

## Generation Z Can Be Converted by Rob Whitacre

Several months ago, I received a phone call from Brandon Glover. Brandon is an evangelist who has brought dozens to Christ using *Back to the Bible*. During a recent insurance inspection of his business, he met a young man named Tanner. As they talked, Brandon brought up Jesus, and Tanner showed interest. He was from the Jacksonville area, and Brandon told him about a friend who loved to study the Bible. Tanner was interested. Later that day, Brandon called me to pass along his contact information, and I immediately sent him a text. This is called a Contact! Contacts come from a variety of places. A referral from another Christian is a warm contact. It would have been easy for me to dismiss this contact because I am too busy, or because someone else might be better for this contact, but making excuses would be antithetical to the spirit of Christ. Tanner returned my text, and we started a conversation. This conversation turned into a meal invitation at a local restaurant. We both brought our spouses, leading to an evening of food and conversation. It was a new experience for Nicole and me. Tanner and Kaitlin were the age of our children and recently married, so we felt old and wondered if we could relate. We looked for common interests. During our conversation, I mentioned that I like to fly and invited them for a scenic flight. Our relationship deepened as we continued eating together. This is called Prospecting! The transition to a Bible study is not hard if you have prospected the contact. I mentioned how we met during a meal due to our mutual love for the Bible and Christianity. I asked, "Would you like to know more about the Bible?" The answer was immediate, so we set Wednesday evenings for a meal and study. We met at the Glencoe church of Christ and began with the religious survey. Tanner and Kaitlin had limited exposure to the Baptist church growing up. They both indicated they were saved in their teen years before baptism but admitted they were not active members. *Back to the Bible* was going to be perfect for this study. We could quickly tell that Tanner was very analytical, and Kaitlin was attentive to each verse. They began reading the Bible daily and came with a notepad of questions. Although we usually do not answer questions (we do not want to chase rabbits-arguments/distractions), their questions were based on their Bible reading and easy to answer. The third study took them to the foot of the cross. Kaitlin teared up, and Tanner began to think about his baptism. They both concluded they were lost, and we took them at the same hour of the night and baptized them. We immediately enrolled them in our New Converts classes on Sunday and Wednesday. Before leaving the building, Brooks and Laura invited them to eat on Sunday. The congregation will surround them with love as they grow in their Christian walk. I have been told we must change to reach Generation "Z." I am not convinced. Every generation wants to be loved, and to know love. This is the heart of evangelism. We should not allow generational gaps to keep us from reaching out to the lost and bringing them to Christ. Generation "Z" contacts need prospecting and Bible study. We take all prospects where they are and study accordingly, just like Jesus!

Brushy church of Christ  
774 Hwy 48 South  
Centerville TN 37033



# The Brushy Beacon

## "Let God's Word Be Our Guide in 2025"

### January 19, 2025

#### Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:00
Sunday Morning Service	10:00
Sunday Evening Service	6:00
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00

#### The church of Christ at Brushy

Elders	Deacons
Ricky Atkinson	Paul Johnston Terry Banks
James Atkinson	Kevin Johnston Justin Atkinson
Tony Duncan	Caleb Truett

**Preacher:** Kevin Johnston

#### Dead Rock or a Living Stone by Dan Jenkins

There is a story, the truthfulness of it cannot be confirmed, that illustrates a truth of God taught in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. The story tells of that time when Solomon was building the temple. The Bible says that there were 80,000 laborers in the mountains who quarried the stones for the temple ([1 Kings 5:15](#)), and these were then moved to Jerusalem. The stones are described as being large (one foundation stone has been discovered that was 38' 9" long and weighed 100 tons), costly and hewn to perfection ([1 Kings 5:17](#)).

The most remarkable aspect of the building of this magnificent building was what happened when stones arrived to be put in place. "And the temple...was built with stone finished at the quarry, so that no hammer or chisel or any iron tool was heard in the temple while it was being built" ([1 Kings 6:7](#)).

It is at this point where the unconfirmed story enters. It is said that one stone arrived in Jerusalem, and they laid it aside not knowing where it was to be placed. In that type of building, the most important stone was the one which brought the walls and the roof together—called the cornerstone. The story tells of how later they could not find it, but eventually found the cornerstone they had rejected and laid aside.

Whether that part of the story is true or not has little to do with the application made about the place of Jesus in the building of God's new temple, the church. Peter describes Jesus in this way: "A living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious" ([1 Pet. 2:9](#)). The Old Testament background of this is then quoted by Peter. Isaiah prophesied, "Behold I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame...the stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone" ([1 Pet. 2:5](#); [Isa. 28:16](#)). The apostle then added to this the words of David, "The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone" ([Psa. 118:22](#)).

