

REACHING THE LOST

FROM THE CHURCH OF CHRIST TO YOUR COMMUNITY



EVANGELISM

The Eternal Purpose of the Church

Many congregations are involved in efforts to perform good works. We are in the nursing homes and hospitals, mowing and trimming lawns of our neighbors, delivering fruit baskets and food to the sick, sending cards to the discouraged, providing benevolent assistance to the needy, and a host of other good activities.

Our difficulty is not in coming up with another "Good Samaritan Program" but in how we can turn these good works into fruit for the Kingdom.

I believe it is high time we do a complete overhaul on these congregational programs. In short, if the work is not focused on evangelism, we need to shut it down. We are losing 18,000 plus church members and well over 100 congregations each year. Obviously, what we are doing now is not working!

Each month I have an opportunity to meet with elders and men of various congregations. I see men who love the Kingdom, but they don't know how to reverse their continued decline. Our purpose is to provide them a congregational growth plan illustrated by the chart on page 5.

We must never forget the purpose of the church: "To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Ephesians 3:9-10).

This must be the core of every congregation. At times, this purpose is lost within our good works. If all we accomplish in fruit baskets is providing someone a gift, we are missing our purpose. If all we accomplish in providing someone a box of food is filling their stomach, we are missing our mission. The chart is a road map on how to accomplish our purpose one work at a time.

Begin by taking full advantage of House to House/Heart to Heart. If you are not enrolled, begin today. If you are enrolled, there is a good chance you are not using its full potential. Evangelism is not a static work. Simply mailing out HTH to your area will not yield the desired results.

I suggest three things. 1) Reply personally to every HTH request (make

Continued on page 4



The deadline to send in materials for the May HTH issue is

March 15!

(Send NOW if possible)

When will I get the March issue?

The March issue is currently printing and mailing. Most churches' HTH should arrive between March 15 and April 15. Dated materials will be given priority.

What events go in the May issue?

Any event dated between May 6 – July 15 should go in the May issue.

247,076,794

All-time copies of
House to House/Heart to Heart

1,955,065 copies of the March issue

909 congregations

De Casa a Casa (Spanish HTH)

6,819 copies so far in 2019

13 congregations

New Movers Edition

2,307 copies in February

60,819 all-time New Movers copies

Contact us to learn how you can get involved (call 877.338.3397, info@housetohouse.com, or visit get.housetohouse.com).

Free HTH Websites

337 congregations (call us for yours)

We are happy to provide a free basic website for any congregation participating in the HTH program. Please contact us to get your free website.

HTH has generated **44** studies that we know about in 2019 – email info@housetohouse.com to let us know about an ongoing study.



Send us YOUR success stories.

We hear all the time, "Oh, I was going to write you, but I never got around to it. We had a baptism from HTH. We have a study going on. A member was restored. We added a family." Be sure to share with others in the program so all can be encouraged and be praying for success. Please call or email us your stories.



Good News Back from the Field!

VBS Is a Great Evangelism Opportunity

Two conversions resulted from studies generated by HTH and a VBS back in 2017. Glen Bowman of the Los Banos church of Christ reports, "Two people were baptized Sunday. They started coming after the summer mailing that we did through you! I'm not sure exactly what details that I should share, but here goes: Melissa came with her daughter the week before VBS in July (we advertised for that in our House to House mailing). The next Sunday Melissa came back, but not her daughter. One of the days of VBS, Melissa and David (her husband) came without their daughter and sat in the adult class. He didn't come much, but Melissa kept coming on and off, and sometimes her daughter came, too. She started coming more regularly again recently, and David reached out to me a few days before he was baptized for help with things going on in his life.

The Eastern Meadows church of Christ also reported that, "We had the best VBS in 13 years; up almost 50%. We had to find more chairs for the children."

Advertise your VBS on the back page of your local House to House/Heart to Heart.

Door Knocking in Guyana

Members of the Clay Brick Road church of Christ in Guyana, South America, are diligent door knockers. They ordered the January issue of House to House in English to help them. Here is the group getting ready to go out and distribute their copies.



Members ready to hand out HTH in Guyana.

Rejoice!

