



Connecting with Others

by Dan Cooper

John and Joyce Reimels

It was a hot summer evening in June 1979. Six people walked into the Vineland Church of Christ for the Sunday evening assembly dressed in their Sunday best. They were John and Joyce Reimels, their two children, Johnny and Dawn; and John's parents, Henny and Dolly.

I assumed that this was a group of Christians visiting from out of state, stopping in to do their duty on that Sunday night before heading home. In actuality, this was a farming family, and they had to take their produce to the auction block on Sunday mornings. Their church did not hold Sunday evening services in the summer, so they were looking for a place to worship.

Katherine and I agreed that we needed to invite this family to our house after church. They hesitated, but accepted, emphasizing that they could only stay a while; as farmers, they had to get up early in the morning. We had not planned on visitors, had no food in the house, and very little money in our wallets. Between the two of us, we put enough money together to stop by Wawa, and bought cold cuts, rolls, and salads.

They told us they'd been attending a church for 14 years, and had never been to the home of the minister. The minister's wife had never even spoken to them. And now, their first visit to our church, they were in the minister's home, and the minister's wife was serving them a meal! They visited with us well into the night.

The following week I drove by their farm. There they were, on the planting machine, planting leeks. I stopped and offered to help. I got to spend about an hour planting leeks, and they got to witness a preacher getting his hands dirty. What a neat experience for me! What a powerful moment for them!

The visits and fellowship continued, and we began studying the Bible together. John and Joyce, and Henny and Dolly were baptized into Christ in August of that same summer of 1979.

The Reimels family continued to attend the Vineland church. Henny passed away in the mid 1990's, the family sold the farm, and John and Joyce shifted careers. John returned to college, taking courses in Biblical studies, and entered full time ministry with the Cape May Court House Church of Christ for 11 years. In 2004, John became a part time minister at Pitman Church of Christ. Serving with John in ministry, side by side, after being part of his conversion story was a joy!

Sadly, John's life here on earth was cut short by cancer in 2006. Joyce still attends church here, as well as Dawn and her family. Looking back, it's hard to ignore God's hand weaving John's story into that of my own, and into that of the story of the Christians in South Jersey, all from a simple **connection** made over a meal of Wawa sandwiches on a hot summer evening.

Dave and Annette Perine

Ten years after I made that **connection** with the Reimels family, another **connection** took place. Annette Perine was walking her infant son, Steven, through her neighborhood on a summer night in August of 1989. She was new to Southern NJ, had worked full time until the birth of her child, and hadn't met many of her neighbors. But that night she met Tony and Stephanie DeStefano, and their babies, Anthony and Katelyn. It wouldn't be until the following spring that Annette and Stephanie connected again.

Annette, searching to know more about God, and had already joined a Presbyterian church. Stephanie invited her to attend a women's Bible study led by Mary Lea Thompson. Stephanie also introduced Annette to a number of young mothers with small children, who were also Christians.

Eventually, Annette was convinced that she needed to submit to baptism by immersion, even though that was not the teaching at her church. She wasn't ready to leave that church because her husband had recently become very involved there. So, Annette asked her minister if he would baptize

her. He agreed, but there were doctrinal "conditions" that she didn't find to be biblical. Stephanie suggested Annette talk to me about performing her baptism. So I met with her and her husband, Dave, and we studied the Bible. Even though it was a challenge to me to baptize someone who clearly was not planning to attend my church, I agreed to do it. I asked Dave what he thought, and he said that he was supportive of his wife, and that he hoped someday to be a better spiritual leader in his family, but right now, he wasn't ready for this kind of commitment. Annette was baptized in November of 1996, and continued to attend the Presbyterian church with her husband and their two children.

The family began attending the Sunday night LIFE Group in Hamonton. Encouraged, Dave's interest grew and he began to read and study the Bible more. Annette, with Dave's blessing, began to worship at the Pitman church more frequently. Finally, Dave, who had first followed his wife to attend church at all, followed her in committing his life to Christ, and was baptized in May of 1999. Almost three years after Annette's baptism, the family began attending the Pitman Church of Christ full time.