What does all of this have to do with us in our day. Look again at the words of Peter. He calls Jesus the *living* stone, rejected by men. The Jews saw Him as dead, but such was far from the truth. Jesus is alive and the chief cornerstone of the church. But there is more, for Peter describes us. "You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" ([1 Pet. 2:5](#)). Every time the world looks down on you, remember how God honored the rejected Chief Cornerstone. We may be rejected by men, but God sees us as the stones who make up His holy temple.

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**TEAM 3 – Compassion Card Group** You will need to sign cards TODAY. Please go to the Ladies Classroom following the morning worship service. It will not take you long. Please see Justin & Emily if you have questions. *James, Kim, Tate Annis Patricia Bowman Tammy & CJ Glenda Keith and Nancy Maelynn David and Crystal Rodney, Tessa, Carter, and Cade*

**Ladies Day Planning Meeting** We will meet on today, January 19, following the morning worship service in the Ladies Classroom. Our Ladies Day is on March 1, with Laura Jenkins. Please be praying, preparing, and inviting the ladies in your life to attend!

**Seed Packets Needed** We are needing various seed packets for the goodie bags for Ladies Day. It can be any garden, flower, or your favorite type of seeds. Please give the seed packets to Jeannine Grimes.

**Youth Nerf & Game Night** We will meet at the Annex at 6 P.M. on Friday, January 24. We will have pizza, a devo, and then play games. All nerf participants must wear safety glasses. There is a menu and Please invite your friends and bring your nerf guns and games!

\*There is a menu and a sign up sheet if you plan to attend the Youth Game Night. If you would like to contribute to the cost of the pizza, please give the money to Pamela or Amy.

**Compassion Cards** Keep turning in names of people you know who are celebrating a milestone or dealing with a difficult time. We are using the cards as a way to show love, encouragement, support, and compassion!

**Remember to...** pray for our Evangelism Efforts, the names on your bookmarks, and those who are receiving the compassion cards. We continue to get great feedback and appreciation for the cards and know that God will add the increase for these efforts.

**A Happy Birthday to...** Jackson Mayberry...January 8 Savannah Porter...January 18  
Paige Truett...January 19 Maelynn Campbell...January 19  
Annis Womack...January 20 Ricky Atkinson...January 22

### *Romans 15:13*

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

### Upcoming Events

- \*Today, January 19 ~ Ladies Day Planning Meeting Following Morning Worship
- \*Friday, January 24 ~ Youth Fun Night at the Annex at 6 P.M.

### For the Record

Sunday Morning Bible Class	34	Sunday Morning Worship	49
Sunday Evening Worship	30	Wednesday Bible Study	36
Contribution \$2011			

## Pray for Those Sick Among Us...

- Carl Bryant** is in the Life Care Center in Centerville.
- Lois Gilbert** will go to the doctor on Monday.
- Randy Dotson** nephew of Anita Quillen, is doing about the same.
- Shanto, Tiffany, & Inara Ferdus** family of Keith & Nancy, are dealing with Covid. Please pray for Nancy as she has traveled to be with them.
- Pamela, Cecily, and Dustin** are at home sick with the flu.

### Continuing Prayer Requests

- Dealing with Cancer - Glen Herrington, Shannon Irwin, Rodney Tune, Tina Kvapil
- Special Requests - Chris Allen, Miranda Smith, Judy Goodman

### Pray for Those in Nursing Homes

Community Living Center in Murfreesboro... Fred Bowman

### Ongoing Prayer Reminders

- All in the military and civil workers overseas and their families right.
- All those Preaching and teaching the Good News all over the world.
- Our Government Leaders – Local, State, and National (1 Timothy 2:1-2).
- Our Elders and Deacons who oversee, care for, serve, and feed us spiritually. (Hebrews 13:7)

### **"People Pleasers"** By Dan C. Bailey

There are two types of people pleasers in the world. There are those who are simply kind, considerate, and compassionate. They bring joy and pleasure to those about them. These are the righteous who do their best not to offend others. However, the righteous do not sacrifice the truth simply to "not" offend someone. Any time we teach the truth firmly and boldly, someone will be offended. They are offended because they love the world more than God and more than righteousness.

We read in Matthew 15:12-14: "Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying? But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch." Jesus was the best preacher to ever live. He was the only perfect preacher! Yet he offended the scribes and Pharisees. I suggest unto you that they loved their traditions more than they loved God.

This brings us to the group that seeks to please men more than God. Paul said, "For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ" (Galatians 1:10). Paul preached the gospel in order to **persuade** men, rather than to **please** men. He affirmed that one cannot be a servant of Christ by simply trying to please people instead of just teaching the truth. In the same epistle he said, "Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?" (Galatians 4:16). Elders, as well as preachers, and all Christians, must seek to honor and please God first and foremost. May God help us all to love the truth enough to preach, teach, and practice it without the desire to be **"people pleasers!"**