

WHY DO I NEED GO TO CHURCH?

With few adaptations from; Stephen A. Bly

Intent of these jottings

- *To realize that we are a family.*
- *That a family that does meet pray and eat together will break apart.*
- *That Christian life is a common celebration of fellowship.*
- *That Religion is not a purely individual choice, but a social reality.*

HOW TO USE THESE JOTTINGS

1. **Ask the participants the following question:**

Why can't I worship God in the comfort of my home? Why can't I just enjoy being alone out in the woods – just God and I and the pine trees? Why can't I meet God at the water's edge, wiggling my toes in the warm sand?

Why do I really need a Church?

2. **Next, ask them to give as many reasons as they can think of.** (*As far as possible let them put their relies in writing*)
3. **Share their answers with the group and discuss them.**
4. **Next, read this text below and comment on it.**

I need church because it's **a family reunion.** Jesus said, "Who is my mother, and my brothers and sisters? Those who do will of my Father, they are mother, my brothers and my sisters. (Mark 3-33, 35).

We are a family – rejoicing with one another, crying with one another, helping each other. We need each other's support.

I need church because **it's a classroom.** I'm preparing for a mission; I'm on an extended course of study. For the rest of my life I'm enrolled in a course of Christian discipleship.

I need church because **it's a refuge.** The sanctuary is a place to get away from the busyness of the world. It's a mini-retreat. It's a place to focus my thoughts on things above and to worship.

I need church because **it's a billboard.** As my neighbors see me go to that building week after week, they can tell what is important in my life. If all my brothers and sisters are there too, the neighbors may wonder what is going on that attracts people so regularly.

I need church because **it's a meal.** This meal gives me strength and grace for my life.

I need go to church because **it's a memorial service.** Imagine that I had been in a war and one of my buddies threw himself on an enemy hand grenade to save me – and he died for m, and suppose I learned there was to be a memorial service for him in my hometown. Would I not be

there? Of course I would! Since Jesus died for me, it's to honor Him that I attend His memorial service

I need church because **it's a victory celebration**. Jesus left an empty tomb. We can celebrate His resurrection together. At least one day a week should be set aside for remembering Jesus' triumph over death and Satan.

I need church because **it's a time to spend with my Father**. I'm a child of God. As my Father, He's not cold and aloof. He delights in spending time with me, and I want to be with Him. God wants to reveal His plans to me. And I want to get in on the details, to co-operate with Him. He's not only my Father, He's our Father.

I need go to church because I want **to meet Jesus**. Christ is present there. Jesus said that when two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there amongst them. (Matthew 18:20).

That's why I need church!

5. Close down the event in prayer and song.