

“SideLines”

SouthSide Church of the Nazarene – Tracy L. Gorman – February 6, 2008

Hello, SouthSide friends and family members!

I hope you're having a great day and week. Mine has been excellent, but we've had a lot on our plates here in the office this week. You know, I don't say it enough, but THANKS SO MUCH for praying for your pastors and staff members each day. I know that it's those prayers, my dear friends, that get us through so often. From the bottom of my heart, thanks!

While I am thinking about it, I want to say a GREAT BIG THANK YOU to the students and faculty of Yorktown Elementary School for their great work in gathering non-perishable food items for our food pantry. Those kids and their teachers really came through for us, and even though I've already sent a note from the church, if you get a chance, drop them a card in the mail just to acknowledge their donation. The address at YES is 8810 W. Smith Street, Yorktown, IN 47396. My heart was just blessed when I saw all that food they had collected. The Principal's name is Ms. Amanda Eller. THANKS AGAIN!!!

Speaking of the Food Pantry, I am excited about what's happening not only in that ministry, but in all the other ministries that are under the umbrella of “Side-By-Side” ministries. Lots of people are getting help in so many areas of their lives, and that my friends, is why we're here. We're here to help them make it to Heaven, and to love them as they journey towards that destination. The other night we hosted a District Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries Rally here at SouthSide, and lots of people were wanting information about “SBS.” This list includes some from the denominational Headquarters in Kansas City. It was awesome telling them about this great vision that we have, and even how the Lord gave it to me. Those 14 ministry areas really do represent so many of the “felt needs” that people have in their lives today. To those who are already involved with SBS, let's keep it up, and even step it up a couple of notches. To those who are not yet involved...we need you! Please join in this mission of truly reaching out to a lost and dying world that is heading to Hell.

To those who are a part of the “Pastor's Get Healthy Club,” I want to encourage you to keep working hard to make good choices. See, these choices are more than likely the difference between success and failure in reaching our various goals. Some of us are trying to lose some pounds, while some are just trying to get their cholesterol numbers down a little. At the same time, some are trying to exercise a little more each day, and some are just trying to stay away from things in life (tobacco, alcohol, pornography, etc.) which will ultimately destroy themselves. I am so excited for the large number of people who have signed up for this “Club,” and I want you to know that, on a very regular basis, I am praying for each and ever member!!! Let's get healthy!

I received a note earlier today from Dianna Gilbert (our former Senior Pastor's wife), and she is now out of the hospital, and is back home in Sri Lanka. Please continue to pray for her as she recovers. She said the heat is hard to take right now, so pray for God's help to be poured out on her in abundant measures. Also, continue to pray for Ron and her as they go about their daily lives and ministries as Field Directors there in SE Asia. We love the Gilberts!

This Sunday morning, I am beginning a new 3 week series called, “The Ultimate Top Ten List.” Really, it’s a modern title to a series about “The Ten Commandments.” Did you realize that these ancient laws, found way back in the Old Testament (Exodus Chapter 20) are still applicable to our lives today? They truly are, and over the next 3 weekends, we’re going to talk about them. I am just convinced, dear friends, that even though we are a contemporary and very relevant church, our Biblical mandate has never changed. God still wants us to live holy lives, and He expects us to follow His commandments. In fact, John 14:15 says, “If you love me, you’ll keep my commandments!” WOW!!! That’s pretty straightforward, isn’t it? Well friends, most of the Bible is just that way – straightforward. We’re the ones, really often, who try to make it either too complicated, or too watered down. It’s just what it is, and over the next 3 weeks, we’ll look at exactly what those 10 laws have to say to us in 2008. I hope you’ll be here each Sunday morning, first for Sunday school at 9:30 (everybody ought to go to Sunday school), and then for the morning worship experience at 10:30. I hope to see you then!

On Sunday night at 6:00, we’ve been truly having a great time together, and that continues this Sunday. I hope you’ll take time out of your evening to come in for this special hour of teaching, worship, fellowship, and growth. I think that most people who come really value that special time with their fellow church members. Join us this week!

I know I just jump all over the place, but I wanted to tell you something that was told to me the other night at the Sunday school rally: The leader of SDMI ministries for the global Church of the Nazarene and his wife (Dr. Woody and Cheryl Stevens) was our special guest speakers (and almost 400 people were here). Anyhow, Mrs. Stevens said that they travel all over the world, and have seen lots of coffee shops in lots of Nazarene churches, but that they’ve NEVER seen one that even comes close to ours. They both just went on and on about how warm, inviting, well-decorated, etc., that it was. They commented, time and time again, what an incredible ministry tool that it can be, and dear friends, I truly believe that, too. I hope their words bless you as much as they did me! Café 2:42 is a great, great asset to the life of SouthSide Church!

Hey, we’re just a few weeks away from EASTER weekend, and already, lots of events for that weekend are planned and are being worked on. I hope you’ll set aside time to participate in as many of those awesome events as possible. As well, on Easter Sunday morning, we will receive our annual Easter offering for World Evangelism. I hope every person who is a part of the SouthSide family will fully participate in this offering. These dollars are a vital part of the outreach mechanism of this church around the world. Thanks, in advance, for what I know you’ll do!

Well, I think that’s enough for now. Just know that I love you dearly, and I thank God for you. I am excited for what the Lord is doing in peoples’ lives, and I am looking forward to many, many more great days working alongside you. We have a mission, and that’s why we’re here! “We exist to connect people to Jesus Christ and to each other!” We’re here to see lives changed FOREVER!!!

*With much love,
Pastor Tracy Gorman*



Addition: Sent out later in email.

Friends at SouthSide,

Earlier today I emailed "SideLines" out for this week. I wrote it in MSWORD, 2007 edition. If you were not able to open it, please go to www.TrySouthSide.com, and go to the resources page. On that page, you'll find the various issues of "SideLines" for you to view. Sorry about the confusion!!!

One thing I had planned to put in "SideLines" but didn't get in, is that we've added something new in the church building. A few weeks ago, a very wonderful man named Bob Huffer went to be with the Lord. He was a wonderful man! Well, when he passed away, several people gave money to SouthSide as a memorial to Bob.

Well, I talked to Helen (his wife) about an idea that I had on what we could do in his memory with those funds (and she loved it), and here that idea is: After Bob got sick, a lot of times he had to leave the Sanctuary and go out into the Lobby to sit. Well, I felt like a fitting memorial would be to provide a very nice seating area in the small Lobby just outside the Sanctuary, so those needing a place to sit wouldn't have to go all the way out into the Large Lobby. So, with that in mind, we've used those funds and have placed a sitting grouping in that area. This is done in memory and honor of our friend! As funds allow, we may add a couple more identical chairs at some point in the future.

We miss Bob! No doubt about that. However, his memory lives on in our hearts and in the lives of all the people at SouthSide who were touched by Bob's life.

Thanks to all who made this memorial possible!

Pastor Tracy