

The Tanner St Church of Christ meets each Lord's Day beginning with Bible classes at **9:30 AM**. We continue with our worship at **10:20 AM** and again at **5:00 PM**. We also meet each Wednesday evening at **7:00 PM** for Bible study and worship. Our meeting place is located about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from I30 at 1512 Tanner St in Malvern, AR.

If you have questions about what we believe and teach, please visit our website, tannerst.com to listen to sermons or read past articles from our bulletin. Or you can contact us and we will be glad to find a convenient time to study with you.

Phone: (501) 332-8806 Email: preacher@tannerst.com

Consider: Acts 8:22

Needed News

Joyce Venable, Dolline Fain and **Conrad Harris** continue to deal with their respective health issues. **David Laubach** is doing better following a recent illness.

Betty Ragsdale is doing better. She is still awaiting results from the tests she had done last week. **Monty Raspberry** and his wife were sick this past Wednesday.

Ricky Ragsdale is wearing a special brace to support the broken vertebra and doing physical therapy.

John & Phyllis Jackson are vacationing on an Alaskan cruise. The **Simpson** Family is in Star City this weekend.

We are rapidly approaching the end of summer break. This means many will be travelling to get one last trip in before school starts again. It also means our little ones will be one step higher in their education. Often this means new topics and challenges. Parents, and GrandParents, take some time to talk with your little ones about what they are learning at school. If we fail to keep ourselves informed about such matters, we may discover too late they have been pulled away from God's Word.

Seeking His Righteousness

"...seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.." Matthew 6:33

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Fishermen?

Now it came to pass that a group existed that called themselves fishermen and there were many fish in the waters about them. In fact, the whole area was surrounded by streams and lakes and the fish were hungry. Week after week and month after month and year after year the group called themselves fishermen and met in meetings and talked about those called to fish, the abundance of fish, and how we might go about fishing. Year after year they carefully defined what fishing meant, defended fishing as an occupation, and declared that fishing be the primary talk of fishermen. These fishermen built large beautiful buildings for local fishing headquarters and their plea was that everyone should be a fisherman and that everyone should fish. However, one thing they did not do, they did not fish!

In addition to meeting regularly these men determined to send out fishermen to places where there were many fish. This sending committee was headed by those who had great vision and had courage to speak about fishing and to promote the idea of fishing in far away streams and lakes where many other fish of different colors lived. They hired staff and held many meetings to define fishing, to defend fishing, and to decide what new streams should be thought about. But the one thing the staff and the committee members did not do, they did not fish!

Large, elaborate training centers were built whose original and primary purpose was to teach fishermen how to fish. Over the years courses were offered on the needs of fish, the nature of fish, how to find fish, and the psychological effects of fishing. Those who taught had Doctorates in "Fisheology." But the teachers did not fish! They only taught about fishing.

Further, the fishermen built large printing houses to publish fishing guides. Presses were kept busy day and night to produce material solely devoted to fishing methods. A speakers' bureau was also organized to schedule special speakers on fishing. After one stirring meeting entitled "The Necessity of Fishing," two young men left the meeting and actually went fishing, and one of them actually caught two fish! He was honored for his great catch and was scheduled to appear at all the big meetings to tell how he did it. So he quit fishing in order to have time to tell his experiences to other fishermen.

Now it is true that many of the fishermen sacrificed and put up with all kinds of difficulties. Some lived near the water and had to put up with the smell of dead fish. Some had to endure the ridicule of some who made fun of these fishermen's clubs because they claimed to be fishermen but they did not fish.

And they wondered about those who thought it was of little use to attend the meetings and talk about fishing. I mean, after all, were they not following the Master who said, "Come and I will make you fishers of men?" Imagine their chagrin when someone actually suggested that they were not really "fishermen." Yet it did make sense. Can we rightfully call a person a fisherman if year after year he never catches a fish?

Can a person really be following Jesus if he is not fishing?

Fishing For Men

Larry C. Clarke, Sr.

Mark 1:17 *Then Jesus said to them, "Come after Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." (NKJ)*

My wife and I decided to take our two grandsons fishing early this morning. The lake was a very well stocked pond, full of catfish ready for the taking! With poles in hand and with all the extras, extra bait, extra fishing line, extra corks ect... we arrived early, approx. 8:30 a.m. This was a special day for children in our county, fishing was free, food was free and everything seemed to be perfect for an early morning fishing adventure!

After both boys had caught their token fish very quickly I could see that their attention span had ended, and it was clear also they were not interested, at all, in catching anymore of those catfish. My wife who is an avid fisher person was holding and baiting both rods and having a ball all the time. I have no doubt she would have remained for hours in a blissful happy state, never tiring, not caring about the time just fishing away! She's that way.

I thought about the two boys and how quickly their attention turned to other things. Adult Christians often times when fishing for men have a problem with their attention span. They give up to quickly or just don't really put much effort into the baiting and casting of the gospel to a lost and dying world.

Folks, the "pond" is full and plentiful, there's just not enough of us with great desire to fish! Let us pray therefore.

Matthew 9:37-38 *Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. "Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." (NKJ)*