

### NEEDED: ENTHUSIASTIC PEOPLE

Matthew 10: 26-33

(Father's Day)

Sometime back there was an opening with the CIA for an assassin. These highly classified positions are hard to fill, and there's a lot of testing and background checks involved before you can even be considered for the position. After sending some applicants through the background checks, training and testing, they narrowed the possible choices down to three persons: two men and one woman, but only one position was available. The day came for the final test to see which one would get the extremely secretive job. The CIA people administering the test took one of the men to a large metal door and handed him a gun, "We must know that you will follow your instructions no matter what the circumstances." they explained. "Inside this room you will find your wife sitting in a chair. Take this gun and kill her." The man got a shocked look on his face and said, "You can't be serious! I could never shoot my own wife!" "Well," says the CIA man, "you're definitely not the right man for this job then."

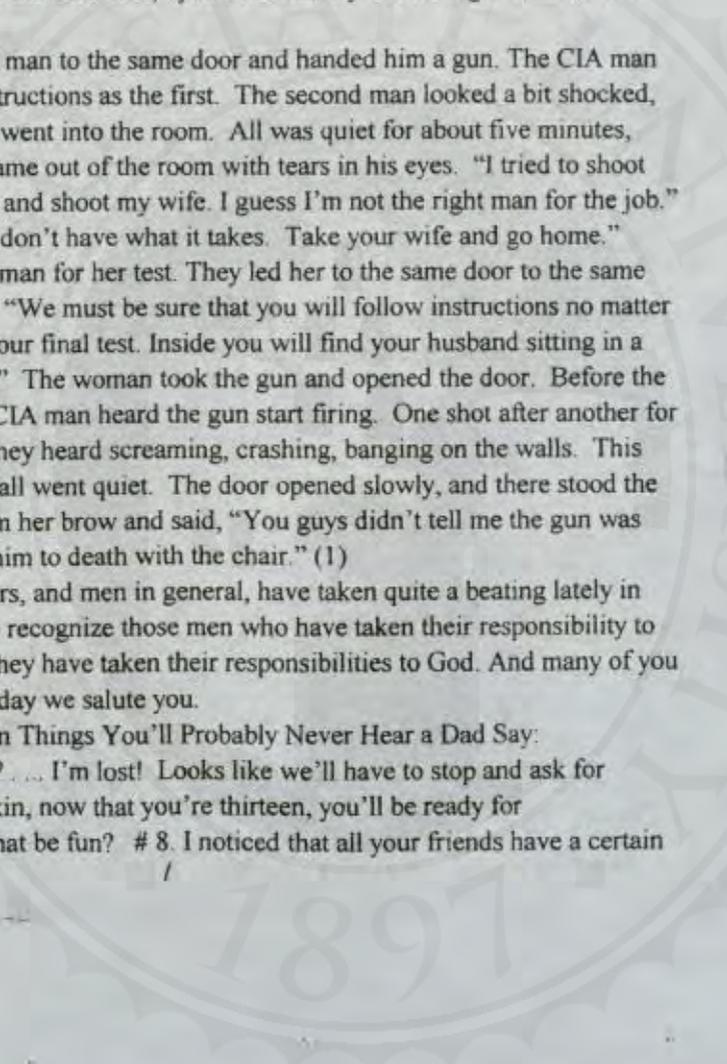
So they brought the second man to the same door and handed him a gun. The CIA man gave the second man the same instructions as the first. The second man looked a bit shocked, but nevertheless took the gun and went into the room. All was quiet for about five minutes, then the door opened. The man came out of the room with tears in his eyes. "I tried to shoot her, I just couldn't pull the trigger and shoot my wife. I guess I'm not the right man for the job." "No," the CIA man replied, "You don't have what it takes. Take your wife and go home."