Not all seed falls on good ground. We wanted to share a little of the hate mail that we get, in the hopes that it will encourage you if your congregation gets attacked in similar ways. ". . . Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9). "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart" (Galatians 6:9). Remember the words of encouragement spoken by our Lord in Matthew 5:11-13: "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. 'You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.'"



Examples of hate mail received in many formats at HTH.

It Takes Persistence!

Meet Amy. She came up to our House to House booth and introduced herself. She was converted by a congregation that reached her by mailing HTH to her home. She threw it away for the first **TWO YEARS**, but one day she decided to read it. And then reread it. She started anticipating their arrival and saving them in a binder. She felt like someone was finally helping her answer questions she had her entire life. After reading several issues cover to cover, and over and over, she visited the church that was sending it. Now we have a new sister.



Amy, with Matt Wallin at the FHU Lectureship.

First Mailing in Shelley, Idaho

Bill Sirdofsky, who preaches for the Eastside church of Christ in Shelley, Idaho, wrote, "In our first mailing of HTH in Shelley, a lady showed up for worship. What got her attention was simply the name church of Christ, which made sense to her. After a year of being with us, she obeyed the gospel in the Snake River."

New Movers Contact in Rome, Georgia

Our own Matt Wallin reports, "I attend the Oak Hill church of Christ in Rome, GA. We started doing HTH when I moved here three years ago, and we added the New Movers Program shortly after that. At the end of 2017, a woman named Dolores Stocks contacted us wanting to study the Bible. She was baptized soon after the study.

But I just found this part out.

She came to us from our House to House mailings! She moved into a new apartment near our building, which triggered her to be a "New Mover." After the first issue, she received a post card two weeks later. Then our preacher wrote her a

personal letter, using the address list provided by Daniel. That letter made her contact us."

We need to work the program for the program to work. Follow-up on leads and be willing to do Bible studies. Plant, water, grow . . . it works!



Dolores being baptized into Christ.

Reaching out in Scotland

Graham McDonald works with the church of Christ in Cumbernauld, Scotland. Recently they set up a display to raise awareness of the church and the work they do in the community.

The Lord's church is becoming well-known for their good works and the kindness of Jesus that they show every day.



HTH on display in Scotland.



World-Wide Outreach

In addition to the English and Spanish editions of HTH, we are now producing a French version with churches in seven countries so far, and we direct mailed three issues into French-speaking households in Nashville. We have also helped print several issues in Chinese. The tract, "What Must I Do to Be Saved," has been printed in Spanish, French, Portuguese, and Chinese.



85 countries have received HTH in print!



GOD'S PLAN

for Saving Man

Divine Love

John 3:16

God's Grace

Ephesians 2:8

Christ's Blood

Romans 5:9

Holy Spirit's Word

Romans 1:16

Sinner's Faith

Acts 16:31

Sinner's Repentance

Luke 13:3

Sinner's Confession

Romans 10:10

Sinner's Baptism

Acts 22:16

Christian's Love

Matthew 22:37

Christian's Work

James 2:24

Christian's Hope

Romans 8:24

Christian's Endurance

Revelation 2:10

Evangelism, The Eternal Purpose of the Church

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sure you are receiving the monthly email on contacts in your area). Hand deliver any free offers like tracts, DVDs, or products they have requested. 2) Hand deliver at least one route each year and engage people. For example, say, "We subscribed to this publication for you and would like to know how you like it." You will find those who enjoy reading it. These are called "cold contacts," and with the proper cultivation, they can become the good soil we are seeking. 3) Enroll in the New Movers Program. This is one of the most underutilized tools in our brotherhood. HTH has the ability to provide each congregation with a list of every person who moves into your local area. We provide each new resident with a special edition of HTH and follow up with a personal invitation to visit. If you add a personal visit with a welcome basket, you will greatly increase its effectiveness.

Look in the Pews! Almost every congregation has regular, non-Christian visitors sitting in their pews. Some have attended for decades without any effort to have a Bible study. Every eldership and preacher should make a list of these contacts and develop a plan to reach them. It should be the first topic of discussion every time they meet. No door has to be knocked as God has placed them right in our midst. Jesus said if we would just look, the fields are white unto harvest (John 4:35). Cultivate these contacts into personal relationships, invite them into your home, and conduct a Bible study. You might be amazed at what happens.

