



# ACORN

## Seeds For Growth

### *Half Way Mark – Looking Back & Looking Ahead*

As some of you may remember, the first article I wrote this year talked about some of the goals I believe God is challenging me to work on. I am enjoying the reading through the One Year Chronological Bible although some of the stuff in the Old Testament is a bit daunting. It has provided some wonderful conversations with Pastor Paul and some other men here at Oakwood. I even think I got Fred Fairchild to study up on some of the issues in the Old Testament!

But the goals set that I aspired to in January and still today are the ones written in 2 Peter 1. Here is some of what I wrote in January.

*In 2 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! ..... Not sure yet how to measure accomplishment in some of the areas listed, but will be working on that in the coming weeks.*

As I look back on the first six months of the year, I am impressed how the Lord has provided many opportunities for growth in these areas. I thought this would be something that I had to plan for (like daily exercise and eating the right things at the right time). But in aspiring to “respond to God’s promises,” I have seen Him give me circumstances that directly impact my ability to grow in these areas. Sometimes, I don’t recognize them when they are right in front of me. I am learning the best way to grow in these areas is in the “messiness” of relationships and circumstances. Growing in these areas does not happen in a vacuum. I grow when I am being challenged. When I am being misunderstood or misunderstand someone else. When I speak before I think. When someone else speaks to me before it is well thought out. You can probably come up with some more. When these things happen to us, it is like the thunder storms and



rain showers we have been having lately. Not much fun and a little scary to some but can produce some green grass that is nice to look at. So, as I look ahead to the last 6 months of 2012, I am praying the Lord will help recognize as many of the circumstances that happen every day as opportunities to grow in moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, patient endurance, godliness, brotherly affection and *love for everyone*. Especially the last! How about you?

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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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## Challenge 2012

On June 30, 15 Middle and High School students along with three adults sponsors will head to New Orleans, LA, for the EFCA Challenge 2012 conference. Students attending are Nathanael Bustamante, Will Clarke, Hayden Conner, Mary Conner, Isaac Cress, Tyler Curtis, Melanie Hoglievina, Erika Huber, Abbie Kluck, Hunter O'Brien, Taylor Sas, Callie Schneider, Whitney Whipple, Wyatt Whipple and Jesse Wyatt. Adult sponsors are: Doug Cress, Katie Frost and Cam Whipple.

### 5 Ways to Be A Part of Challenge (Even if you are NOT attending!)

# CHALLENGE

everything is new • 2012

You may not be one of the over 230 churches attending the EFCA's National Student Conference called [Challenge](#) at the end of this month, but you can still be a part of what God is doing in a few different ways:

1. **Join the [Prayer Team](#):** Subscribe to the prayer team updates and be a part of coming before the throne with thousands of others for EFCA students.
2. **Get the Messages:** The 8 main session messages from Challenge will be posted here on this blog as well as on the [Challenge Vimeo Group Page](#). You may even want to use one of the messages this summer in your own group.
3. **Be a part of [Love Moves](#):** EFCA youth will be combining their efforts to help their peers in Haiti, not only by giving them a hand out, but also a hand-up. Get your group involved with Love Moves: Haiti. You can view and use the [Love Moves Haiti videos here](#).
4. **Participate in ReachNOLA:** It's been the vision of EFCA's TouchGlobal to plant churches in the wake of disaster. Now nearly 6 years after Katrina we're seeing 3 new churches emerging. Students who attend Challenge will be serving along side three different EFCA church plants that have launched in New Orleans (NOLA) this year. Students will also be giving financially to the church plants. Mobilize your group to contribute to the [ReachNOLA church plants here](#).
5. **Follow Challenge:** You can follow what's happening at Challenge on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

## Czech Team

### Team Tampa XIII

Oak-wood Community Church and Candlewood Community Church will be sending our 13<sup>th</sup> team to teach at the English Camp sponsored by Brno Evangelical Fellowship this summer in the Czech Republic. They leave on Monday, July 2 and return on Tuesday, July 17. They will split into two teams, teaching at two different camps.

Our team members are: La Verne Cluff, Shelley Cooke, Steve Cooke, Dean Johnson, Alisa Linares, Allison Malouf, John Saunders, Kelsey Weyand, Rob Weyand, and Marcia Whipple. There will also be three to four English-speaking interns from the Prague church to help at the camps.

Please be in prayer for this team as they finalize preparations for their ministry at the camps and for their time interacting with the campers. We will take up a special offering on July 1 to help with expenses for this ministry trip.

**Sign up this Sunday, June 24, to pray for our Challenge and Czech team members**



## New Office Staff

We are pleased to announce that Melanie Hoglievina has joined the office staff as our Secretary. Melanie will be working Tuesday and Wednesday mornings and Friday afternoon.