Then they turned to the woman for her test. They led her to the same door to the same room and hand her the same gun. "We must be sure that you will follow instructions no matter what the circumstances. This is your final test. Inside you will find your husband sitting in a chair. Take this gun and kill him." The woman took the gun and opened the door. Before the door even closed all the way, the CIA man heard the gun start firing. One shot after another for 13 shots. Then pandemonium. They heard screaming, crashing, banging on the walls. This went on for several minutes, then all went quiet. The door opened slowly, and there stood the woman. She wiped the sweat from her brow and said, "You guys didn't tell me the gun was loaded with blanks! I had to beat him to death with the chair." (1)

This is Father's Day. Fathers, and men in general, have taken quite a beating lately in our society. But today we want to recognize those men who have taken their responsibility to their families just as seriously as they have taken their responsibilities to God. And many of you fathers have done just that, and today we salute you.

Here is a list of the Top Ten Things You'll Probably Never Hear a Dad Say:

- # 10. Well, how 'bout that? ... I'm lost! Looks like we'll have to stop and ask for directions.
- # 9. You know Pumpkin, now that you're thirteen, you'll be ready for unchaperoned car dates. Won't that be fun?
- # 8. I noticed that all your friends have a certain



"in your face" attitude. I like that. # 7. Here's a credit card and the keys to my new car - GO CRAZY. # 6. What do you mean you wanna play football? Figure skating not good enough for you, son? # 5. Your Mother and I are going away for the weekend . . . you might want to consider throwing a party. # 4. Well, I don't know what's wrong with your car. Probably one of those doo-hickey thingies—you know—that makes it run or something. Just have it towed to a mechanic and pay whatever he asks. # 3. No son of mine is going to live under this roof without an earring. Now quit your bellyaching, and let's go to the mall. # 2. Whaddya wanna go and get a job for? I make plenty of money for you to spend. And the # 1 thing you'll probably not hear a Dad say: Father's Day? Ah, don't worry about that, it's no big deal. (2)

Our lesson from the Gospel is one I believe most of our Dads will like. Jesus says to his disciples, "What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs" (10:27). Jesus is talking about being enthusiastic about your faith. Most of the houses in Jesus' time had flat roofs which served as areas for drying straw, working, relaxing. And when people had really important news to proclaim, they often shouted it from their rooftop. (3) Jesus is talking about having the same kind of openness about your religious convictions as you do your favorite football team. "What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs."

**Jesus is looking for enthusiastic people.** Jesus is looking for people who have a positive feeling about their faith and are willing to take positive actions to affect the world.

There was an interesting story in the sports section of the newspaper sometime back. Washington Redskins' quarterback Gus Frerotte was taken to a hospital with a self-inflicted neck injury. In his exuberance after scoring a touchdown on a 1-yard scramble against the New York Giants, Frerotte head-butted the padded concrete wall that surrounds the playing field. X-rays were negative, but they took Frerotte to Prince George's County General Hospital as a precautionary measure. They diagnosed him with a sprained neck. (4) It is fun to watch athletes who get excited about what they are doing. Sometimes you wonder if some of them are more prone to injury from their celebrations than from the game itself.

I much prefer their attitude, though, to that of British golfer Colin Montgomerie. At the U.S. Open near Detroit a couple years back, Montgomerie cursed a spectator who was trying to encourage him. "There's too much bloody cheering in this country," Montgomerie said. At the Irish Open, when Montgomerie was marking his ball on a green, a teenager snapped a picture. Said Montgomerie: "Put that thing away or I'll wrap it around your . . ." We will omit the rest of his colorful tirade for obvious reasons. (5)

Montgomerie is not a person with an enthusiastic approach to his work. Having said that, though, I must add that the worse attitude of all is shared by those who don't ever get excited about anything—even things they dislike. The worst approach to life is shared by those who do nothing but observe and criticize others.

According to research commissioned by the Weather Channel, one in five viewers of the Weather Channel watches for at least three hours at a sitting. The company calls these people

"weather-involved." (6) Can you imagine that? I mean, if you watch the Weather Channel three hours a day, you need to get a life!

Jesus is looking for enthusiastic people. **The most significant thing that many of us could do to increase the effectiveness of both our witness for Christ and our personal success would be to develop an enthusiastic attitude.** As psychologist William James said, "It is our attitude at the beginning of a difficult undertaking which, more than anything else, will determine its successful outcome."

