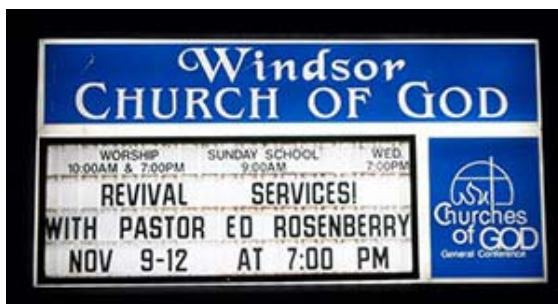


Services at Windsor--Vol. 8, No. 46

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What's your next step with Jesus? That's the core question for all who would follow the Nazarene. For Simon Peter the answer to that question defined his faith journey just as it has for every disciple since. So when Anthony Zumbo, teaching elder for our Windsor Church in York County, PA, invited me to preach for their church's fall services and I accepted, the Lord led me to Peter's encounters with Jesus as a basis for the messages. Given this inspiration, the problem became what passages to choose given the many that recount Peter's interactions with Jesus.



Inside the Windsor sanctuary



Ed Rosenberry preaches at the Windsor revival services

There were to be five services Sunday through Wednesday, and I wanted each message to be part of a larger whole. I chose to use situations where Jesus called Peter into a closer walk and where the application would encourage deeper discipleship for believers today. The messages focused on following, worshipping, serving, witnessing, and persevering from Luke 5:1-11, Mark 9:1-13, John 21, Acts 10, and 2 Peter 1 respectively. The preparation and study, as well as the preaching/teaching of the Word, was a real boost for my own walk with Jesus, and I trust for the folks at Windsor as well.



Pastor Anthony Zumbo at the pulpit



Sunday morning the church followed its regular order of worship, but the evening services were a bit freer. The piano and organ music certainly kept the singing lively. So everyone could track their decisions for a closer walk with Jesus we prepared a booklet with brief message outlines and a challenge for each service. The call for decisions focused on using the great commandment (Deuteronomy 6:5), calling upon each one to give body, soul, and spirit (will) in deeper dedication to Jesus in the five aspects of discipleship previously named. The booklet also provides an reminder of those decisions.



Painting at the front of the sanctuary

Anthony and his wife Wendy, along with their daughter India and son Dante, came to Windsor in 2005 from a Methodist congregation in New Jersey. Anthony and Wendy both grew up in the Garden State attending the same church and local high school. Anthony is a very dedicated Bible guy which is what brought him into the Churches of God, General Conference (CGGC). It was a joy for Linda and me to get to know Anthony and his family a little better through these services.



Zumbo family in 2009



Painting of the old stone bethel

The Windsor Church dates back to the great revival of 1858 and the work of Jacob Keller. Because of the Civil War and subsequent economics the church continued to meet in homes until 1876 when the congregation built a schoolhouse-style bethel out of stone. It added a bell tower at the turn of the twentieth century. The church dedicated its current brick worship and educational facility on Manor Road in 1955 and the parsonage next door in 1959. The church also maintains a cemetery where the church triumphant awaits the great day of the Lord.

The congregation promotes local and world missions and has sent several persons into vocational ministry including my good friend, Dr. Michael Walker. His parents were stalwarts of the church and the pavilion out front housing the 1901 bronze bell is dedicated to Mike's father, Teddy Walker. Others sent out in ministry include John Baker and Richard Smith. Local ministries include the Red Lion food bank and the Moul Home. In addition, the congregation sponsors a number of community events like its spring yard sale, a men's prayer breakfast, the Veteran's Day recognition program, and other outreach opportunities such as VBS.



A view of the Windsor Church facility with the parsonage at left

Linda and I first visited Windsor in the 1970s when we served at Maytown. How well I recall our Lancaster-York ministerium Christmas dinner hosted by Preston and Marie Lucas. They were such great examples to us early in ministry. I also recall the rural landscape, but now four decades later there are houses and developments all around. This is a situation many CGGC churches face. I asked Windsor to pray that God might open a door of opportunity to start several new congregations in their area, and I promised we would come help them do so once we return to PA next summer.

The four days of services passed all too quickly, but we have hopes of a return visit, perhaps in 2015.

ONE Mission together,
Ed
Soli Deo Gloria!