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# MARCH 2017

## PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

### Making the Connection

Soon after I arrived at Anna Naz I challenged you to compile a top 10 “hit list” of people who aren’t saved that you could pray for and hopefully have the opportunity to share Christ with. In the bulletin I still have the guide to praying for opportunity to invite people to a relationship with Jesus Christ. There is nothing more important in the church then seeing lives transformed by the power and love of Jesus Christ. People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care. Influential people connect with others on a deep level. The stronger the influence you want to have the stronger the relationships you need to build. Look at the life of Jesus; he was all about connecting with other people and getting involved in their lives. People knew He cared. They could see it and feel it. And people listened to what He had to say. If you want to live like Christ love people.

In Acts 8 we find the story of Philip and the Ethiopian. I love this story because it really helps us see how God can and will place us in places at specific times with the right message for a passing opportunity. I think too often we don’t realize that God may in fact be setting us up for an encounter with someone who needs Jesus. Sometimes it’s the person in the office building you work. It may be the customer passing by or the man walking his trash down to the curb. Have you ever thought to stop and hear what is being said around you?

When you’re working and you hear “I’m worried about my Job, my future, my marriage, my child. I’m scared of dying. It could be your “passing chariot”. When you hear I don’t like myself. Nobody likes me. Should I be involved in this or that? What does God have to do with all of this? It could be your “passing chariot”. When you hear my boyfriend asked me to marry him. I’m having a baby. My cancer is back. My spouse is leaving. It could be your “passing chariot”. You may have more passing chariots then you realize. I want to give 4 simple principles we can learn from this story:

1. **Be where God wants you. (vv.26-30, 39)**

Just like Philip we must go out into the roads of the world to trust God to lead us to those seeking him. Without one question Philip got up and went. God handled the details, set up the appointment, timed the arrival, and told him which chariot and what to do. God is sovereign. Philip sensed the impulse and movement of the spirit. The problem is not the spirits willingness to guide and direct us, the problem is our not being surrounded enough to the spirit to sense and know his direction.

2. **Be watching the people around you. (vv.27, 32, 34)**

A good place to start with people is with where the persons concerns are focused and then bring the gospel to it. Philip engaged in conversation after running up to the carriage. He didn’t just start running next to it and wait and see if the man would see him and then respond. No instead we must engage people. And the key was that Philip was welcomed. There were some differences between Philip and the

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Eunuch. One was Greek and the other Ethiopian. One a Jew the other a Gentile. One an evangelist the other a government worker. One poor and the other rich. The question we have to ask is what we are going to do with the differences? Do we back away and say No not for me or someone else will be better at this one? I think better we take to heart and ask the question do I follow God this simply and completely? So what did Philip do? He took ahold to the power of observation. He waited to find out where the man was in his understanding before diving in with the gospel and secondly he engaged the man at a meaningful level.

**3. Be ready to adapt yourself to where others are. (vv.35-36)**

We must remember that some people aren't where we think they should be. Being Christ to people can take time to see results. We have to be willing to throw everything aside and focus on the person we are trying to reach for Jesus. Are we waiting for others to adapt to YOU? To learn YOUR vocabulary? To come to YOUR meeting? To enter YOUR safe Christian culture? Or....are we ready to go out into the world outside YOUR Christian environment find those who need Christ, Listen to them, love them, and lead them to Christ? The Failure to spread the gospel is often not for a lack of courage but for a lack of willingness to be inconvenienced to spend the time necessary for getting into another person's world and problems. In this day of the "busy Christian" perhaps one of the hindrances to the spread of the gospel is our willingness to commit ourselves to the hard and time intensive task of listening, adapting, and loving others into a relationship with Christ.

**4. Be bold in telling those you meet about Christ. (vv.31, 35-36)**

This Ethiopian represents many people today who are religious, read the Scriptures, and seek the truth, yet do not have saving faith in Jesus Christ. They are sincere, but they are lost! They need someone to show them the way. The man didn't know because no one had told him. There are many waiting to be told about Jesus. One conversation can make a radical difference in someone's life.

In John 4 we find Jesus passing through Samaria. While the disciples went into town Jesus stayed back at a certain well. This certain act was not random but I believe a divine appointment between Jesus and the Samaritan woman. Because Jesus had this encounter this woman went back to her town and brought them to see Jesus. See this women's testimony convinced the others (4:39). When they came and heard Jesus and experienced Him personally they really knew Jesus was the savior. We have to get out of our comfort zone and see the passing chariots that God brings our way. God has given us the role of going and being His ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:18-20). How will you establish common ground with someone you ordinarily would not intersect with?