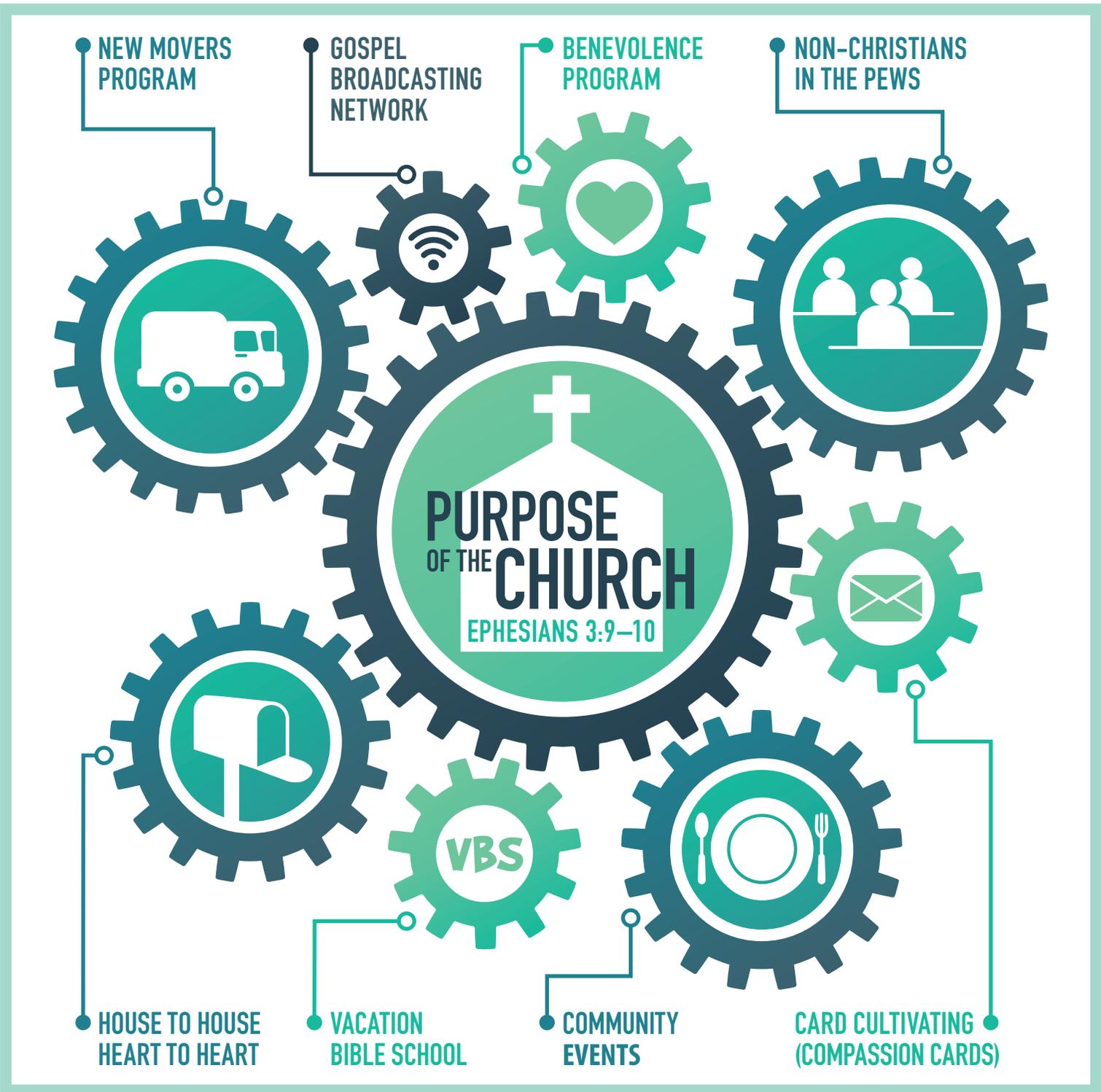
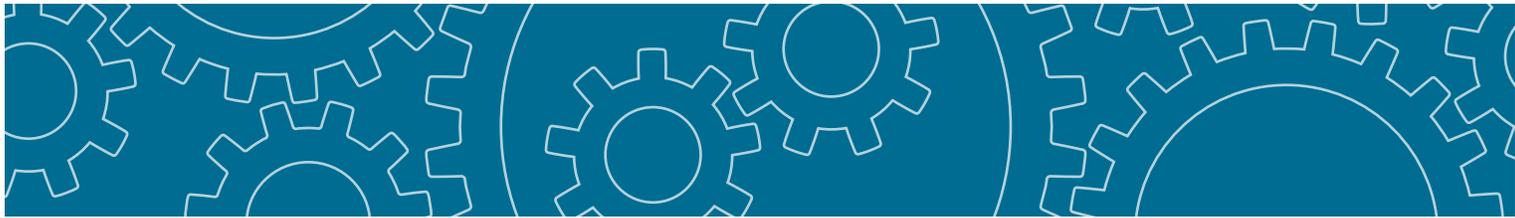
Send cards with a purpose. Just about every congregation has a card-sending program, but is it connected to evangelism? Why not send cards

