

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

DON'T MISS  
the  
TLBC Annual  
Bar-B-Que  
THIS Friday  
May 2 at 6:00 p.m. in  
the Cornerstone.  
Sign up in the office  
to bring a dish or  
volunteer.

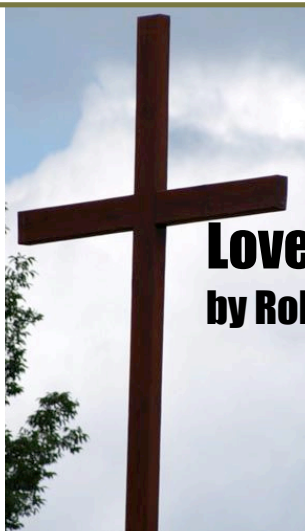
## SUMMER SCHEDULE

The 2008 Summer  
Class schedule is  
available in the  
TLBC office.  
Pick up your copy  
today and start  
planning.

Also  
In This Issue:

"What is our goal?" a  
look at evangelism by  
Priscilla Marshall; plus,  
feedback from our  
readers on the series,  
"The Art of Listening."

*Announcements  
continued on page 4.*



## Love, Not In Word Only, by Robin Sady

There is no doubt that our God walked among us in the body of Jesus not only to deliver mankind from sin, but to demonstrate that God is Love. Various miracles were done, not just to spare people in trouble, but also to reveal just how much God loved His children.

Most of us usually read into, "By this shall all men know you are my disciples, if you have love one for another" to mean be forgiving, be kind and things of a similar nature. I wonder if there could be a much greater meaning to it, that deeds done to deliver people become revelations of love? Signs and wonders reveal the loving nature of God, not just teaching of right doctrine, Truth must be told, but miracles will tell anyone that God truly exists and loves them. When we live "miracle-free" lives, we steal from God the revelation that is needed to convince people that not only is He alive, but that He cares and still works wonders. This allows us (His children) to live life more abundantly.

*Continued on page 2*

## The Challenge of Evil: From Dialogue to Action by Andrew Johnson - Based on *Unspeakable*, by Os Guinness

In previous articles we have looked at questions and answers. We now move from dialogue to action. Guinness discussed the need for practical action in terms of a biblical response. Previously we saw how faith reassures us on the face at evil and suffering; here we consider how faith compels us to stand against evil. Guinness names "three key features" of the biblical response.

The first of Guinness's "three key features" to the biblical response is "the acknowledgement that evil resides in each of our hearts." It is true, in Guinness' words, that "There are monsters and monstrous evils." Nevertheless, "the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being...None of us is truly among the innocents." Indeed, even within the Christian is a battle between "the desires of the flesh" and the Spirit. "For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from the things you want to do" (Gal. 5:17 ESV).

*Continued on page 3*



## What is our goal? Part one, by Priscilla Marshall




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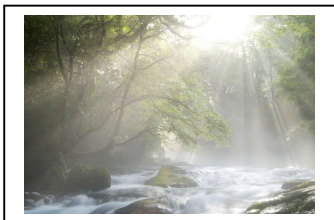
*“The Earth is still waiting and groaning for the manifestation of the songs of God, which surely mean: the same mission and miracles must continue.”*

I recently made a new friend at a birthday party. This person is not a Christian, and this new friendship has spurred me to dig in even more to my studies here at TLBC. He described his beliefs – or rather his questions about the existence of a high power – and labeled himself as an atheist. However, the position he described fits the definition of an agnostic.

So, I researched the definitions of these two philosophies. Atheism is the belief that there is no god. An agnostic is: 1: a person who holds the view that any ultimate reality (as God) is unknown and probably unknowable; broadly: one who is not committed to believing in either the existence or the nonexistence of God or a god. Often times a person is an agnostic, but is unclear on this philosophy, so they call themselves an atheist. Over their lifetime they may not have gathered enough information about the actual existence of God, and so they live in this realm between uncertainty and unbelief. This person is usually not opposed to believing that God could be real and true. Sometimes people will call themselves atheists just as an easier way to state their belief that there may not be a god. This brings up several questions:

- What glory are we bringing to God when we do interact with people of either of these beliefs?
- In what ways is it acceptable to interact?
- In what ways is it not biblically acceptable to act?

*Continued on page 3*



## Love Not in Word continued from page 1

I read once that power is costly, but a powerless church is more costly. For without the manifest power of God, the church leaves mankind sick and lost. We must position ourselves before His throne and ask for a fresh encounter that will give us the power to do His work and will. Our job has not stopped, we must plunder hell and then populate heaven, and anything less is failure to be whom we should. It is a failure to do for that which we have been saved. The early church went everywhere preaching Jesus and then Jesus confirmed that message with signs and wonders. I am very weary of Christians not walking in God’s power, so that the Glory of God working among us is prevented from reaching an explosive level that cannot be explained: a level that must be EXPERIENCED.

The Earth is still waiting and groaning for the manifestation of the songs of God, which surely mean: the same mission and miracles must continue, or the lost world will be robbed of the very thing that God wants them to taste. Ask God to put a very desperate hunger inside you until something SUPERNATURAL EXPLODES within all of us.

