

“SideLines”

Pastor Tracy Gorman – SouthSide Church – February 19, 2008

Dear SouthSide Family and Friends,

I was preparing today for this Sunday’s message, which is the final in the 3 week series called, “The Ultimate Top Ten List” (which is another way of saying that we’re studying the Ten Commandments), and I was specifically looking at the Scripture verse from John 14:15 which says, “If you love me, you’ll keep my commandments!” You know, dear friends, this verse is so profound, and so underrated. It is one that absolutely cannot be ignored, and so often, I am desperately afraid that it is. For us to love Christ, means (literally) that we would die for Him, and for what He stands for. It also means that we will live for Him, and for what He stands for. So, in other words, whether we live, or whether we die, we do so for Him. Isn’t that amazing, and isn’t it insightful? May these words bring stability and a real element of spiritual growth to your life today. After all, brothers and sisters, this is not a game we’re playing. It’s life and death (both spiritually and physically; both now and for eternity).

Speaking of this Sunday’s message, I am spending this week praying for every person who will walk through our doors this Sunday morning. Yes, we will finish up the “Ultimate Top Ten List” series, and we’ll wrap it all up by looking at THE FINAL FOUR items on this list. You can certainly read ahead by studying what the verses in Exodus Chapter 20 have to say to our world in 2008. These timeless truths were written many thousands of years ago, but they’re still so relevant to our world today. These “moral imperatives” also can be found in Deuteronomy 5:16-21. I encourage you to read both passages. Join us on Sunday morning at 10:30 for the worship experience. BUT...come a little earlier (9:30) for Sunday school. There’s a class for every age group. Then on Sunday night, I’ll be speaking in the 6:00 p.m. service. Join us for a great time together.

This Sunday morning, we will be receiving the Alabaster offering. This offering goes towards the building of churches and other ministry centers on the mission field all around the world. This year, many of the dollars we receive in this offering will go towards the completion of the land purchase for the Wenger Memorial Church of the Nazarene in Chanquinola, Panama. Our church has been working on this project for several years, and this summer, the church is scheduled to be dedicated. However, about \$15,000 remains outstanding on the land purchase, and we want to get this paid off. So, we will give a good deal of the dollars we receive in the Alabaster offering this Sunday towards this project. Please help us out by giving very generously. Thanks!

Also, the baby bottle fundraiser for First Choice for Women is now completed, and we need you to bring those bottles back in so we can get them delivered to the pregnancy care center. Please bring them in, filled with your change, dollars, etc., and we’ll get them over there. Thanks so much for helping this wonderful ministry, which provides so much help and assistance to those in our community who find themselves pregnant, scared, and in need of love and care. We’re happy to be ministry partners with First Choice for Women!

You know, speaking of ministries, there sometimes comes a point when a guy has to focus on those things that are most important in his life. It’s always been my desire to be that “kind” of a leader, and for the most part during my almost 20 years of fulltime ministry, I’ve been pretty successful in doing that. However, lately, to be real honest with you, I’ve just had too many irons in the fire, and there have been too many things pulling for my attention and focus. So, I have to do what I’ve needed to do for a while, and that is to unload some of the extra baggage that I’ve picked up. So, this morning, I took one step in that direction by stepping down as president of the Muncie Zone Nazarene Ministerial Association. I just really felt like it was something that I needed to do, and I knew I had the “green light” from the Lord to do so. So, I am no longer the president! Believe me when I say that I am very happy about this, too!

On another topic completely, let me briefly talk once again about how much I am looking forward to the events of Easter weekend. As we approach that special occasion, I hope that you'll be placing those items on your calendar, and that you'll take advantage of every opportunity that you possibly can that weekend. Remember, it all begins on Good Friday with communion from 6-8 in the Sanctuary. Then on Saturday, the Easter EGGstravaganza for the kiddos will be from 11:00 – 2:00, featuring all kinds of games, an egg hunt, bounce houses, food, and the story of Easter. Invite and bring lots of children to this event!!!

On Easter Sunday morning, we will have two identical services for the Great Easter Celebration. Those worship experiences will be at 8:00 and 10:30, with breakfast "sandwiched" in the middle at 9:30. There will be no Sunday school or evening service on Easter Sunday. Please be with us as we celebrate His resurrection. JOY TO THE WORLD, HE IS RISEN!!! He is risen, indeed!

But before all that happens on Easter, we will have a Zone Missionary Rally here at SouthSide THIS COMING MONDAY EVENING at 7:00. Missionary Heidi Bose will be the special guest, and I sure hope we have a good representation here at the church of people *from* our church. Please be here...and be a part of it all. It's always good to hear from missionaries who are serving around the world.

HEY! Do you see how busy we are? The things I've written about are only a very small portion of all the ministries and events that are happening at SouthSide. This church is moving forward, and we need you to be onboard, serving in a ministry, and making a difference in peoples' lives. This church has SO MUCH potential, and I just want to see us be all that God desires. When we reach that goal, there's no goal that's better or more important to strive for.

May God give you a great week. Again, I hope to see you this weekend. If you're not already involved, please join us tomorrow evening (Wednesday) for our Bible study groups here at SouthSide. There's something for every member of every family. Give it a look!

***With much love,
Pastor Tracy Gorman***

"I am determined to be a better person on December 31, 2008, than I am today through prayer, Bible study, and by connecting with my fellow man!"

