



ACORN

Seeds For Growth

God's Love Is Flowing Through You!

God's love is flowing through you! I have found myself saying this to several people, including my wife Bev, on various occasions in the last few months. It's when I observe a Christ-follower expressing a kind word or act to someone who's behavior, attitudes, or idiosyncrasies would naturally incline me to withhold my kindness towards them. Josh McDowell calls this kind of love, "in-spite-of-love." When I see such kindness, I marvel! This person is truly doing something that evidences God's love at work within that person's mind, heart, and will. I am affirming the one who is choosing to act kindly **and** I am praising the one who makes this possible. Acting in this manner at such times just isn't natural; instead, it's supernatural!

The apostle John tells us the source of this love when he writes, "Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for *love comes from God*.... (1 John 4:7, also note verse 12). When we "plug in to God," like electricity running through electrical wires, love comes from God to us, then flows through us to others.

Be on the lookout for someone who chooses to express an "in-spite-of love" toward someone else. When you see it, in private, without being critical of the one who received this love, exclaim to the one who displayed it, *God's love is flowing through you!* You'll be encouraging this person to love still more. You'll also be giving God the credit and praise for it. Finally, just maybe, this will spur you to let God's "in-spite-of-love" flow through you more often too!



~ Pastor Paul

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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Memorial Service for Joy Armstrong



Saturday night, June 30, Oakwood's sister in Christ, Joy Armstrong departed from this life into heaven after battling cancer. We are saddened to say good-bye for now and for her struggle, yet we are filled with joy knowing that JOY is now in fullness of joy!

Joy Armstrong's son, Jay, expressed his profound gratitude to the Oakwood family for loving his mother in the ways that we did. He is so grateful to God that we are the "real deal – believers in Jesus." He said words fail him when he seeks to express his deep appreciation to us. One of Joy's sisters, Lynn, on behalf of the entire family also expressed appreciation for Oakwood's ministry and encouragement for Joy through the years. She said that in the midst of several challenges in Joy's life, Oakwood brought into Joy's life much brightness and support. I told them that we valued her as part of our church family and that we are continuing to pray for them and all of their family members. Many of you have ministered to Joy personally in special ways. I am grateful that Christ's local body functioned as a loving family because of you. ~ Pastor Paul.

A Memorial Service will be held for Joy at Oakwood on Friday, July 6 at 7:00 PM.



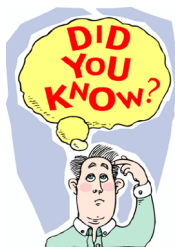
TreeHouse Volunteers needed

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 in the kitchen following the Worship Service on July 8. 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 and click "Give Online" at the top of the home page.

Compassion Offering

We will collect a Compassion Offering in the Worship service on May 20. These funds are primarily used to meet the special financial burdens faced by those within the Oakwood Church family.

Worship Arts Ministry Opportunities

We are looking for help with our Worship Arts Ministry - particularly Bass and Drum players, Sound Techs, Lighting Techs and Slide Techs. If you think that this is the ministry for you, **NOW** is the time to let us know. Contact Andrew Reilly at Andrew@oakwoodfl.org.

Rehearsals are held on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM. Instrumentalist, Sound Techs and Slide Techs need to attend the rehearsals. The Worship Arts Team also practices again on Sunday mornings before the service.

The Slide Tech Ministry is best served by those who are detail oriented and that have the ability to focus through the course of the rehearsals and services.

Training is available for all tech positions.



Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, July 15 we will be having an OCC Family Meeting right after the Worship Service. The meeting will begin a few minutes after the end of the Worship Service and will last no longer than 45 minutes. The Elders want to allow sufficient time for questions and comments from our church family.

Childcare will be available for children **birth—3rd Grade**. If you need childcare please register your children on the sign-up sheet in the Information Center in the Worship Center lobby or at the TreeHouse Welcome Station.

Challenge 2012

On June 30, 15 Middle and High School students along with three adults sponsors headed 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. They will return on July 6.

Czech Team

Team Tampa XIII

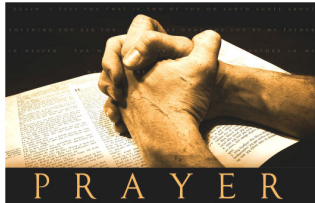
Oakwood Community Church and Candlewood Community Church have sent our 13th team to teach at the English Camp sponsored by Brno Evangelical Fellowship this summer in the Czech Republic. They left on Monday, July 2 and will return on Tuesday, July 17. They will split into two teams, teaching at two different 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.

Remember to pray for our Challenge and Czech team members

Praise and Prayer Event

You are all invited to participate in Praise and Prayer! In conjunction with Oakwood's vision to Expand its Territory, the Expanding Your Prayeritory Team is hosting its third of four prayer events for 2012. This "Praise and Prayer" event will be held in the large, south room in TreeHouse on Saturday, July 28 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. It will be a time of praise songs intermingled with prayers that deal with the themes of 1) testimony 2) transparency 3) thankfulness and 4) trust.



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 July 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 3rd 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:

Food donations are needed.

Clothing for children and ladies.



