

## The Power of Good News and a Cheerful Look

*"A cheerful look brings joy to the heart, and Good News gives health to the bones."  
Proverbs 15:30*

*The Lord Jesus has  
enabled us to serve in the  
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Do you underestimate the power of a cheerful look? We rarely think about how positively affected we are by a smile from someone else. But, Scripture makes it clear that a cheerful look brings joy to the heart! Joy is a motivator. Joy for the heart is like oil for the skin - it soothes and refreshes. It gives a layer of protection from the harsh elements around us. Think of how energizing it is when we come together for fellowships, classes, or services, and we are greeted by so many cheerful looks! Think of the impact it has on you, when one of the children smiles at you. A cheerful look is powerful. It seems to me that scowls and mean looks are much more common today. These looks have power too. They have the power to discourage and frighten. A cheerful look brings joy - it brings light!

How about Good News? It brings health to the bones. We all want to be healthy, so we watch our diets, take supplements and vitamins, and try to exercise. All of these things are good and necessary, but what is it that gets down to the core of our being? What brings health to the bones? Good News!

Good News is unpopular in the world today, but it is so needed. Bad news is the order of the day and it seems to be what most people are drawn to. But, we are called to be different. Paul tells us, "*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things*" (Philippians 4:8). We need more Good News in our diets to cheer our hearts. This is attained through meditating on the good things of God.

Proverbs 17:22 says, "*A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.*" Good News brings health to the bones, but a crushed spirit dries them up. All around us, souls are in need - crushed spirits that need to be revived and brought back to life by the Good News of Jesus Christ. Let's fill ourselves with Good News and we will be a source of life and health for our friends and families. Let's fill our hearts with the Good News of Jesus Christ and go out into the world with a cheerful look and the hope of the Gospel to hold out and share with all who have ears to hear!

In His Unfailing Love,

Roger Wine

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***“Let your Light so shine...”***

***Matthew 5:16***

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**Are you a Thermometer or a Thermostat?**

We, as Christians, can be placed in two categories. We can choose to be like thermometers or we can choose to be like thermostats. These two instruments sound alike, but in reality, they are opposites. The thermometer merely reflects the temperature around it, whereas the thermostat changes it. The reading on a thermometer goes up or down, depending on the temperature around it, but the thermostat reacts when it feels the temperature is getting too low and it immediately kicks in and brings on the heat. We can choose to be passive Christians and allow the environment around us to affect and determine our mood and attitude, just like the temperature affects a thermometer, or we can choose to be active like the thermostat and instead, influence the world around us just like the thermostat changes the temperature of your house.

In **Matthew 5:13-16**, we learn that Jesus wants us to be active Christians and impact the world around us, for the glory of God, by affecting the world just like salt affects the taste of food and light affects the darkness in a room. If the salt that we use loses its saltiness, then it is useless because it does not affect the taste of our food. In the same way, if we hide our light, we can no longer shine for Jesus in this dark world. Are you being influenced by the pressures and the environment at work or at home? Or are you affecting the flavor of your environment and shining the light of Jesus on your surroundings? Be like the thermostat, but remember that the thermostat is not the source of the heat, just like we are not the source of the light. We will be light to this world if we show them the one who is in us, Jesus!!! He is the light of the world. Let us be active and impact the world for Him who changed us.

Charlie Gómez

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***“The Lord added to their number...”***

***Acts 2:47***

***Baptisms***

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<b>DATE</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>TOWN</b>
10/01/03 .....	Sherene Cameron .....	Central Islip
10/19/03 .....	Natalie Carter .....	Medford
10/25/03 .....	Hector Morantes .....	Stony Brook
11/01/03 .....	Joy Wimberly .....	NYIT (Central Islip)
11/12/03 .....	Benjamin Carroll .....	Bay Shore
11/20/03 .....	Chizoba (ChiChi) Chinwuba .....	Stony Brook
11/23/03 .....	Apiseh Ayafor .....	Stony Brook

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***“They first gave themselves to the Lord...”***

***2 Corinthians 8:5***

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Weekly Budget: \$ 6,000

<b>DATE</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>CONTRIBUTION</b>
11/02/03	298	\$ 8,259
11/09/03	337	\$ 6,149
11/16/03	329	\$ 6,400
11/23/03	353	\$ 6,368
11/30/03	336	\$ 5,652

## Sowing the Seed

Have you ever felt timid when sharing the Gospel? In an effort to protect my ego, I used to “pre-qualify” people and then approach those whom I thought were “more open.” I would approach those that seemed more down-to-earth.

