



the Oakwood
ACORN
A Chronicle Of our News

Celebrate and Goals

2011! I can't believe we are into a new year again! It seems last year went by in a flash. Did I accomplish all that God intended? Did I grow in my relationship with Jesus? Did I affect anyone for kingdom purpose? These are some of the questions I think about as I continue to learn in my role at Oakwood. I did purpose to read more in 2010 and was able to take in a number of good books. I also connected to some good blogs of people I appreciate and respect. Many men who sit in a local church "second chair" position commit many thoughts to a blog from which I have gained much insight. I also enjoy reading the blogs of some friends connected to Oakwood. One of the reminders I received was concerning resolutions versus goals (thanks Jesse Petersen). I began to think about what I would like to accomplish this year and what I believe the Lord would have me concentrate on during 2011.

These are challenging times in churches everywhere. But God is still good and great! The apostle Paul talks in Philippians 4 about knowing what it feels like to have a full stomach and what it is like to be hungry. But he starts the chapter by telling all the "rejoice in the Lord always" and then he adds emphasis by saying "again, I say rejoice!" In my devotional this week, the theme is "Love God! Enjoy Life!" There are excerpts from a book entitled "Pure Pleasure" by Gary Thomas. The writer is encouraging us to not only increase in our zeal for mission outreach and greater discipline in our walk with God, but also to celebrate God's goodness and faithfulness. In I Kings 8, it says the God's people "celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles before the LORD our God for seven days and seven more days, fourteen days in all....They blessed the king and then went home, joyful and glad in the heart for all the good things the LORD had done." They partied for fourteen days! How awesome is that! One of my goals is to celebrate the Lord's goodness and faithfulness every day. I may not be able to party like those folks but I can give a "whoop" about something God has done for me or is doing for and through me right now. May we be a family that knows how to celebrate God's goodness no matter what we see around us.



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Oakwood Community Church
11209 Casey Rd
Tampa FL 33618-5306
813.969.2303
www.oakwoodfl.org

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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Seeds of Growth - continued

I am also setting goals in reading scripture and praying. I have heard of some who are working on reading through the Bible in a year. This is a great goal to set. We have a One Year Chronological Bible that I have set as a goal to complete. It is taking me about 15-20 minutes a day to complete the reading and I have enjoyed the reading these first few days on the new year. It is not too late to get started if you want to join me.

As you have seen, we have an Oakwood prayer guide for January. This was put together by our very own Terri Johnson and Mary-Lynn Reilly. This is a great help for focused prayer for all the ministry teams at Oakwood. They are working on a guide for February as well. I would encourage you to join me as we thank God for the people of Oakwood and ask Him to do great things through all of our ministries and missions.

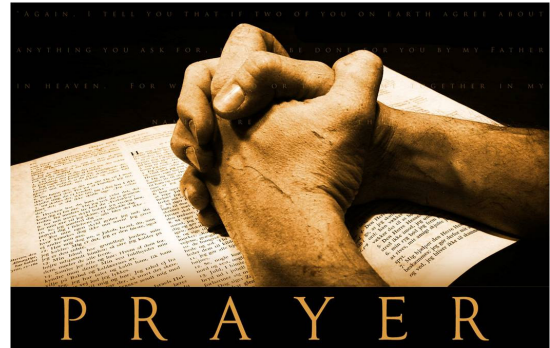
One other area of concentration for me is my marriage. As many of you know, I am married to an incredible woman. Ephesians 5 tells me that my marriage is a direct testimony to the world of Christ's relationship with the church. With the rapid passing of time, I sometimes forget to give the attention to this testimony. I am looking forward to The Art of Marriage seminar on Feb. 11-12 as a time of sharpening the focus in my marriage. I encourage all of you, especially you men, to give consideration to this opportunity.

So, as I am sure most of the resolutions are shot, make some goals to grow in Christ in 2011. I am looking forward to the party we can have in 2011 because of God's blessing.

Dave Dorsey
Director of Ministries



Prayer in 2011



We invite you to pray throughout the month of January for the ministries and families of Oakwood Community Church. Prayer calendars are available at the Information Center in the church lobby, on our website www.Oakwoodfl.org/Ministries/Prayer-Ministry, or look for us on Facebook.

