

FROM THE PREACHER'S DESK



“Be hospitable to one another without complaint” (I Peter 4:9).

Though hospitality is not a work of the church, individual Christians are expected to be hospitable to fellow Christians, and of course **“do good unto all men”** (Gal 6:10). When our members reach out to others for meaningful social get-togethers it is very encouraging and helps us be a close loving family. Many of the congregation over the last several months have been reaching out to others and are exercising hospitable in a variety of ways. Recently, a cookie exchange for the ladies was organized and many of the ladies here benefited, no doubt, Christian family relationships were enhanced. Yesterday, many of our men attended a men’s breakfast at Bogdan Andriychenko’s home. Nick Affolter and many others put a lot of time and effort into helping to encourage a more close and supportive relationship among our men. Everyone involved should be commended for their involvement and participation in these events. This represents just one of many positive developments going on now here at Kirkland!

“Lift up your eyes and look unto the fields, they are white unto harvest” (John 4:35).

We are blessed with many dedicated Christians here who are serious about learning how to better share their faith and enable the Lord to provide us with a great increase of souls (I Cor 3:6). I would like to encourage everyone to attend our Sunday afternoon service and support Sean Timberlake and Michael Pruitt as they present the last half of the Big Picture of the Bible as our Sunday night lesson. What an inspiration it was to see the fine job that Daniel Stauss and Nick Affolter did presenting the first half of the Big Picture. Next Sunday night, we will give practical insights into how to be “an Andrew,” and how to effectively introduce other people to Jesus by hearing a simple one hour presentation of the gospel message. *Every member can and should be involved in this thrilling and simple plan of inviting others to hear more about Christ.* Please plan to be part of our Dec 22 pm lesson on this important subject. If you can’t be present, please listen to the lesson on the website.

You will notice that our shepherds have approved the placing of two signs at both our exit doors which read: **YOU ARE NOW ENTERING A MISSION FIELD.** Yes, as Jesus said, “the fields are white unto harvest.” Many honest hearts are out there looking for salvation, the problem is we often walk right by them and don’t truly lift up our eyes to see! I pray that 2014 will be a great and fruitful year for the Kirkland church! I pray that every time you walk out our doors after worshipping, that you will be reminded to serve and minister to the precious souls around you! It is true. You don’t have to go across an ocean to be a missionary. Many of us simply need to look no further than our own friends, neighbors, family, and co-workers! Further, it is true as Jesus said, “The field is the world” (Matt 13:38). *Every time we walk outside there are opportunities all around us, we really are entering a mission field!* May these signs help us to never forget that simple truth. May they help to impact our church culture in a positive way as we become more and more a congregation that is committed to soul-winning. Beloved, we are off to a good start! May God bless each of you richly in the coming year.

Your brother, *Brent*