With Love in Christ,  
Pastor Jamie

**SUNDAY SERVICES**

**Breakfast** ..... 9:00 a.m.  
**Pastoral Prayer** ..... 9:10 a.m.  
**Sunday School** ..... 9:30 a.m.  
**Morning Worship**..... 10:35 a.m.  
**Children's Quizzing** ..... 5:00 p.m.  
 September - April                      1st Grade - 6th Grade  
**Pastoral Prayer**..... 5:40 p.m.  
**Evening Worship**..... 6:00 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY SERVICES**

**"Family Bible Study"** ..... 6:30 p.m.  
 1st, 2nd, 4th & 5th Wednesday of each month  
  
**Missionary Service** ..... 6:30 p.m.  
 3rd Wednesday of each month  
  
**Children's Quizzing** ..... 6:30 p.m.  
 September - April                      1st Grade - 6th Grade

**Check out our Website and Facebook Page at [www.annanaz.com](http://www.annanaz.com)**



Nazarene Missions  
INTERNATIONAL



I hope you enjoyed the February NMI meeting and the 2017 Men's Anna-NMI Chili Cook Off. Competitors included Larry Fuller, Bryan Morrison, Phil Ray, Leonard Sadler, and Mark Smith who all deserve a big round of applause for sharing their culinary prowess! The **contest winner was Phil Ray** by the narrowest of margins. Judges, Carla Ramage and Marva Wall had a difficult task of choosing the winner in this contest. I also want to thank everyone who provided the drinks, desserts, crackers, cheese and chips to complete a fantastic meal. The winner was presented a gift card to Chili's, this wonderful photograph and a certificate that he will proudly display in his kitchen. The photo was provided by Verna Fuller. The lesson was presented my none other than my dad, Stanley Elkins. Hopefully he did not put anyone to sleep as he enjoys the sound of his own voice. Thank you everyone that participated in this event.



February was a busy "GIVING" month for the NMI department. On February 19<sup>th</sup>, we took up a love offering for Pastor Samuel Gomez, Isela and Luis. These missionaries come to the USA from Mexico and are going to serve as the pastor at Effingham Hispanic Church of the Nazarene. We also participated in the Nazarene Church Alabaster Offering on February 26<sup>th</sup>. Alabaster offering provides funds for property and buildings around the world. It is humbling to be around people like you who give and give then turn around and keep their Faith Promise Offerings to help spread God's Good News. Thank you!

March NMI meeting will be conducted a little earlier than normal. The board has been gracious enough to allow the meeting to be a week earlier. This allows me to join the fun with my NMI family because I will be on spring break! Mark your calendars for March 8<sup>th</sup> and come prepared to be blessed. One of the leaders at Team Day gave me an idea and we will see how it turns out. If you would like to bring finger foods we can enjoy them during out fellowship.

Looking ahead we will once again Celebrate Missions through the International Dinner on April 19<sup>th</sup>. There will be a sign-up sheet in the foyer and I hope you will all get involved.

Samaritans Purse is collecting quality crafts for the shoe boxes. Some ideas are sewing, crocheting, knitting, or no-sew projects.

*"I collected and bought pillowcases from friends and thrift stores, and am turning them into tote bags. These are easy to do by cutting them in half, and then using grosgrain ribbon for the handles!"—Annette M.*



Quality Crafts

March

#OC2017March

Sarah Elkins, NMI President

*On February 13 at St. Francis Hospital  
in Cape Girardeau, Missouri  
The Anna First Church of the Nazarene  
Parsonage Family,  
Pastor Jamie & Tiffany McBride  
Welcomed 8lbs 12 oz & 20 3/4 inches  
Ezra James McBride  
Into their family.  
Ezra has one brother, Mikah.*



## UPCOMING EVENTS



**Daylight Saving Time Begins**  
**Sunday, March 12**



**mark murphy**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 18**  
Dinner: 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm  
Concert: 7:00 pm

**SUNDAY, MARCH 19**  
10:30 am & 6:00 pm

**MARK MURPHY** is a graduate of Olivet Nazarene University.

A **Gospel Soloist** and recording artist, he was voted one of the top 5 vocal soloists at the National Quartet Convention's SOLO Contest. He also is an Ordained Minister and a Commission Evangelist.

Mark is a song writer and has many of his songs available on CD.

**Recently he was miraculously healed of Stage 4 Colon Cancer.**

Singing over 300 days a year, he has traveled extensively in the United States and into Great Britain, Wales, the Caribbean and Canada.

### **Vocal Soloist in special events over the years:**

- Church revivals, camp meetings, retreats as well as many concerts
- General Assemblies and International Laymen's Retreats for the Church of the Nazarene
- Guest soloist on TBN
- Guest soloist at Bump Day chapel, Indianapolis 500 and at the Detroit Grand Prix chapel Detroit, Michigan
- Ministry in special memorial services for 9/11, TWA Flight 800 and for the Oklahoma City bombing victims (broadcast on CNN) through his song "I am Near"
- Recorded in Nashville, TN with Bill Gaither.

***Mark's mission is to bring hope to the hopeless, bring healing to the sick and point each listener to the giver of all these things, Jesus.***

Mark is married to Julie who is an oncologist nurse. They make their home in Selma, Indiana. They have 3 married children and 4 grandchildren.

# OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

## MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS MARCH 5

Special Music:	A.M. Children's Choir	P.M. Jack & Nina Shepard
Greeters:	A.M. Chad, Am & Abram Brooks	P.M. Richard & Yvonne Graham
Projection:	A.M. Verna Fuller	P.M. Sarah Elkins
Sound:	A.M. Stanley Elkins	P.M. Stanley Elkins
Video:	A.M. Michael Hill	P.M. Clayton Ramage

Ushers: Matt Macy, Curt Lyerla, Curly Ralls, Phil Ray

Pastoral Prayer Partners: Bryan & Ginger Morrison, Kathy Papa, Leonard Sadler

Nursery Worker/Helper: Vonda Hill/Madison Wright

Finance Team: Jack & Nina Shepard, Carla Ramage

## MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS MARCH 12

Special Music:	A.M. Jaida Smith	P.M. Ginger Morrison, Nina Shepard, Marilyn Elkins, Carla Ramage
Greeters:	A.M. Kathy Papa/Lottie Smith	P.M. Leonard & Connie Sadler
Projection:	A.M. Sarah Elkins	P.M. Sarah Elkins
Sound:	A.M. Brad Clayborne	P.M. Brad Clayborne
Video:	A.M. Jason Elkins	P.M. Clayton Ramage

Ushers: Darrell Mowell, Esten Parks, Jacob Wright, Dorris Johnson

Pastoral Prayer Partners: Bryan & Ginger Morrison, Richard & Yvonne Graham

Nursery Worker/Helper: Vonda Hill/Marie Mowell

Finance Team: Jack & Nina Shepard, Carla Ramage

## MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS MARCH 19

Special Music:	A.M. Mark Murphy	P.M. Mark Murphy
Greeters:	A.M. Richard & Yvonne Graham	P.M. Bryan & Ginger Morrison
Projection:	A.M. Verna Fuller	P.M. Verna Fuller
Sound:	A.M. Stanley Elkins	P.M. Stanley Elkins
Video:	A.M. Michael Hill	P.M. Jason Elkins

Ushers: Heath Brooks, T.J. Macy, Noah Wiseman, Mark Smith

Pastoral Prayer Partners: Bryan & Ginger Morrison, Kathy Papa, Leonard Sadler

Nursery Worker/Helper: Vonda Hill/Kerri Macy

Finance Team: Jack & Nina Shepard, Carla Ramage

## MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS MARCH 26

Special Music:	A.M. Bryan Morrison	P.M. Jason & Jessica Elkins
Greeters:	A.M. Darrell & Marie Mowell	P.M. Dorris & Joyce Johnson
Projection:	A.M. Verna Fuller	P.M. Sarah Elkins
Sound:	A.M. Brad Clayborne	P.M. Brad Clayborne
Video:	A.M. Jason Elkins	P.M. Clayton Ramage

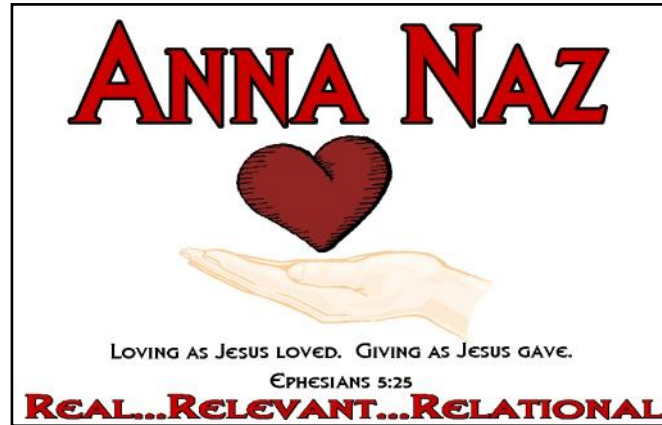
Ushers: Robert Smith, Logan Wiseman, Chad Brooks, Dorris Johnson

Pastoral Prayer Partners: Bryan & Ginger Morrison, Richard & Yvonne Graham

Nursery Worker/Helper: Vonda Hill/Marva Wall

Finance Team: Jack & Nina Shepard, Carla Ramage

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### Anna First Church of the Nazarene March 2017 Activities

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 UC Alliance of Churches Meeting 8:30 am Family Bible Study 6:30 pm	2	3	4 Sisters in Spirit Ladies Seminar In Marion
5 PM-Communion	6	7	8 Missionary Service 6:30 pm	9	10	11
12 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS	13	14 Board Meetings Sunday School 6:15 pm Church 7 pm	15 Family Bible Study 6:30 pm	16	17	18 Dinner 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm Mark Murphy Concert - 7 pm
19 Mark Murphy AM & PM Services	20	21	22 Family Bible Study 6:30 pm	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Family Bible Study 6:30 pm	30	31	