We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 1: 2-3

New Message Series



As we launch into a New Year – it's a great time to adjust our attitude so we can raise our altitude! How we approach life's opportunities and challenges has a direct bearing on the outcome of our lives. God, through His Scriptures, offers us valuable life principles on how to live a life of positive faith in partnership with Him. Invite a friend to learn right alongside of you. My first message in this series is entitled *It's All About Attitude* ~ Pastor Paul

WIN Update - Rejoicing in Cameroon!!

Report from Pete & Mary Ellen Kluck

Dear wonderful friends,

Even as I type this [written 12/18], there is **great joy** in Cameroon today! (And I think great joy in heaven, too!)

Just in time for Christmas, great crowds of Denya people in southwestern Cameroon are holding God's Word in THEIR language for the very first time. Imagine the Christmas story jumping to life, as Denyas read the wonderful story of Christ's birth in the language that speaks to their heart! The Good News becoming so much more real, so meaningful in their heart language. There's a huge celebration going on in "Denya-land" right now – music and laughter and dancing and speeches and feasting. And you've had a part in it all. Come along and imagine the scene.....

Packed into vehicles like this one, the newly printed New Testaments arrived in the village in boxes of 48. (Note the board holding up the tailgate!) Rough, pot-holed dirt roads. No UPS or FedEx in this neck of the woods.

Once the New Testaments are unpacked, pastors and other leaders gather around to pray and dedicate them to the Lord and His work among the Denya.

There are lots of smiles, applause and wonderful anticipation as the Bibles are presented to the large crowds who have gathered, some travelling by foot for several days to attend this huge event. Traditional dancing and music will continue for hours, along with many speeches.

And then (this is the part we love the most) Denya people will pick up a copy, open the cover, and maybe for the first time in their lives, start reading God's Word in the language they understand best, the language that touches their heart. God's truth coming alive before their eyes! Pastors will have deeper understanding of the Bible to pass on to their churches. Families can read together. Bible studies can flourish. God's love for the Denya can penetrate more deeply into their culture, their hearts, their eternal futures.

Men, women, boys and girls, all excited to see what God's Word looks like, sounds like, feels like, in their language.

BUT WAIT – THERE'S STILL MORE GOOD NEWS!!!

Today (Saturday the 18th) over 11,000 Denya people are celebrating the New Testament

in their language. TOMORROW another New Testament is being dedicated in Cameroon, for the Kenyang people!! Another 65,000 people with the wonderful Good News in their own tongue. More celebrations, more excitement, more open doors for the gospel.

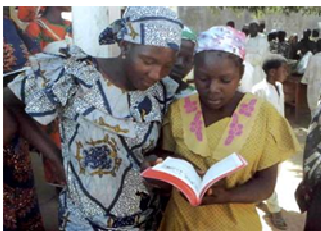
BUT WAIT – THERE'S EVEN MORE GOOD NEWS!!!

Yes, three days later (Wednesday) yet another people group will receive their just-translated New Testament – the 13,000 Mbuko in the dry, dusty far north of Cameroon. The scenery, clothes, songs, and food will be different from the Denya and Kenyang, but the same joy will be on the Mbuko faces as they, too, celebrate the long-awaited arrival of God's Word in their mother tongue.

THREE languages, three people groups, three huge celebrations. One eternal, loving God who wants all men to be saved and come to the Eternal Celebration in heaven. One redemption story, now touching hearts as it never has before.

And here's where you come into the picture. Your loving and encouraging support of us and our ministry with Wycliffe for these past 21 years has helped make all this possible. During our time in Cameroon, and even now as we serve central Africa, we were part of the Bible translation team that worked in these three languages (and many dozens more!). Together, all the pieces came together – dedicated Wycliffe translators, local nationals committed to the work, pastors and church leaders, government and school officials – and YOU! Praying, giving, encouraging, you played a part. Years of fruitful partnership, now being celebrated across Cameroon. Join us in rejoicing in what God has done, and know that many thanks are being given this week in three African locations, in three languages, for your faithful part in this wonderful work. The Denya, Kenyang and Mbuko people all say, "THANK YOU!"