Welcome Melanie!



## 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](mailto:dave@oakwoodfl.org) if you are interested in volunteering your time.



## Blood Pressure checks

**Blood pressure checks** in the kitchen following the Worship Service on July 1. Don't miss this important health screening.



## Online Giving

Did you know that you can make financial contributions to Oakwood through our website? You can give one time or set up for recurring donations. Visit [www.oakwoodfl.org](http://www.oakwoodfl.org) and click "Give Online" at the top of the home page.

## Seeds for Growth—*continued*

Don't forget to sign up and pray for the group going to Challenge 2012. We have 15 students and 3 adults headed to New Orleans for some time of ministry and renewal. Great speakers and musicians along with an opportunity to work with a local church in ministering locally in the Ninth Ward.

Also, remember to sign up to pray for the Czech team. They leave on Monday, July 2, for another great adventure in helping others with conversational English and the opportunity to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

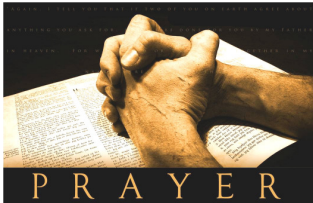
It is really great to see our church family spreading out again this summer on a mission to tell others about Jesus and to learn again that we are to "be doers of the Word and not hearers only."

That's all I am saying today.

Dave Dorsey  
Director of Ministries

## Elder Led Prayer Time

The leadership of Oakwood laid out a vision plan that we can accomplish with the Lord's guidance. That guidance will come as we seek Him in prayer more diligently this year. The Elders are committed in leading us in this effort. **On Sunday, June 24**, there will be an Elder-led prayer time right after the morning worship service. The prayer time will last for 30 minutes and will be focused on the challenges of our goals for this year and next. Please join us as we ask God for great things and expect that He will answer.



## Sunday Morning Prayer

**Another opportunity to pray**—Every Sunday morning from 10:30 - 10:50 in the Worship Center kitchen you will find a pair of Oakwoodians leading prayer. Everyone is invited, as you feel led, to join in this guided prayer time. **Beginning June 17, this prayer time will be at 10:00 AM in the Church Library.**

## Prayer Guide

Oakwood Community Church is *fueling* the new vision of **Expanding Our Territory, Together** united with **Love ~ Grow ~ Serve**. In May, we will be focusing on how we can Love God, the Holy Spirit and how that will affect our service for the church in the world both for those who are near and like us or far and unlike us.



Your June Prayer Guide is available at the Information Center or view it on our website.

## Opportunity to *Serve The Church & World*

### Naomi's Daughters

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, food and money to keep this ministry moving forward.

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 have now added a small food pantry of non-perishables for the moms as well.*** 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.

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.



### Specific needs:

The food pantry is empty. Food donations are needed.

Clothing for children and ladies.



## PowerHouse Schedule

**June 24—Food Bag Ministry—final fundraiser for upcoming Challenge trip. July starts fundraising for the trip in summer 2013**

**Extended Activity Night—5:00—8:30 PM—Activity TBD**

**July 1—NO Youth Group Meeting—Challenge Team in New Orleans**

**July 8—Regular Sunday Evening PowerHouse Meeting**

**Friday, July 13—Youth Work Day Outreach**

**July 15—Extended Activity Night—5:00—8:30 PM—Dodgeball**

## Work Day—Outreach

**Friday, July 13**  
**For all Middle &**  
**High School Students**

**4:00—7:00 PM**

**Work project, then hotdogs and pool at the Kluck's home**

**Watch for more details**

## Food Bag Ministry

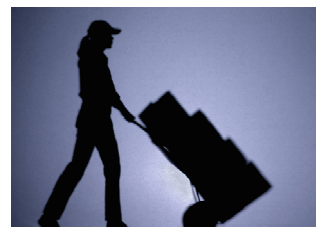
Did you know that our PowerHouse students have a monthly fundraiser assembling food bags that are distributed to medical clinics in Tampa, Lakeland, Haines City and Winter Haven? These bags are distributed to indigent patients at the clinic to provide some basic food needs of the patients and their family.

PowerHouse teens can raise money for summer mission/conference trips by participating in our monthly Food Bag Fundraisers typically on the third Sunday of each month. Our next Food Bag Prep fundraiser is **Sunday, June 24**, 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 22. 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.

## 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 now we had added 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 Sandy Clarke at 813-931-0668.





Use these five biblical purposes to give direction to your marriage.

*Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in Southern California, is best-selling author of The Purpose-Driven Life (Zondervan).*

## The Purpose Drive Marriage - Pt 2

Rick Warren

Part 1 of this article was in Issue 12 of the *ACORN*.