PowerHouse Schedule

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

Saturday, July 21—Beach Day @ Ft. Desoto. Leave church @ 8:00 AM, return by 3:00 PM. Bring lunch & drinks (cooler will be provided), towel and sun block.

July 22—Regular Sunday Evening

July 29—Extended Activity Night—5:00—8:30 PM—Activity TBD

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**

**Contact Mary Ellen Kluck 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, July 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, July 20. Meet at the Save-A-Lot at 2271 E. Bearss Ave at 5:00 PM (or contact Cam Whipple) 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.





The Purpose Drive Marriage - Pt 3

Rick Warren

Parts 1 and 2 of this article were in previous issues 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.**
2. **You and your spouse were formed for God's family.**
3. **You and our spouse were both created to become like Christ.** As I mentioned, marriage is a laboratory for developing God's love in you. He'll use your spouse to build his values, attitudes, morals, and character within you.

Once you understand this, a lot of what happens within your marriage will begin to make more sense. When you start to ask, "Why is this happening to me?" The answer is—to make you more like Jesus!

In fact, the Bible teaches that God builds certain qualities within our lives by putting us in situations that make it difficult to show these qualities. In other words, for God to teach you real love, he'll put you around some unlovely people. For God to teach you real joy, he'll allow you to go through times of grief. To learn inner peace and patience, he'll allow storms of chaos and stressful situations in your life that test your patience and teach you to trust him.

In his book *Sacred Marriage*, our friend Gary Thomas makes the case that marriage was not meant to make you happy; it was meant to make you holy. That was an eye-opener for Kay and me. It made such sense. If God's purpose for each of our lives is to make us look more like Jesus, what better tool could he use than the marriage relationship?

Who better for God to use to chisel you than the person you live with seven days a week? When the difficult times come, you just have to realize you're being worked on! God is using each of you to shape the other person more and more into the image of Jesus.

4. **You and your spouse were both shaped for serving God.** The Bible says, "God has made us what we are. In Christ Jesus, God has made us to do good works, which God planned in advance for us to live our lives doing" (Ephesians 2:10, ncv).

We serve God by serving others, and we serve God by serving our spouse. God shapes us for service through a variety of methods, including our spiritual gifts, our passions, our abilities, our personality, and our experiences.

In fact, God will use the difficulties in your marriage to shape you into an effective minister to others. Who could better help the parents of a Down syndrome child than other parents with a Down syndrome child? Who could better help somebody recover from the pain of an addiction, a business failure, or a prodigal child than a couple who has been through these things and emerged with godly insights?

Could it be that the part of your marriage you regret or resent most—that which you've wanted to hide or forget—is the very thing God wants to use as your ministry to help and encourage others sharing the same struggle? God doesn't just use our strengths; he uses our weaknesses, and even our failures!

Watch for Part 4 in the next ACORN

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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).

Kids Corner

Make Egyptian Paper Beads

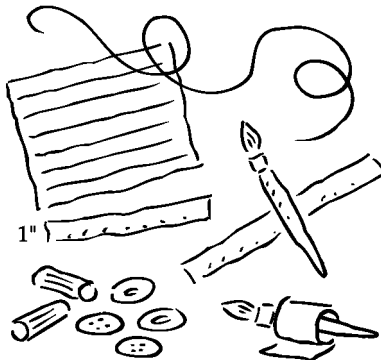
The people of Egypt have been making beads for 5,000 years!

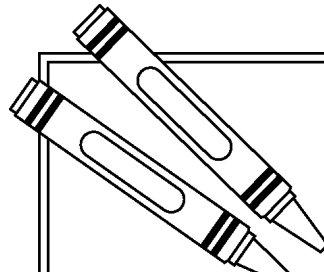
You will need:

- Brightly colored magazine pages
- Yarn
- Metal washers, buttons or macaroni (optional)
- Paintbrush handle
- Glue
- Scissors

How to make:

1. Cut magazine pages into 1" strips.
2. Spread glue on each strip. Lay the paintbrush handle at the end of the strip. Roll it up around the handle.
3. Pull the brush handle out. Let beads dry.
4. When dry, string beads on yarn. Add metal washers, buttons or macaroni if you'd like.





Just for KIDS

Celebrate Your Citizenship!

When we look at a globe or map, we see many different cities and countries. We are citizens of the place where we live. But we also hold another citizenship! Where?

Fit the names of these Bible-time places in the puzzle.
Write the circled letters on the lines below, in the order found.

Read the words!

Tyre
Cana
Rome
Gaza
Sidon
Berea
Lycia
Athens
Kedesh
Sychar
Galilee
Ephraim
Ephesus
Corinth
Iconium
Damascus
Bethlehem
Phillippi
Jerusalem



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 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 - 10:00 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



July 6—Challenge Team returns
 July 8—Blood Pressure checks following Worship
 Board Meeting
 July 15—Compassion Offering
 Congregational Meeting

July 17—Czech Team returns
 July 22—PowerHouse Food Bag Ministry
 July 28—Prayer Event

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...
July 13	July 18	July 21—Aug 3
July 27	Aug 1	Aug 4—Aug 17

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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