Within three years Dave was asked to serve as a deacon. And as you know, Dave and Annette continue to serve this church faithfully almost two decades later; Annette works in our church office, and Dave, who is not only one of our regular Bible class teachers, now serves as an elder! Their daughter Mallory and her husband Brandon are also serving here as ministry leaders. All of this from a simple connection between two young mothers out walking their babies on another hot summer evening.



Our Mission

Meet others where they are and together be transformed into the image of Christ.

From Daniel's Den

"Connecting" with Friends

The guy that Jesus encountered in Mark 5 was a big mess! He lived among the tombs, he could not be contained with hand cuffs and no one had the strength to subdue him. He was either semi clothed or totally naked. He was always hollering and cutting himself. He was demon possessed. Derrick Busch would say that he was a BIG MESS! And he would be exactly right!

Jesus cast the demons out of this cave dweller, and the demons filled 2,000 pigs. You know "the rest of the story," right? Those 2,000 pigs rushed over the steep banks into the Sea of Galilee. The messed up man was cleaned up and the demons were ejected; and he was now "clothed and in his right mind." The cleansed man begged to go with Jesus, and did you notice how Jesus responded? ***"Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you and how he has had mercy on you."***

Jesus is still telling us, His followers, to "tell you friends how much the Lord has done for you."

- Yvonne tells Harold, Harold sees and feels what happens in Yvonne's life and Harold responds...
- John and Joyce Reimels feel hospitality and hear of the faith in Coopers' lives and respond...
- Annette tells Dave, Dave sees and feels what happens in Annette's life, and Dave responds...
- Ray and Cordelia share family, life, and faith with the Fentons, and Horatio and Jackie respond...
- Ron and Carolyn show and tell Jonathan, Jonathan sees and hears, and Jonathan responds...
- Keon tells Imani, Imani sees and hears, and Imani responds...

Showing and telling friends what the Lord has done for you still moves people! - Dan



Dan Cooper
aka
**"Dan, Dan,
the Preacherman"**

"Go home to
your friends and
tell them how
much the Lord
has done for
you..."



Derrick Busch
Minister

I am thankful that God has blessed this body with gifted brothers and sisters... rooted in a commitment and sincere unity and comradery that's derived from our common redemptive blessing in Jesus Christ.

Inseparable! Connection with God and His Body (Part 2)

One of many positive attributes ascribed to the city of Philadelphia is its deep pool of gifted musicians and their contributions to the music industry and the arts. Their impact and contribution to the music industry and the arts are enjoyed both locally and internationally. You may remember the female singing group from the Philadelphia area consisting of four dynamically gifted sisters that prided themselves on strong family values and connectedness; in fact, they sang about it. *"We are family...I got all my sisters with me... We are family... Get up ev'rybody and sing."* Okay, stop dancing for just one second! What was the name of this gifted group? Sister Sledge! In 1979, these sisters achieved international success at the height of the disco era; stay with us young folks; love you much! Their breakthrough hit, "We Are Family," is still the theme song that's played at family reunions and other gatherings that seek to promote unity and comradery. To watch these sisters perform this hit, it was easy to see their love and connectedness with one another! How was it observed? The joy on their faces and the passion they expressed while performing. How's your joy and passion, as your connectedness in the family of God deepens?

As I think about how blessed we are by God's grace as a body and family of believers at Pitman Road, I'm thankful that I can truly say and sing with joy in my heart, and with sincere passion, that "We Are Family!" How about you? I am thankful that God has blessed this body with gifted brothers and sisters that serve with passion that's rooted in a commitment and sincere unity and comradery that's derived from our common redemptive blessing in Jesus Christ. "We Are Family!"

