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**From:** Ron French [revfrench@cox.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 07, 2008 1:48 PM  
**To:** Ron French  
**Subject:** Rons Ramblings

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING**

- May 4th prayer gathering at the Frenches. Sign up on bulletin board if planning on attending.
- April 27<sup>th</sup> we are to meet at the WestRoads Mall at 5:45 pm to help the Omaha Food Bank tear down their "construction" sculptures. These are sculptures made from cans and boxes of food donated to the Food Bank. If you are interested we need you to sign up on the bulletin board or send me an email.
- You do not want to miss our guest speaker, Kevin O'Neill, who on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm will present to us the considerable influence that technology has on our children and youth (not to mention us).
- May 1<sup>st</sup> is National Prayer Day and the theme for this year's National Day of Prayer is - *Prayer! America's Strength & Shield*. The whole city is invited to a Concert of Prayer service which will be held at Salem Baptist Church, 3131 Lake Street, from 7:00 – 8:30pm. Contact Donna French if you wish to attend and/or need a ride.

## **BIT OF HUMOR**

Parked on the side of the road, waiting to catch speeding drivers, a state trooper sees a car pattering along at 22 mph. Thinking the driver is as dangerous as a speeder, the state trooper turns on his lights and pulls the car over.

As he approaches the vehicle, the officer notices there are five elderly ladies inside—two in the front seat and three in the back—wide-eyed and white as ghosts.

The driver, obviously confused, says, "Officer, I don't understand. I was going the exact speed limit. What seems to be the problem?"

The trooper, trying to contain a chuckle, explained to her that 22 was the route number—not the speed limit.

A bit embarrassed, the woman grins and thanks the officer for pointing out her error.

"Before you go," the officer says, "I have to ask: Is everyone in this car okay? These women seem *awfully* shaken."

"Oh," she answered, "they'll be all right, sir. We just got off of Route 127."

### **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

I attended a wonderful conference this past Saturday called "The 7 Habits of a Visitor Friendly Church." First let me pass on a few statistics:

- On average only 16% of first time visitors will come back
- 85% of those visitors who return a second time will stay
- The decision to return is made in the first 10 minutes or less (that's before the sermon even starts, folks)
- Within the first 90 seconds a person will determine if you believe what you say you believe

The Greeters and everyone who notices a visitor are to consider themselves the "Prime Minister of First Impressions." Hospitality is a topic that shows up in Scripture over and over again.

"Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it." Hebrews 13:2

Also refer to John 13:12-15, Romans 12:13, and 1 Peter 4:9.

When we are blessed with guests, I will drop them a letter asking for comments and feedback about us. I just received one last week which in response to the question "What did you notice first?" they said, "friendly people."

This coming Sunday we have a guest preacher and we are likely to have visitors as we do most Sundays. Keep up the excellent attitude of joyfully extending hospitality to all who visit. Also, keep in mind we are always capable of improving. This coming Sunday, take on the title of "Prime Minister of First Impressions" personally. Don't assume another will do it. YOU do it.....with joy and love in your heart. A smile, a handshake, and a hearty "welcome to our worship service" can go a long way.

Heck, nothing says you have to stop there. If you think they are not going to be offended, give 'em an impromptu tour of the place. Take 'em out to lunch. Introduce them to the pastor or other church leaders. Invite them to an upcoming event such as the events that are listed at the beginning of this email.

God loves a gracious and giving heart.....and we do to!!!

### **SERMONETTE**

Success in marriage is more than finding the right person. It is becoming the right person.

In His glory,

Pastor Ron French  
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