



SOUTH LOUISVILLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
SEPTEMBER, 2013 – EDITION FIVE, ISSUE FIVE

E-NEWSLETTER

A Christian Church for South Louisville

To Bro. Theo Dues and the faithful members of the South Louisville Christian Church:

There are thousands of believers in the Louisville area who are deeply indebted to your congregation for having the vision to start new churches years ago. In the words of the Apostle Paul in Philippians 1:3, "I thank my God every time I remember you."

We rejoice when we hear the good report of how God is continuing to use you to advance His Kingdom in the South End of Louisville. It's remarkable to see the turnaround your church has experienced the last three years.

While ministering to an area where churches are struggling to keep their doors open, over the past three years the South Louisville Christian Church has added over 100 new members, doubled the average weekly attendance, discipled future leaders, broadcasted sermons on the radio, helped plant a new Ethiopian church and developed an effective program to provide both physical and spiritual food to needy persons in your area.

Your minister, Theo Dues, rightly takes pride in the fact that you

A Letter From Bob Russell

have become the most diverse church he has ever seen. He tells me, "We are truly a church of people that can only call themselves a family through the power of the Gospel. Our unofficial slogan has become – 'South Louisville Christian Church; where you can't possibly not fit in.'"

Reports of your renewed spirit, energy and love abound. It's infectious and you are making a positive difference for Christ in our city.

Congratulations, Theo! And congratulations to the leaders and members of the South Louisville Christian Church. Those of us who owe you so much are very proud of how God is using you. Stay faithful and stay united. It's going to be exciting to see how God is going to use you in the future.

Your Brother in Christ,

Bob Russell

This Month's Events

- September 13 – Parent Appreciation Dinner
- September 14 & 28 – Food Distribution
- September 21 – Louisville Bible College Anniversary Celebration
- September 21 – Men's Ministry outing

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Summer Nepali Bible Club

By: Sheila Sanders

July 8-12, 2013 was the 3rd Annual Summer Bible Club (SBC) (Vacation Bible School) for Nepali refugee children living in Louisville. The event was hosted by a Community Family Group from Southeast Christian Church along with a group of ladies from various area churches who faithfully work with these Nepali families on a regular basis. Several Nepali Christian teens from Asha Church (Nepali fellowship meeting at Refuge Ministry on Southside Dr.) served as well. The event took place at South Louisville Christian Church.

The theme for this year's SBC was "High Seas Expedition". The sea/ship theme helped make the week an exciting adventure while children learned about God's love for them. The activities each day focused on a central theme about God's Word including: God's Word is True, Surprising, Comforting, Life Changing, and for everyone. On Thursday, they learned about how Jesus died on the cross so that they could know God. On Friday, families were invited to come with their children for Parent's Night.

While some of the children are from families who have turned to Christ while in the camps in Nepal or since coming to the US, the vast majority are from Hindu backgrounds. While they may have heard about "gods", they have not had the opportunity to know the personal love of Jesus Christ. Summer Bible Club is just one way of showing that love to kids. However, it doesn't end on July 12. Getting kids plugged in to ongoing ministry is very important. For about 4 years, some families from several churches in Louisville have had a Wednesday night children's Bible class for Nepali children in the South End. At last summer's SBC, we ran carpools to bring in Nepali children from other areas of town. At the end of SBC, several of these kids asked if they could keep coming to church. Out of SBC, volunteers felt called to split from one Wednesday night Bible study into 4, including a ministry partnership with First Alliance Church, Carlisle Avenue Baptist Awana, a tutoring/Bible story group in Crescent Hill and children's programming meeting at Refuge Ministry Center and including other Internationals from the Kingston apartment area.

When God planted in us the idea of a Summer Bible Club back in 2011, one of the first items of discussion was where to host such an event. One of the men in the Community Group had been in a Mini-Marathon training group that ran down Southern Parkway on Saturday mornings. He shared that whenever he ran past South Louisville Christian he sensed that God had some sort of plan for our group there. So we contacted Pastor Theo, who graciously invited us to come share the vision of SBC with him and agreed to open your wonderful facilities to this outreach.