The Lord saw my faulty thoughts and actions and lovingly showed me the error of my ways. The following example will show you what I mean. Several years ago, while at work, I found I was able to speak to the older women more easily than to this one young lady, whom I found rather irritating. She was my age, pretty, and had a sports car. I convinced myself that it would be pointless to speak to her about God, since she was probably a “princess” type anyway. Convinced that this was the case, I gave up even attempting to approach her.

Well, this “princess” is now our sister at another local Church! We crossed paths years later at a singles seminar. During our conversation, I felt a sense of disappointment that I did not get to share in her conversion experience. We couldn't laugh about the way she rejected me, because I never shared the Word with her. She didn't need to apologize for any harsh treatment of me, because I interacted with her as little as possible -- never mind sharing the Word with her!

I made the same mistake Samuel made in 1 Samuel 16:1-7, when he considered Eliab to be God's anointed, based on his appearance. In my case, I judged people by their appearance and approached those whom I thought were least likely to reject me. But, we learn from this Scripture that only God can see straight through to a person's heart. Jesus told a parable in Luke 8:4-15 about a farmer who sowed the seed along the path, on rock, among thorns, and on good soil. The farmer sowed the seed on all kinds of soil, representing all kinds of people. What can we learn from this, dear sisters? - **It is not for us to judge who we think is the thorny soil or who we think will be a waste of our time. Who knows, down the road, if that seed will germinate in their hearts?**

Many of us outwardly did not appear like the good soil. Yet, the Word germinated in our hearts, because that special brother or sister did not prejudge us to protect their ego. They shared the Gospel with us and here we are today, because of their humility. When we pick and choose with whom we will share the Gospel with, we are placing ourselves above the work of God and above lost souls.

1 Corinthians 3:7-8 says, *“So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor.”* **Focus on the reward Jesus promises to those who labor to reach the lost instead of focusing on possible rejection.** Remember that God can make the seed grow in anyone.

**“For the building up of the Body...”**

**Ephesians 4:12**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 📖 We will not meet for Wednesday night Bible class on December 24<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> (Long Island and City).
- 📖 The Annual Christmas Fellowship will be held on Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. at The Plattduetsche Park Restaurant, located at 1132 Hempstead Turnpike in Franklin Square. The cost will be \$4.00 for all members and children 12 years of age or older. The cost for visitors will be \$2.00 and children under 12 are free. Registration will continue on Sundays, before and after services, in the chapel lobby. For more information, please contact our brother McDonald Jackman.
- 📖 **Attention All Couples:** Any couples interested in taking the next “His Needs/Her Needs” class, please see our brother and sister Fred and Caprice Brown for more information. The class will begin on Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup> and will be limited to the first 12 couples that sign up. The final day to register will be on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.
- 📖 **Food Pantry:** Our brother and sister George and Catherine Bullinger will be hosting a food pantry in their home. If anyone would like to donate non-perishable food items to the food pantry, please bring the items to Wednesday, Friday, or Sunday services, or contact George or Catherine for more information.
- 📖 If you would like to order a cassette tape of a past sermon or seminar, please see Rob Dixon.
- 📖 If you would like to send a Church bulletin or a Bible study to an interested relative/friend on a regular basis, please contact our brother Jack Peisel.
- 📖 All announcements and address/telephone changes should be submitted to Derek Peterson.

**MISSIONARY SUPPORT**

- ✚ Good News Stand.....Sayville, New York
- ✚ Paolo Di Luca.....Italy
- ✚ Apologetics Press .....International
- ✚ We Care Ministries.....West Monroe, Louisiana
- ✚ Ron Clayton.....India
- ✚ Oswaldo Sanchez.....El Salvador, Central America

**“Your faith toward God has gone forth...”**

**1 Thessalonians 1:8**

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CLASS MINISTRIES**

Long Island Ministry.....(Wednesday 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.).....Robert Carr.....(631) 348-7322  
*New York Institute of Technology Chapel, Carleton Avenue, Central Islip, NY*

City Ministry.....(Wednesday 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.).....Pedro Gelabert ....(646) 226-2361  
*Plattdeutsche Restaurant, 1132 Hempstead Turnpike, Franklin Square, NY*

**UPCOMING KINGDOM EVENTS**

For anyone wanting to use his/her vacation in a fruitful way, take a vacation to help bring souls to Jesus. :) Join a “We Care Ministry” soul winning team and help bring people to the Lord. Learn the techniques of the “We Care Ministry” team leaders: Larry West, Bob Danklefsen, and Joe Barker. Room and board will be provided. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Bob Carr.

We Care Campaign Itinerary

<b>2004</b>	<b>Location</b>
Jan 22 – Feb 01	Simi Valley, CA
Feb 26 – Mar 07	Marble Falls, TX
Mar 18 – Mar 28	Elizabethtown, IL
Mar 25 – Apr 04	Greenwood, AR
Apr 22 – May 2	Dardanelle, AR