

Shadrach Youth Ministry

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“The Israelites couldn’t endure the *Changes...the Complications...*
and *Responsibilities...* of hearing the voice of God.
We want somebody else to bear the burdens.
We want somebody else to cry out to God.
We want somebody else to hear from God for us.
There are a lot of hurts this way.
You need a burden.” —Edgar Martin

**“If we don’t know
we’re really weak,
we’ll make the
choice of Self all
the time.”**

—Loran W. Helm

Book Report on **God’s Smuggler** by Brother Andrew

Excitement, adventure, thrilling escapes from the enemy, daring people, miraculous close calls...all this in a true story?

God has wonderful plans for each of us; Christianity shouldn’t be boring. God didn’t create the desire for adventure in us for no reason – God has an adventure planned for everyone – each person has his own tailor-designed adventure.

God’s adventure for Brother Andrew was an amazing one; it was amazing because Bro. Andrew was willing to do whatever God willed. It wouldn’t have been nearly as much fun if Bro. Andrew refused to do something risky – that was when it was most exciting reading – when you didn’t know how God was going to do it!

God provided everything Bro. Andrew needed; if a miracle was required, there was a beautiful one. Bro. Andrew never needed to worry, nor borrow, nor steal, nor covet – he had all he needed and more! He trusted God to provide all expenses before he would go on his trip; if he didn’t have the money beforehand, he would take it that God didn’t want him to go there. He trusted and waited expectantly!

I was inspired. When in God’s will, trust God completely and expect miracles frequently! —Chrissy Bailey

Kingdom Leaders: The older Shadrachers received an extra newsletter—an occasional “Leadership Training” letter.

**If you have been receiving the Shadrach newsletter for over a year,
please send in your \$5 renewal fee. Thanks!**

The Holy Ghost High....

Most of us in Shadrach have been privileged to be in some meetings where the Holy Spirit has moved in a great way. The presence of God has been very thick, and with each obedience, we can feel it stronger. As we make things right within our own hearts, we feel an exhilarating joy and cleanness within. Love for all people we know begins to flow out of us without the slightest effort. Then we begin to feel the burden to pray for those who are lost and we can tell that our petition is hitting the throne. It is great, isn’t it? It is a place that a group of believers who are meeting together should be at quite often.

My question is: Are you at that place because of the obedience in your heart the last few weeks/months/years? Or are you at this spiritual high place only because *others* have obeyed and you’re riding on the shirrtails of their obedience?

The true test is: What happened when you went home from this meeting?

Did the comments by your mother or sibling strike you as carnal and insensitive, making you angry and short with them? Does your service at your home church all of sudden seem dry, and you start feeling criticism rise up in your heart toward all those hypocrites in your church? Do you all of a sudden start working out in your mind how you can have spiritual highs all the time? Maybe you can move here or travel further to a different church... If so, then you were probably riding on another’s obedient walk when the wonderful meeting took place. When your family and your church refuses to carry you on this ‘high’, then all of a sudden, we feel like we have been dropped like a ton of bricks a few stories down.

You see, when we have developed our own obedient walk, there isn’t a sudden ‘crash’ upon the first contact with reality. We will know that things aren’t perfect where we live and worship, but we will be able to continue to keep our hearts and the victory. The great spiritual experiences that we have had will help strengthen us in our walk – instead of rising our hopes to a high level and then crashing us afterwards. Each visit with God will just draw us closer and closer to Him. When we go home, we continue to read, pray, witness and obey every leading, and we just keep getting more and more intimate with Jesus. When we have an obedient life, our walk will actually start to stimulate these wonderful spiritual experiences for others to enjoy. We won’t just be recipients – we’ll be activators! This is a very humbling and rewarding place to be.

Can you see how these Holy Ghost ‘highs’ can potentially be harmful to us if we aren’t disciplining ourselves in our walk thereafter? They can become a dependency to us. They can make us feel like we are more spiritual than we

**“Complaining and
fault-finding character-
ize Pharisees, not dis-
ciples. Should not **en-
couragement** and **ap-
preciation** distinguish
the sanctified?”** – Alice

really are – our flesh likes that...and wants more and more of it. It's like a fix that fades away, and we start grasping for another one, or we decide it doesn't work for us and walk away from everything.

As we all walk more obediently to Him, we will begin to live more and more in the supernatural. The power and love of God in us will draw others to Christ. It is a great place to be! Remember that these experiences are only good as you continue to obey! —Karin

Assignments Due on October 10th: One book report, one servanthood report, and one wit-

Why the Name Shadrach? Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and Daniel did not desire to defile themselves with the king's meat and wine. Instead, they chose to eat fruits and vegetables. It is also interesting to note that Daniel appealed to the proper authority and didn't blatantly tell the prince of the eunuchs that he wouldn't consume the king's food. Likewise, a ministry desiring to encourage others to forsake the world, follow only the Lord, and to remain under authority, would do well to have Shadrach for a name. But that's not all.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego's awesome love and devotion to the Lord was incredible. Standing alone among their peers and the highest officials of the nation, these young men possessed great courage. They didn't flinch in the face of the king's wrath, and were willing to pay the ultimate price for their beliefs. Shadrach is a fitting name for any ministry desiring to see young people forsake all for Christ and be willing to lay down their lives spiritually and/or physically for the Lord. —Evangeline Rupp

