

Am I trying to Win a Debate or Win a Follower of Christ?

By Don Ober

Recently a family member asked me one of those pithy trick questions a non-believer will often propose to a true believer, trying to trip them up. He asked, "If God created everything and there is evil in the world, then did not God create evil." I used an analogy in talking with him to explain how I looked at that question. I returned the question and asked him, "If I made a batch of cookies and forgot to put the sugar into the mix and the cookies tasted bad, would it be right to blame the sugar." He answered, "NO, but what is the point?" I explained that evil is really the absence of God's presence. In this fallen world, mankind has pushed God away and rejected Him all the way back to Adam. God is all good, and the more we as a people push Him away, the more evil will take control. Like the sugar is the sweetness to our cookie dough, God is the resistance of evil in His righteousness, but God is a gentleman and never forces Himself on anyone. He gives us free will.

Later it occurred to me that maybe I acted in haste. When someone asks us such a question, they are searching for faith. They may not know it, but their soul is crying out for an answer and not necessarily specifics. I believe our first reaction to these questions should be prayer, followed by a deep-down decision we all must make. Do I want to win a debate, or do I want to win a disciple of Christ? If our goal is to win a debate, may I suggest, we should reexamine our own motivations. Even looking at Christ's message to those around Him, He never argued. He often stated facts from the Word of God, but more

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An Egg Hunt Beyond All Expectations!



Hundreds of people attended our annual Egg Hunt. More pictures on page 5.

"Am I trying to Win...", continued...

often, He searched the person's soul and condition before going into specifics. He cared about those asking the questions. He loved them; that's why He came! Not to win an epic debate.

Am I qualified? We often ask ourselves, am I knowledgeable enough? Again, God is calling you to THAT person, at THAT time, to share of yourself and why you love Him, not to win a debate in His defense. God does not need a defender, and we will never be qualified anyway; He needs true believers to share their own hearts to others who are hurting. No pastor is above us or beneath us in ability to do this. That person was sent to you by God Almighty for a reason.

A pitfall of being a pastor is the added responsibility God expects of those teaching. I once had a friend go to a pastor I will not name here, at the bequest of his wife. When he met with the pastor, the pastor asked him why he was there. He told the pastor, "My wife is convinced she is going to heaven to be with our deceased dog in heaven when she dies, and she wants me to be there with them." The pastor's response was, "Well, that ain't gonna happen. Dogs don't go to heaven."

I'm not writing here to argue that point one way or the other. The point is, was the pastor trying to win a theological issue with him or win a disciple? I'd rather he had answered, "We can talk about dogs and pets some other time. Let's talk about what is going on in your life and what you see as your purpose." So even pastors can make mistakes in my estimation.

I once had a client who knew I was a Christian ask me a pointed question. Being Jewish she asked me, "So you say I'm going to hell because I don't worship your Jesus." I had to step back and really pray in my heart for an answer that would not offend but yet not betray my Lord. After thinking I said, "Let me answer

it this way. My understanding of the Bible (God's Word) is that if I do not trust Him as my Lord and Savior, I am going to Hell. That is a question for God, not me, I am not worthy to send anyone to hell nor free them from it. God is the ultimate judge not me, but as for me, I choose Jesus." She smiled at me and simply said, "I have never heard it put quite that way." I cannot attest to if she had a change of heart, but I did not create a debate situation. I told her how important Jesus was to me, and she could extrapolate from that anything she wanted.

Christians get blind-sided all the time with these pithy questions. Eternal salvation, the age of the universe, predestination versus choice, and a host of others. When presented with these, I believe the worst avenue we can use is the debate road. Instead, may I suggest the Roman Road and how it led YOU to be a follower? "Convince a man against his will and he will be of the same opinion still." (Unknown)



Happy Birthday!

Blessings to all who celebrate a birthday this month. May you feel the love, joy and presence of the Lord as we all celebrate your special day with prayers and warmest wishes.

Janice Straubel	May 9
Luke Yamamoto	May 9
Allison Warner	May 10
Jonathan Ventura	May 11
William MacQueen	May 12
Jean LaRosa	May 29
Barron Caromano	May 31

Elders' Corner

By Ed MacQueen

Greetings in the Lord. I pray this finds you in good health of body as well as soul. May He bless you with understanding of how deep and how wide His love is for you and your loved ones. As we celebrated last month, nothing compares to the love of Him who died and rose again that we might be rescued from our sin. Jesus didn't just show us the way to live with God, a calling impossible for us in the fleshly nature, but he cleansed us through and through and gave us a new heart so that we *could* commune with God. A good leader will point his followers towards a goal, but Christ made it possible to attain to the ultimate goal in life: to glorify God and enjoy him forever.

April gave us much to be grateful for. In addition to the joy of the Easter season, we were blessed with a truly humbling turnout at our Easter Egg Hunt. The weather for the event was great, the sound system was vastly better allowing for clearer communication of the Gospel, and by God's provision there was enough candy for a crowd twice as large as anticipated! On behalf of the elders, I repeat my thanks to everyone who came together and made the event possible.

April was also a special month for my family, because we welcomed our newest member, James Richard. As the final weeks of pregnancy are so difficult, it was a huge blessing that he arrived one and a half weeks early! We are so happy to have the support of Windsor Chapel as we adjust to having a newborn again, and can't wait until he's ready to join on Sundays.

