

# the Oakwood ACORN

A Chronicle Of our News

## Seeds for Growth

### Random Thoughts

➤ My mind is racing. Got a hundred things to do and a short time to get them done. The holiday was very much appreciated for a day to remember the freedom we enjoy and to relax with my wife at the beach and with friends later in the evening. But with a shorter work week, it has created some pressure to get things done. Along with that, I am leaving Thursday morning with some guys from Oakwood to go to Angola Prison in Louisiana. So now I have 5 work days crammed into 2 and working on some of the travel logistics to boot. Any of you ever experience this? Gotta get it done! Gotta get it done! Is that the normal mantra today? If this is normal, I think I want to be weird. But how? I have just finished reading a good book. The title is “Weird” and the subtitle is what caught my eye – “Because Normal Isn’t Working.” The writer talks about what is normal in our culture and what it would look like to be weird. In Matthew 11:28-30, Jesus says some weird stuff. “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” And then the author asks the question, “When is the last time you were completely at rest?” We live in a culture that “stresses” stress! Consider how weird it seems for someone to be calm, relaxed, at ease, and peaceful. When was the last time I took 5 minutes to completely unplug and think only about the One who knows me so well and wants to give me rest? How would that look for you? When I was in sales, the long drives on state and county roads (those less traveled) were great opportunities to contemplate what God was trying to teach me. I have also enjoyed going to the beach this summer earlier in the day before most of the people get there. Great time to read and meditate and slow the mind down. So, what is it for you? What is it that brings rest to your soul? Where do you go for personal worship? If you have not experienced this rest in Matthew 11 for a while, what weird thing will you do to get there again? If you can’t recall ever experiencing the rest Jesus describes, a good way would be to “unplug” from your whatever or your Droid or whatever Berry you have for 5 minutes. That may be a bigger challenge than you realize. Try it. What do you have to gain but some peace and connection time to the Savior? Just Do It!



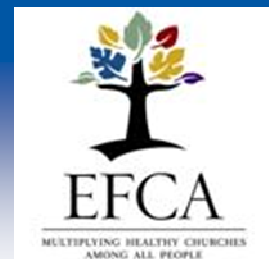
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Oakwood Community Church  
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www.oakwoodfl.org

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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## Team Tampa XII Update



The Czech Republic mission trip is just around the corner. With one week left before departure and one more official team meeting, Team Tampa XII is extremely excited to see what God has in store for the team and the Czech people who are attending the English camp.

Team Tampa XII has been meeting every Wednesday, since April, to share personal testimonies, plan and present lesson samples, prepare for tough spiritual questions, discover some of our own personality traits through the Myers/Briggs Inventory, discuss cultural vignettes, and finalize the many details of the trip. Apart from the weekly meetings, we've even had time to work on "team bonding." Laurissa Gronwall, who works at MacDill Air Force Base, was able to give the team a tour around the base followed by a wonderful dinner at a restaurant close by. On July 13, the team will share a dinner together at Mark and Lisa Beale's house followed by ballroom dance lessons led by Jose and Jill Cariaga as another team bonding activity.

Thank you for all of the much needed support and prayers and thank you for being a part of the team by doing so. May God bless you. We can't wait to share the stories of how God has worked through this entire experience.

## Czech Missions Team offering

This Sunday, July 10, we will have a special offering to support our Team Tampa XII going to Brno, Czech Republic. This team will use the Bible to teach conversational English to Czech believers and unbelievers as a vessel for reaching the unsaved with the gospel.

## Team Tampa XII

Our Czech Team (Team Tampa XII) would like to send out updates and prayer requests for our team this year via a special email prayer chain. Would you be interested in being part of this prayer support team? If so, please submit your request to join this short-term special prayer chain to [office@oakwoodfl.org](mailto:office@oakwoodfl.org) or indicate this desire on the back of your Connection Card on Sunday.



## Prayer 2011



Oakwood is focusing on prayer in 2011. Did you know that you can use your hand to help you remember what to pray for? Pick up a copy of our July Prayer Guide from the Information Center and find out how.



## Blood Mobile

The Blood Mobile will be at Oakwood on Sunday, July 10 from 8:30 AM – 12:30 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.

## TreeHouse Summer Fun!!!

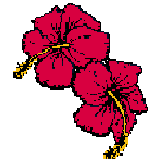
We've got some fun things planned this summer for the families of our TreeHouse kids!

