

Pastor's Pen

Rev. P. Rowland Wagner was a very talented minister. He was pastor of Central Baptist Church, Norfolk, for thirty-three years. He shared his humor with organizations freely. I heard him speak many times and have been in revivals with him. Also, played golf with him.

How fitting his funeral service opened with that grand old hymn, "Rock Of Ages Cleft For Me, Let Me Hide Myself In Thee". During those moments I thought of a story Rowland related in one of his sermons. It went like this:

He went down in the basement of the old home where his "Pop", he said picked up a piece of paper and unwrapped an object. He held it in his hand and said, "Rowland, this is a piece of Mom's fruit cake, it was the last piece she packed in my lunch before she died."

There it was, a piece of fruit cake, and he was holding it in his hand. It had meaning because Mom had baked it. Loving hands had placed it in a lunch box and it was the very last piece handled by those hands.

The Bible is full of people who used their hands for good and others for evil. Yes, Rowland's illustration has something to say to us. It speaks of family love, compassion, memory, plus love and respect that never died! Until this day, I can see the tear that trickled down P. Rowland's cheek as he related that experience in a revival service.

"Thank you Lord, for giving us P. Rowland Wagner, Amen."

LOVE
THE SUPREME MOTIVE
FOR
GIVING

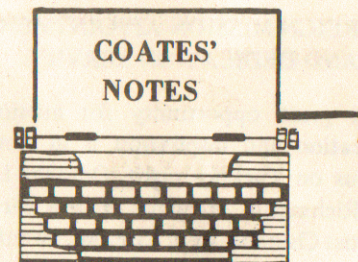
EAGLE EYRIE ECHOES

Our church was represented in great number at the Sunday School Leadership Conference at Eagle Eyrie Baptist Assembly near Lynchburg last weekend.

As one of those who went put it, "We are commanded to go out and bring people into our church and Sunday School. If we bring them in we must have trained teachers and leaders and that was what the conference was all about". We had a good time of fellowship with God and each other. We lost a little sleep perhaps, but we got to know more about each other as we talked and fellowshiped.

Our church will see the difference in the coming year because these people took the time to train.

Those who attended were: Mr. & Mrs. Tommy McMillan, Mr. & Mrs. Bobbie Handley, Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Dunning, Mr. & Mrs. Will Parsons, Mr. & Mrs. Earl Todd, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Overton, Mr. & Mrs. Jack Harrell, Mr. and Mrs. Hammond Coates, Leonard Horton, Wayne Nash, Gail McPherson, Mary Lee Joyce, Louise Curling, Eileen Johnson, Virgie Branch, Marie Thrash, Mutt Harrell, Monroe Simmons, Thelma Bonney, Joyce Moore, Pearl White, Patsy Bias, Rebecca Batten, Joyce Batten, and Margaret Foster.



"Let your speech at all times be gracious (pleasant and winsome), seasoned (as it were) with salt, (so that you may never be at a loss) to know how you ought to answer anyone (who puts a question to you.) Col. 4:6 Amplified Bible.

Does your speech in your everyday living exhibit graciousness? Are you at all times prepared to answer the questions that people ask you? Is your speech seasoned in your response to and talk with your fellowman?

Paul said to the Colossians that our paramount duty toward those outside of our church is to bring them in.

First, we are to seize every opportunity, at any cost, which is the way Paul expresses it in Col. 4:5 - "Making the most of the time."

Second, we shall be wise in testifying if we let our speech always, at all times, be gracious, seasoned with salt. Gracious, in this verse, carries the meaning of pleasant, agreeable, charming disposition, sweetness and courtesy of conversation. A loving spirit makes a loveable character. Behind the graciousness of a Christian's learning is the divine grace which nourishes his spiritual life. By "salt" he means the elevating influence of a life rooted in Christ and devoted to His purposes. What he says is that spirit will not sound like religion humbug. It will

have the ring of reality.

Third, know how to answer everyone! Speak to the individual! This is Paul's third step or rule for personal evangelism. Know people, be aware of them as persons, love them as fellowmen, and you will have rapport with them.

These three steps or rules for personal evangelism are for every Christian. Let's get off to a good start right at the beginning of our new church year!

"To know the right time to speak demands patience; to understand the person addressed demands sympathy; But such gracious, effective testimony is the final test of living for Christ before the outside world."

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RUTH WALDEN CIRCLE

Tuesday - October 12

7:30 P. M.

911 Lafayette Avenue

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Thanks

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and expressions of love at the death of my father, but most especially I thank God for my church family. During those days I spent with my brothers and sister in North Carolina after my father's death - I found much comfort just knowing my church family was here thinking about me. How I love you people.

Mary Lee Joyce