



# ACORN

## Seeds for Growth

### *Looking back, looking forward!*

Happy New Year! 2012 is here. In some ways, 2011 was a blur. I was re-viewing the ACORN article I wrote January of last year. You may recall that I set some goals for the year that were to help me in growing closer to the Lord and others around me. I never imagined the year would be topped off by an incredible trip to Cameroon.

I finished the One Year Chronological Bible and enjoyed it thoroughly. Although the editors speculate how the events and writings intertwine, it is fascinating reading to see how, for example, several of the prophets in the Old Testament were writing around the same time and giving the same message to God’s people. Also, as the Apostle Paul was traveling on his missionary journeys, he took the time to write to the people he had previously visited. Good stuff. I have started reading the Chronological Bible again with the same goal as last year, to learn more about how God talks to us and the lessons I can learn from Scripture.

I also talked about the Prayer Guides provided last year. Those were a big help in challenging me to pray more consistently and with more focus. Thanks Terri Johnson and others for making that happen. We will be providing those again this year. January’s will be available this week in your Worship Program.

I have established several personal and ministry goals for 2012 that will help me mentally and physically. However, in a book I am currently reading, I am being challenged to raise the bar in goal setting. In II Peter 1, it says”...**make every effort** to respond to God’s promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patience endurance with godliness and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with **love for everyone**. The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (II Peter 1:5-8) This is quite a list! One translation says we are “*apply all diligence*” to respond to God’s promises. I like that. Look at this list with me. What area do you need to build up? How can you set a goal for 2012 in the area of, say, brotherly love and love for everyone or self-control? I will be adding these items to my list of goals for this year. Not sure yet how to measure accomplishment in some of the areas listed, but will be working on that in the coming weeks.



As you heard Sunday from Pastor Paul, we will be hearing a series of messages on “Expanding Our Territory Together” with a presentation from the elders on our goals for 2012 and 2013 on January 22. May we “apply all diligence” as a church family to pursue Christ Jesus in 2012 and affect our neighborhood and world for His kingdom!

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Director of Ministries

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The mission of  
Oakwood is to...

Transform ordinary people  
into fully devoted followers  
of Jesus Christ.

Oakwood is a member of  
the Evangelical Free  
Church of America.



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## New Message Series



Together we are looking into the future God has purposed for us with eyes of faith. I am praying these upcoming messages will stir our hearts to join together in hope, faith, and love. Pray earnestly and come with expectation that God will use you to be a part of this journey with us.

### **January 8**—What Our Faith Can Do!

Oakwood is beginning a new journey of faith together. Your life and our lives together may never be quite the same again. God's possibilities can become realities when we exercise faith in God. Our faith is our lives what the Tampa Electric Power Plant is to Hillsboro County; it is indispensable. In this message we'll learn what God says our faith in Him can do and what that faith looks like in our lives.

### **January 15**—Pure Ambition

### **January 22**—Reaching Our Dreams

### **January 29**—Vision Presentation

### **February 5**—Great Expectations

~ Pastor Paul

## Youversion makes 2012 daily Bible reading easy...

God's Word brings power, healing, direction,  
and freedom



Through the Bible in a year

Most people who have a great relationship with God read the Bible consistently. Spending time in Scripture each day gives you the opportunity to hear from Him in a unique way.

Following a reading plan helps you stay on track with your Bible reading goals. Click the link below and pick one (or several) and then fine tune it to match your schedule.

<http://www.youversion.com/about/reading-plans>

## Prayer 2012

Oakwood Community Church is extending its focus on prayer from the year 2011 into the New Year with the focus on prayer in conjunction with the new vision. As a result, we are continuing the prayer guides to expand in loving God.



For the month of January, we are taking time to get back to the basics of focusing on who God is and praying His names in order to honor and worship Him. Pick up your copy on Sunday.

## Opportunities to *Serve The Church & World*

### Blessing Others

Many of you know that we provide a ministry for single moms in the gray house. It is our *Naomi's Daughters* ministry that provides clothing to the moms as well as the children. The Oakwood family, along with others in the community, provides donations of clothing and money to keep this ministry moving forward.

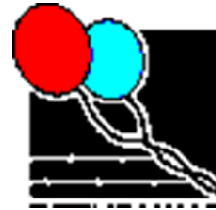
In the last week, I received an e-mail from Linda who is one of the ladies that so faithfully manages the ministry. In part, she mentioned two opportunities that came during the last part of December. Word of this ministry has spread to other churches. She wrote, "We had several families from two area churches that heard about us and called with families in need...we were able to help a woman right out of prison who had nothing but the clothes on her back...I also gave her a Sanctuary Bible that we have for the moms. Another family of 6 who had limited clothing who had called my church and the Pastor asked if we could help....and we did."

