

*The*  
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**MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH VIDEOS  
WHY ALL THE PUBLICITY?  
CORPORATE WORSHIP: WHAT IS IT?  
WORLD MISSIONS OFFERING**

by

Rev. Hal Jones, IV

# Why All the Publicity?



I recently had the opportunity to teach on a Wednesday evening when our pastor went out of town, and I taught from Matthew six about the instructions Jesus gives for service and prayer. If you have ever done any studying or preaching from this passage, most likely you have been convicted over one of those instructions. Here enters my convicting instruction: “Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth” (Matt. 6:3). As I began to meditate on this instruction, the Holy Spirit really began to convict me.

I enjoy studying the literary aspect of Scripture. Analogy, sarcasm, irony, metaphor and alliteration are extremely interesting. Here, Jesus uses hyperbole to emphasize His point. Think about it. How can a man give with one hand and the other hand not know about it? It would be difficult to withdraw your wallet and remove a bill to give without using both hands. It would be difficult to open a money pouch and withdraw coins without using both hands, and it would be especially difficult to pull out a checkbook, write the check, and tear it out using only one hand. In addition, Jesus’ point is even further exaggerated when you notice the tense of the verbs. Both of the verbs in this phrase are present verbs; Jesus is saying that while our right hand is in the process of giving our left hand shouldn’t know about it.

I personally think that Jesus is describing something that is impossible. Our hands work in the closest connection with each other, and we often need to use both at the same time to accomplish a given task (I am sure glad I have both for this typing I’m doing). I even remember one writer noting that the only way he thought this would be possible is if one underwent a lobotomy!<sup>1</sup> Noland says, “No literal application can be attempted or even approximated. The statement is intended to represent in a symbolic manner the radical opposite to publicity seeking.”<sup>2</sup> Jesus is exaggerating to the point of humor in order to make His instruction clear. Our giving and serving for our Father ought not to be done for the sake of being seen or rewarded but for the sole purpose of glorifying God.<sup>3</sup> Examining our motives and being careful about how we give and serve ought to be so important to us that, as Jesus says, we go as far as to try and hide those actions from the other half of our body. This is where I started feeling the conviction.

Have I done all that I can to make sure that people don’t see me but see God? I am willing to assume that most, if not all, of the people who will take the time to read this or study God’s opinion on this subject are not openly seeking to glorify themselves in service. Most likely you don’t stand on the corner of the mall praying with a megaphone or wear

bells as you pour soup at the local homeless shelter. But Jesus says to be very particular and intentional about doing our best to hide our acts of service and not draw attention to ourselves so that God might be more glorified. He doesn't just say discreetly, but uses the word *secret*; I'm not sure how much more clearly He could state it. That is where my problem is sometimes. When have I served simply because people were watching and expecting me to? How many times have I preached with the expectation of a pat on the back? How often do these kinds of motives infringe upon my real zeal to glorify God? I dare not count.

I pray that God will help us, whose job it is to serve, in doing our best to continually examine our motives and learn to be intentionally quiet in our acts of service so God "will reward [us] openly" (Matt. 6:4). One commentator said, "Christian giving is to be marked by self-sacrifice and self-forgetfulness, not by self-congratulation."<sup>4</sup> May that be our desire.

<sup>1</sup>Craig Blomberg, *The New American Commentary: Matthew*, pg. 117.

<sup>2</sup>John Nolland, *The Gospel of Matthew: A Commentary on the Greek Text*, pg. 276.

<sup>3</sup>"By this expression he means, that we ought to be satisfied with having God for our only witness, and to be so earnestly desirous to obey him, that we shall not be carried away by any vanity. It frequently happens, that men sacrifice to themselves rather than to God. Christ therefore wishes, that we should not be distracted by indirect thoughts, but go straight to this object, that we may serve God with a pure conscience." John Calvin, *Commentary on a Harmony of the Evangelists: Matthew, Mark, and Luke*, pg. 310.

<sup>4</sup>Leon Morris, *The Pillar New Testament Commentary: The Gospel according to Matthew*, on pg. 138 quoting J.R.W Stott.

*Hal Jones, IV, serves as an associate at Great Bridge Free Will Baptist Church in Chesapeake, VA. He is a graduate of Southeastern Free Will Baptist College and is soon to complete his Master of Divinity from Bob Jones University. Hal is the son of the church's pastor, Rev. Hal Jones, III.*



## “HAVE A HEART FOR HARVEST”

Harvest Child Care Ministries celebrated 20 years of ministry to abused, abandoned, neglected or troubled children. Thank you for helping provide a good home for over 1,500 kids in the past 20 years. Through the years our mission has never wavered-- our number one priority is children.

