

The Billy Graham School

COMPASS

Navigating Ministry & Missions

Volume 1 • Issue 1

April 2007

Welcome to the Compass

Dear church leader,

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Billy Graham School *Compass*, a newsletter designed as a resource for pastors and church leaders who want God to use them to reach non-believers and grow His church around the world. We at the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth — one of the four graduate schools of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY — are confident that you will find something here that will encourage, challenge, and train you.

Through the *Compass*, we want to help you navigate issues affecting the church as you seek to point others to Him. Each edition will include book and resource reviews, biblical church growth strategies, research summaries, prayer requests, and updates on Graham School graduates or current students. I



“We want to help you navigate issues affecting the church as you seek to point others to Him.”

will also update you on the research that our Graham School teams are conducting. For example, you will find in this edition information about membership classes and church prayer strategies. In future editions we will give brief summaries of the findings of our current project — a look at the personal evangelism habits of pastors of growing churches. We believe that our research goals and projects continue the work that our Graham School’s founding dean, Dr. Thom Rainer, began over a decade ago.

This first edition also includes a challenge from Dr. R. Albert Mohler, the ninth president of Southern Seminary. Dr. Mohler reminds the church of our calling to be Great Commission-minded and hold fast to a biblical foundation that undergirds our evangelistic and missionary endeavors. Where theology is weak, evangelism and missions are seldom strong.

We will produce this newsletter six times each year. If you know others who will want to receive a copy, please send their email contact information to bgsinfo@sbts.edu. We thank you for the privilege of joining you in the work of God’s kingdom.

Dr. Chuck Lawless
Dean, The Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth

Inside this issue:

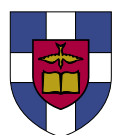
<i>Welcome to the Compass</i>	1
<i>Missions at Risk – A Failure of Nerve</i>	2
<i>Book Review</i>	2
<i>Recommended Resources</i>	2
<i>Church Health 101</i>	3
<i>Purpose Six (Prayer)</i>	3
<i>Research Shows</i>	3
<i>Missionary Matters</i>	4
<i>BGS Helps</i>	4
<i>Contact Us</i>	4



The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

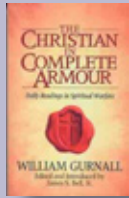
2825 Lexington Road • Louisville, KY 40280 • (800) 626-5525 • www.sbts.edu

FOR THE TRUTH. FOR THE CHURCH. FOR THE WORLD. FOR THE GLORY OF GOD



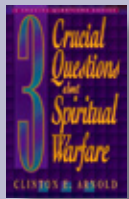
Recommended Resources

Topic of the Month:
Spiritual Warfare



William Gurnall,
The Christian in Complete Armour

Chuck Lawless,
Putting on the Armor



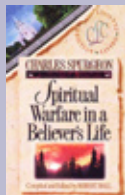
Clint Arnold, 3
Crucial Questions about Spiritual Warfare

A. Scott Moreau,
Essentials of Spiritual Warfare



C. S. Lewis,
Screwtape Letters

C.H. Spurgeon,
Spiritual Warfare in a Believer's Life



Next Edition: Evangelism

Books can be found at:
Lifeway.com or Amazon.com

The Soul Winner

Charles H. Spurgeon, the great 19th century London preacher, has a heart for the lost. In a book that is a conglomeration of college lectures, prayer meeting addresses, and other instructional teachings, he contends that his whole life is about winning lost souls to salvation for the glory of God. Spurgeon desires that all who hear his messages will come to know Christ or, if they already know Him, will boldly win others to Christ.

Spurgeon's primary aim is to exhort believers to become soul winners.

Holding God's sovereign work and man's responsibility together without dismissing the tension



By: *Kevin S. Hall*

between the two, he argues that soul winning should be the top priority of Christians. He teaches that the soul winner must teach the truths of Christ as well as speak to the emotions. Spurgeon is not interested, though, in “mere professors” — he desires effective evangelism that brings people into the church to become disciples. *The Soul Winner* is instructional and practical and should be read by all pastors.

C. H. Spurgeon, *The Soul Winner*. New Kensington, PA: Whitaker House, 1995.

Missions At Risk — A Failure of Nerve

America's evangelical Christians are facing a critical testing-time in the twenty-first century. Among the most important of the tests we now face is the future of missions, and our faithfulness to the Great Commission. Just as doors of opportunity are opening around the world, the Church seems to be losing its voice.

At base, the issue is a failure of theological nerve — a devastating loss of biblical and doctrinal conviction. This loss of theological nerve is a fundamental failure of conviction. Put bluntly, many who claim to be Christians simply do not believe that anyone is actually lost.

The most dangerous trend may be found in the pews of evangelical churches, where more and more Christians

are willing to reject or compromise the uniqueness of Christ and His atonement, citing the apparent “sincerity” of those who worship other gods, or no god at all. Many American Christians seem increasingly reluctant to believe that their unsaved neighbors will go to hell. The urgency of world missions is a strange concept to a generation seemingly preoccupied with feel-good religion and self-help courses.

