

CHURCH FOCUS

August 2024



Pastor's Message:

THE REASON WHY YOU'RE STILL HERE ON EARTH

One of the clearest reasons why you, Christian, are still here on earth is—so that you can make disciples of Christ! Jesus said, *You shall be witnesses unto me... to the end of the earth!* (See Acts 1:8). To witness means to testify, to tell a true account. About what or whom? Well, to tell your story of conversion from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light. Yes, tell your testimony of change from being a rebel against God to now being obedient to God! Describe what happened to you from loving sin to now hating sin, and growing daily in loathing of your sins and at the same time growing in your love for the Savior! Tell somebody how Christ found you and how you repented of your sins and responded in faith in Him. That's the beginning of making disciples!

Jesus tells us, "teach all nations" (Matthew 28:19-20). The word *teach* comes from the original Greek, [*mathey-teys*], meaning; "a pupil, a

disciple". The sense here is to *make disciples* of Christ out of all nations. *The Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* captures the essence of what we are supposed to do with making disciples. "Jesus does not seek to impart information but to awaken commitment to himself." [1] So, the question now becomes: *what are the effective ways we need to be doing in order to lead people to commit to Christ?* In this article let me offer three practical and effective ideas for making disciples.

First, your *testifying* must conform to the gospel. Because the gospel of Christ is the [effective] power of God unto salvation! (See Romans 1:16-17.) The gospel is the story of Jesus, right? He lived a perfect life which you could never live. He died in the place of sinners—absorbed the wrath of a holy God which the sinner justly deserves. Jesus was buried, but rose again to prove that His death was sufficient to pay for the sinner's debt.

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This Month at RBC

4 Communion 6pm

11 Ladies Breakfast with Shari Baskin 8:30am

24 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8am

24 Outreach 9am

30 Ladies Discipleship Fellowship 7pm

Leaders Meeting TBD



Attention Men!

Join your brothers-in-Christ for a morning of fellowship, food and Jesus at Flo's Farmhouse Café! Sign-up today!



Ladies Fellowship

Attention Ladies of RBC! Come out for an evening of refreshing fun and sweet fellowship! Sign-up in the church foyer.

**GOT QUESTIONS?
ASK THE
PASTOR**

SUNDAYS IN AUGUST 6PM

Come grow in your faith & understanding of God's Word

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR QUESTIONS TO PASTOR CHRISTIAN OR THE CHURCH OFFICE

Ladies Breakfast

SUNDAY | AUGUST 11 | 9AM
RBC DISCIPLESHIP CENTER
\$5 PER PERSON

Join us for a special time of fellowship featuring Special Guest Shari Baskin

Please see Brittany Torres for more information



Gospel Outreach

Join your church family Saturday, August 24th at 9am as we share the "Good News" with our community!



Discipleship Center

Come check out the DC! There's something for everyone!



Discipleship Class

Under the direction of Jose Duran, the Discipleship Class meets every Sunday morning at 9am in the DC



Men's Prayer

Come be a part of this very special time of prayer and fellowship.



CHILDREN'S DISCIPLESHIP

2nd & 4th Sundays
Ages 3-11

Regular Schedule

Sundays:

- Discipleship Class 9am
- Morning Worship Service 10am
- Children's Discipleship (2nd & 4th Sunday)
- Choir Practice TBA
- Evening Worship Service 6pm

Tuesdays & Fridays:

- Men's Prayer 4:30pm

Wednesdays:

- Bible Study/Prayer Meeting 7pm

Bible Studies are on break for the Summer. They will resume in September.

Three Ways to Give



At Church



Online



By Mail

RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

9015 Magnolia Avenue
Riverside, California 92503
(951) 687-6106

www.RBCSoCal.com
Pastor: Christian Torres

HOMEBUILDERS

Co-Laborers With Christ

Rusty Stevens, a ministry leader in Virginia, described trying to finish mowing the lawn before dinnertime. His 6-year-old son darted in front of him and grabbed the mower handle. But when Stevens stopped pushing, the mower soon stopped.

The busy dad fought the urge to tell his son to get out of his way and instead offered to help. Stevens began pushing again, leaning over and walking awkwardly to accommodate his eager assistant. Although the mowing commenced, it was slow-going and not as efficient as the solo effort.

That's when Stevens realized a ministry parallel: "This is the way my heavenly Father allows me to 'help' him build his kingdom!" The church leader pictured God busy "seeking, saving and transforming the lost, and there I was, with my weak hands 'helping.'"

Although God surely can tackle all the work of ministry and evangelism alone, he "chooses to stoop gracefully to allow me to co-labor with him," said Stevens. What a blessing and privilege that God lets us work alongside him!



Where We Live

[Christians] do not live in themselves but in Christ and their neighbor, or else they are not Christian. They live in Christ through faith and in the neighbor through love. Through faith they are caught up beyond themselves into God; likewise, through love they fall down beneath themselves into the neighbor — remaining nevertheless always in God and God's love.

—Martin Luther, *The Freedom of a Christian*

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

The Reason Why You're Still Here On Earth

(Continued from front page)

That if the sinner would respond in humble repentance, he or she could be forgiven. And at the same time, if the sinner believed in the perfect work of Christ on the cross (i.e. death, burial and resurrection), then he or she could be given Christ's righteousness and thereby be saved from the wrath of a holy God! [We have copies of gospel outlines in the foyer—called *doorknockers*—be sure to get several!] Does your testimony conform to this? It should. Otherwise, it won't be effective. Moreover, Jesus ascended into heaven and now seated at the right hand of God, interceding and advocating for His people! He will one day return to earth to reign as King. To those who believe in Him, that will be a great day. But to those who do not believe in Him, that will be a day of judgment. "That is why You must become a Christian today!"

Secondly, your *testifying* can be written down into a letter. My dear wife, you know, just reached two years from her heart transplant. And we are so profoundly thankful to the Lord for another lease of life! Brittany wrote her *testimony* entitled "I'm Sorry But You Need a Heart Transplant." It's a great explanation of how God will be the One to take out your heart of stone [petrified by sin], and replace it with a heart of flesh [that will obey and love God]! You can write your testimony, too! There is another example you can look at in our *Discipleship Center*. There is a picture of a letter written by President Ronald Reagan to his relative who was a medical doctor and self-proclaimed atheist. Reagan *testified* of Christ and how this relative of his should bow the knee to Him and embrace Him as his Lord and Savior.

Finally, bring your *testifying* to the dinner table. I'm talking about using hospitality to bring out the gospel. Invite a coworker, a neighbor, a friend, a relative to your home. Tell them *I want you to hear the gospel story*. Enjoy a nice meal together. Challenge them to respond to the gospel story. Brittany and I invited Julio and Mimi, who lived across the street from our home in the high desert, to a few meals to enjoy together. We testified Christ and His gospel to them while our kids and theirs played in the toy room. We challenged them to respond to the gospel story. Long story short, they did! And a few months later, I assisted in their baptism ceremony!

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (Matthew 28:19-20). Dear Christian, this is the reason why you are still here on earth!

With Sincere Love In Christ,

Christian Torres Pastor-Teacher

[1] Gerhard Kittel, Gerhard Friedrich, and Geoffrey William Bromiley, *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, Abridged in One Volume* (Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans, 1985), 554.