As the church looks forward, the elders are planning the summertime 5-Day Club. Please pray that the interest in our Egg Hunt will translate into an interest in 5-Day Club also.

Even if one percent of the children from the Egg Hunt came to 5-Day Club, that would be impactful. God is certainly capable of drawing families as we've seen; may He lead our neighbors and friends to seek His good name!

*Ed and Barbara MacQueen
Have been blessed with
the birth of
their tenth child*



*James Richard MacQueen
was born at 1:12 am on April 19.
He weighed 8 pounds and 2 ounces.
His family was overjoyed
at his arrival.*

Mark Your Calendars!

Windsor Chapel will offer a free in-person 5-Day Club, July 17 – 21, from 7:00– 8:30 pm, for all children ages 5 – 12. The children will enjoy music, dynamic Bible stories, games, outdoor play, inspiring missionary stories, creative learning activities, snack time and more! Please inform your friends and neighbors. All are welcome!





Mother's Day Blessings!

This Mother's Day, May 14, we wish to express our heartfelt appreciation to all the wonderful, devoted women who have gently shaped our lives with their countless sacrifices, love, and godly wisdom. We ask the Lord to bless them and pray they will feel His loving presence, guidance, peace and joy on their special day and always.

Perisseia Spring Series

The six-week spring Perisseia series began on April 20. We meet 7:00-8:30 pm in the Chapel House. We are continuing our discussion about relationship in the early church, this time focusing on what the apostles taught early believers as new churches were becoming established.

As always, no commitment or preparation is required, and you are welcome to come when you can and as you are able. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Bills at (609) 275-8557.

Financial Update

(Through March 31, 2023)

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want..."

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$39,749	\$54,750
Expense	\$52,279	\$54,778

Windsor Chapel has sent \$5,841 to our missionary partners this year. That is 15% of your giving!



We are so thankful for the Boy Scouts from Troop 66 who came out on a chilly and wet Cleanup Day to prepare the field for the Egg Hunt. They raked and swept and hauled away debris—a wonderful and much needed spring cleaning of the property!

If you have any items or information you would like to share in the newsletter, please e-mail:

Susan Seiboth at

susan@quiltingsquare.com

Dorothy Soi at

dsoi@windsorchapel.org

Chapel Office (609) 799-2559

www.windsorchapel.org

Contributing Photographer:

Pastor Andy Straubel

THE CHAPEL CHALLENGE

A Newsletter from Windsor Chapel

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It was a loaves and fishes day at the Egg Hunt! An unexpectedly large crowd arrived from near and far to enjoy a beautiful afternoon in our field. The 300 prepared bags of candy quickly ran out when the children lined up to trade in their eggs for treats. Just short of a miracle, more than enough candy was found in the Chapel House, and bags were handed out to all the waiting children as quickly as the volunteers could fill them. At the end of the afternoon there was leftover candy.

Further Up and Further In

*Inviting dialogue to encourage growth in
and among us*



By Cindy Bills

Flowers and Fruit

"April showers bring May flowers...." So the saying goes. And here we are: after those April showers, new life is springing forth everywhere we turn. For the gardeners among us, this is a happy season indeed. For those of us who are less enthused, we tend to bemoan the need to trim shrubs and pull weeds. But all of us can appreciate the rhythm of the seasons with which the Lord has blessed us. And, we can all learn and grow from it.

The seasons in our life do not always reflect the natural season outside our windows, but we, too, have seasons of cold and darkness, dormancy and rain, followed by growth and life.

If we face a time of cold and darkness, even of trials and suffering, we can exercise perseverance and walk through it with patience, confident that the Lord works even the most acute hardship for our good: *Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.* (James 1:2-4) This is faith life at its most potent: the assurance of hope and the conviction that God's goodness is at work even if we cannot see it. Our roots of faith must grow deeper in order to find nourishment and refreshment in a time of apparent drought.

A time of dormancy and rain can be dreary and frustrating. Just like our trees and shrubs need time to develop and grow underground before they flower and grow above the ground, so it is

sometimes the case that we must wait for the Lord's timing before an active phase of spiritual life and ministry begins. Jesus spent his childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood out of the public eye and then spent 40 days alone in the wilderness dealing with the temptations offered by Satan before He began His public ministry. And just as Jesus relied on God's Word to return those temptations back to hell from where they came, we must rely on the Word of the Lord: Christ Himself.

And then as we abide in Christ as the true vine, the time will come when we bear fruit, much fruit. The fruit-bearing season is preceded by rapid growth and activity. It is a time of energy and opportunity. It is also a time of pruning: *Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.* (John 15:2) As we grow and minister, the Lord sanctifies us so that our fruit manifests His goodness and abundance. In other words, He pulls the spiritual weeds out of our hearts and minds so that nothing restrains or detracts from the fruit He is bearing through us and the joy that comes with bearing that fruit.

While seasons of life are often individual and personal, there is a corporate element to abiding in Christ and bearing fruit as well. As the body of Christ, it is crucial for us to join together before the Lord in worship, prayer, and study, to invest in deep relationship with one another, and then to bear fruit as we use our gifts in a coordinated manner to powerfully minister to those in our community. Although we are a small body, we have an amazing collection of gifts. And with the Lord doing His loaves and fishes thing, we can look forward to bearing some exciting fruit for God's kingdom.

Please feel free to contact Cindy (609-275-8557) or cynthialbills@gmail.com to continue the dialogue....