We add our deepest thanks to you for partnering with us, for standing beside us all these years, and for the privilege of working together with you for His glory among the nations. We're going to press on in our work for the Bibleless peoples of the world – thanks for being part of our team!



Rejoicing in Cameroon - continued

(Oh, by the way, the Bakossi and Noni New Testaments are being typeset now, and will be printed and dedicated in 2011. Plus more NTs in other countries – God is at work, and you are a key part!)

With much love and appreciation for you all,
Pete and Mary Ellen

Isa 40:8 *The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of our God stands forever.*



What's available on our website?

- ◇ Ministry and staff information
- ◇ past Sunday messages
- ◇ membership information
- ◇ newsletters
- ◇ registration information for our upcoming Marriage

www.oakwoodfl.org



Oakwood has a number of excellent books for all ages on many topics available in our library for you to check out. Be sure to stop by and see what's available. The library is located in the Education Center – the first room on your right. Instructions for checking out books are on a clipboard just inside the door.

Note of Appreciation

Hey Oakwood family,

Linda and I were overwhelmed with the love that you showed to us [December 12]. Your kind words have encouraged us. Thank you so much for letting us serve here for the past 9 years. I know God will continue his work in your lives. I pray God blesses as you continue to walk in the ways of Jesus.

*All for Jesus,
Mike Richards*



Parents meeting January 9

All parents of PowerHouse teens are invited to meet with Pastor Paul this Sunday, January 9, from 7:00 - 7:45 PM in the Church Office lobby.

Super Bowl Party

Sunday, February 6, PowerHouse teens will have a Super Bowl Party. Watch for more details.

PowerHouse Training

Disciplemaking is Relationships

When you boil it all down, what's the simplest understanding of a Jesus-like approach to disciplemaking?

The *Disciplemaking Is Relationships* training is an invitation for you to explore being a disciple... who makes disciples... who makes more disciples. It's a fresh, simple, and profound look at what it means to follow Jesus together.

This training helps you and your team wrestle the question: ***What does 1st century Jesus-like disciplemaking look like in the 21st century Western world?***

On January 15 we will work through a 4-hour seminar on how to make disciples. Shane Stacey, the Director of Reach Students with the EFCA is coming to lead the training. This is intentionally planned for our student leaders who lead small groups to disciple students. The cost of \$15 includes a training manual. Much of the cost is a gift from the EFCA National Office.





The Art of Marriage - presented by FamilyLife Coming to Oakwood February 11-12, 2011

The Art of Marriage brings together some of the most respected and influential pastors and experts on marriage and family all in one setting. It also brings a fresh approach to a video event by weaving together some of the following elements to help couples fully experience God's design for marriage:

- engaging stories
- real-life testimonies
- man-on-the-street interviews
- humorous vignettes

The Art of Marriage consists of six video sessions and an accompanying manual that provides couples with projects to help apply the principles taught during each session. The manual is also designed for couples to use after the event by offering articles, date night ideas, and useful tips for continuing to strengthen their marriage.



Topics Covered

Session 1: love happens (purpose of marriage)

- God designed marriage and has a great plan in mind.
- The primary purpose of marriage is to reflect God's glory to a watching world.
- It is important to receive your mate as God's perfect gift for you.

Session 2: love fades (drift to isolation)

- Couples naturally drift toward isolation.
- Our differences and weaknesses push us apart.
- Sin has affected every marriage.
- The gospel brings healing and reconciliation
- Couples must learn to walk by the power of the Holy Spirit in marriage.

Session 3: love dances (roles)

- God designed different responsibilities for men and women in marriage.
- Though their responsibilities are different, men and women are still equal in value.

- God calls men to sacrificially love and lead their wives.
- God calls women to respect and support their husbands.

Session 4: love interrupted (communication)

- Conflict is common to all marriages.
- The goal is not to be conflict-free but to learn to handle conflict correctly when it occurs.
- Healthy conflict resolution occurs when couples are willing to seek and grant forgiveness.

Session 5: love sizzles (romance and sex)

- God created sex and has a wonderful design in mind.
- A satisfying sex life is the result of a satisfying marriage relationship.
- The ultimate purpose of sex is to bring pleasure and glory to God.

