



NEWSLETTER

The Simple, Yet Powerful Act of Inviting Someone to Church



In his book, *The Unchurched Next Door*, Thom Rainer and a team of researchers interviewed hundreds of individuals who do not attend church in hopes of learning something about how Christians can more effectively reach out to them with the good news of Jesus Christ. After sorting through all the information from the interviews, they discovered ten

characteristics that were true of the majority of these unchurched people. Some of them are quite surprising.

- 1) Most of the unchurched prefer to attend church on Sunday morning if they attend.
- 2) Females are likely to be either the most antagonistic or the most receptive to the gospel.
- 3) Most of the unchurched feel guilty about not attending church.
- 4) 82 percent of the unchurched are at least "somewhat likely" to attend church if they are invited.
- 5) Very few of the unchurched have had someone share with them how to become a Christian. And Christians have not been particularly influential in their lives.
- 6) Most of the unchurched have a positive view about pastors, ministers, and the church.

- 7) Some types of "cold calls" [i.e., showing up on someone's doorstep unannounced] are effective; many are not.
- 8) The unchurched would like to develop a real and sincere relationship with a Christian.
- 9) The attitudes of the unchurched are not correlated to where they live, their ethnic or racial background, or their gender.
- 10) Many of the unchurched are far more concerned about the spiritual well-being of their children than of themselves.

All of these facts about our non-church-attending neighbors are interesting, but I want especially to draw our attention to #4. 82 percent of the unchurched are

at least "somewhat likely" to attend church if they are invited. This ought to give us great confidence! Don't be afraid to invite your neighbors, coworkers, or children's friends to church; chances are they're part of the 82% that are likely to come if they are asked! Why not invite someone to next week's service?

Upcoming Events

March 13

Don't forget the daylight savings time change. Set your clocks forward one hour.

March 13

Come hear our pastor's father, Dr. Steve Gaines, preach this Sunday morning. Dr. Gaines pastors Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, TN.

March 18

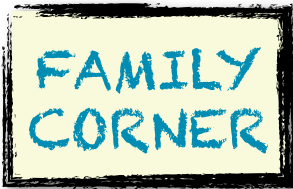
Youth Group game night. See Pastor Josh for details.

March 27

Doughnut fellowship at 9:15 am.



J. C. Ryle on the Duties of Parents



We'd like to recommend J. C. Ryle's tremendous little book on parenting, entitled *The Duties of Parents*. It can be downloaded for free on the internet at www.feedbooks.com/book/4236/the-duties-of-parents. It only takes about an hour to read and is a great help to parents who are striving to raise their child "in the way he/she should go" (Prov. 22:6). The book centers around the following seventeen principles: 1) training your child rightly, 2) tenderness, affection, and patience, 3) much depends on you, 4) consider the soul of your child, 5) a knowledge of the Bible, 6) a habit of prayer, 7) diligence in the public means of grace, 8) a habit of faith, 9) a habit of obedience, 10) always speaking the truth, 11) redeeming the time, 12) fearing over-indulgence, 13) how God trains His children, 14) the influence of your example, 15) the power of sin, 16) the promise of Scripture, and 17) continual prayer for blessing. If you need help accessing this free resource, please let one of our pastors know and they will gladly provide you with a copy.

Areas of Service

Deacon of the Month

Ron Downing (427-2540)

Church Cleaning

Lea Ann and Vicky

Nursery Workers

March 6 — Ingrid Peters

March 13 — Volunteer Welcome

March 20 — Melisa Gaines

March 27 — Rosemary Jessup

Nursing Home Visitation

March 27 — leave at 1:45pm

Brushy Fork Baptist Church
12840 Brushy Fork Church Road
Canaan, IN 47224