Currently, this ministry opens once a month, typically on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month, for any single mom in need. We are considering adding a small food pantry of non-perishables for the moms as well. Your continued donations of new or gently worn clothes are greatly appreciated. Donations can be left on the screened area in the back of the gray house. There are bins provided along with tax deductible forms. If you are aware of a single mom that could benefit from this ministry, please have them contact the church office. Please pray that we can continue to reach people in this ministry and show the hands and feet of the Lord to those who come through the door of the gray house.



### Angola Here We Come Again!

Many of you remember that we had a team of 5 men



### Returning HEARTS Celebration

attend the "Returning Hearts Celebration" last July at the Louisiana State Prison at Angola. We are going back again this year! The experience of worshipping with the inmates on Friday night was so humbling. Then being with the dads and kids on Saturday as they were able to just have fun

was so exciting to see. This year's event will be held on Saturday, May 19. We will be traveling to Louisiana on May 17 and returning to Tampa on Sunday, May 20. The greatest need is for Family Volunteers that will chaperone the dads and their kids for the day. As this event has grown, administrative help is also needed. There were many women volunteers who came to assist dads with daughters and others came to help with the check-in process as well as work the games. So, if there are any husband/wife teams that would like to go, it would be great for both of you to see how God is doing some significant things in what was once one of the toughest prisons in America. Last year, costs for the trip were around \$500 per person. We anticipate it being a bit more this year



with airfare increases. More specifics will be coming in the next few weeks. A signup sheet will be in the Information Center in the lobby. Please give prayerful consideration about this trip.

## Missions

### Encourage a Missionary

December Anniversary—Roy & Rita Pallatt—12/30 (belated)

January Birthday—1/18—Abbie Kluck

#### Did we really go to Africa??

For 10 days, Mary Ellen Kluck, LaVerne Cluff, Martha and I had the great privilege to go to Cameroon for the dedication of the New Testament in the Noon language. It is still hard to believe we were there. I thought we were going for the one big event but everyday held at least one big event and sometimes two or three. The adventure began when we met up with the rest of our team (17 total) in Brussels before flying on the Yaounde. Coming from North Carolina, Iowa, Florida and Washington state, this eclectic group got to know one another very quickly and thoroughly enjoyed blessing Dave and Cindy Lux, our missionary hosts in the village. Sharing the same experiences during the day and then having the opportunity to debrief and pray each night helped us focus on what God was saying to us during our visit and was certainly a highlight for me.

After spending several days in the capital getting oriented, we flew to the village in Lasson on Monday, Dec. 19. Cameroon is beautiful from the air! When we assembled from all our flights, we had the opportunity to meet the translation team that had worked for 15 years! Hearing their stories and dedication to the project was incredibly humbling. The first member of the team, Jonah, lives in a village about 6 miles away. As he did not have any transportation to the translation office, he walked everyday to and from his home. At the end of the year, Dave Lux did some quick calculations and determined that Jonah had walked 2800 miles in the year! What commitment!! Dave told me that the Lord impressed on him the need to get a bicycle for Jonah. After he wore out the bicycle, they were able to get him a motorcycle to save wear and tear on his body.

We met so many wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ. We also ate some interesting(?) foods. I have had my fill of Fou Fou and Njama Njama for quite some time! But one of the most significant things I will remember is the power of God's Word. Meeting men whose lives have been transformed and caused them to want to see the Bible in the language of their people so they could experience the same transformation was so humbling. We also saw the beginning stages of another translation project in Misaje, a village about 16 miles from where we were staying. I am already looking forward to going to the Misaje dedication in six years!

~Dave Dorsey



## Valentine's Celebration

Come celebrate with your sweetheart at our Annual Sweetheart Dinner on Saturday, February 11, 6:00 PM in PowerHouse. You'll enjoy a wonderful dinner and some fun interaction with other couples. Watch for more details coming soon.



### Blood Mobile

The Blood Mobile will be at Oakwood on Sunday, January 29 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. If you are at least 16 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, are in good health and haven't donated in the last eight weeks, you are eligible to donate.

### Blood Pressure checks

Blood pressure checks Sunday, January 8, in the kitchen following the Worship Service. Don't miss this important health screening.



## PowerHouse Schedule



**January 8**—Lesson 11: Jacobs Blessing (Regular Meeting)

**January 14 (Saturday evening)** - Winter Jam (contact Doug Cress if you want to attend 813-362-5297 or sign up this Sunday - cost is \$10)

**January 15**—Night Spiker Blacklight Volleyball (will go till 8:30 no school the next day) Invite your friends for this fun evening.

**January 22**—Lesson 12: Israel's Family Roots (Regular Meeting)

**January 29**—PowerHouse Band to lead Worship Sunday AM  
Lesson 13: Dealing with the Past (Regular Meeting)

**Upcoming Events**—Watch for more details  
Superbowl Party at the Conner's—Sunday Feb 4  
Annual Powerhouse Talent Show—Sunday Mar 4 (Get your act together)



## PH Food Bag Fundraisers

PowerHouse teens can raise money for summer mission/conference trips by participating in our monthly Food Bag Fundraisers on the third Sunday of each month. Our next Food Bag Prep fundraiser is **January 22**, right after the Worship Service.

