

Will There Be A Next Generation?

By Van Yandell

Matthew 28: 18b-20

"All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

There's a country music song "Who's Going to Fill Their Shoes?" The lyrics are words that strike the heart of not only country music lovers but also of those that proclaim the Gos-

pel of Jesus Christ.

The chorus of that song, written by Troy Seals and Max D. Barnes, can apply to Christian workers as well as musicians.

"Who's gonna fill their shoes? Who's gonna stand that tall? Who's gonna play the Opry and the Wabash Cannonball? Who's gonna give their heart and soul to get to me and you? Lord, I wonder, who's gonna fill their shoes?"

Will there be a future generation of evangelists, missionaries and pastors? Many churches have few if any children and very

few young people.

Many remember Billy Graham, Adrian Rogers and Charles Stanley. In Christian history there were such great evangelists as Billy Sunday, Charles Spurgeon, D.L. Moody and Hudson Taylor.

Missionaries such as Lottie Moon (China), Amy Carmichael (India), and Mary Slessor (Nigeria) faced hardships and dangers not considered by congregations in their home country.

Those men and women led countless thousands to Jesus Christ. The thousands of missionaries that have

served in-country and in foreign lands have taken the gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth.

Church pastors of every denomination have led many others to our glorious Savior, shepherded thousands and disciplined tens of thousands. Praise God for them!

The pulpit and mission field age and die just like the rest of our society. We're getting older; we're not going to last forever.

It also appears, in many cases, other church workers are in short supply. Bible study teachers, music leaders, and the many others that make a functional outreach church a reality are becoming fewer.

Will those ever be replaced? Will the church as it exists in today's world supply the needs? To expect someone to be called into such a vocation without a Christian background is asking perhaps not the impossible but it is very unlikely.

I have several "children's sermons" for use prior to the main sermon. I've been told several times "We have no children."

In one area of which we are aware, of thirty-nine churches in an association, thirteen have no pastor and no resumes.

In such a case, where are the future preachers/pastors, missionaries and evangelists going to come from?

To be raised up in a church and taught the fundamentals of the Gospel is a privilege few have in the twenty-first century church.

For young people to understand and realize the significance of the Great Commission is unusual in today's church. Mainly, they have to be there and second, teachers must be teaching Jesus' last commandment before ascending which is telling the world about Him.

A mission's lesson is to study the work of missionaries, pray for missionaries and learn methods of telling others the Gospel (Good News) of our Jesus.

A line in the chorus of "Who's Gonna Fill Their Shoes?" is "Who's gonna give their heart and soul to get to me and you?"

When one surrenders to God and His ministry, one commitment to God is the "heart and

soul." The meaning of that line is taken to be a level of complete and sincere dedication.

One will face the hatred of the world in his dedication and yielding to Christ. Matthew 24: 9 "Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake."

Of course in this verse Jesus was talking directly to His twelve disciples who were all Jews. Christianity and the New Testament being based on Old Testament concepts (e.g. blood, sacrifice, spiritual, prophesy) the statement of Matthew 24: 9 also applies to today's Christian.

Perhaps a thought in the mind of the Christian parent of the 21st century is "Not my kid!" It's well and good for the child of another to be called into the mission field, especially foreign, but not my child!

In such a case, there probably is a lack of encouragement on the part of parents to motivate their children into Christian ministry.

In a society in which "success" is measured in dollars, to become a Christian worker is not at the top of most parents list of careers for their child.

And, of course we have to understand Christianity and church attendance have a lot of competition in today's world. Capitalists (entrepreneurs) have no reluctance to have their businesses open or schedule a ballgame on Sunday mornings.

Regardless of the situation we observe, the question of "Who's gonna fill their shoes?"

is an open-ended question but one we must address and be aware of and take very seriously.

The compelling evidence in the Holy Bible indicates with great evidence and assurance that the beliefs of Christianity are real and true. John 8: 32 "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

The Bible teaches there is only one eternal salvation. That is by a faith based belief (Ephesians 2: 8) that Christ Jesus was crucified (Matthew 27: 35) for the remission of sin (Romans 4: 25), resurrected (Matthew 28: 6) and ascended alive into Heaven (Acts 1: 9).

Van Yandell is a retired Industrial Arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist and missionary. His email is vmy3451@gmail.com

Did You Know?

Regular physical activity is often associated with immediate effects, and rightfully so. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, physical activity can improve cognition and thinking, reduce short-term feelings of anxiety, and make it easier for people to manage their weight. But physical activity also boasts some notable long-term benefits, particularly in regard to disease prevention. The CDC notes that regular exercise can reduce risk for cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes and metabolic syndrome, infectious diseases like COVID-19 and pneumonia, and various forms of cancer, including cancers of the breast, colon, kidneys, and lungs.

Between You and Me x 2

By Monty Carter

An Absence Of Malice

The word "malice" is rarely used these days except for legal proceedings. Malice is the intent to do wrong or evil toward someone. It originates from the Latin "malus", which means bad, wicked, or evil. It intends to see someone suffer. The act of malice runs throughout Scripture. Malice is the driving force behind the story of Joseph (Genesis 37) being sold into slavery by his own brothers. Malice is present in the story of Cain killing his brother Abel (Genesis 4). Cain plotted the murder of his brother because God looked favorably upon Abel's offering instead of his. The crucifixion of Jesus is the crowning example of malice brought upon by the ruling religious authorities.

