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# Lifelines Outreach

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Lifelines Outreach shares the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and by making disciples in the greater Nashville area.

**Jan. 2018**

I was very encouraged by the evangelism task force meeting. You will find the article on the second page. I will be looking forward to their report at the 2018 Southern Baptist Convention. Speaking of 2018, it has arrived with much cold weather. I am over winter, and I am ready for spring. My good friend and fellow worker in the harvest, Monica Frost, will teach a five-week evangelism class using “Share Jesus Without Fear” as the basis of the study. It will be at First Baptist Hendersonville each Wednesday from January 10th-February 7th, from 9:30 am—11:30 am or 6:30-8 pm. I know she will do a great job.

I have been thinking a lot about 2018. The groups we meet with have taken a little break, so it gives me a little time for reflection, prayer, and Bible reading. I truly want to be effective in evangelism and making disciples. This past year has been really good. We have seen many decisions for Christ and have experienced significant leaps in people’s lives as they follow Jesus and fish for men. I have had the privilege of developing some new leadership. What a joy when I know people “get it” in these areas. Anything worthwhile happens, is always because God does it through people who are submitted to the Lordship of Jesus. I have been thinking about a few things that I must do well and on a consistent basis for me to be effective in the coming year. I know for real ministry to take place in the lives of people I touch I must spend much time in prayer and in the Word of God. This is where I get my spiritual energy to give away to other people. Spending time with God is never wasted. To go along with this discipline is Scripture memory. Scripture memory has probably helped me more than anything in my prayer life and teaching discipleship groups. I plan on putting it on my calendar as a daily activity. The Bible tells us to renew our mind. I found this to be the number one spiritual discipline to help with this area. You begin to think the very thoughts of Jesus.

I have also decided to be more careful when I disciple somebody one-on-one. I only want people who are really serious about being fully serious about following Jesus. I will continue to plant groups and disciple in groups. However, if I pick an individual who I spend more time with they must be really serious about fully following Jesus and fishing for men.

Setting some goals and reviewing them each day is never wrong. It keeps you on track with your main priorities. New Year’s Resolutions are never good unless we follow through with a plan. Make this a year in which you spend time with the Lord each day. Remember to pray for me if it comes to mind and thank you for your financial support. We couldn’t do it without you! -Richard Gay

## **SBC Task Force Concludes Second Meeting**

*By Alex Sibley on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017*

The second meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention's evangelism task force concluded on the campus of Southwestern Seminary, Dec. 5. This was the second of three meetings as the group—appointed at the SBC annual meeting in June—seeks to prepare a final report on evangelism and soul-winning to present at the 2018 SBC meeting in Dallas.

“The meeting [this week] of the SBC task force on evangelism was simply remarkable,” says Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern and chairman of the task force. “Members representing various theological perspectives, multiple age groups, and every geographical section of America came together with harmony seldom exhibited anywhere in the common cause of reaching men and women for Christ. Watching these men work evoked the strongest hope I have had for the future of Southern Baptists.”

The task force is charged with determining how Southern Baptists might reap a greater harvest through personal evangelism and evangelistic preaching. Having utilized their first meeting in August to study evangelism and prayerfully seek the will of the God, the team used this meeting to begin formulating recommendations to the SBC. As Patterson said following their August meeting, “We sincerely hope these will harness the energies of our churches for an assault on the kingdom of Satan and guide us in the witness of Southern Baptists to a fallen world.” Those in attendance were Patterson; SBC President Steve Gaines; Executive Director of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention Jim Richards; pastors Jordan Easley, Nick Floyd, J.D. Greear, Doug Munton, and Jimmy Scroggins; Midwestern Seminary professor Robert Matz; New Orleans Seminary professor Preston Nix; Southeastern Seminary professors Alvin Reid and Jim Shaddix; Southern Seminary professor Adam Greenway; and Southwestern Seminary professors David Allen and Matt Queen.

“Every man on the evangelism task force has a hot-hearted passion to see every soul come to Christ and to see Southern Baptists reclaim this great distinctive of our denomination,” says David Allen, dean of Southwestern's School of Preaching. Southwestern's Chair of Evangelism Matt Queen adds that it was exciting to see representatives from multiple areas of service within the convention as well as different age groups coming together for this purpose.

“We spent time in concerted prayer,” Queen says, “and I believe God, out of that time of prayer, through His Holy Spirit, directed us in such a way that we can bring a report to the convention that will be accepted and help us reclaim our heritage as an evangelistic denomination.”

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