



# The SaltShaker

March, 2008

Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt has lost its savour, Wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Matthew 5:13

**Do you own a pair of scissors?** Do you ever sit and watch television? If you answered “yes” to both questions, then I have a ministry opportunity for you!!!

Greenwood Elementary School received a five year grant for a wonderful program for their students called TAP – Teacher Advancement Program. It is a more “hands-on” way of teaching which is great for the children. Greenwood is the only school in Florence District One and one of 26 schools in SC that are participating in the program. Because of the “hands-on” approach more preparation time is needed on the part of the teacher. A lot of the preparation is making games – coloring, pasting, cutting out things - which is extremely time-consuming. If the teachers had someone to help in this area, their focus could be on other things they need to do.

Before I approach the principal at Greenwood, Ms. Hartwig, about our churches helping in this way, I wanted to find out what kind of response I would get from our churches. I would work with the school in establishing the best way to get the items from the teachers to the volunteers. My thoughts are that I will probably pick up the work from the school and take it to our FBA office. Then volunteers can come pick up some of the items and then return them to the FBA and I'll take them back to Greenwood.

If I get a good response – I'm going to try to get this working before summer break. If the teachers can get things ready before they leave for break, then we can work during the summer to help them. That will help their year begin on a more positive note. This would be a great project for senior adult groups or people that can't leave home to do ministry but that can do it in their own homes. WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY! Pray about your part and CALL ME 662-5921 or email me at LGS5155@aol.com and let me know you will help.

**LifeChangers July 6-11, 2008:** Registration forms along with your deposit, MUST be turned into FBA office by Thursday, May 15.

#### CRITICAL NEEDS for LC:

- Crew chiefs – several of the men who have served as crew chiefs the past few years are NOT going to be able to help this year. There is a CRITICAL need for men with construction knowledge and a love for youth to help with LifeChangers. If you can help, please call Louanne at 662-5921.
- Lunch meals – We need churches or groups to “adopt” a crew to feed each day at lunch time. Lunches are taken to the work sites at 11:30 – 12 each day. Crews have 12-15 people on them. PLEASE call Louanne if you can help with this! We have had churches to volunteer for the 4 evening meals. PTL!!

**Many Hands...One Heart  
Prayer time for Children  
Saturday, May 17**

**2 – 4 pm**

#### **Trinity Presbyterian Church**

If you have been reading the news lately, you know that many children are making unwise choices. Our children need our prayers. This prayer time is for children's ministers – paid and volunteer - and any other person that has a heart for children. Join others with a heart for Christ! Help us pray, plan and prepare an exciting, united community vision for children in the Florence area! Please RSVP to Ellen Guffey by May 12<sup>th</sup> 662-8022 or missellentpc@aol.com.

### **Shaped by God's Heart** by Milfred Minatrea:

In my article last month I shared a few insights about the missional church that I have gathered from the "missional conference" and from Minatrea's book. I would like to share a few more.

Does this following scenario describe the outreach program in YOUR church in any way? Only a few members are actively involved in outreach. The "church has no ongoing, organized, evangelistic emphasis. Mission organizations, once a strong part especially of children's ministry, are now hanging by a thread. Few attend the occasional mission meetings for men and women. At select times each year, members are encouraged to pray for and give to missions. Goals are set for special offerings, and for a few weeks prayers include requests for those serving on 'the mission fields.' Members are faithful to give so that others may go." Does this describe your church in any way?

"Such churches may be excellent social organizations, whose members enjoy relationships with one another, but they have little transformational impact with the local community. When the activities of the church focus inward, the church has exchanged its mission for maintenance. There is a great difference between focus on mission and focus on maintenance, and there is a great difference in the impact each has in God's Kingdom. It is not the number of activities a church is involved in that defines success, but whether those activities result in accomplishing God's mission for His church. True success can only result when the activities of God's Body reflect what is in His heart." (Minatrea xvi)

Many churches in today's society are simply in "maintenance mode" and are just surviving. It is the responsibility of EVERY believer to be the person Jesus needs you to be everywhere you go! Every believer has a mission field for ministry. Look around and find yours and feel the excitement that God will bring into your life.

**Resource Information:** *Faith in Action – Be the Church* is a 4-week, church-wide campaign that creates in your congregation an outward focus and a heart to serve. *Faith in Action* culminates in a Sunday when regular services are cancelled and the entire congregation engages in service projects in, and with, the community. The resource pack features 28 days of devotionals, 4 weeks of small groups, 4 sermons, ideas for ministry in your neighborhood and more. For more information: [www.PutYourFaithInAction.org](http://www.PutYourFaithInAction.org). (case sensitive)

**Ice Cream Coupon Give Away:** Ice cream is a happy food and when people eat it, they're usually thinking good thoughts. Purchase ice cream certificates from local establishments. Explain to the suppliers what you are doing with the coupons. You can always go to McDonald's or Chick-Fil-A because they have good products at a good price. Be sure to have a connection card with your church information on the back and something like "A Free treat to show God loves you in a practical way" on the front. These can be given out anywhere – softball fields, parks, shopping centers, movie theatres, college campuses, etc.

### **A Thought to Ponder – Dusty Shoes**

In Jesus' day, people wore sandals and had dusty feet therefore the custom of washing the feet of guests was born. The only people who got their feet and sandals dusty were those who left the cleanliness and safety of their homes. If we are going to fulfill the Great Commission, we are going to have to leave the "clean" environment of our churches and be willing to get our feet dusty out in our communities where people need our help and need to hear about Jesus. Jesus said:

1. The Mission: "Go into all the world."
2. The Message: "Go and find those who are needy and meet their needs."
3. The Moment: "Go and be ready for every encounter, every divine appointment."
4. The Miracle: "Unless one is born again, that person cannot see the kingdom of God."

(**Signs of Life** p 47 – David Jeremiah)