

“SideLines”

Pastor Tracy Gorman – Southside Church of the Nazarene – June 3, 2008



Hello, Church friends and family members!

I hope you're having a good day. It's very rainy and somewhat stormy out there, so be careful if you're out and about. I know our farmers in the church love rainy days, and they're the only ones that make me halfway able to tolerate days like today. I LOVE THE SUNSHINE...unless I am sleeping. Then, I like the rain hitting the window and the roof!

Well, congratulations to all of our High School and college graduates. We have a lot of them this year, and I am not going to mention each one of them here, but let's just suffice in saying that we're extremely proud of this accomplishment in their lives. "Commencement" is not the end, but rather, the beginning of the next phase of their life. Pray for them, and if you're able, please send them a card to let them know of your love and support.

The Gorman family is getting all pumped up for this weekend's WALK FOR A CURE for the Arthritis Foundation. If you've not visited Seth's special page for this event, you can find it at <http://2008awindy.kintera.org/seth>. The walk is this Saturday morning in Indianapolis. I just checked with the main website for the walk, and it looks like close to \$44,000 has been raised so far. Seth's team has raised about \$1,025 of that total. Thanks to all who are supporting him and the rest of those who suffer with the various forms of arthritis. Hopefully someday (soon) a cure can be found for this debilitating disease.

Let me switch gears just a little bit: This Sunday, I am planning to speak about the importance of "having a testimony" for your life that you can share. I don't have the message titled yet, but that's the crux of what I am thinking. At the close of the service, Shelley Brannon is going to distribute a form that we'd like for you to take home, fill out, and return. We're hoping to create a "Testimony book" that will chronicle the testimonies of the church family of Southside. This book will soon be available for everyone to have a copy of. So, please help us by taking the form, filling it out, and returning it as indicated. This will be awesome! I am so looking forward to reading your personal testimony (witness) of what God has done in your life through the years. Everyone who is a child of God has a testimony...and you need to share that story with everyone else!!! It will bless our hearts!

You know, one of the big reasons I was excited about coming to Southside was so I could have the opportunity to work with Pastor CA Dalton. He is one of the greatest, Godliest men I have EVER known in all the years of my life. Being his ministry colleague / partner has truly been a dream-come-true. Now, however, the church needs to give him some space to get well. He is struggling with an illness that is partly unknown, but that also is very draining on him both physically and emotionally. Over the course of the next year, he is going to be taking a "Medical Leave of Absence" from his pastoral duties at Southside. He needs this time to search for a solution to his medical needs, and to get the proper care that is needed. The Church Board and I have granted this leave, and I am now asking you, the church family, to honor what is needed for PCA to get better. Please, from this point forward (until told otherwise), do not contact him regarding church business. He will not be acting in the role of a pastor, although you will certainly still see him and Sandy around Southside and at services, functions, etc. PLEASE HONOR WHAT I AM ASKING OF YOU! You are certainly welcome to contact him about non-church related issues, but he will not be able to help you pastorally from this point forward.

I know this is going to be a tough adjustment to make, but it is one that is needed, and as hard as it is, we must do what is best for him, for Sandy, and for his health. Believe me, it's going to be one of the toughest things we've had to endure at Southside, but I love him enough to do what's best for him, rather than what is best for me, or even for our staff and the church.

When he is better, he will return to our staff, but not as Executive Pastor. This role is not one that he really wants to have long-term, but he does want to continue serving on our team. We will cross that bridge when the time comes, which will be at least one year from now (unless something major changes in the meantime). Please pray for Pastor CA and Sandy as they make this transition, and as he seeks the proper medical care to deal with his condition.

As well, please pray for the staff as we make this adjustment, too. He really plays a big role in the administration, leadership, and direction of Southside Church of the Nazarene. (In the interim, Jennifer Coffman is going to be temporarily helping us get some of the administrative aspects of PCA's job cared for, until we can make permanent arrangements. She will be a tremendous asset in that regard. She will not, though, be handling any of his pastoral duties. Those will be absorbed by the other members of the pastoral staff. Instead, Jennifer will be handling all wedding coordination, "Side By Side" ministries oversight, and she will be helping us develop some ways of streamlining our office work, communications with community businesses and vendors, and our communications within the church! YAY!!! Down the road, when the church is able to afford it financially, we would like to hire a full-time Executive / Associate Pastor for our pastoral staff. We do not see that happening very soon, though. Just keep our whole pastoral team, as well as our other personnel, in your prayers. We really need those!!! **WE SURE LOVE PASTOR CA AND SANDY DALTON!**

We are just a few days away from our FIRST ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL DINNER and MISSIONS WEEKEND! On June 14th at 6:00, we will host this awesome dinner here at Southside, which will feature food from 4 cultural areas of our world (American, Italian, Asian, and Mexican). If you've not been contacted to bring a dish to share in one of these cultural areas, PLEASE contact the church office at 284-9320 and let Brenda know that you'd be willing to help. Our special speakers for that event will be RON AND DIANNA GILBERT (Pastor Emeritus of Southside, and Field Strategy Coordinators for the South Asia Region of the Church of the Nazarene). Ron served as Senior Pastor of Southside from 2003-2006. The Gilberts will also be speaking on Sunday morning, June 15th in our Morning Worship service at 10:30. On that day, we will all make our pledges for the year for Faith Promise. Remember, each of us is called to make a difference in our world, and our Faith Promise giving is a HUGE way that makes that possible. Please join us that entire weekend as we celebrate WORLD EVANGELISM and The Great Commission of Jesus Christ, which says we are to GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS!!!

This week, Pastor Andy Cole and several of our young adults are working in a mission in Georgia which cares for the needs of children who are orphaned, neglected, etc. Please pray for them while they're there, and as they make the trip home on Friday.

Because of the economy, non-profit / charitable giving is down SUBSTANTIALLY across the country. Southside is not excluded from this statistic, as our giving has been down, too. However, for us to be able to continue operating a successful ministry here, we all must continue to honor God by giving Him what is already His, which are our tithe dollars. I know it's tough, and this year, Tammy and I have had more expenses (most unexpected – several due to Seth's health issues), but nevertheless, we have realized that our situation would be much worse if we did not pay our tithes. That is just an absolute fact, brothers and sisters. So, I challenge each person to adopt that same posture, and to test God and see if He will not open the windows of Heaven (as He's promised to do), and pour out a tremendous blessing on your life (and on your \$\$\$). He will not let you down! That's a promise. You might let yourself down by making bad financial decisions, or by making a bunch of credit card purchases, etc., but He won't let you down. Keep God first!

Well, I think I will close for now. I hope to see all of you at church this Sunday for Sunday school at 9:30, followed by the morning worship service at 10:30. I am praying for YOU this week. May God richly bless your life, your home, and His church.

*With much love,
Pastor Tracy Gorman*

ps Pray for Pastor Keith and Sarah Kelly as they travel to Arizona tomorrow to visit their children. Pray for this to be a week of relaxation, renewal, and refocus for them as they spend time with their family. We love the Kelly's, and appreciate their ministry so very much here at Southside Church!