Where will the Church stand? A report released just a few years ago indicated that only a third of the participants at an Urbana missions conference (bringing together thousands of college-aged evangelicals) indicated a belief that “a person who does not hear the gospel is eternally lost.” Should these trends remain

unchecked and uncorrected, the missions cause — and the Church itself — will be in serious trouble indeed.

Let us make our convictions clear. Evangelical Christians must take our stand for the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, who alone has made atonement for our sins. In a day of pluralism, we must point to the only Gospel that offers salvation. We must learn again to define the true gospel in terms of justification by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. This is the sum and substance of the genuine gospel — and the true gospel is always a missionary gospel.

By: *Dr. R. Albert Mohler, Jr., President, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary*

CHURCH HEALTH 101



Facility and Location Issues

Here are some basic “rules of thumb” as you consider expanding your church’s facilities:

- One acre of land is sufficient for 100-125 people on campus at a given time.
- For most churches in North America, attendance plateaus when the worship center, educational facility, or parking lot is approximately 80 percent full.
- Children require *more* space than adults in an educational facility (e.g., preschoolers require 35 square feet per child, while adults require 12 square feet per adult).
- Tables in an adult classroom always limit the practical seating capacity in the room.

Next Edition: Seeing your Facility through an Outsider’s Eyes

PURPOSE SIX

For many years, the Graham School has taught six purposes of the church: worship, evangelism, discipleship, ministry, fellowship, and *prayer*. Review these texts in the two volumes that Luke wrote in the New Testament, and you will see that the early Church learned from Jesus and followed His example in praying. You might even consider teaching through these texts as you challenge your church to pray!

Luke 3:21-22; 4:42 (cf. Mark 1:35); 5:15-16; 6:12-13; 9:16, 18, 28-29; 10:21; 11:1-4; 18:1-8; 22:17-19, 31-32, 39-46; 23:33-34, 46; 24:50-51

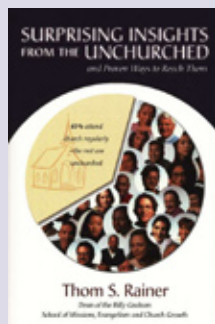
Acts 1:14, 24-25; 2:42; 4:24-31; 6:1-4; 7:59-60; 10:9-16; 12:5-17; 13:1-3; 14:23; 16:25-26; 20:36-38; 22:17-18; 27:35; 28:8.



RESEARCH SHOWS

Factors that Led the Formerly Unchurched to Choose a Church

- **90%** said the **pastor and his preaching** were a primary factor.
- **88%** said the church’s **doctrine** mattered.
- **49%** stated that the **friendliness** of church members was a factor.
- **Only 11%** said that the church’s **worship and music style** was important.
- **Only 7%** said the church’s **location** mattered.



Based on Dr. Thom Rainer’s book, *Surprising Insights from the Unchurched and Proven Ways to Reach Them*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.

Characteristics of Membership Classes in Evangelistic Churches

- On average, **classes are 5.5 hours long**, with a trend toward longer classes.
- The trend is toward **required** membership classes.
- In most cases, **current members** are “grandfathered” and are **not required** to attend the class.
- The primary purpose of the class is **orientation** to the church, but class members most appreciate **relationships** built in the class.
- Involvement of the **senior pastor** is significant.



Based on Dr. Chuck Lawless’ book, *Membership Matters*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005.



Chris Abner — *Pacific Rim*

Missionary Matters

Chris Abner, Southern Baptist missionary to the Pacific Rim region, is a Master of Divinity Billy Graham School graduate and current Ph.D. student in missions. He and his wife Rebecca have four children — Thad (4), Lydia (3), Josiah (1), and Naomi (two months). The Abners are working with students in a predominately Buddhist country.

2. Pray that the Abners would have wisdom in targeting new areas with the gospel.
3. Pray for this family as they return to serve students in our adopted homeland.

The Pacific Rim region is home to 3,000 people groups, and over 800 million people. It includes Korea, Japan, all of Southeast Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and the nations of the South Pacific.

As you lead your church to pray for missionaries, remember these requests from the Abner family:

1. Pray that young leaders would be sensitive and obedient to God's call on their lives.

BGS HELPS

Interested in a Doctor of Ministry from the Billy Graham School?

<http://www.sbts.edu/dmin>

Concentrations:

Evangelism and Church Growth

Missions Leadership

Three Tracks:

Black Church Leadership

Pastor and Staff Leadership

Korean Church Leadership

Applied Apologetics

Church Consulting

Thinking about a church-based mission trip?

http://www.sbts.edu/campus_life/Great_Commission_Center/Planning_a_Mission_Trip_for_Your_Church.aspx

Might God be calling you and your church to plant a church?

http://www.sbts.edu/campus_life/Church_Planting_Center.aspx

Need a good evangelistic tract?

<http://www.sbts.edu/pdf/GRACE.pdf>

Contact Us:

**The Billy Graham School • 2825 Lexington Road • Louisville, Kentucky 40280
(502) 897-4108 • 1-800-626-5525 Ext. 4108 • Email: BGSchool@sbts.edu**

Compass is a production of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

For more information about The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary go to: www.sbts.edu.

Executive Editor: Kevin S. Hall

Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Chuck Lawless