

simply letting the fish know they were nice, land-loving neighbors and how loving and kind they were was enough.

After one stirring meeting on “The Necessity for Fishing,” one young fellow left the meeting and went fishing. The next day he reported he had caught two outstanding fish. He was honored for his excellent catch and scheduled to visit all the big meetings possible to tell how he did it. So he quit his fishing in order to have time to tell about the experience to the other fishermen. He was also placed on the Fishermen’s General Board as a person having considerable experience.

Now it’s true that many of the fishermen sacrificed and put up with all kinds of difficulties. Some lived near the water and bore the smell of dead fish every day. They received the ridicule of some who made fun of their fishermen’s clubs and the fact that they claimed to be fishermen yet never fished. They wondered about those who felt it was of little use to attend the weekly meetings to talk about fishing. After all, were they not following the Master who said, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men?”

Imagine how hurt some were when one day a person suggested that those who don’t catch fish were really not fishermen, no matter how much they claimed to be. Yet it did sound correct. Is a person a fisherman if year after year he never catches a fish? Is one following if he isn’t fishing?

What am I doing with the Gospel? What are you doing with the Gospel?

### **What is Your Hot Button?**

At our board retreat, Chris Caldwell mentioned to us about finding our “hot button” area of ministry. That is the thing you enjoy doing the most in your service to God. It is something that when you are finished doing it, you are left more spiritually energized than when you began it. For me, it is working with the youth. I still do several other things in my service to God, and I enjoy all of these things to varying degrees. However, none of these things energize me like teaching youth. By ministering where my passion lies, I can be of better service to God in other areas.

We all are willing to serve God and our congregation in whatever way is needed. We wear many hats and do many things out of our love for God. Sometimes we do this until we are so drained we simply can’t go on anymore. I have been there myself and find that it is a miserable place to be. But God does not want any of us to stay there. I don’t believe God wanted us to get there in the first place.

Wherever you are right now, up or down, enthusiastic or empty, whatever it is that brings you joy in the service to God, I would encourage you to prayerfully seek out what pushes your “hot button.”

In Christ,

Curtis A. Healton  
Board Chair