

# UNITED CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES, INC.

*Demonstrating Jesus' love and teaching His words in Hattiesburg, MS.*

Dear Family & Friends in Christ,

February 25, 2017

I believe that the Bible teaches that the mark of a true Christian, the identifying behavior of a person who has trusted in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins, made him Lord of their lives and is looking forward to his return is ..... **LOVE.**

John 13:34-35(NASB) <sup>34</sup>*"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.* <sup>35</sup>***"By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."***

1 John 4:7-11(NLT) <sup>7</sup>*Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.* <sup>8</sup>***But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.***

## **SO LET'S TALK ABOUT WHAT I BELIEVE THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT TRUE CHRISTIAN LOVE LOOKS LIKE IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER PEOPLE**

**Christian love is a deep concern for the wellbeing of others.**

Galatians 5:13-14(NASB) ... *through love serve one another.* <sup>14</sup>*For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*

Philippians 2:4(NASB) <sup>4</sup>*do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.*

**BUT ... TRUE Christian loves goes beyond just loving our family and friends. I am afraid that this is where we all fall so short ... AND WE NEED TO FIX THIS.**

Matthew 5:46-48(NLT) <sup>46</sup>*If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much.* <sup>47</sup>*If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that.* <sup>48</sup>*But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.*

Do we really understand what Jesus is saying? **If we are only loving and reaching out to our family and friends then we are just living like the pagans do.**

Matthew 25:31-46(NASB) <sup>31</sup>*"But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.* <sup>32</sup>*"All the nations will be gathered before Him; ... <sup>41</sup>*"Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup>*for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; <sup>43</sup>*I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.*' <sup>44</sup>*"Then they themselves also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?'****

<sup>45</sup>*"Then He will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.'" <sup>46</sup>*"These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."**

## **SO HOW DO WE GO ABOUT SHOWING GOD'S LOVE TO THE UNLOVELY, TO THE LOST, TO THE HURTING IN OUR CITY?**

We start by obeying Jesus Christ and **going** to the unlovely, to the lost and to the hurting. For most of us that means we physically go to another neighborhood than the one that we live in. For safety reasons, you may want to join with someone or some group that is already going to those neighborhoods and sharing God's words and God's love with those less fortunate.

Matthew 28:18-20(NASB) <sup>18</sup>And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup>"***Go therefore and make disciples*** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>***teaching them to observe all that I commanded you;*** and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

GO, tell people about Jesus and his great love, teach them the Bible and help them with physical needs. This is a winning combination when reaching out to the poor in our city. Focus on identifying those who want to learn and obey God's words in the Bible and help them move forward in life <sup>19</sup>"***Go therefore and make disciples ...*** <sup>20</sup>***teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.***"

There are many great ministries in our cities; please join up with one of them.

### **OVER THE PAST 11 YEARS UNITED CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES HAS DEVELOPED THIS PLAN OF ACTION TO HELP THOSE LESS FORTUNATE WHO WANT TO GET TO KNOW AND WALK WITH JESUS AND MOVE FORWARD IN LIFE.**

**WE GO**... to the neighborhoods where the poor live. One easy way to do this is to have a Bible Club for the kids and families in these neighborhoods.

**WE IDENTIFY** ... youth and adults who want to learn more about the Bible as we work with them in their neighborhood through the Bible Clubs, Scripture memory activities, etc.

**WE DISCIPLE** ... by getting youth and adults in a weekly discipleship (Bible teaching) activity at a local church. These new disciples are transported to the church or another meeting place, served a meal, complete Bible studies, often with a one on one mentor, and then driven home.

**WE EDUCATE** ... So many of our youth have no educational help at their homes and so they fall behind in the local schools and never catch up. We just started United Christian Academy where we see to it that our kids get caught up and move forward in their education and preparation for a productive life.

**WE PROVIDE A SUPPORT SYSTEM** ... to help our youth move from finishing high school to getting a college degree or skill that will help them move forward in life. This means making sure that they have the finances, a car, a stable place to live, computer, internet, and encouragement and direction on how to obtain an education / skill that will enable them to move out of poverty.

**We would love for you to join with us in this work and labor of love that pleases our God so much.** You may want to join in one of the activities that I mentioned above; just let me know.

**A BIG NEED that we have right now is to develop monthly ongoing financial support for United Christian Academy.** We Have 3 full time staff members working with 7 full time students. Some of these students have already jumped two grades in their reading ability in just one semester. We hope to grow to about 15 students next fall and then just continue to grow. But **we cannot do this without your help.**

1 John 3:17-19(NLT) <sup>17</sup>*If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God’s love be in that person? <sup>18</sup>Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. <sup>19</sup>Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God.*

He who is gracious to a poor man lends to the LORD, And He will repay him for his good deed.  
Prov. 19:17 NASB

2 Corinthians 9:6-8(NASB) <sup>6</sup>*Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup>Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup>And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;*

If you would like to support United Christian Academy – the educational arm of our ministry, please make gifts out to United Christian Ministry and note “for education” on the check. 100% of these donations will go to help grow this Christian Education Center – school, and gifts are tax deductible. Donations can be sent to the address listed below.

Feel free to join us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UnitedChristianMinistriesInc/>

May God richly bless you as you become a blessing to others. Feel free to come out and visit our school some time and see the difference that it is making in these precious young lives.

With love in Christ,



Jack & Gayle Kennedy

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