Session 6: love always (legacy)

- To leave a godly legacy, we must think about the impact of our lives on future generations.
- Our hope for leaving a lasting legacy is through the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Leaving a godly legacy requires putting a stake in the ground.

The cost is \$40 per couple if registered before February 4. After February 4, registration is \$50 per couple. Registration includes two seminar manuals, snacks and continental breakfast on Saturday.

Register today at the Oakwood website - www.oakwoodfl.org.

Seminar Schedule:

Friday

7:00 - 9:30 PM - Session 1 & 2

Saturday

8:30 AM - Continental Breakfast

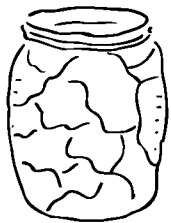
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM - Sessions 3 & 4

12:00 - 1:45 PM - Lunch Break

1:45 - 4:00 PM - Sessions 5 & 6

Kids Corner

Make a Stained-Glass Candle



You will need:

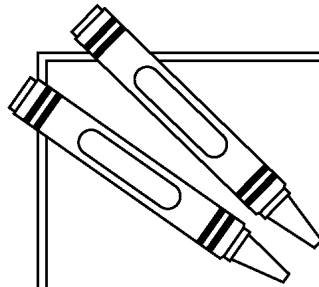
- an empty glass jar
- colored tissue paper
- white glue
- paint brush
- votive candle



How to make it:

- Cut the tissue into small pieces.
- Paint the jar with glue.
- Arrange the pieces on the jar on the wet glue. Do not leave any empty spaces.
- Paint over the tissue with more glue. Let dry.

Place candle inside.



Just for KIDS

Worship and Celebrate

In our many different denominations and congregations, we worship in many different ways. Although we may worship differently, we believe in the same God! We go to one God in worship and celebration!

Use the code to find words and phrases of things that God's people do in worship.

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B	🕯️	G	🕯️	L	🕯️	Q	🕯️	V	🕯️		
C	🕯️	H	🕯️	M	🕯️	R	🕯️	W	🕯️		
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E	🕯️	J	🕯️	O	🕯️	T	🕯️	Y	🕯️		

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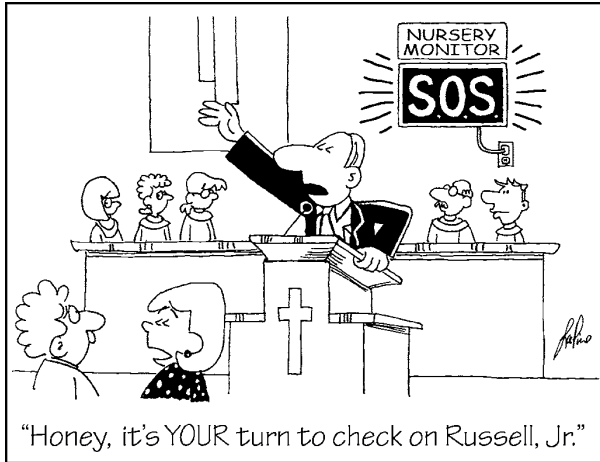
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1. Praise, 2. Pray, 3. Light Your Hands, 4. Play Music, 5. Give Offerings, 6. Sit Quietly, 7. Communion, 8. Lift Your Hands, 9. Read Scriptures, 10. Sing, 11. Say "Amen"



Oakwood Community Church
 11209 Casey Rd
 Tampa FL 33618-5306
 813.969.2303
 www.oakwoodfl.org



Our Staff

- Lead Pastor - Dr. Paul B. Phair
- Director of Ministries - Dave Dorsey
- Director of Worship Arts - Chris Lehmann
- 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:

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

Calendar at a Glance



- Jan 8 - **TreeHouse Teacher Training - HAS BEEN CANCELLED**
- Jan 9 - Board Meeting
 - Parents of Youth meet w/Paul Phair
- Jan 10 - MISCOM Meeting

- Jan 15 - PowerHouse Disciple Making Training
- Jan 16 - Compassion Offering
 - Child Dedication
- Jan 22 - Community Group Leading Training

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. Article deadlines and publication schedule is:

Deadline	Publication date	News for dates including...
Jan 14	Jan 19	Jan 22 - Feb 4
Jan 28	Feb 2	Feb 5 - Feb 18

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

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