Shadrach Retreat '05 Report by Michael Dietz: I am thankful for how God answered specific prayers for specific individuals, and I truly am grateful for the privilege of working behind the curtain. A play cannot go on without someone to open and close the curtain, without someone to work the spotlights, without someone to cue and help dress the main characters. It sounds like a pretty worldly comparison, but it is true. I was thankful for the time some of us young men spent in prayer together. For the class on nutrition, and the one on finance in particular. I am particularly excited to see what will happen this next year as we heed the things that we have heard. God also impressed on my heart the SERIOUSNESS of the Kingdom of God. How serious it is to be in a church service, and people take it so flippantly and lightly by just SHOWING up to put in their time for the week. How serious it is to pray every day, and read the word! Words cannot express what is on my heart, but that it is a serious thing to call yourself a Christian, and most people think nothing of it these days! "Oh," they say, "me too!" and then go about living their own lives and making their own decisions. AHHHH!!!!!!! It is truly in my heart, by God's grace only, that I really want to learn more of Him, and live like Him. I want Jesus to rule over me and my life, because I have seen evidence in my own life and in the lives of others, 'church people' in particular, that it does not turn out well when we live and do what we want! I don't know anything! But I was sure thankful for the exercise that I had to do. My legs are cramped and my faith is stronger! Praise the Lord. God be with you all, 'till we meet again.

Shadrach Retreat '05 Report by Nichole Smith: God really helped me in lots of little things said throughout the week.

~The first night before the message, Carla said to **be willing to be without friends; be willing to be the friend.**

~In the first message (by Pastor Robert), there were many things that helped me... I have a problem of not believing that God is able to take care of everything. I "know" it, but I don't always act like I know it. God's going to help me with this area by His grace. Here are some other areas that really hit my heart:

*YOU + CHRIST IN YOU = YOU'LL MAKE IT!

*Work at it to make it easy.

*Less striving of the flesh = multiplied output in the Spirit.

*Freedom is in Christ.

*He has not yet lost a battle.

Pastor Robert also said (on 6/21) that you know how much you love by how much you suffer for people who don't appreciate it. That is really good and convicting!!

~Karin's class: I'm thankful that **the yoke is easy**. A lot of what was shared was review for me but it was really good to hear again. One thing that stuck out to me was the 3rd point: Submission is the only way to be released from the bondage of my self-life. **The only true right I have is to hand my self-life to death.**

I'm also thankful for the insight that Esther gave on how the yoke is made for each individual – Jesus makes our yoke.

I'm thankful for the praise times that we had in the mornings. It really helped me to praise for specific things for longer periods of time. As I would do so, the objects would "unfold" just like Pastor Robert said they would. It was great!

~Jenn's class: We do all our work for Jesus...we don't need recognition. If you are not sacrificing, you are not loving. **We don't need to have a revelation to do "stuff" at home!!!**

~Pastor Michael's message: **I'm thankful for the cross that gives life and freedom.** I'm thankful for the reiteration that God has the best for me in mind. He's not out there to make me miserable. I'm also very thankful for the talk on finances... I was totally confused... I still am to a lesser degree about some things, but I know what I need to do in the meanwhile...\$!

~Brook's talk helped me a lot... **God works through everybody, not just "gifted"/"great men of God"** – people that we read and hear about. Another thing that helped me is her exhortation of keeping a short account to God.

~Esther's class: One thing that helped me was: **Practice merriment!!!!** (which I put up on my door to remind myself).

Well, these are some of the things that God helped me with over the Shadrach week...and continues to change me. Praise the Lord for all the answered prayers and the deliverances that were made. I am looking forward to what God has in store for this coming year!

A Word from Pastor Schultze... The Super Vitamin

Many health food fans look for that one vitamin pill that does it all, instead of having to take ten or twenty pills a day. Although such a pill can be created, it would likely be the size of a large walnut, or a tennis ball—impossible to swallow.

Is there such a super-pill for the Christian that incorporates all the doctrines and instructions and do's and don'ts of Jesus, Peter, Paul, James, Jude and John? Can steps to sanctification be reduced from five to one? Can walking with God, the Spirit-filled life, all be reduced to one comprehensive formula? Can the complexity of Christian living be made so simple that even an intellectual fool can comprehend it?

The Bible gives a resounding "yes" to these questions. Praise God, praise God, praise God! Isaiah spoke of the day when such simplicity would become reality. That day is now!

"And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein" (Is. 35:8).

"...though fools, shall not err therein!" If fools can walk it, if the intellectually depraved can walk in it—so can you! And the answer to all of this is to have a passionate love for Jesus!

Before the early church had the New Testament, she became fascinated with the Song of Solomon. This book is the account of the passionate love of a Shunammite woman (the believer) for a king (Christ). She becomes his all and he becomes her all in all. She cannot stand to be without him. When he is gone, she searches for him everywhere: in the garden, looking through the lattice, in the vineyard, and so on. His life is her life. She likes everything about him from head to toe: his hair, his cheeks, his voice, etc. She thinks, dreams, and talks about him all the time. He is her life, and she can't get enough of him. Passionate love!

Dear youth, when we are in such a relationship with Jesus, we walk with God, we hear His voice, prayers becomes perpetual communion with God, a spirit of worship and adoration becomes our disposition, we will not touch anything that is unclean or even has the appearance of being unclean. We dwell with Christ in heavenly places, and all we do is to please Him. And I shall say this also: in such a love relationship, there is always room for forgiveness and a new beginning.

Simplify your Christian life—fall passionately in love with Jesus. You will be satisfied, and the fruits of your life will be eternal. *“And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love”* (1 Cor. 13:13).