

Life is in the Small Talk

by Mike Foster

How many of us are scared to share our faith because we don't have "the speech" memorized? Who knows we might say something stupid, say the wrong thing or forget a large portion of what we are "supposed" to say?

I'll admit, not feeling good about "the speech" has kept me from talking to others about Jesus. My other fear is that I'm often trying to manipulate them or give them some sort of robotic, contrived speech, neither of which is generally helpful in the conversion process.

So how do we go from manipulation to nudging people towards Jesus?

Small talk. You might be thinking, what? Yep, that is right. The "white noise" of conversation. All the talk about the weather, the kids, the bills, or the game are all important foundational stones that may lead to later conversations about "ultimate" sorts of things like faith.



We have placed too much emphasis on the "initial" (introductions, etc.) and "ultimate" (faith and salvation) conversations that we have left out the middle ground where people determine if we are "safe" enough to trust us with the "ultimate" conversation. We have made our God conversations all about holiness and avoiding sin that people don't think that God cares about their everyday life, and who wants to worship a God that

doesn't care (I'm guessing nobody). When we rush to the "ultimate" conversation, we communicate to others that we don't care about the details of their life. People get the clues about Jesus already from those who claim to follow and worship him.

Jim Henderson, in his book *a.k.a. Lost* (reprinted as *Evangelism without Additives*) gives us four things we can do to better connect with those far from God:

1. **Ask Questions**- Jesus continually puts the attention on others by asking them questions. The Gospels never present Jesus as a guru who has all the answers. Maybe we should try giving fewer answers and asking more well placed questions.

2. **Make small talk**- Not every conversation has to convey useful and important conversation. Neither should we become meaning addicts, seeking information in every verbal exchange. Enjoy the conversation for the sake of the conversation. Realize that because you took the time to engage in small talk today, you might have the opportunity to help them with faith issues later.

3. **Practice normal talk**- Too often we say things that could be considered "insider" language. Use normal English when you talk to others about your life. Your "daily walk" doesn't describe your devotional life to someone who is far from God. To them it sounds like your exercise regimen.

4. **Say "Wow!"**- If someone you are talking to says something shocking and you don't know what to say, say "Wow!" This will give you a chance to collect your thoughts before saying something potentially offensive, and who doesn't like hearing someone say "Wow!" after something they have said. It's like saying, "Tell me more." Try that next time when one of God's missing children shakes your worldview.

Don't rush past the small talk. Life is in the small talk.

From smallgrouptrader.com (used with permission).

Life group prayer and praise

- **Pamela Dehnhoff** asks that we pray for **middle son** to find work and a place to live that is safe and their **youngest son and daughter-in-law** to find Jesus.
- **Brooklyn McCormick** needs prayer for her active juvenile arthritis, that her new medication would successfully treat the swelling and pain.
- Please pray for me to deal with neighbors and a neighbors father who is trying to make me deal with his abusive behavior and language. May my landlord take action since this man is a guest and not a tenant
~ **Darcy Stanyo**
- Please continue to pray for my mother-in-law, **Ramona Anderson**, who has been diagnosed with mantle cell lymphoma.. ~ **Ann Anderson**

- **Kathy Chapman's** mother-in-laws husband, **Mel Marcoux** needs prayer for healing for his heart, he has 2 blocked arteries in the back of his heart and has to decide what to do, possible open heart surgery. Pray for **Kathy's mother-in-law, Jeanne** who has just been diagnosed with lung cancer. She is going to have radiation, pray that it takes care of the cancer and that it doesn't burn her and that she has no ill effects.
- **John and Linda Royer** need a ride to/from Ross Point .
- Please pray for my niece, Karen, she needs strength and guidance.~ **Carolyn Kelly**
- Please remember to pray for our son-in-law **Al Carter** who had a stroke on 3/29/09 and is totally paralyzed. ~ **Lysle and Lois Pickard**

**Congregational Meeting:
June 27th 9:00 am
budget reports "It's All About Jesus"
are ready now in the office**

Adult attendance: 254

Children: 9 am: 24 + 11 10:30 am 54 + 16

Youth Small Group: 11 + 3 Middle School: 18 + 4

**July 4th service is going to
be on July 3rd at 6:00 pm.**

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

- Jonathan Michaels Estrella— son of Sharon Boswell.
- Jason Bjazevich—Megan Owenby's husband— Army Special Forces— Stationed in N. Carolina.
- Joel Ellis—son of John & Midge —Serving in Iraq.
- Scott Harpell—son of Brian & Lynne— Stationed at Fort Carson, CO.
- Aaron Weston—nephew of Ken and Kathy— Stationed in San Diego.
- Eric Schmidt — son of Gene and Pat Schmidt — Camp Fallujah, Iraq.
- Benjamin Lagonia—dear friend of the Naylor family—stationed in Manitoba.
- David Coyle—son of Karen Mark—residing in Seattle, member of the National Guard.
- Adam Flynn—a young Marine safely home and out of military.
- Brett Love—grandson of Wilma—Army National Guard-Serving at home.
- Robin Swartz - Serving in the military - currently home in Everett.
- Christian Chmielewski—nephew of JoAnn Couturie' - in the Marines.
- ENS Andrew E. Timpner (fiancé to Christin Suthard) on deployment with USS Momsen.
- Devin Abbitt—nephew of Paul Abbitt - Marine, stateside.
- Duane Neyens—brother to Kathy Chapman—on US soil, in El Paso, TX then CA.
- Philip Ankney-LCPL Afghanistan Cousin of Mary-Ann Peterson.
- Jeffrey Lillard—son of Barbara Lillard — Srg. In Army, Stationed in Afghanistan.
- Aaron Chmielewski—joined the Marines. Nephew of JoAnn Couturie
- Shawn Berland—deploying for 6 months