**This Friday, July 8**, we are having a Game Night for all the 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders. You will be able to drop your kids off in TreeHouse and enjoy a date night (or a nice quiet evening) on us! Our kids will be having a blast with a night of planned activity. The time for this event will be 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. **If you plan to drop your children off, you must register them by calling the Church Office @ 813-969-2303.**



**Get prepared for July 22!!** We are planning a Family Game Night. Some of our folks have been inspired by the game show, "Minute To Win It" so we have decided to have an Oakwood version of the same. We will be laughing from the time we get here at 7 PM until we finish at 9 PM. It's a fast and friendly competition using everyday items in ridiculous ways. To win you must complete the task in 1 minute. We'll split into teams that night and have fun making fools of ourselves or not! No cost, just RSVP by signing up at the Information Center or the Welcome Center in TreeHouse or email [office@oakwoodfl.org](mailto:office@oakwoodfl.org) so we can plan appropriately

Get ready to wear your best island garb as we are planning the first annual TreeHouse Luau on **August 12!** More details on that and the other dates will be coming soon.



### July PowerHouse Schedule

- Saturday, July 9**—Rainbow River Tubing—contact Andrea Cress ([acress@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:acress@tampabay.rr.com)) or 813-760-2444 for more details
- Sunday, July 10**—BUMP Training **9:00 AM**  
BUMP Parents Meeting  
Regular Evening Meeting + Open Gym
- Saturday, July 16**—BUMP Team departs for St. Louis
- Sunday, July 17**—Movie Night (for those not at BUMP)
- Saturday, July 23**—BUMP Team returns
- Sunday, July 24**—Pool Party @ Giannonnes 5:00—8:30 PM
- Sunday, July 31**—BUMP Team Celebration



### Rainbow River Tubing "Adventure"

The Youth Group is planning a family outing to the Rainbow River State Park ([www.kphole.com](http://www.kphole.com)) for **this Saturday, July 9**. Join us for the fun. We will meet at the park at 8:00 AM. Contact Andrea Cress ([acress@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:acress@tampabay.rr.com)) or 813-760-2444 for more details.

## Why Not?

“What? Why?” I asked incredulously to the Ernsts, my small group leaders, exchanging a nervous glance with my husband. (This was “back in the day” before Oakwood had community groups when we had just plain small groups.) I couldn’t believe our small group was disbanding. I was feeling a bit like Joe Walsh and the Eagles circa 1980.

After all, small groups were one of the huge reasons that Ben and I had stayed at Oakwood. We were invited to a group at Bustamante’s right away – within weeks of first attending. We found such growth, knowledge, camaraderie, and spiritual strength from both our groups. We weren’t ready to give that up.

On the ride home from group that night, Ben and I had a serious talk. And seriously, to Ben’s credit, I was doing most of the talking. We did admit that we didn’t want to see our group of young adults come to an end, but we didn’t think that we were ready to lead either. As we recalled the studies we had done from Andy Stanley videos or John Ortberg workbooks, to studies of James and Philippians, apparently we were ready.

Philippians 1:3-6 states: “I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” Maybe God had begun a good work in us through our other small group experiences at Oakwood. Maybe He was calling us to carry it out...

Ben and I lead a community group now. While it feels sometimes as if we are doing a “so so” job of carrying out a great work that was started in us, we did confidently answer the call (thank goodness it is a greater call than being a member of the Eagles). Our responsibility was to answer the call to partner in the gospel with fellow Oakwoodians.

God may not be calling you to lead a community group, but He certainly could be calling you to get involved in one. With all the good work that God has to carry out in you, maybe you should be asking Him incredulously, “What? Why not?”

Adrienne Smith

**GroupLink**



**Coming September 11**

Watch for more details about  
**new Community Groups**  
starting this fall and how you can

*Grow In Community*  
by joining one

## New OCC Directory

The new Oakwood Directory is completed and available on the table in the back of the Worship area and at the Information Center in the lobby. Be sure to pick one up for your family.

## Congregational Meeting—July 17

Everyone is invited to join us right after the morning Worship Service on Sunday, July 17. We anticipate the meeting to be from 11:30 AM—12:15 PM.

At our Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 22, the elders proposed some minor wording changes to our Bylaws. Copies of these changes are available at the Information Center (all members should have received these proposed changes via email or in a letter via US Mail). Also, in 2009 the Oakwood members voted to accept the new Statement of Faith of the Evangelical Free Church as our Statement of Faith.

At this meeting, members will be voting on a recommendation by the elders to approve these wording changes and to update our Bylaws to reflect the new Statement of Faith.