Dr. Judith Briles is a most effective speaker and writer. In her book, *The Confidence Factor*, she lists what she calls the Ten Commandments of Confidence. These were written for business people, but I believe they could be important to all of us because how we feel about ourselves will greatly affect our enthusiasm for the work of God. Here are Dr. Briles' Ten Commandments:

1. To your own self be true. Listen to your inner voice; don't let others derail you. March to your own tune, not someone else's.
2. Create positive thinking. Associate with "energy chargers." Don't let negativism drag you down.
3. Know that you're not alone. Remember, millions of people have walked in your footsteps before you, and will do so after you.
4. Learn something new. Get busy, sign up for classes, read a book, get involved in your community. Whatever you do, it'll rejuvenate your brain cells.
5. Assess the situation. Be realistic. What would really happen if you lost your job, a bid on a contract, or if business got really bleak? (Tie this commandment in with the next.)
6. Take credit for your accomplishments. Pat yourself on the back. Keep a file containing all the complimentary things others have said about you and your work. Review it when things look bleak. In times of crisis, it's good to have such positive input at hand.
7. Aspire higher. Stretch yourself. Consider your role models in or out of your field of work. Read about them. Strive to be like them.
8. Don't bottle things up, get some feedback. Talk things over with those you can trust. Make sure the feedback you get is from someone who is caring, supportive, and nonjudgmental.
9. Take care of yourself. Eat right, exercise, sleep, play. Laugh a lot. Get your life in balance. Learn to make time for yourself.
10. Keep in circulation. When rough times or failures hit, it's common to withdraw, to not let the outside world know that all's not well. The sooner you re-involve yourself, the sooner you'll get back on target. (7)

Jesus wants enthusiastic followers. He wants people who have a healthy appreciation for themselves and others. He wants people who are excited and involved in their church and in their community. **Of course, the primary source of this enthusiasm will be Christ himself.** Enthusiasm comes from the Greek words meaning "the God within." The surest path to a positive, active, enthusiastic life is to open ourselves to the work of Christ's indwelling Spirit.

Gordon MacDonald, in his book, *The Life God Blesses*, tells about a Chinese pastor who spoke at a conference in England. This pastor had spent eighteen years in prison for his faith. He recalled for the audience his prison experience:

"My friends wonder what kind of work I did in the labor camp to keep me physically

healthy. I answered them that life in the labor camp was very, very hard. The authorities in the camp put me to emptying the human waste cesspool. Most of the prisoners were afraid to approach the cesspool, but the authorities were aware of my background—I was well-educated, from a well-to-do family—and especially because they were atheists and they knew I was a Christian leader. So they enjoyed putting me to work in the human waste cesspool. But they did not know in those years how I enjoyed working there. It was more than two meters in breadth and two meters in length, filled with human waste collected from the entire camp. Once it was full, the human waste was kept until it was ripe and then dug out and sent to the field as fertilizer. Because the pit was so deep, I could not reach the bottom to empty it, so I had to walk into the disease-ridden mass and scoop out the successive layers of human waste, all the time breathing the strong stench. The guards and all the prisoners kept a long way off because of the stench.

“So why did I enjoy working in the cesspool? I enjoyed the solitude. In the labor camp all the prisoners normally were under strict surveillance and no one could be alone. But when I worked in the cesspool, I could be alone and could pray to our Lord as loudly as I needed. I could recite the Scriptures including all the Psalms I still remembered and no one was close enough to protest. That’s the reason I enjoyed working in the cesspool. Also, I could sing loudly the hymns I still remembered. In those days one of my most favorite was ‘In the Garden.’ Before I was arrested this was my favorite hymn, but at that time I did not realize the real meaning of this hymn. When I worked in the cesspool, I knew and discovered a wonderful fellowship with our Lord. Again and again I sang this hymn and felt our Lord’s presence with me. I come to the garden alone /While the dew is still on the roses; And the voice I hear falling on my ear, The Son of God discloses. And he walks with me, and he talks with me, And he tells me I am his own, And the joy we share as we tarry there None other has ever known.” Again and again as I sang this hymn in the cesspool, I experienced the Lord’s presence. He never left me or forsook me. And so I survived and the cesspool became my private garden.” (8)

Not a pleasant story, but a powerful one of a man who let his faith in Christ rather than his circumstances determine his attitude. Jesus wants enthusiastic, excited followers. He wants people who will serve him in the world with a positive, expectant spirit. If need be, he wants people who can sing his praise in a cesspool. Such an enthusiastic spirit begins when we allow Christ’s Spirit to invade our lives.

