



The Salem Creek church of Christ

presents:

Church Growth

A series of lessons by
Doug Couch

January 10-13, 2016

We hope you'll join us as we listen to Brother Couch teach about church growth – as it was in the first century and as it is today!

- Jan. 10 @ 9:00 am, "How the Early Church Grew"
10:15 am, "Can We Measure How a Church Grows?"
5:30 pm, "How Service Causes Growth"
- Jan. 11 @ 7:00 pm, "How Love Causes Growth"
- Jan. 12 @ 7:00 pm, "How Conflict Causes Growth"
- Jan. 13 @ 7:00 pm, "Kids Understand Growth"

Benevolence and Evangelism

Mark 2:1-13

Benevolence is a difficult thing to discuss. You never know if the person is lying or being truthful in describing his or her circumstance. You never know if the person will take the gift and use it for ungodly things like drugs or alcohol. You never know if you did enough to help. There is a constant feeling that consumes us as Christians. We understand that we want to do something, but we don't know what to do.

Jesus was a giver. He gave healing, forgiveness, life, and love, although perhaps not in that order. Most of the time, when people come to us in need, they want (or need) items to help with their *physical* situation in life. Of course this should not be surprising to us. It is likely that we would do the same. However, when Jesus saw people with physical needs, he never stopped there. He also rarely began there. To Jesus, spiritual needs are so much more important than the needs of our earthly lives.

We find proof of this in the second chapter of Mark's gospel. Four men brought their paralyzed friend to Jesus in hopes that he would heal his physical ailment. They were so determined to get this man to Jesus that they went around the normal bounds to come in contact with the Son of God. They lowered him in through the roof after digging an opening in the roof (damaging someone else's property), and ultimately came in contact with Jesus. They were willing to do anything to fulfill the need they perceived to be the most important.

However, Jesus did not offer him physical healing at first. He said in verse 5, "Son, your sins are forgiven." There was no healing of the body, but a definite healing of the soul. To assert his deity, Jesus did eventually heal the man physically, but Jesus realized the paralysis was not this man's greatest problem.

Benevolence is a key part of church work. Jesus clearly says that when we do acts of kindness to the "least of these, you did it to me," (Matt. 25:40). However, in the midst of helping with these physical needs, we should never feel bad or awkward about pressing the need for Jesus and his salvation through obedience to the gospel. Let's give the world what it needs. Let's give the world the bread of life! This world is starving to death, needing to be made full.

Joshua Houston

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Ron Bowersock*, Clyde Bowman*, Ernestine Taylor
Recovering from surgeries

TAKING TREATMENTS

Lois Arnold, Carolyn Thomas, Janneil Brown

SHUT INS

Rita Reed, Mabel Robertson, Houston Henry, Oleta Bullard

PRAYER REQUEST:

Shirley Bibb, Opal Jones, Dan & Lorene Stephens, Wayne Mobbs, Marie Fleming, Lorene Maddox, Imogene Bozeman, Selma Boyd, Janneil Brown, Gerald Wiseman, Ron Bowersock, Melba Young, Nancy Hatton, Oleta Bullard, Mabel Robertson

NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING:

*MEMBERS

ADAMS PLACE: Nora Fann*

DIVERSICARE OF SMYRNA: Jean Nickens*

NHC: Sue Reeves*, Lizzie Bush, Geri Melton*

STONES RIVER MANOR: Edna Vance*, Virgie Leonard*, Margaret Davidson*, Jeweldean Hall*, Laura Wiser*, Lillian Whitworth, Louise McKnight*, Martha DeVore

MILITARY

Please keep **Tony Berry** in your prayers, while he is stationed in California at Camp Pendleton.

BUILDING FUND

We have received a Building Fund donation In Memory of **Betty Shoemaker** by the following:

*Charles & Sue Reeves

NEWS & NOTES

We extend sympathy to the family of **Clyde Jones**; he passed away on Friday, January 1st. His funeral was held on Monday, January 4th at Jennings & Ayers.

Gospel Meeting beginning **today**, January 10 – Wednesday, January 13th.
Speaker – Doug Couch

Couples Retreat in Pigeon Forge – March 18 – 20, 2016

CYC - February 26 – 28, 2016.

Barnabas workers, baptism assistants and greeters are needed. Sign- up lists are in the foyer.

Youth and Men's Devotional sign-up lists are in the foyer.

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We're on the web!
www.salemcreekcoc.org

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday	
Morning Worship	9:00 am
Bible Classes	10:15 am
Evening Worship	5:30 pm
Wednesday	
Ladies Morning Bible Class	10:00 am
Evening Bible Classes	6:30 pm

ELDERS

B.K. Ham
Jim Hatfield
Jon Holland
Andy Mitchell
Randall Phifer
Fred Rogers
Keith Short

MINISTER

Ron Harper

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Joshua Houston

DEACONS

Larry Benson	Andy Melton
Michael Bowman	Brian Melton
Craig Buckner	Alan Pepper
Bob Hoover	Wendell Wilson

FOR THE RECORD

January 3, 2016

Sunday	AM worship	235
	Bible classes	182
	PM worship	177
	Contribution	\$5,669.01

Wednesday	PM Bible classes	124
Wednesday	AM Ladies Class (Sept-May)	---

GREETERS

Please be at the door 15
minutes prior to services!



January 10

Joshua Houston
Keith & Margaret Short

January 17

Dean Thompson
Regenia Grissom

To Our Honored Guests...

We are happy you chose to worship with us today! Please stay after our assembly so that we can get acquainted with you and your family. We invite you to come back as often as you have opportunity!

We were honored by your presence!