South Louisville Christian Church has been the perfect place for SBC! The gym is used for the main set, where the movable stage allows set decorations that make the theme come to life. Kids enjoy music and skits during the opening and closing time. They also have plenty of space for game time, while not having to worry about the weather or busy street. Interactive Bible stories are taught in the Youth Room, and rooms with tables provide ample space for crafts and snacks. This year we were able to add a preschool class as well. In 2011 we hosted about 30 kids. This year we were up to nearly 100!! Without the generosity of SLCC providing this space, SBC would not be possible.

The Visitor: Part 1 (Ending)

By: Stephanie High

Remember last month's article about "The Visitor?" The moral to that story is . . . South Louisville Christian is a church where the children respect and obey their teachers and God is at the center of the lessons that they are taught!

Food Pantry Needs for September

- Spaghetti
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Mac and Cheese Dinners

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT we need YOUR help! Even though we receive some non-perishables from Dare to Care, we don't receive everything we need to help the people who are coming to us! Please give donations to LaVon Able or the Myers.

Howdy Y'all!

By: Ron Matthews

We are now into our third of five sessions that will help us develop five habits for a Happy Family. In this article we will be looking at commitment through the story of Ruth and Naomi.

Many people feel that our society does not place a high value on fulfilling commitments. For example, we commonly joke about campaign promises made by politicians as though no one really expects elected officials to actually do what they said in their quest for election.

Married couples also joke around about their married commitments, we are talking about more than just being faithful in the bedroom. We are talking about the commitments made daily and throughout the marriage. For examples, what duties will each one have around the house, how will the children be raised, and keeping time separate for each other over other daily demands.

In the Family setting commitment is all that truly holds it together and keeps it functioning as God designed it. Let us now look at the story of Ruth and Naomi and see how they demonstrated commitment for us to model after.

Read Ruth 1:11-18 Commitment to

- A. Follow God and love Him in good or bad circumstances.
- B. Follow each other and love each other in good and bad circumstances.

Read Ruth 3: 1-4

- A. Seeking God and His interest over yours.
- B. Seeking the best interest of your family over yours.

Read 4: 9-12

- A. Making it clear to God that He is the most important thing in your life
- B. Making it clear to your family and others that your family is the second most important thing in your life
- C. Allowing others to help you with your commitment to your family and God.

Closing Thought

Commitment is more than the words we say, it is just like the faith we are called to have (James 2:17), we must show our family their importance by keeping the small and large commitments we make daily. In doing so we allow God to shine through us and our families as well as others will see the God of our lives.

Recent Mission Trip to the Philippines

By: Jason Horn

On July 7th of 2013 I left for the Philippines to assist in constructing a church on the island of Cebu and visit Leyte Bible College, a college that had been planted several years ago by Louisville Bible College on the island of Leyte. While in the Philippines I not only got to do those things but I was able to preach, teach and make many friends. The mission trip was led by World Mission Builders. World Mission Builders was founded by Ed Thomas of Baxter Springs, Kansas in 1975 and has built over 230 churches or church buildings/schools, both foreign and domestically since 1975 in 88 countries. World Mission Builders' mission statement is to put "Permanence in Missions."

North Road Church of Christ on the island of Cebu took many volunteers to construct. Ministers from surrounding islands showed their support in spending several weeks contributing to the construction. Many of these volunteers and their families do not currently have church buildings, yet they gave their time and finances in constructing one for someone else. Life is hard in the Philippines, where most are poverty stricken...but when a fellow Christian is in need they give all they have willingly just as the first church did in Acts. **"And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need"** (Acts 2:44-45).

I found myself laboring next to some of the most loving Christians I had ever met. Our common goal was to build a beautiful building for the Christians in the area to come and worship. When the church building was completed, there was a dedication ceremony where hundreds of people came from around the area and shared in worship, many of who had never heard the message of Christ.

While in the Philippines I was able to visit Leyte Bible College. We spent several days there teaching many subjects and interacting with the students and staff. This was a highlight for me on the trip, for I hope to teach at the university level one day.

Many of the volunteers, students, professors and visitors to the North Road Church of Christ have kept in contact with me, not for me to send more support but to let me know they are praying for me here and that they wish to see me soon. The needs that were met and relationships that were made could not have been achieved without the support given by South Louisville Christian Church through funding and prayer. Although a mission trip means you plan to offer support somewhere and do work in support of growing the kingdom...you find out that you are the one ministered to in the process and that those in need become supporters in your walk with Christ as well!