Voting can be done by email or ballot vote at the Congregational Meeting.

Childcare will be provided for Nursery – 5<sup>th</sup> Graders for those who pre-register at the TreeHouse Welcome Station or the Information Center.



## A Wake-Up Call

**Sunday, September 11, 2011  
7:00—9:30 PM  
Oakwood Community Church**



Join us for this evening of teaching messages by Anne Graham Lotz and Joel Rosenberg, knit together with authentic worship music led by Selah. We pray this evening will be used by God to wake up His people. Join us as we consider the time in which we live, refocus on Jesus as our Hope for the future, and ask God to re-ignite such an intense longing for His return that we live the rest of our lives with no regrets.

## Seeds for Growth—continued

- Strangely, I am feeling this is an exciting time. In the next two weeks, we will be publicly blessing teams that are going out for ministry. Thirty-four people are going to a prison in Louisiana; inner city St. Louis; and an English camp in the Czech Republic. As you saw last Sunday, you have the opportunity to participate as a prayer partner with the BUMP team (student team going to St. Louis) and the Czech team. The table is in the back corner of the Worship Center. Be sure and sign up in the remaining slots and, more importantly, remember to pray for these folks while they are away.

That's all I am saying today.

Dave Dorsey  
Director of Ministries

## Kids Corner

### Play A Game

**You will need:**

- 68 index cards or construction paper cut into 68 card-sized pieces.
- Marker
- Rubber band to keep your game together
- Bible



**Prepare:**

- Write "Old Testament" on a card. Write "New Testament" on a card.
- Write each of the 39 Old Testament books on a separate card.
- Write the 27 New Testament books on cards.

Old Testament

New Testament

**To Play:**

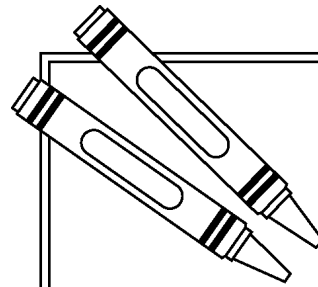
Lay the "Old" and "New" Testament cards on the table. Shuffle the other cards well. Lay them face down on the table.

Draw a card and place it by the correct card – "Old" or "New."

Continue until all cards have been drawn. Check your Bible to see if you were correct!

*For an added challenge – arrange the books in order!*

Matthew  
Psalms  
Jonah



## Just for KIDS

### The Old Testament

The Old Testament of the Bible contains the story of creation, history, words of prophets, God's law, songs, poems, stories of adventure and stories of love.

*Find the books of the Old Testament hidden below. Use your Bible or the list below for the names. There are 39. You will find 3 books are listed 2 times each.*

Find them → ← ↓ ↑ ↘ ↗

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

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, (1) Samuel, (2) Samuel, (1) Kings, (2) Kings, (1) Chronicles, (2) Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

## Staying In Step—Part 2

*How walking with your spouse can keep you connected*

by Lorrie Orr



### Starting Steps

5 ways to persuade a hesitant husband to walk with you

1. Walk alone first, then invite him to go with you. But be patient, and be careful not to nag.
2. Start small. Propose just a short stroll around the block if you previously haven't done much walking.
3. Point out health benefits. Entice him with concrete reasons rather than with pressure or guilt.
4. Plan a treat. Suggest driving to a scenic spot, walking for a bit, and then savoring ice cream or coffee.
5. Focus on fun. Resolve not to bring up difficult issues. Simply enjoy being together away from home.

Part 1 of this article was in the last issue of *The ACORN*. If you missed it, you can find this issue on the website. The first article covered the topics:

### Connection & Acceptance.

### Clarity.

By bringing our minds together, we return from every walk a little smarter. Many evenings, I'm still wrestling with the day's knotty problems, whether relationship issues, spiritual questions, or workplace dilemmas. While recently teaching a semester of eighth-grade French, I left school daily at my wit's end, uncertain how to manage several sullen, disrespectful students. I could hardly articulate the confusion tangled in my mind. But as I walked and talked with Tim, I began to unravel my worries and plan a new approach to the situation. This isn't surprising, since, according to a study published in *Nature* magazine, walking increases thinking skills. On walks, Tim and I have also come up with ideas for completing home-repair projects and strategies for handling difficult people.

### Happiness.

Despite the benefits of walking, sometimes I'd rather sit on my couch and eat potato chips than lace up my gym shoes and get moving. On those days, I agree to "just a short walk" to the end of our street. But by the time I reach the stop sign, I feel less lethargic and carry on. My mind and body work together to increase those feel-good hormones, endorphins, that make me happier.