Check out our FBC website @ www.fbc-everett.org

Life Group Happenings

all in the family *by Florence Miller*

Lynn Harpell had a one and a half hour knee surgery on Tuesday, June 15th. Fortunately it was determined that her knee did not require complete knee replacement surgery so her stay in the Colby hospital will be short and, hopefully, she will be released this Thursday on crutches. However, anything associated with a knee is painful. That means that while she will be grateful to finally have no pain after many months, the healing process still will be painfully uncomfortable, so our prayer is for a swift recovery with no lasting pain.

Dottie Duncan's memorial service is Sunday afternoon, June 20th at 3:00 p.m.

Some of our **Church family** are associated in one way or another with the **Comcast Arena** in Everett so they can be proud of the recent press release telling of the **Venue Excellent Award** given to Comcast arena in Everett for the **best in the United States** for the year 2010. This award, given by the International Association of Assembly Managers, named only five in the entire nation. Everett is indeed fortunate!

Now is the time to register for Ross Point camp. Mark your vacation calendars etc. Questions, feel free to email **Steve Dittoe** at stevedittoe@verizon.net. The cabins and lodges are all full, but you can still take your RV and/or tent. Dates for Ross Point are July 25th thru the 31st.

Please bring your family and friends to First Baptist Church for our annual 4th of July **Fun In The Sun** street fair, 2:00-4:00pm. It will be held on Wetmore street between Pacific and 32nd. Watch this publication for more information as the time draws near. If you would like to help, please call the church office at 425-259-9166 and they would be glad to sign you up. If you have a canopy that you would let us use, you can bring that into the office anytime, please mark it with your name and phone number so we can return it to you.

The June meeting of SAM featured in-house talent with the SAM Singers doing their usual excellent blending of voices, with one song a clever parody on getting older. Lois Tysseling was as always in great form with her humor; officers for the 2010-2011 were installed; our resident SAM pastor, back from Arizona, gave the devotions and the "center-piece" for the day was a table hosting four ladies who have reached the age of 90 and wondering where the years went. Three of the group were fortunate to be accompanied by their sons: Dan Friesen (Esther), Jerry Thompson (Evelyn), and David Miller (Florence). Also at the festive table were Marie Webb and Bernice Dye, Presidents Lyle and Gloria Gordon created a festive table for the occasion.

Accounting for the book sale proceeds is not finalized yet and will be reported at a later time.

** The SAM Picnic is Friday, July 16th. at Kayak Point Park. Bring either a salad or dessert. The cost is \$5.00. Chicken or BBQ ribs will be provided along with cups, utensils and coffee. Time: Noon until? If transportation is needed, the two church vans will be available. They will be leaving the church parking lot at 11:15 a. m. There will be an extra cost of \$2.00 for the van. Be sure to sign up at the SAM desk in the Hospitality Room. And, oh yes, pray for sunshine!!

*S.A.M.
Happenings*



Join us for VBS...As they participate in fun-filled activities, children will learn about God's amazing love and His Word, the Bible! We will have a great time with lively songs, hilarious skits, creative crafts, exciting games, Bible stories and tasty snacks— all of the things that make Vacation Bible School so much fun for children.

Where: FBC Campus When: June 28th-July 2nd

Time: 9am-12:00

Who: Kindergarten-5th Grade

Lifegroup Contributing Opportunities

Here is a list of the supplies that are needed for VBS this year. If you could help in any way, please bring your things into the Office, we will update this list as needed. Thanks! !!

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| • Crepe paper-various colors | • Elmer's glue—small school size | • Brown Paper Grocery Bags-Standard Size (300) |
| • Bag of white Rice (10 Bags) small individual size | • Construction Paper (Various colors) | • Five Gallon Buckets (2) |
| • Paper towel tubes (100) | • Paper Plates (700) | • Tarps (3) any size |
| • Ball of twine (2) thin twist | • Paper Cups (700) | • Wire Coat Hangers (100) |
| | • White T-shirts (Various Kid's sizes) | • Various gift cards to Winco or Wal-Mart |
- V.B.S. SUPPLY LIST**
- Rubber bands (300)

We need canopies now for Fun In The Sun, bring into the office with a label, please.

USHER CAPTAIN 2010:

June—Darrell Olson
Marc Owenby

July—Luckey Elkins
Pete Sontra

COFFEE HOUR 2010

June 20th
Darrell Olson
Foundation

June 27th
John VanDalen
The Followers

July 4th—**FUN IN THE SUN**
CHURCH SERVICE IS
SATURDAY NIGHT AT 6:00 PM

July 11th
David Brock
Men's Life Group



- June 18th Janet Graham
- June 20th Shirley Schapler
- June 21st Howard Eckstrom
- June 22nd Janet Duvarado
- Sharon Manuel
- Brad Dahlgren