THE DOUTHITT'S

By: Pastor Theodore Dues

One of the first things that I really admired about South Louisville Christian Church when I came here was the leadership. I even commented in my very first sermon that I believed this church could go anywhere, because of the men who were leading it. And I was right about that. This church has come a long way in the last 5 years – because of the dynamic leadership you have here. One of those men is Joe Douthitt. Joe is the Chairman of the Elders at SLCC, and he is the kind of man that I would follow into any battle. And he has led this church through many difficult spiritual battles. Of course, behind every good man is a good woman. And standing beside Joe is his wife, Mary. Together they have been a part of this church's leadership for a very long time. But let me back up a little...

Joe and Mary (was there ever a more biblical name for a couple than that?) first met at a revival at Camden Avenue Christian Church all the way back in 1971. When Joe saw Mary in church that day, he made sure she filled out a visitor card – not so the church could follow up with her, but so that he would have her phone number. I thought that was pretty clever. A little sneaky, maybe, but clever. Well, his cleverness paid off. They were married four years later in 1975. One of the initial decisions in their marriage was where they would worship. Mary was raised in the Lutheran Church and Joe in the Christian Church. For a while they went back and forth, worshiping in both churches. Eventually, Joe convinced Mary to join the Christian Church and they have been there ever since. In Joe's words, "I loved God and I loved Mary. I just had to get them together."

Joe was a police officer in Louisville for over a decade before leaving the police force to work for L.G. & E., where he went on to manage security for the whole company. He remained in that position until his retirement last year. Mary, who was once a U of L cheerleader, went on to work as an insurance agent – and became the secretary of SLCC in 1992. She is still in that position today.

Joe and Mary first came to SLCC in 1977. Max Smith was the preacher at the time, and they say that he was a fine preacher. There were 400 people in worship each Sunday – lots of energy in the church – it was a powerful church presence in Louisville. They got involved in leadership soon after they arrived. Joe started teaching adult Sunday school in 1978, and Mary started teaching children's Sunday school about the same time. Joe became a Deacon in 1984 and was ordained as an Elder in 1988. He has served continuously as a teacher, Deacon, or Elder ever since 1978. Mary has served

the church as a teacher, in the choir, and helped run the Mother's Day Out program, before joining the staff in 1992. Between the two of them that equals about 70 years of quality leadership they have given this church. They have earned and deserve the highest degree of respect this church can ever give them.

Over the course of the last 30 years, Joe and Mary have watched this church go through quite a bit of change – and a lot of that change was very unwelcome. There were periods of tension between church leaders, there were a series of ministers who stayed only about 5 years, and those things resulted in a lack of direction in the church that lasted many years. Throughout those same years, the community around the church also began to change – declining into poverty and populated by many people who had no interest in the established church. There was discussion about relocating SLCC to another area, but in the end the leaders decided that God had called them to stay right here in this community and be the Christian Church for South Louisville. There were also periods of time during those years when Joe and Mary thought very seriously about transferring their membership to another church, but Mary says that "God always gave them little reasons to stay." I am so very glad of that.

When I asked Joe and Mary what they see in the church today, Joe said, "What we have now is what we always wanted to see here. Through all the different people, and all the changes through the years, little by little, God transformed this church." Mary said, "What I see in the church today is love. Love for others. Love for those that are different." Joe added to that and said, "We have so many different kinds of people here, sometimes the only thing we have in common is our love of God. And that's enough."

When I asked what they wanted to see in the future here they said, "More of everything we have now. We have the right things now, and we're just trusting God to send even more. Even more love. Even more unity. Even more people. Even more diversity. Even more energy. Even more prayer. And even more evidence of the work of Christ here."

SLCC today is the most remarkable place of worship I have ever seen in my life. As your minister, I want you to know that I am so excited about what God is doing here right now, and I am even more excited about what He is going to do in the coming months and years. And as your minister, I want you to know that I play only a very little part in our success. All of our growth and energy and love and passion here is first of all due to the work of God. Second on that list is the incredible group of people who lead this church – and leading those people is Joe Douthitt – and standing beside Joe is his Proverbs 31 wife, Mary.

Next time you see them, take a moment to thank them for leading this church through many, many difficult years – and take a moment to thank them for the godly leadership they still provide for us today.