We realize you give sacrificially, and we are good stewards. Harvest's administration assures every penny is used frugally. Our passenger vans have over 100,000 miles on them--some approaching 200,000. We maintain them on a regular basis but are concerned about safety issues. Our goal is to upgrade in 2014.

You can help by participating in "Have A Heart For Harvest" special offering Sunday on February 16. Ask your church to receive an offering for the children's home. Check your mail box soon for more information. You can reach Harvest by calling Martha Stone, Advancement Director, at 276-546-4400 or by email at [martha@harvestccm.org](mailto:martha@harvestccm.org). Please "LIKE" us on Facebook for regular ministry updates.

## ADVENTURERS FOR CHRIST

Adventurers for Christ is a ministry that strives to help Bible believing churches and organizations in spreading the word of the Lord by relieving the pastor and church leaders of their everyday chores taking them from their main calling in the Lord's work. Richard is a retired town planner, engineer, code enforcement, etc. He is able to resolve most issues that the church might have. Barbara is a retired teacher with 30+ years and desktop publishing certification. Richard and Barbara are self-supporting.

### REFERENCES:

Bruce Barnes  
Frank Woods  
Paul Collins  
Roger Bevins  
Newell Dotson

Contact Adventurers for Christ  
by phone at  
252-670-5183

or through their website [www.adventurersforchrist.org](http://www.adventurersforchrist.org).



# Missionary of the Month Videos

Beginning January 1st, the promotional department will provide a special video each month that highlights one of our Virginia Home Mission works. This will be a unique way that Free Will Baptists across Virginia (and elsewhere!) can stay informed about missions in the state and the men and women God has called to this great work here.

These videos will be about one and a half minutes long and will highlight the latest developments in the works as well as their greatest prayer needs. Over the course of a quarter, churches will be informed about each of our home missionaries.

There will be two venues where the videos will be available. First, anyone may view these on the state website beginning January 1. Second, the video files will be sent to all churches that want to show them during a service. To receive the videos, let the promotional director know where to send the file and in what format it is desired (either Windows Media, Quick Time, or RealPlayer). The videos will be sent out the week before the first Sunday of a month.

**Contact the Promotional Office to receive  
the Missionary of the Month video.**

***dbrucebarnes@yahoo.com***



by  
Derek Bell,  
Director of  
Development

There is a song we sing every year at Christmas. The title of the song is "Silent Night." This song was written almost 200 years ago, yet it has endured to become one of the most beloved Christmas Carols ever written.

The words in the song that speak to most people are found in the last phrase, "... sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace." Unfortunately, there are some places in the world we live in where its just not possible to "sleep in heavenly peace." In fact, there are some places in our own country where that's not possible.

It's not possible in homes across this country where there is abuse, hunger, or the lack of parental involvement. At Free Will Baptist Family Ministries, we strive to provide that place. Many of the young people we serve come from homes just like that. In truth, it is because of the generous gifts from our churches and individual donors down through the years that make it possible for us to provide a place of "heavenly peace."

In this Christmas season, we invite you to make a special effort to remember the children we serve at Family Ministries. From our Greeneville campus to our home in Little Rock, there are children that depend on us to provide them a safe place and a place where Jesus, the real reason for Christmas, is taught.

If you would, challenge your church, your Sunday School Class, or maybe even your family to do something special for Family Ministries this year. Be a part of providing "heavenly peace" this year.

