to retirement, our thoughts were on what the Lord wanted us to do with our time. Even though we do spend some time traveling, we were sure it was not God's plan for us to do all of our travel just for relaxation. So, the Lord must have a plan for us. As we thought and prayed about our future, we began to wonder if there was anything we could do for our Home Missionaries.

Since we have known many missionaries through the years, both home and foreign, we knew they could use fellowship, if nothing else. Even many of our home missionaries are isolated from strong fellowship at times. After retiring from the Virginia Beach Police Department in July 2004, with 25 years of service, to become Dean of Students at Gateway Christian College, and then retiring again after 6 years with the college, it was time to find out what we could do.

In the fall of 2010, I made contact with a couple of our home missionaries that we have known for several years to see if they could use us for a month or so. I spoke with Bill Reynolds in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, and Allen Hall in York, Pennsylvania. Both of them said if we would come, they would put us to work. So, on May 1, 2011, we headed out on a two month mission journey.

We arrived in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, on Monday, May 1, and set up our motor home in the Reynolds driveway. Bill decided to make May family month and asked us to teach Sunday school and Wednesday night Bible study. Sue taught the ladies from Titus 2, and I taught the men various lessons to help them become the men and leaders God wanted them to be. On Wednesday nights, I taught lessons on training children. We also spent

much time in fellowship with the Reynolds and their people.

After a month with the Reynolds, we headed out for York, Pennsylvania, to spend the month of June helping in the ministry of Allen and Jenny Hall. The trip to York didn't quite go as planned, but we arrived safely and were ready to get started. When we met with Brother Hall, he laid out what he wanted us to do during our visit; it included teaching Sunday school, and some work around their church. The church had recently purchased a building that had been built in 1968, and it desperately needed some upgrading. There was painting, cleaning out, organizing, decorating, and general odds and ends to be done. It was a busy month but a good one.

The two months were similar in some ways but also quite different. In Rhode Island, we were focused on the church families. While we were there, we were in four different homes in fellowship. Some of the time involved counseling in some needy situations. We also spent much time with the Reynolds and developed a great friendship as we saw their hearts for the work and labored together. In York, the current need was different. There was a need for labor. Although we did teach, most of our time was spent working shoulder to shoulder with the Hall's and two of our Gateway own: Tim and Jessica Hodges. As in Rhode Island, our hearts were knit together with the Hall's for the work in York, and our friendship has grown.

When we began our trip, our intent was to be a blessing to these missionaries that have given of themselves for the cause of Christ. As it turned out, we found ourselves being blessed by their friendship and heart for the work. We saw them under

difficult circumstances, waiting for the city to act on things that needed approval for their buildings. Their attitudes were, "Help us pray things into action." In both places we joined with them in prayer and watched as the Lord moved city hall. In both cases, our prayers were answered, and things happened quickly.

After having been a part of the work at Gateway for many years, the Lord allowed us to be a part of His work in Pennsylvania and Rhode Island. We believe He has called us to continue helping our Free Will Baptist Home Missionaries. We have spoken with other missionaries, and look forward to what the future holds.

As the Lord provides, we will go and do what we can. I would encourage every Christian to consider at least a short mission trip. It doesn't have to be long term. Just a few days will encourage a missionary and give you a greater appreciation for your home church. Although you may think there is nothing you can do to help, I assure you there is. If you can sweep a floor, knock on a door or cut some grass, you will be a help.

What would the Lord have you do?
Tommy Goodfellow



The Arrow

GATEWAY FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
5473 Virginia Beach Blvd.
Virginia Beach, VA 23462-1743



M o n e y

What is your goal in life concerning money? In our society today, it seems that the normal attitude towards money is, "Give me some more, please!" As a husband and father of three children, I feel the pressure all the time to make sure that I am accumulating wealth for myself and my family. It seems as though everywhere I turn, someone is trying to get me to invest in something and put my money where I can get the best return. I will tell you I am not against saving and being a good steward. As a matter of fact, I think it is wise and necessary; however, all the hype about money seems to have caused a lot of people to put too much focus upon it. Actually, the result of all the emphasis on money has caused many people to shift their focus altogether from God to material gain. Hence, the desire of far too many people is to be rich. Sadly, even many young couples refuse to have children in order to become wealthy. Most of the financial planners of today stimulate the desire of Christians to be rich. All around us we are pressured to turn our focus on amassing wealth. And all too often, this pressure is even present in our churches.

The question arises, "How does God feel about this subject?" The answer is found in I Timothy 6:9 where Paul writes, *But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.* In a passage where he is encouraging contentment, we read that living to be rich yields something quite different than what we expected. When being rich is our motive in life, the results are actually very negative. We are said to be overcome by temptation and a snare. Temptation references the fact that you will be enticed to commit sin in order to gain wealth. A snare is a picture of a trap in which a bird is entangled. The goal of being rich proves to be very hurtful for the Christian.

So what should the Christian's attitude be towards money? We find in II Corinthians 8 that God gives money to us not for the purpose of allowing us to amass great wealth, but so that we can meet our needs and the needs that are evident around us. It is never for selfish gain.

So what should the Christian do with the money God entrusts to him? First, he should give back to God as He has commanded in His Word. Then, he should meet the needs of his own family. Next, he should save some for the future. In the process of all this, he should also be sensitive to the needs God might bring to his attention knowing that God will always take care of him.

Whatever you do with money, do not let it become the ruler of your life. Remember that making wealth your primary focus will entrap and enslave you. Instead, obediently open your heart and your hands to meet the needs of others and allow God to use you in a marvelous way!

Tim McCreight