As we continue to look at the blessing of being connected to ***Jesus, Family, and Others*** with Part 2 of, ***"Inseparable! Connection with God and His Body,"*** we must explore the ***WHY?*** Why do we need each other? Paul Tripp in his article, "Why We Desperately Need the Body of Christ," he asked a pivotal question and answers it with a very simplistic, but humbling answer. *"Why do I need the daily intervention of the body of Christ? The answer is as simple as it is humbling. I need this daily ministry because I am a blind man. As much as I would like to think that I see and know myself well, it just isn't true."* Humbling! Are we able as a body and individually, though blessed, able to acknowledge that we have blind spots that require the deep redemptive fellowship of the body of Christ to resolve? As Paul Tripp and many others have noted, "sin blinds me to me!" Because of sin I need YOU, my family to intervene in my life.

Scriptures for meditation: **Romans 7:7-25 and 2 Timothy 3:16.** **Stay tuned for Part 3!**

Love you deeply, **Derrick**

We're All A Mess

Changes Coming



Over the past couple of months, your shepherds have communicated that women would be given the opportunity to serve in more ways during the worship service. Beginning in the month of May, you will begin to see some of our sisters passing communion trays and reading Scripture on Sunday mornings. If you are willing to pass communion trays, please see **Brian Holden, John Peoples, or Dave Perine.**

TODAY!

Julie Mallory Church will be performing today with the Gloucester County Community Choir at Rowan. The performance will be this afternoon at 3:00 pm, at our old church building, now Congregation B'nai Tikvah Beth Israel, at 115 E. Holly Ave, Sewell, NJ 08080. The Solid Gold LIFE Group will be attending. Come out and enjoy Julie Church's voice, a free afternoon of beautiful choral singing, and see what our former home looks like now!

Next Sunday!

Ageless LIFE Group is inviting you to join them next Sunday, May 6! We will be going to Peking Buffet, located in the Collegetown Shopping Center on Delsea Drive in Glassboro, for lunch. Immediately after lunch we will go to Phyllis Walker's quilt exhibit in Mullica Hill, "**Let the Quilts Speak**" at Old Town Hall Museum, 62 South Main Street, Mullica Hill, NJ 08062. Please plan to take advantage of this time of fellowship and education. Phyllis and Corny will be there to personally greet us, God willing.

Please contact Dan or Andy if you plan to join us so that we can make appropriate reservations for the lunch.

By the way, I have already visited the display once, and I am going again. Please join us! -Dan

Also Next Sunday!



Everyone is invited to REFUGE next Sunday at 5:30 pm here at the church building! Our guest speakers will be **Derek and Leza Davis.** As always, there will be snacks, coffee, and tea along with great fellowship and a time of live praise music and singing. We hope to see you there. **Come as you are!**

Camp Manatawny Sponsorships

Here at Pitman Road, making sure all of our children are able to go to Camp Manatawny is a priority. So far, we have had three requests for sponsorships for this coming summer, and we do expect to receive more requests. **If you would like to contribute to sending a child to camp, this would be the appropriate time to let Dottie know.**



This summer's base camp fee is \$325, but there may be discounts that apply depending on each particular child's eligibility. You may contribute all or part of the fee; any amount is welcome! Write your check to the Pitman Road Church of Christ, note "camp sponsorship" on the memo line, and drop it in the collection plate or give it to Dottie.

Coming Up!

FEEDING THE HUNGRY IN TRENTON

SATURDAY, May 12 • 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**SIGN UP AT THE
WELCOME CENTER
TO VOLUNTEER TO
SERVE THE MEAL.**

**\$180 IS STILL NEEDED
TO COVER THE COST OF
THE MEAL.** If you are willing
to contribute, note "**Trenton
Meal**" on your check, drop it
in the collection plate, or
give it to Dottie.



MAY 20, 2018

We will celebrate the day of Pentecost, as recorded in Acts 2, during our worship service, through the reading of scripture and singing in many languages.

This will also be a day that our Local and World Missions ministries will be in the spot light. Photos and information about our past, present, and future mission efforts will be on display in the lobby.