The 1981 movie "Absence of Malice," starring Paul Newman and Sally Field, is a great example of how the term applies to legal matters such as libel in journalism. No spoiler on the movie ending from me, but it is a great flick. Fast forward to 2026, and you will find malice in politics, religion, families, neighborhoods, workplaces, and between nations. The New Testament warns about the danger of malice:

"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice." (Ephesians 4:31)

"But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice,

slander, and obscene talk from your mouth." (Colossians 3:8)

"So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander." (1 Peter 2:1)

I see and hear malice almost every day. And before we think we're above it, much of it comes from self-proclaimed Christians. These verses are written to Christ-followers.

The apostles urged us to guard against the sin of malice. They knew its danger and ability to corrupt the soul. Malice is about the intent of the heart. Sometimes people are just flippant about their malice, as if there are no consequences. How can we claim to be followers of Jesus and still hang on to malice? It is incongruent. It doesn't fit with anything Jesus said or did. None of the "words in red" affirm the right to malice in thought or action. Not one!

Jesus said the exact opposite regarding malice and evil:

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust." (Matt. 5:43-45)

We need to be careful about feeding malice. It is a parasite of evil. If we feed it, in thought or action, it only grows

stronger within, like a cancer. Over the last few weeks, there has been a ton of online speculation about an NFL head coach and a female reporter. Some of the comments I've heard and seen come from a dark place. They are posing as purity from people who wouldn't want their own faults or decisions to be publicly tossed about. This is about two marriages and two families. Think about that. There, but for the grace of God go you and me. Malice only fuels the speculation, rumor, and innuendo. Faith goes in the opposite direction. It prays for everyone involved and does not join the fray. Genuine faith aches for those who are caught in sin, trouble, or pain. It doesn't smile when others fail.

It's time for Christ followers to follow Scripture and practice the "Absence of Malice". Quit trying to justify or rationalize it. We need to come clean with any malice in our hearts. I want to live a life free of malice. It can only be done by staying in God's Word, walking in accountability with like-minded Christ-followers, fervent prayer, and confession. This prayer helps me: "God help me to rid myself of malice, hate, and evil. Help me to see what you see in those with whom I disagree or don't like. Call out my intentions and will when they are against your Word. Give me the eyes and heart of Jesus. In Christ's name I pray, Amen."

Agape, Monty

ELECTION NOTICE

Mail-In
Excused Absentee

Ballot Processing

Union County Clerk's
Office

100 West Main Street
Morganfield, KY

Union County Board of Elections will meet at 8:00 A.M. on May 19 in the County Clerk's Office to process excused mail-in absentee ballots returned for the May Primary Election. Results, however, will not be available until after 6:00 P.M.

Remember: ALL mail-in ballots MUST be received by 6:00 P.M. on Election Day (May 19).

GARRICK THOMPSON
Union County Clerk

ELECTION NOTICE

LOCATION FOR NO EXCUSE
MAY 14 - MAY 16

EARLY VOTING

Union County
Senior Citizen Center
225 Richards Lane
Morganfield, KY

Union County Board of Elections shall offer no-excuse, in-person Early Voting for the May Primary Election at Union County Senior Citizens Center between the hours of 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. on Thursday through Saturday, May 14 to May 16. Signs will mark the location. This option is available to ALL registered Union County voters.

GARRICK THOMPSON
Union County Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to KRS 117.383(8), to validate the accuracy and fidelity of the vote tabulation, the Union County Board of Elections will conduct a hand-to-eye audit of the votes cast in one randomly selected race from ballots tabulated by one randomly selected scanner on May 19th, 2026. The Secretary of State will randomly select the race and scanner to be the subject of the audit on May 20th and notify the county that same day. This audit will take place at 100 W Main Street, Morganfield, KY 42437 on the 2nd Floor of the Courthouse on May 21st, 2026, at 11:30am. The public may observe the audit.

ELECTION NOTICE

May 19 Primary Election

POLLING LOCATIONS

Kentucky's closed Primary Election restricts Democrats and Republicans to vote for their own party only.

Voting Runs 6:00 A.M.
to 6:00 P.M.

ALL polling locations are now VOTE CENTERS; meaning regardless of residence, you can vote at ANY location.

-- POLLING LOCATIONS --

Union County Senior Citizens Center

225 N. Richards Lane, Morganfield

Camp Breckinridge Museum

1116 Villate Square Rd., Morganfield

Sturgis First Baptist Church Life Center

802 North Adams St., Sturgis

St. Agnes Parish Hall

504 Mulberry St., Uniontown

Waverly KC Hall

14 N. Maple St. Waverly

Henshaw Christian Church

237 Chapel Hill Road, Morganfield

Pride Community Room

199 State Route 2090, Clay

Anyone with questions, please call the Union County Clerk's Office, (270) 389-1334, weekdays, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Garrick Thompson
Union County Clerk