

Richmond Hill Baptist Church
January 17, 2010
Making New Friends in the New Year

Prelude

Call to Worship: *Savior Like A Shepherd, I Surrender All*

Welcome: Welcome to Richmond Hill Baptist Church. If you are a guest please take a Connect Card and fill it out and drop it in the offering plate when it comes by. Let's greet one another!

Sing: *Majestic, Great is Your Glory, Shout to the Lord, Hallelujah What a Savior*

Children's Corner: (Alyssa)

Offering: 1. Bulletin: Help Haiti
2. GMAC Benefit Concert, Centre Street Church, Wednesday, 7 pm

Offertory: *Follow You* (Tim)

Sermon: **Making New Friends in the New Year**

Making Friends: The Band: The Ballad of Jed Clampett
DVD: Beverly Hillbillies! (Jed Clampett & Granny)

Greatest Commandment: Matthew 22:37-38

*'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'*³⁸ *This is the first and greatest commandment.*³⁹ *And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'*

The greatest commandment teaches us that God is relational and he created us to be relational.

8 Friendship Factors

#1 A Person with No Friends

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: ¹⁰If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!

Psalms 88:18

You have taken my companions and loved ones from me; the darkness is my closest friend.

#2 A Dependable Friend

Job 6:14-21: Dry Oasis or a Mirage

“A despairing man should have the devotion of his friends, even though he forsakes the fear of the Almighty. ¹⁵ But my brothers are as undependable as intermittent streams, as the streams that overflow ¹⁶ when darkened by thawing ice and swollen with melting snow, ¹⁷ but that cease to flow in the dry season, and in the heat vanish from their channels. ¹⁸ Caravans turn aside from their routes; they go up into the wasteland and perish. ¹⁹ The caravans of Tema look for water, the traveling merchants of Sheba look in hope. ²⁰ They are distressed, because they had been confident; they arrive there, only to be disappointed. ²¹ Now you too have proved to be of no help; you see something dreadful and are afraid.

Psalm 18:24:

A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Proverbs 17:17:

A friend loves at all times...

To have a friend you need to be a friend!

#3 A New Friend (1 Chronicles 27:33)

1 Samuel 20:17:

And Jonathan had David reaffirm his oath out of love for him, because he loved him as he loved himself.

1 Samuel 23:16:

And Saul's son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God. (true encouragement)

David's Lament for Saul and Jonathan:

- They were swifter than eagles and stronger than lions
- How the mighty have fallen in battle!
- I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother; you were very dear to me.

2 Samuel 17:14: (see also 15:37 & 16:16)

Absalom and all the men of Israel said, “The advice of Hushai the Arkite is better than that of Ahithophel.” For the LORD had determined to frustrate the good advice of Ahithophel in order to bring disaster on Absalom.

1 Chronicles 27:33:

Ahithophel was the king's counselor. Hushai the Arkite was the king's friend.

#4 A Group of Godly Friends

John 13:34-35

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Acts 2:42

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

RHBC Purpose: Connecting with God, His Word, His Church, His Mission....
Connecting with God’s Church (His People)

Every believer should be a part of a church and a small group of believers.

Romans 12:9-13:

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

#5 A Friend of Sinners

Matthew 11:19

The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and “sinners.” ’ But wisdom is proved right by her actions.”

Get to know some lost people!

#6 A Ministry Team of Friends

Romans 16:5

Greet also the church that meets at their house. Greet my dear friend Epenetus, who was the first convert to Christ in the province of Asia.

Romans 16:9

Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and my dear friend Stachys.

Romans 16:12

Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, those women who work hard in the Lord. Greet my dear friend Persis, another woman who has worked very hard in the Lord.

Scott Reuter and I went to Cambrian Heights yesterday to work on their new sanctuary. They will need a few folks on Jan 23rd and lots on February 6th.

7 A Great Friend

Best friends: Dolls: Natalie & Kaitlyn (Lauryn S. & Mikayla R.)

John 15:9-15

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

Discipleship: is making know the Father's business.
Sacrifice is the key!

#8 A Friend of God

James 2:23

And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend.

Exodus 33:11

The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend.

Without God you will never reach your greatest potential as a friend.

1 John 4:19: *We love because he first loved us.*

Commitment:

1. Ask God to give you a good friend.
2. Ask God to help you be a better friend.
3. Ask God to help you be more devoted to my church and small group.
4. Ask God to help you develop friendships with lost people.
5. Ask God to help you be a part of ministry team.
6. Ask God to place someone in your life that you can disciple.
7. Ask God to help be a better friend with Him.

Response: I Will Rise

Announcements:

Postlude: Revelation Song

Making New Friends in the New Year

Eight Friendship Factors

- #1 A Person with No Friends (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, Psalm 88:18)
- #2 A Dependable Friend (Job 6:14-21, Psalm 18:24, Proverbs 17:17)
- #3 A New Friend (1 Samuel 20:17, 1 Samuel 23:16, 1 Chronicles 27:33)
- #4 A Group of Godly Friends (John 13:34-35, Acts 2:42-47, Romans 12:9-13)
- #5 A Friend of Sinners (Matthew 11:19)
- #6 A Ministry Team of Friends (Romans 16:5, 9, 12)
- #7 A Great Friend (John 15:9-15)
- #8 A Friend of God (James 2:23, Exodus 33:11)

Ballad Of Jed Clampett

Come and listen to a story 'bout a man named Jed
Poor mountaineer barely kept his family fed
Then one day he was shooting for some food,
And up through the ground come a bubbling crude
(Oil that is, black gold, Texas tea)

Well the first thing you know old Jed's a millionaire
Kin folk said Jed move away from there
Said California is the place you oughta be
So they loaded up the truck and they moved to Beverly
(Hills that is, swimming pools, movie stars)

Well now it's time to say goodbye to Jed and all his kin
They would like to thank you folks for kindly dropping in
You're all invited back again to this locality
To have a heaping helping of their hospitality
(Beverly Hillbillies, that's what they call 'em now,
Nice folks Y'all come back now, ya hear?)