## The Challenge of Evil, *continued from page 1*

The second feature is “to forgive the evildoer appropriately” while not “condoning the evil deed.” Forgiveness is vital since it frees both the past and the future. As past offenses are forgiven, the way is made for improvement in the future. Moreover, even if the evildoer fails to repent, forgiveness prevents the sufferer of evil from becoming the monster one might perceive the evildoer to be. Each of us is capable of evil and each of us is in need of forgiveness.

The third feature is “the commitment to take a practical stand against evil and injustice.” This seems like a tall order, and it is a great task. The “clarion call to justice” is not far removed from the Great Commission. In fact, we may even restate Guinness’ third feature of the biblical response in our context as “missions.” In missions we can and must bring the transforming power of the gospel (thereby confronting that evil residing in the human heart); yet we must also tend to the “widow and orphans” (thus relieving the suffering inflicted by evil and injustice).

Where ever we may be, wherever we are called, evil and its fruit are present. If we are alone in a room, evil is there in our own heart. Evil is a real challenge in this world, but one we need not (and should not) face alone. The real challenge of evil is to have the courage to stand up in faith against it by carrying out the mission committed to those who are disciples of Jesus Christ.



## What Is Our Goal, *continued from page 2*

Now, understand this is not about personal opinions or passing judgments. It’s about the balance between being a ‘light’ in a dark world and being in the world but not being influenced to behave like the world. Let me put it this way for you. My new friend, who claims to be an atheist, is very open to learning about God and about the logical side of God. He desires to know more, and thus asks me many questions. We studied together recently. He is taking “philosophy of religion” at a secular college, and, of course, I go to Bible College. He said that at times he learns better by teaching what he is learning. So, I gave him that opportunity. Instead of ‘teaching’ me, he asked me about “the fall” and if I knew what that was. To me, the question seemed silly...I mean I’m at Bible College, right? However, I asked if he was referring to the fall of man. He said he was, and so we got into a conversation of whether or not “the fall” was actually caused by Eve, making it womankind’s fault that there was original sin. Luckily, (since I am in Bible College) I had my Bible right there. So, we opened it. We read the first few chapters of Genesis, and discussed those chapters in depth.

The glory that was brought to God in this instance occurred because I was sharing God’s love with him, even though he does not (yet) share my beliefs. Jesus Christ had to spend a lot of time with people who did not believe what he was saying in order for them to understand God’s love. He desired to know their hearts and to feel their pain. He wanted to take away their sickness and relieve their burdens. This was His goal. He wanted to hang out with them, so that when they did ask a question He could be the one to give them the right answer.

Jesus still wants to provide the right answer to people, today. He does this through us, and in order for that to happen we need to be open to opportunities. In the next article, I’ll discuss a question my friend asked, which really shocked me.

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.TLBC.edu](http://www.TLBC.edu)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Donation Car Wash**  
**Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**8:00 Am – 3:00 PM**  
**5609 Hillsdale Blvd**  
**-at the corner of**  
**Walerga.**

*To benefit  
Brazil Team 2008, in  
partnership with higher  
Hope Christian Church,  
Master's Commission  
Urban Missions Institute,  
Inc, and God's Chosen  
Vessel Ministry.*

## Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor,

We like when others listen to us but when they do not listen to us it is very frustrating. To listen is to love. Love is the greatest gift and commitment you will ever witness. True listening can relay love according to the article.

It is amazing the extent people will go to be heard. It takes effort to listen to someone with a genuine interest and intent. We can listen actively as well by restating what we hear, rephrasing or simply summarizing. Sometimes a person is not looking for advice at all, they just want to express their feelings and share their emotions.

We all desire to have our own voice heard, so it is a difficult task to stop for a moment and just listen. I have a challenge with this in my home. When my wife and I have differences I will be the first to admit to you that it is difficult to listen with one hundred percent of my attention focused on hearing the whole matter. After reading this article, I am determined to make great efforts to hear with more interest and to hear everything that is said without interruption.

Everyone's life is busy but we should all take time to pray and keep our mouth shut, our ears attentive, and our eyes and heart open. The Lord desires for us to build relationships that involve bonding together and having empathy with one another. This takes discipline and great effort in building happy and healthy relationships with family, friends and love ones. Lord, help us all.

Thank you,  
Ron Smith

Dear Editor,

I just finished reading the series on "The Art of Listening," by Priscilla Marshall. Her approach was right on target! I previously had a similar experience when I was pouring out my soul to my best friend about some exciting news. After I had shared with her, I really wondered if she had been listening.

I personally believe that love is the greatest commandment. When someone feels listened to, they feel love in return. As Christians, we must love our friends as well as our enemies. Her details and research information were extremely helpful. I especially like the example she gave about the tips from Jennifer Hoffman about fostering active listening skills. It was interesting to think about these tips as they apply to my everyday life.

I feel very strongly about the advice she gave before one opens up a conversation: pray first. From a reader's perspective, I believe in praying before you do anything. This important piece of information has really helped me open up many conversations. It definitely helps to allow God to intercede where He needs to and allow Him to be a part of the conversation.

Much of this information is beneficial in helping others to feel the love of Christ. Thank you for the wonderful insight provided by this series "The Art of Listening." It has been extremely helpful in re-training me to be actively listening to those that I love.

Sincerely,  
Paulina Quesada