

Vegas Valley Church of Christ

-- Continued from page 1 --

of our vital workers slacking off in their duties. We must all "endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (2nd Timothy 2:3). Diligent effort, significant sacrifice, and determined commitment to the cause are essential. Every Christian serves in a critical capacity (Ephesians 4:15-16).

Some might suggest that the odds against us are overwhelming. But in truth, with God on our side, the enemy is doomed! As Elisha told his fearful servant: "Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them" (2nd Kings 6:16).

"What Must I Do To Be Saved?"

Acts 16:30

Learn The Gospel

John 6:45; Romans 10:17;

Believe On GOD In CHRIST

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

Confess CHRIST

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

Repent Of Sin

Acts 3:19; 17:30

Be Baptized Into CHRIST

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

Remain Steadfast

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

"Give Attention To Reading"

1st Timothy 4:13

Sunday... Psalm 49:1-9; Numbers

31:25-32:42; Romans 4:1-25

Monday... Psalm 49:10-20;

Numbers 33:1-34:29; Romans 5:1-21

Tuesday... Proverbs 2; Numbers

35:1-36:13; Romans 6:1-23

Wednesday... Psalm 50:1-15;

Deuteronomy 1:1-2:7; Romans 7:1-25

Thursday... Psalm 50:16-23;

Deuteronomy 2:8-3:22; Romans 8:1-

17

Friday... Proverbs 3; Deuteronomy

3:23-4:40; Romans 8:18-39

Saturday... Psalm 51:10-19;

Deuteronomy 6:16-8:10; Romans

9:1-18

"Sound Doctrine"

Titus 2:1

EVERYONE COUNTS!

Greg Gwin

Our country accomplished some incredible things during the hard trials of World War II. The feats of brave men and women who faced the enemy on the battlefields inspire us. But there is also amazing historical data that documents the amount of war materials and supplies that were produced in relatively short periods of time right here on the home front. With limited resources that sometimes required rationing, and without the advantages of the technology we now enjoy, the nation's "war machine" turned out essential equipment at a staggering pace. How was this done?

The key to this effort was a campaign to convince every single worker of his or her importance to the ultimate goal of defeating the enemy and winning the war. The leaders of our country successfully persuaded everyone to work hard, make sacrifices and contribute what they could to this end. The results were amazing. Against huge odds, the victory was won.

We are in another sort of a war. There are no tanks, planes, bombs or missiles. We do not need workers preparing bullets or medical supplies. There's no need for rationing of gasoline or other necessary products. Instead, we are in a spiritual war (2nd Corinthians 10:3-4). We battle against a very real and powerful enemy (1st Peter 5:8).

To win this war, we definitely need every Christian fully engaged. Everyone counts! We cannot afford to have some

-- Continued on page 4 --

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LOW HANGING FRUIT

Greg Gwin

Anyone who has ever harvested fruit from a tree knows that the easiest picking is of the fruit which hangs on the lowest limbs. This fruit can be quickly gathered - no ladders, no reaching, no problem. This is, for obvious reasons, always the first fruit to be picked.

Business people sometimes refer to "low hanging fruit" when they are not even discussing apples, peaches, or oranges. They use this expression to identify the people, products, profits, etc. that are easiest to realize. For business men, just like orchard keepers, it makes a lot of sense to go after the "low hanging fruit" first.

As Christians, we have the responsibility of sharing the gospel with the masses of lost people in the world. Contemplating this job can be an overwhelming thing. There are more than six billion people in the world today. In fact, we are told that there are currently more living people on earth than the sum total of all the people who have died throughout all time! Think of it: more than half of all the people who ever needed to learn about God and His will are out there today - waiting for us to get the good news to them.

How can we hope to succeed? Where should we begin? How can we tackle this enormous job? Here's a suggestion: **Go for the low hanging fruit!** By that we mean that we should first target the people around us that we know personally: our friends, family, co-workers, neighbors, and other acquaintances. These are the folks that we know best, and they know us. Our chances to influence them will be the greatest. Yes, we need to reach all those nameless masses out there, but why not start first by sharing God's truth with the ones right at hand? Such folks will not require special "evangelism plans", or the expending of large amounts of money. We can just talk to them around the kitchen table, across the back fence, or while seated at the coffee break table. We can realize a huge harvest for the Lord and His kingdom in this simple way. Let's get busy!

THE KIND OF PREACHING WE NEED

Greg Gwin

People may have various views about preachers and their work, but the Bible plainly states the kind of preaching that is needed in the world today. We need preaching that is:

Bible-based: The Lord told Jonah to "*preach the preaching I bid thee*" (Jonah 3:2). Some preaching is pleasant to hear and it entertains people, but it leaves them sadly uninformed about what God really wants.

Doctrinal: Paul urged Timothy to "*take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee*" (1st Timothy 4:16). Doctrine is distasteful to some folks, but it is essential to the saving of the soul.

Direct and Personal: Preaching that doesn't deal with the real problems and sins of people is of little value. We should not be unkind, but we need to "get to the point". John the Baptist set a wonderful example, and lost his head for doing so (Mark 6:18).

Motivated by love: We won't succeed in reaching people if they can't see that we truly care about them, but when we "*speak the truth in love*" (Ephesians 4:15), we will be able to help people deal with the toughest problems.

Full of Conviction: You have to have a deep faith in the message you proclaim. As Paul said, "*I believed, and therefore did I speak*" (2nd Corinthians 4:13).

Bold: Some men check to see "which way the wind is blowing" before they speak. Instead of this, we should speak "*with all boldness*" (Acts 4:29).

Balanced: We need both positive and negative instruction. If we omit either one we will not be effective in this important work. Paul told Timothy to "*reprove, rebuke, exhort*" (2nd Timothy 4:2), and in doing so he emphasized the need for both positive and negative teaching.