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Upcoming Events

Church Consultations /
Retreats
2/10-11, 18-20
BI-Vocational Pastors'
Cohort Begins
2/17-18

Prayer Requests

BI-Vocational Pastors'
Cohort
City Lift pilot project site

Faith Promises and

Donations:



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Springfield, MO 65802
Add: Ware # 2732949
Also on our website.

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Got Mutton to Bust?

“Taxes or the newsletter?” That was the choice that Rachel gave me. Well for the first time, in a long time, she was drawing a blank on what to write, and I had a plan. Besides, given the choice, who wants to do the taxes?

Taxes are a part of all of our lives. If you are a rural cowboy, you have to pay taxes. If you are downtown loft artist, then you have to pay taxes. They truly are cross-cultural.

Our nation has been called the “Great American Melting Pot.” Nowhere else in the world can the diversity of cultures be found in one place, like we have in America. It is exciting, but for churches, it can also be frustrating. We have also created our own culture. We have our own music, our own television stations, and even our own lingo. That’s where the frustration and challenge comes from. In my lifetime I have watched as the “church culture” has become more distinct in its differences to the overall culture of our nation, a post-Christian nation. What are we to do about that?

Some would say that we should embrace the culture so that we can reach them, and others say that embracing the culture leads to changes in our values and weakens our Christian heritage. I sometimes find myself in the middle of this debate. What are we to do?

Jesus got harassed for eating and drinking with sinners at Matthew’s house. I wouldn’t say that He embraced their culture and participated in their sin. But, **He did engage the culture and live life with those who needed Him.** The question is always, “How do we do that now?” The Lord knows each unique church and assignment. Let’s get creative.

Pastor Carl Smith and his small church in a rural community faced this challenge. As we talked one day, he was thinking about the best way to engage his community’s cowboy culture with their church’s limited resources. He asked me, “But, how do I reach these people now?”

Well, the result of that conversation is a small rodeo arena outside the fellowship hall where they regularly do “mutton busting.” They invite parents to bring their kids out for hot dogs, fun, and to ride a bucking sheep. Pastor Carl shares from the arena while dressed as a rodeo clown. After two successful events that filled their facility, they are planning their third event in the coming weeks. They started with three sheep and are hoping to have eight for the next event. Now people are connecting to the gospel of Christ and this little country church through bucking sheep. The Lord knows the keys to the culture that you are in. **Ask the Lord, “What is our mutton busting?”**



Pastor Carl Smith of First Assembly Pilot Point, also known as rodeo clown Dr. Ben Crazy, prays with the families that came to watch the kids.