

Fanning it into Flame
Sunday, October 2, 2011
Founder's Day Street Fair

Church was never meant to be defined as a gathering of people on a Sunday morning rehearsing their beliefs. While that is certainly an important part of it, it was never intended to be the goal. Jesus told us in **Matthew 28:18b-20 (NIV)** *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* They were not commanded to STAY! The world needs to hear the message and SEE the message. Jesus also told us *"as the Father has sent Me, I also send you."* (**John 20:21b**) A great Bible teacher in my early days hit on this subject by saying, "You have to get the salt out of the saltshaker and sprinkle it among the meat and potatoes." That's what we were doing today on Main Street as the Village of Brewster celebrated Founder's Day. It was not a day off from church. It was being the church.

When Jesus said that he was building his church and the gates of Hell would not prevail against it, he was not talking about a building. He was talking about that company of people who would be filled with his Spirit and represent him to a lost and dying world. Love would define them. Compassion would flow from them. Mercy and Grace would adorn them. The Apostle Paul wrote in his second letter to the Corinthians that he was not peddling the Word for profit as some were doing and the Corinthian believers were the only recommendation he needed. **2 Corinthians 3:2-3 (NIV)** *"You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. ³ You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts."*

As we manned our information table and gave away home made cookies, cotton candy, and a bike to the local boy who won the drawing I know that people were influenced by who we are. Our people set up the community stage and ran the sound in a professional manner all day, and even participated with our Praise and Worship Band doing a set and praying a blessing over the village and all the people. It was awesome! We may not have preached a three point message, but we were the message. The neighbors we met, the politicians who came by, and the old friends we caught up with all experienced the Christ who lives in us. While our tee shirts did have our church name, it was Jesus within that was on display. Only eternity will reveal what truly took place today.

We must maintain this philosophy of ministry, not just once a year at Founder's Day, but everyday. Everywhere we go we must carry with us a sense of divine destiny. The Apostle Paul continued in this letter: **2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (NIV)** *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."*

The definition of ambassador is: a diplomatic official of the highest rank, sent by one sovereign or state to another as its resident representative. We are Christ's resident representatives and carry with us the same authority he demonstrated. Wherever our feet touch, Almighty God is right there with us and wants to work through us. You don't have to "feel his presence" for him to be there with you. He lives within us. We are a new creation in Christ. Do you go through your daily routines with that mindset? Do you see yourself as his ambassador? Do you speak on his behalf? **1 Peter 3:15b (NIV)** *"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."* The way we do this is to walk in fellowship and relationship with the Lord all day. Let his love fill you. You may not remember chapter and verse, but you will certainly be able to tell people that God is real and wants to work in their lives. Be deliberate about this. Keep your eyes peeled for the divine appointments God has ordained for you this week. We have an even greater "Founder" that we always need to honor.