



ACORN

Seeds For Growth

Random Thoughts

This has been a very interesting and challenging week! Last Thursday, I had the privilege of hearing Jerry Bridges speak briefly on the importance of learning to be a servant in order to be a leader. Mr. Bridges has traveled the world with the Navigators and has written a number of best sellers that have challenged millions of Christ followers all over the globe. We have been blessed to have Mr. Bridges speak at Oakwood in times past. Last Thursday morning, he gave a devotional from John 13 with the illustration of Jesus washing the disciples' feet. The key verse in the passage is verse 15. "I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you." Mr. Bridges gave some examples of this verse as he has seen play out in his life. He reminded us that others will remember more what we do and how we respond than what we say.

Thursday afternoon, Martha and I flew to New Orleans and headed up to Angola Prison for a Returning Hearts Celebration on Saturday. This is a event where a number of inmates in the prison have earned the right to spend the day with their kids in a carnival type atmosphere. That occurred on Saturday and was a great day of fun for the kids and dads. There were also venues around the grounds where the Gospel was shared in very creative ways. Many of the kids and some of the dads are not yet Christ followers although all have heard the Good News from other inmates and the chaplains at Angola.

On Friday, we spent all day in the prison compound getting some orientation for the Saturday event and touring the prison grounds. That afternoon, we witnessed a graduation of 65 men from the Malachi Dads program. This is a year-long program for select inmates that encourages them to stay involved in their kids' lives. The inmates engage in intensive Bible study and accountability through small group participation. One of the inmates, George, who participated in one of the first Malachi Dads, gave a devotional and charge to the 65 men in the class. His devo was from John 12:24 and he entitled his devotion "Die, Man, Die." "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat *falls* into the earth and *dies*, it remains alone; but if it *dies*, it bears much fruit."



George said he was speaking to the Malachi Dads but he was also challenging the 550+ volunteers in the chapel as well. He spoke of the need to not only fall but to die as well. He pointed that many fall down but are not really dead (to themselves); only playing possum. They look dead to the pastor and deacons and others in the church but aren't really dead to themselves and the desires of the heart. So, how do we know when we are dead?

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.



Inside this issue:

Picnic w/Candlewood	2
QCC Updates	2-4
Serve The World	4
Prison Ministry Report	5
Baptism	6
PowerHouse News	7
Marriage Matters	8
Kids Corner	9
Calendar at a Glance	10

Memorial Day Weekend Picnic

CHURCH PICNIC A tradition was started last year with our daughter church, Candlewood Community Church, hosting a combined picnic on Memorial Day weekend. This year Oakwood is hosting the event here on our property following Worship this Sunday, May 26.

We are making this a “Shorts Sunday” – everyone come to church in your patriotic picnic attire and plan to stay after the Worship Service for food, fun and fellowship.

We will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, and drinks. **We ask that those with the last name beginning in A-N to bring a picnic type side dish. Those with the last name beginning in O-Z, please bring a dessert.** Donations would be appreciated to help offset the costs. Also, please bring a lawn chair.

We will have a Bounce House for the kids and other games will be set up for everyone to enjoy.

Please help us plan appropriately by letting us know if you will be attending. You can RSVP by emailing the office at office@oakwoodfl.org or calling the office at 813-969-2303 with the number attending **by noon on Friday, May 24.**



We will begin serving lunch at 12:30 PM.



The Church Office will be closed on Monday, May 27, in honor of Memorial Day - commemorating the men and women who have given their lives in service to our country.



Worship Schedule Change

As we have done in the past, from June 9—September 1, we will have only one hour on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM—no education classes for Youth or Adults at 9:15 AM. There will be nursery care for children birth—23 months old and a full Tree-House Ministry for children two years old—5th Graders during this service.

Be sure to mark your calendar so you don't miss this change.

Voting Results

We are pleased to announce that John Schneider was approved by the members to join the Elder Team. John will begin serving effective July 1.



Move Up Sunday

Move Up Sunday is June 9 for all children of the TreeHouse. What is *Move Up Sunday*? All children will move up to the school grade that they will be in this August. This allows them to develop relationships with children that they will be worshipping with through High School.

Graduating 5th Graders will be recognized during the Worship Services on June 10. They are welcome to join us in TreeHouse and PowerHouse throughout the summer.