### Balancing biblical purposes

Here are the five biblical purposes you should keep balanced in your marriage:

**1. You and your spouse were both planned for God's pleasure.** How would your marriage immediately change if you understood deeply that your spouse was created for God's pleasure? Or if your spouse understood deeply that you were planned for God's pleasure?

A man once asked Jesus, "What's the most important commandment?" Jesus replied, "I can summarize the entire Bible in two statements: Love God, and love other people!" ([Matthew 22:36-39](#)). That includes your spouse.

Life is about relationships, not achievements. First and foremost, it's about developing a relationship with God that will last forever—we call that worship. You also worship God when you love and sacrifice for your spouse (just read through [Romans 12](#) with a view of what its applications would mean to your marriage).

Any time you give pleasure to God, you're worshipping him, and the Bible teaches that loving your spouse—the mate God gave you for a lifetime—brings pleasure to him.

**2. You and your spouse were formed for God's family.** God made an incredible promise about the gathering of even just two believers: "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst" ([Matthew 18:20](#), NASB).

So if both you and your spouse are believers, God is already in your marriage working to transform the two of you into a pur-

pose-driven family unit! Isn't that incredibly great news?

But Jesus wants us to love real people—not ideal people—and your marriage is a lab for learning how to love like Jesus loves.

It seems funny now, but one conflict between Kay and me in marriage was over the really trivial issue of soap! For me, a hot steamy shower is a spiritual experience—right up there with eating fresh cinnamon rolls. I also happen to be a person who gets bored quickly, so I like variety; I don't want to use the same kind of soap all the time.

One day I told Kay we needed some different kinds of soap. But I said it in a way that sounded as though our marriage was a failure because we used the same kind of soap all the time. Three or four months later at Christmas, to "get back at me," she wrapped and placed 27 different bars of soap under the tree!

My point is that within marriage, God has created an opportunity for us to develop a true intimacy and authenticity with another human being. God wants for you and your spouse to go beyond the superficial chit-chat that is, unfortunately, so common in many marriages.

To go this deep requires genuine, heart-to-heart, gut-level sharing, where you and your spouse get honest about who you are and what's happening in your lives. This happens when you both open up to each other and share your hurts, reveal your feelings, confess your failures, disclose your doubts, admit your fears, acknowledge your weaknesses, and ask each other for help and prayer.








*Watch for Part 3 in the next ACORN*

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Kids Corner



What you need:

-  a small tree branch
-  an empty can
-  green construction paper or a green crayon & white paper
-  scissors
-  tape or glue
-  stones, sand, rice (choose one)
-  black pen or marker



Put the tree branch in the can. Fill the can with stones or sand or rice to hold the branch up.

Cut leaves from paper. Write the names of people in your family on the leaves.

Tape or glue the leaves on the tree branches.

Remember your aunts and uncles and cousins and grandparents...fill your branches!

# Just for KIDS

There is a story in the Bible about a father with 12 sons. Fill in their family tree below. Find the names of the sons, then unscramble the circled letters to find the father's name. Write his name on the tree trunk. Read about this family in Genesis 35.

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
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14												

Example: 10,11=Y

Answers starting with lower left and moving around clockwise:  
 Gad, Naphtali, Dan, Benjamin, Levi, Issachar, Judah, Zebulun,  
 Reuben, Simeon, Asher, Joseph  
 Final Answer: Jacob



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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—Melanie Hoglievina

**Office hours:**

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

**Worship:**

Sundays - 10:00 AM

**Our Elder Team**

Jose Cariaga—Chair  
 Pete Kluck  
 Paul Phair  
 Eric Pratt

**Our Deacon Team**

Nan Duncan  
 Arnie Mejias  
 Bob Mendenhall  
 Ray Ross  
 Ben Smith  
 Dave Young—Chair

**Calendar at a Glance**



June 24—Czech Team Offering  
 Elder led Prayer following Worship  
 PowerHouse Food Bag Ministry  
 June 30—Challenge Team leaves for New Orleans



July 1—Czech Team Offering  
 Blood Pressure checks following Worship  
 NO PowerHouse Ministry tonight  
 July 2—Czech Team Departs for Czech Republic  
 July 4—Independence Day—Church Office Closed  
 July 6—Challenge Team returns  
 July 8—Board Meeting  
 July 15—PowerHouse Food Bag Ministry  
 Congregational 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](mailto:Office@oakwoodfl.org). Article deadlines and publication schedule is:

Deadline	Publication date	News for dates including...
June 29	July 5	July 7—July 20
July 13	July 18	July 21—Aug 3

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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