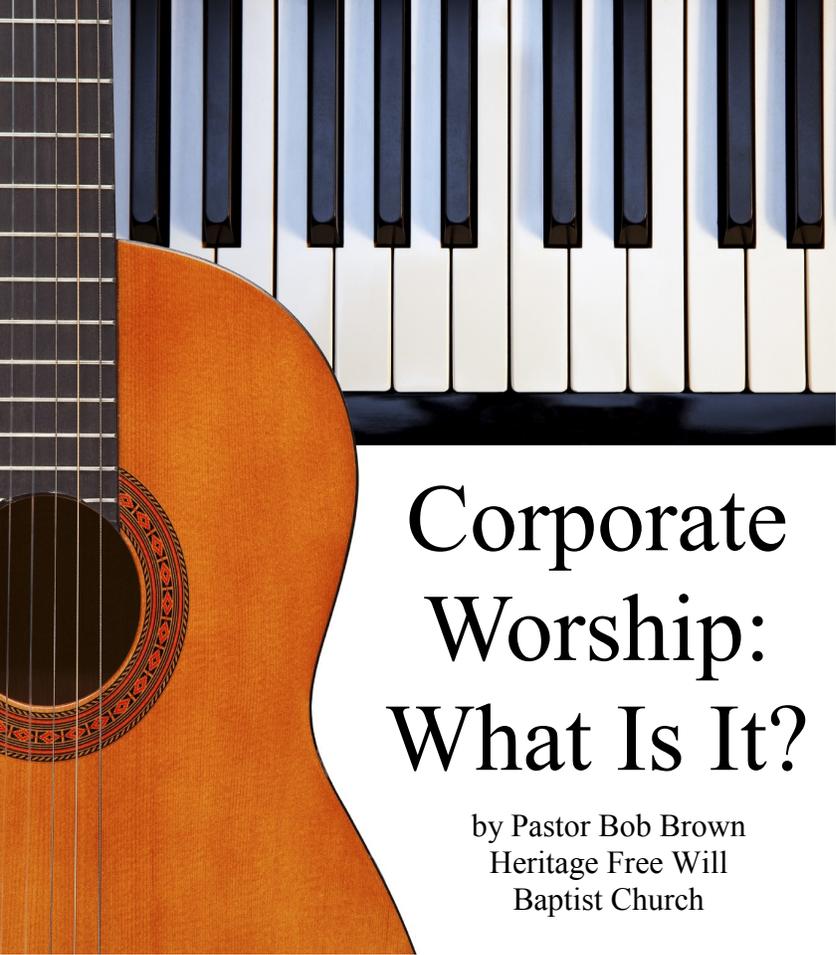
For more information how you can help this Christmas season and throughout the year, contact Derek Bell at 423.276.8877.



Stay connected with  
Free Will Baptist Family Ministries  
Phone: 423.639.9449  
Website: [www.fwbfm.com](http://www.fwbfm.com)



# Merry Christmas!



# Corporate Worship: What Is It?

by Pastor Bob Brown  
Heritage Free Will  
Baptist Church

“O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the our maker. For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. To day if ye will hear his voice harden not your heart...” Psalms 95:6-8a

“in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.” Psalms 96:4-9

“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.” John 4:23-24

I saw a sign this past week on a church’s electronic marquee concerning their worship services. First it advertised “Contemporary Worship 8:45” but as I approached, it changed and said, “Deaf Worship 11 a.m.” While I understood what they really meant, it struck me as funny because I began to wonder how often we are “deaf” to true worship. What is corporate worship? Is it merely a time when we get together with other people? And if so, what makes that experience worship?

I would agree with Vernon Whaley when he says “that a person must enjoy meaningful worship in his or her private life before God will bless that person with the joy of success in public worship.”<sup>1</sup> Worship, even corporate worship begins with the individual. Each one of us must have a heart that is prepared to meet with God.

Matthew 18:20 tells us, “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” “Spiritual, intellectual and emotional needs are met by worshiping God. God revealed himself and his plan for worship through his written Word, the Bible. The Bible chronicles God’s plan to bring humanity to himself so that together they may enjoy a dynamic relationship through communication, obedience, service, ministry, humility, and prayer.”<sup>2</sup> I agree that worship needs to be all of these areas at some given time. So when we gather as a group, we need to transform that into a time of worship in which we are all at the same time both individually and corporately worshipping.

Mark Driscoll gives Six Biblical Principles for Corporate Worship in which he reminds us that the New Testament gives ample mention of the need for God’s people to meet together on a regular basis for corporate worship. He says with the frequent use of the Greek word “ekklesia,” which simply means the gathered assembly of God’s people, the meeting is for corporate response to God, not just individual response. In Hebrews 10:24-25 Scripture says, “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

Driscoll says the six principles of corporate worship are these: Worship...

1. Is to be God-centered.
2. Should be intelligible.
3. Is to be seeker-sensible.
4. Is to be unselfish.
5. Is to be orderly.
6. Is to be missional.

He also reminds us that many believe that there are six elements of corporate worship:

1. Preaching (2 Tim. 4:2)
2. Sacraments of Baptism, the Lord's Table, and I would add Feet Washing (Mt. 28:19, 1 Cor. 11:17-34, John 13:2-17)
3. Prayer (1 Tim. 2:1)
4. Reading Scripture (1 Tim. 4:13)
5. Financial Giving (2 Cor. 8-9)
6. Singing and Music (Col. 3:16)<sup>3</sup>

Scripture is sufficient to show us how to worship and in fact also must be the basic instrument of our worship. As Ligon Duncan says, "We want our worship to be biblical, that is, ordered by God's own Word...our worship should be guided by Scripture..."