Nursery help needed

We are looking for folks who love the youngest attendees of Oakwood. If you are interested in helping with this ministry on Sunday mornings, please contact Lilliam Vera or call the Church Office.



TreeHouse Volunteers needed

We have a number of TreeHouse volunteers who give of their time every week to minister to our wonderful children. We like to give this team of workers a break for the summer. Will you give us a hand and teach for a week, a month, or the summer? Please contact Dave Dorsey at 813-969-2303 or dave@oakwoodfl.org if you are interested in volunteering your time.



Blood Pressure checks

Blood pressure checks Sunday, June 2, 2013 in the kitchen following the Worship Service. Don't miss this important health screening.

Seeds For Growth—*continued*

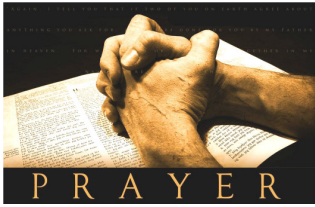
Pastor Paul gave me a quote that he heard from someone else that I think is good. You are a servant when you have the heart of servant when you are being treated as a servant. When you and I can still love and serve when our pride takes a hit, we are taking some small steps toward the transformation mentioned in Romans 12. There have been many opportunities for this in my life this week and I am sure you have experienced the same thing.

Ray Ross is one of the OCC folks who has been to Angola. After that experience, Ray heard God tell him to serve some more at Polk Correctional through Kairos Ministries. His recent time there is chronicled in another article in this issue of the *ACORN* (see Page 5). Thanks, Ray, for serving those men with the love of Christ!

That's all I'm saying today

Dave Dorsey
Director of Ministries

Prayer Guide



Oakwood Community Church is fueling the **love ~ grow ~ serve** vision with prayer in 2013. Our continued focus on prayer is leading us to include two memory verses along with the prayer guide. The **first memory verse is designed to pair with the prayer focus of the month**. The **second memory verse is the same verse the TreeHouse children are learning in their curriculum**. Our hope is to continue to grow in the context of the vision as family members as well as Oakwood family in the body of Christ, further seeking His will.

Your May Prayer Guide is available at the Information Center and on our website and the June Guide is coming soon.

Opportunities to *Serve The Church & World*

- ◆ **Pray for John and Kerry Schneider** as they help a number of the students participating in CRU at USF for various summer mission trips.
- ◆ Praise God for a safe and successful trip for **Gene Wilson** to parts of Asia in helping a large number of church planters.
- ◆ Be sure to check the Missionary bulletin board in the back of the Worship area for the most recent Prayer Letters from our missionaries. Feel free to take a copy of the letter and add them to your prayer list.

Naomi's Daughters is a ministry for single moms that provides clothing to the moms as well as the children. The Oakwood family, along with others in the community, provides donations of clothing, food and money to keep this ministry moving forward.



Your continued donations of **new or gently worn clothes and non-perishable foods** are greatly appreciated. Donations can be left on the screened area in the back of the gray house on our property. There are bins provided along with tax deductible forms. **Pantry needs:** cereal, canned goods, rice, pasta, paper goods, personal care items.

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 our doors.

Pictorial Directory

We are producing a Pictorial Directory for the Oakwood family. This is being done in-house, so you won't have any pressure to purchase pictures—we just want to have face recognition photos to be included.

We are trying to wrap up the process, so if you haven't had a chance to have your picture taken, but want to be included, please contact the Church Office and we will set up an appointment for you.



Kairos Prison Ministry

Here is how one of the Oakwood family is using his gifts and passion to serve.

I had the privilege recently of leading a team into Polk Correctional Institution April 18-21. It was for Kairos Prison Ministry International and our team led a four day program for 42 prisoners that are selected from a waiting list. These inmates can only participate once in a Kairos weekend. The Kairos weekend events are held twice each year.

We had a team of 29 men that went inside the prison facility. We also had an outside team of 10, comprised of men and women, at our base camp church in Lake Alfred. The outside team made all the meals for the four days and brought them each day to the prison. They also made breakfast for our team at 6 AM each day as we had to be at the prison by 7 AM.