to those within our communities? Instead of sending one, why not send 30 cards and overwhelm them with love and compassion? (Jude 22). During our time with the Willette congregation, entire families were baptized, and it all started because caring members sent them dozens of cards and moved them to visit the congregation!

Turn your benevolent program into a contact maker. For too many congregations, benevolence has become an albatross. We give out gift cards for gas, bags/boxes of food, and pay light bills and rent, but we have little to show for it. I am not suggesting kindness is not needed, but I am suggesting that if it is not connected to reaching souls, we have missed the point. Jesus fed the 5,000 because He had compassion on the people, and He knew that He could not reach their souls if they had empty stomachs. The Crossville church of Christ in Tennessee has directly tied their benevolent program to Bible studies. Those who want help must come during a specified day and time to learn more about Jesus and His church.

Brethren, may we not forget who we are: the church of Christ! We are not Habitat for Humanity, The Lion's Club, or another civic organization. Every congregational work should focus on souls by training the saved and teaching the lost. If we baptized 1–2 people per work, these conversions could add up to 10, 15, and 20 or more per year. Growth of churches of Christ in America is possible, but it will take a complete reboot of all congregational works with a focus on the God-ordained eternal purpose of the church—EVANGELISM! —*Rob L. Whitacre*







Helpful Resources

Check out these websites for study materials!



housetohouse.com



evangelism.house.tohouse.com



365.polishingthepulpit.com

The Campaign Trail

The campaign trail is designed to share news about our travel experiences. We learn a lot from our sister congregations as we meet with their elders, eat in their homes, and talk with the members before and after each lesson. It is one of the greatest blessings of our work and one we would like to share with our readers. You may read about your congregation or about something we learned during our visit together.

I wish I could take some of you with our family as we travel around the country to train the saved to teach the lost. The energy level we are experiencing for personal evangelism and the desire for church growth has never been higher. People are driving from hours and hours away, spending nights in hotels, and going out of their way to take advantage of this training seminar/campaign. My favorite class is our final session with the elders and men who lead the represented congregations. This is where we make a plan to turn the local congregation into a personal evangelism machine. It is a surreal feeling when you sit in a room with those who occupy the highest position in the land and speak about the most important institution on earth.

Our first stop this year was with the Arnold church of Christ. These brethren were full of zeal and ready for good works. The elders were extremely receptive to our ten-point plan for church growth. When we left, I could not wait to hear about how they were implementing and benefiting from the campaign. As part of our work together, I reach out to congregations to receive a one, three, six, nine, and twelve-month report. Brother Shannon of the Arnold church of Christ recently sent me their first progress report. Below is their report of the steps they have put in place.

1. "We are building a rack with all the evangelism materials, including Bibles and study materials, to put in a prominent place in the foyer. We will purchase these materials and keep the rack full. We will also have a contact list sign-up sheet available on the rack. Until the rack is in place, we have these materials on a table in the foyer.

2. "We provide cards and stamps and ask our members to stay after Sunday PM services and meet in the fellowship hall to send cards to the sick and those who visit Arnold (local evangelism contacts). We have asked members to stay at least once or twice a month, and the teens will meet and send cards once per month. That way our local evangelism contacts will get cards every week. We will also have cards and copies of the contact list available in the foyer for those who cannot stay or would prefer to grab the list on the way out of services.