Save the Date! • Sunday, May 27

Memorial Day Church Picnic

At the home of Larry and Lisa Peterson

More details soon!

Our Schedule

Sunday

9:00 am Bible Classes
10:00 am Worship

Wednesday

7:00 pm Bible Classes

Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday
8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Last Week

Bible Class	126
Worship	194
LIFE Groups	73
Wednesday	NC

This Week's Prayer Requests

Kareem Rutledge, Jr. is making appropriate progress in his recovery from a traumatic brain injury. Please continue to keep Kareem, his parents, and sisters, in your prayers. ***Please see the note below from Kareem, Sr.***

Dwight Thompson has been hospitalized with fever and extreme fatigue. Doctors suspect an infection, but testing is still being done to determine the exact nature of his symptoms. Dwight is in need of rest, visitors are not appropriate at this time.

Nancy Smith has been moved to Woodbury Mews, 122 Green Ave., Woodbury, NJ 08096; room 8 in the Memory Care Unit. **Nancy would love to have visitors.** Call Woodbury Mews at 845-384-6600 for information.

Chuck Connor, Rick Connor's dad, was hospitalized last weekend after having a TIA (mini-stroke). His medications were adjusted and he is home and doing better. Please pray for continued improvement.

Lynn Sbaraglia, severe asthma and upper respiratory issues.

Lisa Maden, neighbor and family friend of Dottie Grillo, was in a head on collision and sustained life threatening injuries. The family has requested our prayers.

Mandy Mansdoerfer, recovering well from surgery.

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Elder on Call for April: Mike Broyles

Serving Us Today

Nursery	Jayne Schofield
Kids For Christ	Jessica Forman
Jr. Worship	Brian Mansdoerfer/Harry Ake
Greeters: Front Entrance	Larry Peterson & Joe Marshall
Greeters: Back Entrance	Steve & Jayne DePrince
Information Center	Donna Mychajlowycz
Ushers	John & Brenda Peoples
Shepherd's Call	Brian Holden
Song Leader	Mike Broyles
Communion	Lee Collier

LIFE Group	Location	Contact
Ageless	Cooper's at noon	856-589-4197
Brook Besor	Durham's Tuesday at 7 pm	856-589-2280
Circle of Sisters	Sbaraglia's Monday at 7 pm	856-419-0544
Cornerstone	Church Bldg. rm B2 at noon	609-226-4031
Hammonton	Broyles' at 6 pm	609-561-8532
Life Challenges	Church Bldg. rm B4 at noon	267-303-4877
Men's Bible Study	Church Bldg. Monday at 7 pm	856-217-3956
Solid Gold	Community Choir performance at 3 pm	
Teens	Not meeting today.	610-476-9057
Vineland	H. Pearl's at 6 pm	856-839-0051
Women in the Word	Church Bldg. FLC, Tues. 9:45 am	856-981-9754
Young Married	A. Destefano's at 1 pm	856-899-9466

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goodnews

We wanted to share this powerful testimony from Kareem Rutledge, Sr., which we received this past Wednesday night.

Good evening family. Today has been an awesome day! GOD is so good! First the trauma doctor was in tears as she spoke about this experience. She said that their team tried to remain positive for us when we first got here. Then she said that as it went on they drew strength from us because we were so positive. She said that she was off from work after Kareem's first surgery and she was very happy that he was "still here" when she returned. She let us know on more than one occasion that they were praying for us.

Witnessing how far GOD has brought Kareem has been nothing short of miraculous. But GOD wasn't done. The doctor then let us know that the rehab we chose (Magee in Philly) accepted Kareem and he may be able to leave the hospital as early as tomorrow!! I thank God for all He's done and going to do, I thank Him for all of you, and I thank Him for every single prayer that has been sent up on our behalf.

Prayer is powerful... keep those prayers going for this precious family!

Volunteer Needed!



We are seeking a volunteer to assist with communion preparation and clean up. If you would like to volunteer, or want more information about what this entails, please contact Becky Vander Vennen or Kathy McClelland.