Since our worship is for God, our first question is not, "What do we want to do?" or even "What would others like to do?" but "What does God want us to do?" For direction we look to the Bible, where God directs by command or approved example how to worship Him...

We want to assure that our corporate worship is Bible-filled and Bible-directed, that the substance and structure are biblical, that the content and order are biblical."<sup>4</sup>

In his book on the spiritual disciplines Richard Foster reminds us that worship is the most important of all the church's purposes because we cannot actively love the world around us unless we corporately love and adore God through worship.<sup>5</sup>

Over the past fifty years we have certainly witnessed a change in how many churches conduct their services. Matt Pinson says in the Introduction of *Perspectives On Christian Worship 5 Views*, "Of the myriad approaches to worship in contemporary Christianity, five categories emerge as the most common: liturgical, traditional evangelical, contemporary, blended, and emerging."<sup>6</sup> As we've seen these differing "styles" emerge, the last three in the late twentieth and early twenty-first century, we've also seen as many differing responses to them. With the confusion and debate which has ensued, people today are confused about worship. They no longer

see the whole of worship because so much has been said, written and fought about over worship music.

As I think the slide depicts, George Barna says that his research in this area has shown that unfortunately most Americans expect worship to satisfy or please themselves, not to honor or please God. He writes, "Amazingly, few worship-service regulars argue that worship is something they do primarily for God. A substantially larger percentage of attenders claim that attending worship services is something they do for personal benefit and pleasure."<sup>7</sup> It seems to me that the people who look at worship this way have it all backwards. It is not for us...it is for God...He is the audience...not us. By the way, the word "worship" literally means, "worth-ship" which means that we worship that which is worthy.

When we look at worship as something to please or entertain us, we insult God. I think this misconception of worship is what God was talking about in Malachi 1:10 when He angrily said, ***Who is there even among you that would shut the doors for nought? neither do ye kindle fire on mine altar for nought. I have no pleasure in you, saith the LORD of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand.*** So remember, in worship God is the audience. Our worship is our offering to Him. It is a time to focus on pleasing Him and not ourselves.

"When it comes to forms of worship, any form that facilitates and encourages worship in spirit and truth by a particular gathering of people, at a particular time in history, in the context of a particular culture is pleasing to God. That implies that no one form can fully express the vastness of God. No given time, culture, or generation can give God the honor he deserves."<sup>8</sup>

"The world is constantly telling us lies...In the face of these lies, we gather as the church to proclaim the truth. We gather to declare – to ourselves, to each other, and to God – what we know to be eternal reality....There are many things we can proclaim during and after a time of corporate worship. God's glory is unending, and his perfections are infinite. But the fuel of our praise will always be the gospel of Christ who has redeemed us and brought us to God."<sup>9</sup>

Soren Kierkegaard once wrote a parable that told of a community of ducks waddling off to duck church one Sunday to hear their duck preacher. After they waddled into the duck sanctuary, the service began and the duck preacher spoke eloquently of how God had given the ducks wings with which to fly. He pounded the pulpit with his beak and said, “With these wings, there is nowhere we ducks cannot go! There is no God-given task we ducks cannot accomplish!”

“With these wings we no longer need to walk through life. We can soar high in the sky!” Shouts of “amen” were quacked throughout the duck congregation. The duck preacher concluded his message by exclaiming, “With our wings we can fly through life! WE.....CAN.....FLY!!!!”

More ducks quacked out loud “AMENS!” in response. Every duck loved the service. In fact all the ducks that were present commented on what a wonderfully convicting message they had heard from their duck preacher....and then they left the church and waddled all the way home.

I don't know about you but I think their worship was kind of fowl because they didn't act on what they had heard. They didn't live any differently as a result of corporate worship. And true worship does not stop when a service of worship stops. It leads to practical ministry. In Romans 12:1 Paul said that the only reasonable response to encountering God in worship is to offer our bodies—our lives—as living sacrifices holy and pleasing to God.

<sup>1</sup>Whaley, Vernon M. *The Dynamics of Corporate Worship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2001.; <sup>2</sup>Ibid.; <sup>3</sup>Driscoll, Mark, *Six Principles for Corporate Worship*, <http://theresurgence.com/2011/03/06/6-biblical-principles-for-corporate-worship> (accessed July 23, 2013).; <sup>4</sup>Pinson J. Matthew, Editor, Ligon Duncan, Dan Kimball, Michael Lawrence, Mark Dever, Timothy Quill, Dan Wilt, *Perspectives On Christian Worship: Five Views*, Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2009.; <sup>5</sup>Foster, Richard J. *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*, New York, NY, HarperCollins Publishing Inc. 1998.; <sup>6</sup>Pinson.; <sup>7</sup>Adams, Mark, Redland Baptist Church, <http://www.redlandbaptist.org/sermon/the-discipline-of-worship>, (accessed July 22, 2013).; <sup>8</sup>Kauffman, Bob, *Worship Matters, Leading Others to Encounter the Greatness of God*, Wheaton, IL, Crossway Books, 2008 by Sovereign Grace Ministries.; <sup>9</sup>Ibid.