3. "Preachers and elders encourage evangelism involvement from the pulpit—sending cards, finding prospects for contacts lists, doing Bible studies . . . 'every Christian can be involved.'

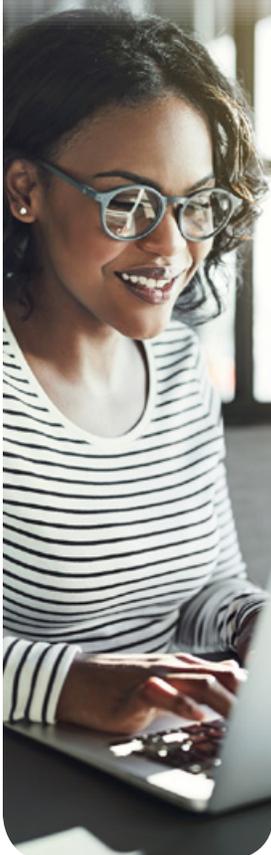
4. "Once every so often (once a quarter or twice a year), we plan to go door-to-door to hand out House to House, letting people know who we are (connect House to House with the church) and offering to study the Bible with folks.

5. "Dan Curry is in charge of focusing on evangelism to keep it going. Dan has the time, energy, and passion for evangelism. He will maintain the contacts list and be the main contact for those who are studying and coming up with contacts. Also, Dan will make sure that the contacts list is always available and that there are plenty of cards and stamps available on Sunday evenings and in the foyer. Dan will get volunteers to help with these various efforts.

6. "We kicked this off yesterday (2/24/2019) by sharing our plans with the congregation—emphasizing the purpose and that we want all members to participate in whatever way they can. Last night was our first-time meeting in the fellowship hall to send out cards.

7. "There are several Bible studies going on, and this weekend (2/23/19), we had our first baptism as a result from one of the Bible studies."

I am looking forward to providing additional updates about the work of the House to House School of Evangelism and our travels. If you would like to know more or schedule a seminar or campaign, please go to our website at evangelism.house.tohouse.com for more information.



We love to fellowship with Christians and discuss evangelism! Arnold was so excited to get to work.

Soul Saving Strategies



EVANGELISM WORKSHOPS GET.HOUSEDHOUSE.COM

We are constantly hearing of the good work that is being done as more people are listening to lessons on evangelism and are getting to work using Back to the Bible and other methods to get people into the Word of God.

Samuel Bain reports, "My wife and I listened to your personal evangelism lessons from PTP. We listened to the flash drive copies. We brought some Back to the Bible booklets, and we had a three-week study with our friend and his girlfriend. Tonight we went through the third booklet, and she was baptized into Christ.

"The baptistry at our building is leaking and without water at the moment, so we went at around 10 P.M. to a local congregation and baptized her there. The water was cold (it was 52 degrees in the building when we got there), and I worried that it might be a hinderance to her, but she came on into the water shivering and we baptized her.

"Afterwards, we looked over the in Christ/out of Christ chart in the handbook, and my friend was restored. Thank you for the work you do, and for being an encouragement for us to study with others. Thank you for pointing us towards the booklets. They are so simple to understand.

Everyone in the study thought so. We appreciate you and the work you do. In Christian love, The Bains."



Bri after her baptism. Adjusting the heat a little late in the background.

Keep an eye out for upcoming workshops in your area, and make plans to attend the evangelism training sessions at Polishing the Pulpit this year.

Go to evangelism.housetohouse.com to learn more.



Upcoming Workshops

March

March 22–23, Personal Evangelism Seminar at Heber Springs, AR

March 24–28, Evangelistic Meeting at Hope Church of Christ in Hope, AR

April

April 5–7, Personal Evangelism Seminar at Ironaton Church of Christ, Ironaton, AL

April 28–May 2, Personal Evangelism Campaign at Bremen Church of Christ, GA

Join us if there is one in your area, and bring your friends. The more congregations we can get involved, the faster the church will grow.

ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUIZZES

January

Cities, Deserts, and Rivers: 1. Cedar trees (1 Kings 5:6); 2. City of David, which is Zion (1 Kings 8:1); 3. Blood (Exodus 7:17); 4. Seven years (Genesis 41:30); 5. Goshen (Genesis 45:10); 6. Egypt (Hosea 7:16); 7. 20 (1 Kings 9:11); 8. Shemer (1 Kings 16:24); 9. Commander, army of Hazor (1 Samuel 12:9); 10. Egypt (Hosea 9:3); 11. Ravens (1 Kings 17:1–6); 12. 38 years (Deuteronomy 2:14); 13. John the baptizer (Luke 3:2–4); 14. Jordan River (Matthew 3:13); 15. Jordan River (Joshua

3:13); 16. Pishon, Gihon, Hiddekel, and Euphrates (Genesis 2:10–14); 17. Seven (2 Kings 5:9–14); 18. Moses (Exodus 2:1–10); 19. Euphrates (Revelation 16:12); 20. Amos (Amos 5:24).

February

Kings of Chaos: 1. Solomon (1 Kings 9:15–28); 2. Rehoboam (1 Kings 12:1–19); 3. Jeroboam (1 Kings 12:20; 14:1–20); 4. Asa (2 Chronicles 16:12); 5. Elah, son of Baasha (1 Kings 16:8–10); 6. Ahab (1 Kings 16:30–31); 7. Ahaziah (1 Kings 22:51–52); 8. Jehoram (2 Kings 3:1–3);

9. Mesha—King of Moab (2 Kings 3:4, 21–27); 10. Joash (2 Chronicles 24:1, 22); 11. Jehoahaz (2 Kings 13:1–2); 12. Amaziah (2 Chronicles 25:1–4); 13. Uzziah (2 Chronicles 26:19–23); 14. Ahaz (2 Chronicles 28:1–3); 15. Zechariah (2 Kings 15:8–10); 16. Menahem (2 Kings 15:14–22)

March

How Much Do You Know about King David? 1. Keeper of the sheep (1 Samuel 16:11); 2. Samuel (1 Samuel 16:13); 3. Armor

Bearer and Musician (1 Samuel 16:21–23); 4. Saul (1 Samuel 18:11, 19:1–2); 5. Goliath (1 Samuel 17:4, 50); 6. 33 years (2 Samuel 5:5); 7. The Jebusites (2 Samuel 5:6); 8. Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11:2–3); 9. Put Uriah in the front of the hottest battle and retreat, so he would be killed (2 Samuel 11:15); 10. Hebron (2 Samuel 5:3); 11. 30 years old (2 Samuel 5:4); 12. Saul's daughter Michal (1 Samuel 18:27); 13. Absalom (2 Samuel 15:10); 14. Nabal (1 Samuel 25:5–38); 15. Saul (1 Samuel 19:1, 10,

11); 16. Nathan (2 Samuel 12:1–7); 17. The child born to him and Bathsheba died (2 Samuel 12:9–14); 18. Amasa (2 Samuel 17:25); 19. He was hung when his hair got caught in a tree and Joab thrust three spears through his heart and his armor bearers struck and killed him (2 Samuel 18:9–15); 20. Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9:6–7)



House to House Heart to Heart

EXPANDING YOUR REACH www.housetohouse.com



House to House Heart to Heart

WWW.HOUSEDHOUSE.COM | HTH@HOUSEDHOUSE.COM | 877.338.3397 (TOLL-FREE)



Reach your community twelve times a year. Go to get.housetohouse.com to learn more and signup.housetohouse.com to get set up now.

Be a part of something big. If your congregation is already mailing House to House/Heart to Heart, consider these suggestions:

- Increase circulation to more routes.
- Order extra copies to distribute to friends, neighbors, at restaurants, hospitals, and for door-knocking.
- Get involved in the new movers project.
- If you do not already have a website, or if your website is out-of-date, use our free website service.

If your congregation is not mailing House to House/Heart to Heart, consider becoming a part of this exciting work. Here's why:

- Mailings include customized panels that display your congregation's name, service times, and contact information.
- We send free tracts and other materials to use in your outreach efforts.
- We offer you a free website.
- We have an optional New Movers program to generate hot contacts for your congregation's evangelism program.



Jacksonville church of Christ

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