W E L C O M E S

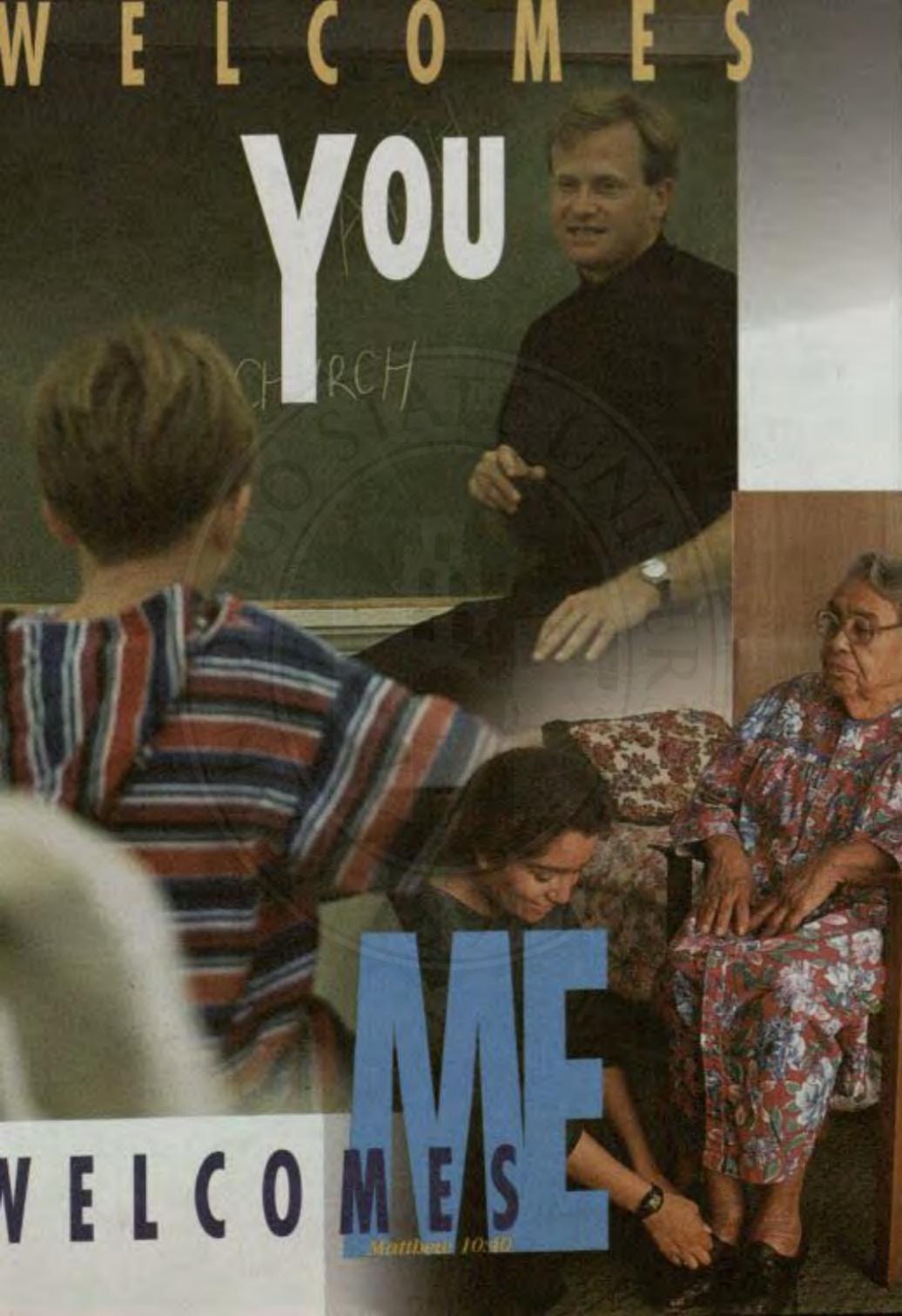
YOU

CHURCH

W E L C O M E S

ME

Matthew 10:40



MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

June 20, 1999

FATHER'S DAY

10:30 A.M.