## WORLD MISSIONS OFFERING

by Bob Brown, Virginia Mission Board, Chairman, [pastor@heritagefbw.net](mailto:pastor@heritagefbw.net)

Today there are about 7,000 UNREACHED people groups in the world. Eighty-six percent of Muslims do not even know one Christian. Today our International Missions (IM) is partnering with other agencies and national churches and are now in 24 nations. For example, did you know that we have thirty Free Will Baptist Churches in Pakistan? Jeff Turnbough, IM's Director of Field Operation, said, “God is opening many new doors of opportunity around the world for us!”

On October 10 and 11 I was asked to again be a part of the Free Will Baptist International Missions (IM's) World Mission Offerings (WMO) State-Level Strategy Development and Training Session. During this time every leader is asked to be a part of building and executing a strategy to involve as many churches in their state as possible in the 2014 WMO. During this time we were given some tools and given the opportunity to begin putting some of the plan together while meeting with leaders from other states.

During the WMO of 2013, \$783,389.87 has been raised to date. This is a decrease from the 2012 offering in which the missionaries were left on the field or kept stateside due to a crisis in funding in which our people responding with gifts of \$1,010,955.44, but in a significant increase over previous years. We are so thankful for everyone's realizing the need for reaching the world with the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ through mission giving. Clint Morgan, General Director of IM says, “I believe our best days are ahead of us!”

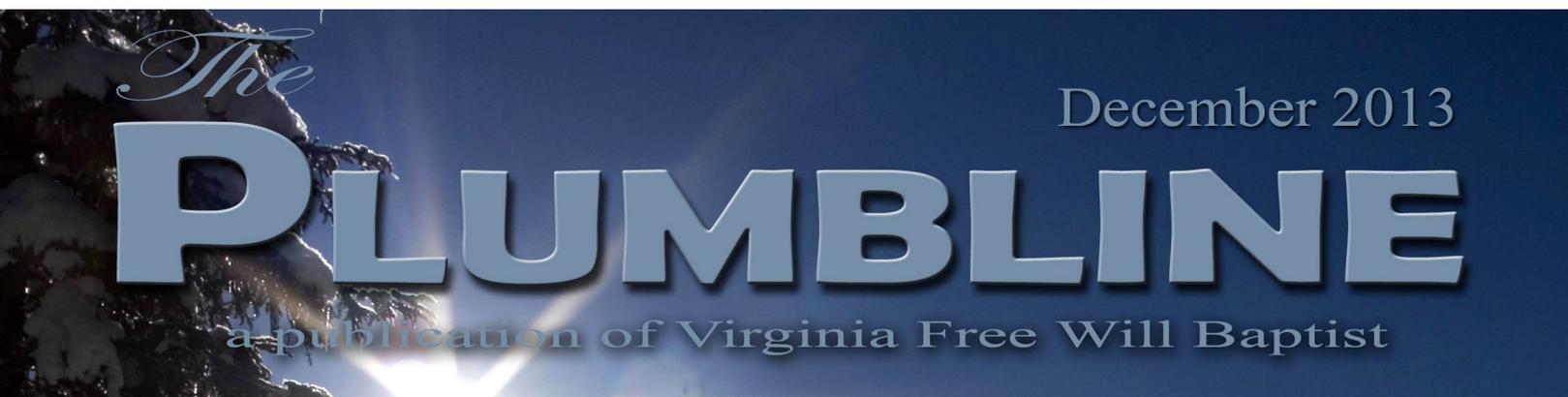
The WMO is about twelve percent of IM's overall budget, and so we are looking for you to partner with us this year to help keep missionaries on the field and to make possible the sending of new missionaries to new fields. We are depending on God to move in your hearts to respond in obedience to giving in order to expand His kingdom.

In addition I'm asking that if you're a leader in an association or in your church that you'll partner with me to spread the word about the WMO. In the next couple months I'll be sending materials to help promote the WMO, please use them, pass them around, give them away, but don't throw them away. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have or materials you might need.

“Missionary of the Month” videos will be available online starting January 2014.

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