We also bring in all the cookies that are donated from team members' churches. They are kept on the tables in the meeting rooms for the duration. These are long days in the prison but to see the transformation that occurs is such a blessing. The program is structured in such a way that it leads the inmates on a path through talks, meditations and worship time over the four days. We don't try to convert them or get them to pray "The Prayer" unless they request it. The group of 42 inmates is divided up into smaller groups for greater opportunity of sharing. We keep them together with their "family"- 6 inmates & 3 Kairos members at each table and we get to see them bonding together over the four days and opening up their personal lives.

This Kairos #35 was amazing. The inmates all participated from the beginning and it just took off from there. God really blessed this special time. The Holy Spirit was flowing! When we sang "How Great Is Our God" in the chapel with the inmates at full voice, it was heard it all over the compound.

On Friday, the second day, we asked them to start listing on a piece of paper the people they need to forgive in their lives. That evening out in the yard we stood around a bucket and each family of men came forward, prayed and threw their piece of paper into the bucket. We then lit the papers in the bucket on fire. This is a tremendous visual reminder of the need to truly forgive and let it go. On Saturday, we had a special time in the afternoon where we gave them a bag each with all the letters we had written to them prior to going in. Each of the Kairos team members wrote 42 letters, encouraging them so that each inmate received 29 letters in all from each from our team of 29 men.

The final day, Sunday, we finished with a graduation type service and the inmates are asked to come up to the microphone if they wish and tell how the program affected them. There were some wonderful testimonies about how they were transformed over the four days, some to rededicate their lives to Christ, others that found Jesus as their Savior. There were plenty of tears to go around! It makes all the long hours inside the facility an incredible blessing to see God working in the lives of the inmates.



We had eight weekly team training meetings prior to going into Polk Correctional. In our final team meeting we washed each other's feet in a commissioning ceremony led by one of our team clergy as an act of servant hood. We are indeed servants of God, doing what we are called to do in the prison.

It doesn't get any better than that!

Ray Ross

Beach Baptism

We had a wonderful time on Sunday, May 12, at the Church Beach Fun Day and Baptism with four individuals being baptized.



Pastor Paul with Emma Castleman,
Sam Piazza, Maritza Torres
and Gabi Torres





PowerHouse Schedule

- May 26—Grad Party—*Minute To Win It!*
- June 2—Regular Evening Meeting
- June 9—Food Bag Ministry & BUMP Training
School's Out Party—Slip & Slide
- June 16—Extended Youth Group: Dodgeball—5:00—8:30
- June 23—Regular Evening Meeting

Grad Party

Grad Party

PowerHouse May 26

Minute To Win It!

Food Bag Ministry

Our PowerHouse students have a monthly fundraiser assembling food bags that are distributed to medical clinics in Tampa, Lakeland, Haines City and Winter Haven? These bags are distributed to indigent patients at the clinic to provide some basic food needs of the patients and their family.

PowerHouse teens can raise money for summer mission/conference trips by participating in our monthly Food Bag Ministry, typically on the second Sunday of each month. Our next Food Bag Prep day is **Sunday, June 9** 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, June 7. Meet at Aldi at Bearss & Florida Ave. at 5:00 PM (or contact Cam Whipple) if you want to help. For more details contact Cindy Giannone at (813) 969-4136.

Food Bag Delivery Drivers Needed

Our PowerHouse students have a monthly ministry assembling food bags that are distributed to medical clinics in Tampa, Lakeland, Haines City and Winter Haven.



We are in need of people who can help with delivery of these food bags, especially to Lakeland, Haines City, and Winter Haven. 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 Cindy Giannone at (813) 969-4136.





Tammy Darling is a freelance writer living in Three Springs, Pennsylvania.

Used with permission from todayschristian-woman.com.

One Another—Part 1

How 12 New Testament verses transformed our marriage

Tammy Darling

Despite premarital Christian counseling, my husband and I dove right into our marriage with the deep-seated, albeit hidden, belief that the other partner existed to make us deliriously happy. And we had a miserable first six years as I focused on all the things my husband wasn't doing to usher in the wedded bliss I expected. Little did I know he was doing the same.

After some desperately needed counseling from our pastor, who kindly didn't say, "I told you so," we finally understood what he tried to tell us *before* we got married! Turns out, God's plan for a husband and wife hasn't changed.

Having been married nearly 24 (mostly happy) years, I love to search the Bible to see how it applies to my marriage. Not long ago, I was studying the 12 "one another" verses in the New Testament. Applying them to my marriage has greatly benefited our relationship, drawing us closer to one another—and closer to God in the process.

