

- In Memory -
Dean Spencer

September 26, 1948 — April 5, 2025

*The morning shall awaken, the shadows shall decay,
And each true-hearted servant shall shine as doth the day.*

Words Are Necessary!

by Joe Slater

"Preach the gospel at all times. And if necessary, use words." Rightly or wrongly, the saying has been attributed to "Saint" Francis of Assisi and is often paraphrased, "Preach the gospel; use words if necessary."

Let me be the last to discourage anyone from setting a good example. I understand the gist of the lines from Edgar Guest's poem: "I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day; I'd rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way." Countless doors for the gospel have been slammed shut and permanently locked due to poor examples and outright hypocrisy of professing Christians.

That being said, your kindness, morality, pure speech, and honesty cannot inform anyone of their need for salvation, much less answer the question, "What must I do to be saved." Words are necessary! Nobody will know who Jesus is or what He did for us merely by seeing your example. Peter didn't say to Jesus, "You have the example of eternal life." He said, "You have the words of eternal life" (John 6:68).

The quip, "Use words if necessary," strongly suggests that words probably aren't necessary and may not even be desirable; it translates into a comfortable excuse to disobey the divine directive to speak the truth in love. "Use words of necessary" ignores God's own stated goal and wish: "For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe" (1 Corinthians 1:21).

Yes, there's a message to be preached, not just an example to be set. Nobody will know of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, much less how to respond to it, simply by seeing your example of clean living.

You open the door with your good example. Then go through that door with the words of the gospel!

- via Bulletin Gold

PLEASE REMEMBER

Our GOSPEL MEETING —
Next Sunday through Thursday.
Plan to be here for every service!

The Gospel is for ALL!

News Notes

SYMPATHY: To Don & Dan Spencer and their families at the passing of their dad, Dean Spencer. Also, sympathy to Sarah Malcomson at the passing of her grandmother, Jane Bigler. God bless and comfort these families in their sorrow at this time.

SYMPATHY: To the McMahan Family. Word has been received of the passing of **Bob McMahan** last Friday afternoon. Additional details not known at the time of this printing.

CONFESSION/PLACED MEMBERSHIP: Rich Robinson.

TODAY'S SPEAKERS: David Malcomson and Gerald Clutter. Bro Rico is in a meeting in Lorain, Ohio.

LADIES MEETING: TODAY immediately following our a.m. worship.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Resumes this Tuesday at 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. All ladies are invited to participate.

AREA WIDE SING: This Friday, April 18th, 7:00 p.m. at Weirton Heights. Refreshments following the singing.

COVERED DISH DINNER: Next Sunday, April 20th about noon

CONVERT'S CLASS: Resumes Thursday, May 1st at 11:00 a.m.

90th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION: for Dana Rine, Saturday May 3rd, 2:00-4:00 p.m., Camden Ave. Church of Christ, Parkersburg, WV.

PANTRY: Instant potatoes.

REMEMBER THESE: Alex Barnhart (Carolyn Pallard's grandson). In Afghanistan area: Michael Heath, son-in-law of Mike & Marcie Martin.

SICK: Weirton Medical Center: Jean Haught (stroke), Skip's mother.

At Home: Brian Haught (Skip's brother), John Sprout, Randy Beagle, Peggy Linger, Scharlotte Jones, Harry Huff, Nancy Cox, Barbara DeLong, Marlene Evans, Cheryl Renfro Walker. **Fox-Chester:** Janice Hutchins, Mary Johnson. **Elsewhere:** Carolyn Carbone, 98 Orange Blossom Lane, Ranson, WV 25438. Herman McHan, 7401 Elmwood Dr., Lisbon, OH 44432.

GOSPEL MEETINGS

Hanoverton ----- April 13-17 ----- David Kenney
CHESTER ----- **April 20-24** ----- **Emmanuel Daugherty**
Carrollton ----- May 9-11 ----- Dan Jenkins
McKinleyville ----- May 11-15 ----- Different Speakers

FRIDAY NIGHT SING

Columbiana (details on Bulletin Board) May 16, 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY LADIES DAYS

Vienna, 36th Street (details on Bulletin Board) ----- April 26
Steelton, New Martinsville (details on Bulletin Board) ----- April 26
Chester ----- **May 10**