PREPARATION OF OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

"Let the people be in silent meditation and prayer upon entering the sanctuary."

WE PRAISE GOD

PRELUDE

Organist

PROCESSIONAL

"Jesus The Light Of The World"

Men's Chorus

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Rise Up O Men Of God"

(G)#398

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Trust in the Lord and do good.

People: Live in the land and be safe.

Leader: Seek your happiness in the Lord.

People: And He will give you your heart's desire.

Leader: Put your hope in the Lord and obey His command.

People: He will honor you, help you, and save you.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have revealed your truth to us through His life and teaching. You have revealed your love through His cross. You have shown power by His resurrection victory. Forgive our foolish ways and turn us once more toward our Savior, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

"The Apostle's Creed" (The Presbyterian Hymnal)

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WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

ANTHEM

"Hallelujah In The Highest"

Men's Chorus

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: Let us pray.

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

"Sweet Hour Of Prayer"

Men's Chorus

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

FATHER OF THE YEAR

Bro. Al McClain

Introduced by Bro. N. L. Allen

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RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

"What A Friend"

Congregation

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

"You Better Mind" (Spiritual arr Bill Barron)  
Bro. Danny Eaton, Soloist

Men's Chorus

DOXOLOGY

"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

Congregation

OFFERTORY PRAYER

THREEFOLD AMEN

GOD SPEAKS TO US

SCRIPTURE

Bro. Al McClain

Matthew 10:26-33

MUSICAL SELECTION

"Goin Up Yonder"  
Bro. Bill Ellis, Soloist

Men's Chorus

MESSAGE

"Needed: Enthusiastic People"

Rev. George W. Smith

INVITATIONAL HYMN

"This Is My Father's World"

(G)#6

CHORAL BENEDICTION

"God Be With You"

Men's Chorus

§Congregation standing  
\*Congregation sitting  
...Worshiper will be seated

**TO OUR GUESTS:** You are welcome to our worship service and all activities of the church. Please help us to know you by filling out a visitor's card from one of the Ushers. You are invited to meet with others in the Fellowship Hall for refreshments following the Worship Service. Please come again and invite your friends and neighbors to come with you.

**USHERS FOR TODAY** are Pete Wigfall, Raymond Williams, Arthur Buie, N. L. Allen

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE CHRIST AS YOUR SAVIOR**, we invite you to come to the front of the sanctuary during the Invitational Hymn. Elders Roy Logan and William Ponder will be at the front of the sanctuary to greet you.

**PREPARING FOOD FOR THE HOMELESS TODAY** will be the **DEACONS**. If you are asked to help prepare or purchase food, please do it with a smile! We love your time and talent. Thank you.

**HOSTING THE FELLOWSHIP HOUR TODAY** will be the Mothers' Day Committee



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MINISTER: ..... Rev. George W. Smith  
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ORGANIST: ..... Ms. Juanita Dentham  
YOUTH CHOIR DIRECTOR/PIANIST: ..... Ms. Delores Fisher  
CHURCH SCHOOL CO-SUPERINTENDENT: ..... Ms. Mary Collier-Wade  
Dr. Robert Matthews  
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COORDINATOR: ..... (Vacant)  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: ..... Mrs. Zee Griffith  
SECRETARY/BOOKKEEPER: ..... Ms. Cathy Ramsey

☺ *TO ALL YOUTH IN THE CHURCH* ☺

Sunday, June 27, 1999 will be **Youth Day**. All youth are invited to participate by sharing their accomplishments. Tables will be set up in the Fellowship Hall for your display of awards, certificates, trophies, hobbies, collections, etc.

We need the following information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

(Please give the information to Mrs. Irene Smith)