As husband and wife, I learned that we are to be ...

Members of one another (see Romans 12:5). Paul used a unique human-body illustration to help us understand that we need one another to function effectively (see 1 Corinthians 12:12-27). No member of Christ's body is more important than another. Proper marriage fellowship works the same way and creates unity.

My husband and I are learning to recognize how we truly do complement one another. We spend more time appreciating one another's gifts and talents. I am a better person because of my husband.

Application:

- ◆ Tackle household projects together as a team.
- ◆ Spend time getting to know your spouse better (trust me, there's always more to learn!).

- ◆ Recognize your spouse's spiritual gifts.
- ◆ Every day, encourage one another to use spiritual gifts.

Devoted to one another (see Romans 12:10). Most families are devoted to one another—the family of God should be no different. This "family" concept that Paul talked about gives us a greater appreciation of what the church—and marriage—should be.

My husband regularly expresses his love for me, even in front of his boss. Recently his boss commented, "I can't believe people actually talk to their wives that way." I found the comment very sad, considering this person is married.

Application:

- ◆ Recognize your spouse as a fellow believer in Christ.
- ◆ Don't exclude the other from personal hobbies or interests.
- ◆ Look out for each other—put your spouse's interests ahead of your own.
- ◆ Be a loyal, faithful friend—let your spouse know, "I've got your back!"


Honor one another (see Romans 12:10). Shortly before his death, Jesus honored his disciples by washing their feet. This wasn't just a lesson in serving each other—it also had to do with honor. God *will* exalt husbands and wives who truly honor one another.

Application:

- ◆ Express sincere appreciation for your spouse—daily.
- ◆ Point out the strengths you see in one another.
- ◆ Compliment one another regularly.
- ◆ Celebrate your spouse's successes.

See Part 2 of this article in the next issue of the *ACORN*.

Kids Corner



Just for KIDS

A Miracle Dinner

*Matthew 14:15-21 is a Bible story about a special dinner.
Below is a poem about that story.*

Complete the poem by filling in the blanks with the correct pairs of words.

then	true	late	lunch	rest	began	faces	done
men	you	ate	bunch	quest	ran	spaces	ton

Jesus was tired and went to find _____.

So away from the crowd he started his _____.

It came to an end before it _____.

The crowd followed Jesus; they walked and they _____.

His boat pulled ashore and he looked at their _____.

five thousand men, plus families filled all open _____.

And so Jesus spoke and he taught until _____.

The disciples told him it was time they all _____.

Jesus said, "Yes, that is certainly _____,

and feeding this crowd is now up to _____."

Feeding five thousand! It could not be _____!

What would they do? They'd need a whole _____!

But then a young boy came and offered his _____.

five loaves and two fish to feed this big _____.

Jesus gave thanks and blessed it and _____.

it fed all the women, the children and _____!



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 - Andrew Reilly
 Coordinator of Youth Ministry - Dr. Paul B. Phair
 Coordinator of Children’s Ministry - Dave Dorsey
 Office Manager - Martha Dorsey
 Secretary—Melanie Hoglievina

Office hours:

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

Worship:

Sundays - 10:30 AM

Our Elder Team

Edson Bustamante
 Pete Kluck
 Paul Phair
 Eric Pratt

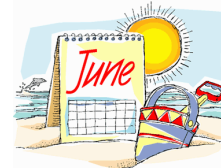
Our Deacon Team

Nan Duncan
 Matt Fucarino
 Bob Mendenhall
 Ray Ross
 Ben Smith
 Dave Young

Calendar at a Glance



May 26—Shorts Sunday
 Memorial weekend picnic w/Candlewood
 May 27—Memorial Day observed
 Church Office closed



June 2—Graduate Recognition
 Blood Pressure checks
 June 9—Summer Schedule begins
 TH Move Up Sunday
 PH Food Bag Ministry
 BUMP trip Parents meeting
 Board Meeting
 June 12—PowerHouse Leaders meeting

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...
May 31	June 5	June 8—June 21
June 14	June 19	June 22—July 5

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.

If you have received this email in error or want to be removed from our e-newsletter distribution list, please hit the reply button and put “unsubscribe” in the subject line and you will be removed immediately.