Teens can raise extra funds by helping shop for the food and/or helping with delivery of the food bags to the medical clinics. Shopping for the next fundraiser will be Friday, December 16. Meet at the Save-A-Lot on Bearss Ave at 5:00 PM if you want to help. For more details contact Sandy Clarke at 931-0668.



## Drivers needed for Food Bag Ministry



Our PowerHouse students have a monthly fundraiser assembling food bags that are distributed to medical clinics in Tampa, Lakeland and Haines City. We are in need of people who can help with delivery of these food bags, especially to Lakeland and Haines City. The food bags are usually assembled on the third Sunday of each month, and need to be delivered on the Monday or Tuesday following assembly.

If you can help with delivery or would like more information, please contact Sandy Clarke at 813-931-0668.

# Kids Corner

## ★ Make a Noisemaker to Celebrate Special Days

### You will need:

- empty kitchen matchbox
- foil
- tape
- dried beans or rice
- unsharpened pencil
- 2 rubber bands
- stickers, glue and glitter (optional)

### How to make the noisemaker:

- Put beans or rice in the matchbox, so that it rattles when you shake it.
- Tape the box shut.
- Cover box with foil.
- Poke 2 small holes on opposite sides of the box near one end.
- Stick the pencil into one hole, through the box and out the other hole.
- Wrap rubber bands around the pencil on both sides of the box, so the pencil won't slip through the holes.
- If you want, you can decorate the box with stickers and glitter.

### How to use:

- Hold the pencil and move your wrist to spin the box.
- Make lots of happy noise to celebrate special days throughout the year.



## Special Times for the Israelites



*"This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it ..." Exodus 12:14*

The biblical calendar had many feasts and festivals. They were connected with the changing of the seasons or special events. Below are some of the special days observed by the Israelites.

Use the code to find the name of the special day and the month of the Jewish year in which they are celebrated.

### CODE:

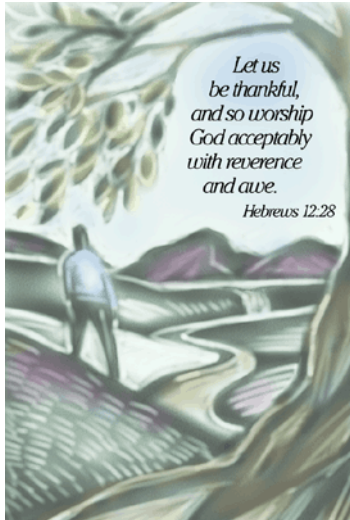
**A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z**  
**Z Y X W V U T S R Q P O N M L K J I H G F E D C B A**

Season	Holiday	Month
1. <b>End of Summer</b>	(New Year)	GRSHIR
2. <b>Fall</b>	(Day of Atonement)	GRSHIR
3. <b>Fall</b>	(Festival of Booths)	GRHSIR
4. <b>Winter</b>	(Festival of Rededication)	PRHOVE
5. <b>Winter</b>	(Festival of Lots)	ZWZI
6. <b>Spring</b>	(Feast of Unleavened Bread)	MRHZM
7. <b>Spring</b>	(Feast of Weeks/Pentecost)	HREZM

Answers: 1. Rosh Hashanah; Tishri; 2. Yom Kippur; Tishri; 3. Sukkot; Tishri; 4. Hanukkah; Kislev; 5. Purim; Adar; 6. Passover; Nisan; 7. Shavu'ot; Sivan



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**Our Staff**

- Lead Pastor - Dr. Paul B. Phair
- Director of Ministries - Dave Dorsey
- Director of Worship Arts - Andrew Reilly
- Coordinator of Youth Ministry - Dr. Paul B. Phair
- Coordinator of Children’s Ministry - Dave Dorsey
- Office Manager - Martha Dorsey
- Secretary - Mary-Lynn Reilly

**Office hours:**

Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**Worship:**

Sundays - 10:30 AM

**Calendar at a Glance**



- Jan 8—Blood Pressure checks following Worship Board Meeting
- Jan 14—PowerHouse to Winter Jam
- Jan 15—Compassion Offering  
PowerHouse Night Spiker Volleyball

- Jan 22—PowerHouse Food Bag Fundraiser
- Jan 29—Blood Mobile @ Oakwood  
PowerHouse teens lead Worship
- Jan 31—Election Day—be sure to vote

The Oakwood ACORN is a bi-weekly E-newsletter from Oakwood Community Church, published to keep our church family and friends informed about events and people at Oakwood. Articles may be submitted via e-mail to [Office@oakwoodfl.org](mailto:Office@oakwoodfl.org). Article deadlines and publication schedule is:

Deadline	Publication date	News for dates including...
Jan 13	Jan 18	Jan 21—Feb 3
Jan 27	Feb 1	Feb 4—Feb 17

Do you know someone at Oakwood with a noteworthy achievement? Send the information to [Office@OakwoodFL.org](mailto:Office@OakwoodFL.org) and we'll include it in a future article.

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