

The Exchanger

Volume 06, Issue 9

September, 2006

THE NEWSLETTER

OF

FELLOWSHIP
BIBLE CHURCH
WHITE ROCK

The Mission of
FBCWR:

*Connecting People to
God's Life-Changing
Power*

*We've Got
Connections!*

"For the Son of Man
has come
to seek
and
to save
that which was lost."

-Luke 19:10

INSIDE

Cruise Ship or
Life Boat? 1

What's News
at F.B.C.W.R. 2

Calendar 3

Ministry Spotlight 4

Cruise Ship or Life Boat?

The Titanic was the ultimate cruise ship. On that fateful night, many people were living it up, enjoying the luxurious amenities. But after the glorious cruise ship was gashed open by an iceberg, those same people were thrust into "life boat mode". Would they focus on their own need for survival or the needs of those perishing in the icy water? Several life boats paddled away from the wreckage—and the desperate cries for help. In the face of such overwhelming need, many somehow managed to maintain their "cruise ship mentality".



Carnival Cruise Church?

Win Arn, a consultant to churches, carried out a survey of churches which highlights the difference between a church with a cruise ship mentality and a life boat mentality. He asked members of nearly a thousand churches, "Why does the church exist?" Of the church members surveyed, 89 percent said, "The church's purpose is to take care of my

family's needs and my needs." Only 11 percent said, "The purpose of the church is to win the world for Jesus Christ."

The CEO Speaks

It may be surprising to some Americans churchgoers but the Founder of all churches, Jesus Christ, did not primarily set up the church for our enjoyment. When He gave His final orders in the Great Commission in Matthew 28, He told them to "Go" and make new followers of Him. He didn't say, "Sit and enjoy yourselves and Me". He still desires we embrace a rescue mentality, not set up the Church of the Carnival Cruise. The paradox is, however, rescuing people from eternal darkness is the most enjoyable and gratifying of tasks.

Despite our flaws, if we are born again children of God we have "solved" the ultimate problem, or rather the Lord has solved it for us. We know how to receive freedom from the ultimate penalty of sin. We are forgiven in Christ and we hold that message in our hearts. So an obvious step of maturity is to take our eyes off of ourselves and consider the alarming need of those around us. This is the very definition of spiritual health – concern for others. Will you risk reaching into the cold waters of humanity for desperate people?

Lord, cause us at Fellowship Bible Church to share the life boat mentality You had. Give us great concern for the thousands of people in this community who are bobbing around in treacherous waters.
-Joe Fornear