

Another Word September 28, 2021

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

Did you hear the crash!? “Fall” fell on us last Wednesday, right on schedule. Temperatures are dropping overnight, leaves beginning to change; all to remind us that “Pumpkin flavored everything” season is upon us.

Our goal for next Sunday (Oct. 3rd) is to have a picnic and fire after our church service. You may bring your own lunch. However, a few of us decided that it would be nice to have pizza and drinks available for everyone. So, if you like pizza, just come hungry and stay as long as you like. If the weather doesn’t cooperate, we can still have an indoor picnic; just not an indoor fire. Lol.

Our scriptures for this Sunday are: Psalm 26, Mona Campbell is Elder, and Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12. This is World Communion Sunday.

As we enter into prayer, please remember Karen Light as she goes through tests. And praises for Linda’s niece who came through a very difficult surgery last Sunday. Pray for her continued healing.

Most Holy God, we are blessed by Your love for us. In the middle of our daily lives, we pause just to say thank You. We often become so involved with ourselves that we end up being disobedient and stray from what You have planned for us. And for this, we ask for Your forgiveness. May we be more attentive to Your voice, and understand more clearly our purpose in life, and to follow Your will. We ask for

protection for all the workers who live their lives in service of others.
And may Your wisdom guide us to bring peace to a broken world.
Please accept this, our prayer, in the name of Jesus, our Savior, Amen.

Trust and truth are words with great implications. Do you trust that a rope will not break? Do you trust the builder of your house? Or trust the car repairs with a stranger? How about the food preparer or a fast talking salesman? Who do **you** trust with the truth?

When I first entered the world of business and sales, I quickly realized how important your age, looks, clothing, and words were. But, I also saw how many in my chosen profession tried to bypass trust and truth just to get a sale, or to hit a quota, or just “beat” the system. It was never more apparent than when I was hired to become a manufacturer’s rep.

My first territory was Southwest Ohio, and the states of Kentucky and Tennessee. The sales from the area were low, and the rep I was replacing was, shall we say, not trusted, rather untruthful, and generally not well liked. Can you say uphill battle?!

The company I represented was one of the best in the industry. However, because of the lack of service (samples, information, training, help with problems, etc.) there was no trust in what was available to them. And into all that walks me, a “Northerner” who’s going to help?

There were many eyebrows raised, many doubts raised, many who flat out didn’t trust me. Why should they, I’m just another salesman. One

customer even said that he would probably never see me again. I counted 8 weeks ahead on his calendar, circled the date and came back on that day. Over the months, little by little, they began to see that they could count on what I said and did. That I was there when I was needed, that I took an interest in them being successful, and that I could be trusted. I feel I was positioned to be there and to help them become all they could be. But it goes much deeper than that.

We are all positioned by God, to be where we are for a specific purpose. There is someone out there who knows us, even trusts us but knows nothing about Jesus. That is where we come in. Because we are known and trusted, they will be more willing to listen and be receptive to what we have to say. Here's what I mean.

Think of it like the story of the woman at the well. Jesus wants to reach the Samaritans. But He is Jewish, and Samaritans don't trust Jews. Jesus reaches out to one person, an outcast in her own community. He tells her the truth about herself and about the love of God. He gains her trust, and she believes. She then becomes a disciple and because of her testimony, many Samaritans believe in Jesus. Hmmm. One person gains the trust of another, and from that simple act hundreds come to believe. (John 4)

You see. You don't have to be a great evangelist or a board approved theologian to reach others. God has positioned you to be with someone who needs your help in finding Him. Once the trust has been established, all you need to do is tell them about Jesus. It doesn't even have to be with fancy words, just from the heart. Note that Jesus didn't

dazzle the woman at the well with pearly gates and streets of gold. He patiently gained her trust, and showed her she could count on Him because of truth.

Funny, but isn't that the same lesson I talked about earlier? And, isn't it the same lesson for us all to live by? Nothing good ever comes from fast talk, short cuts, or high pressure. Gaining trust through truth, caring for our neighbor, and helping them find their way to God is why we are placed where we are. And it doesn't matter how young or old, or how learned you are. And the big payoff? It's the joy of knowing that someone you know will ultimately live their lives forever in Heaven.

In His Peace,

Rich