Still, I didn't feel like walking one Sunday morning last summer when Tim woke up with the idea of a 25-minute walk to church. We'd done it before; but this day I'd planned to wear a skirt and strappy sandals. I gave in with bad grace, yet ended up enjoying our jaunt in the pleasant morning air.

Walking home was different. Light rain fell. And my hair—along with my temper—frizzed.

Tim, knowing my initial reluctance to walk, apologized repeatedly. I reveled in his misery, inwardly gloating. I told you so! Then, halfway home, I realized I could make us both suffer, or I could make the best of a bad situation. My damp clothes would soon dry, and my hair, well, it would calm down. I reached for Tim's hand, and we laughed over the unpredictable weather.

### Unity.

Walking outdoors and enjoying the beauty of nature together have created many wonderful memories. Recently, Tim and I packed a lunch and hiked along the nearby Strait of Juan de Fuca. On a rocky bluff overlooking the water, we ate our meal while we watched seals swim, observed the sails of distant boats, and admired the Olympic Mountains' snowy peaks. As we snuggled together and drank steaming tea, a bald eagle soared past so close we could hear the wind in his wings. We hugged each other in delight.

I thank God for small moments such as that one. French actress Simone Signoret once said, "Chains do not hold a marriage together. It is hundreds of tiny threads, which sew people together through the years. That is what makes a marriage last." Through each of our shared experiences, Tim and I have strengthened our bond.

Let walking together become one of the tiny threads that stitch *your* marriage into a strong, beautiful relationship. Tonight, take the first step on a lifelong journey of companionship with just one simple question: "Would you like to go for a walk?"

*Lorrie Orr is a freelance writer who lives in Canada.*

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## Summer Missions—Repeat

During July we have three groups from Oakwood going out to do ministry and have missions impact. Please keep them in your prayers.



**July 7 – 10 – Angola Team** – as you heard in the presentation from Craig Clendinen a few weeks ago, we have the opportunity to participate in an AWANA sponsored ministry at Angola State Prison. Our primary responsibility will be to support prisoners as they spend time with their kids at a special fun day on Saturday, July 9. We will also have the opportunity to worship together with these men on Friday night. **Team members:** Dave Dorsey, Ed Jurewicz, Arnie Mejias, Luke Piazza and Ray Ross.

**July 16 – 23 – BUMP Team** – a group of 18 – 13 youth and five adults – will be going to St. Louis, MO, partnering with Jubilee Community Church for inner city ministry with the EFCA. We will be doing work projects in the morning and afternoon, and leading Vacation Bible School in the evening.

**Team members:** Students – Nathanael Bustamante, Will Clarke, Suzette Cluff, Hayden Conner, Mary Conner, Isaac Cress, Mark Giannone, Abbie Kluck, Nathan Kluck, Noah Paffenroth, Taylor Sas, Whitney Whipple and Wyatt Whipple  
Adults – Edson Bustamante, Doug Cress, Katie Frost, Stephanie Piazza and Cam Whipple



**July 18 – August 3 – Czech Team** – In partnership with the Brno Evangelical Fellowship, this group will once again lead the English Camp in the Czech Republic the week of July 23 - 30. They will share their lives, their faith, the love of God and the hope of eternal life through Christ.



**Team members:** Lisa Beale, Mark Beale, Jill Cariaga, Jose Cariaga, Larissa Corrales, Lauren Fucarino, Randall Huber, Dean Johnson, Kenna Kelly, Alisa Linares, Andrew Reilly, Mary-Lynn Reilly and Nicole Roman

## Summer Schedule—Repeat



With summer vacations and travels, we will be modifying our current worship service schedule for the months of **July and August**. Beginning July 3 and going through August 28, we will be having **one** Worship Service on Sunday morning at 10:00. If volunteers are in place, we will have a full TreeHouse ministry during this service both months.

Again, mark your calendars for 10:00 AM beginning July 3.



Oakwood Community Church  
 11209 Casey Rd  
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**Our Staff**

Lead Pastor - Dr. Paul B. Phair  
 Director of Ministries - Dave Dorsey  
 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**



July 7—Angola Team leaves for Louisiana  
 July 8—Children’s Game Night  
 July 9— Rainbow River Tubing  
 July 10—Blood Mobile @ Oakwood  
 Special Offering for Czech Team  
 Angola Team returns  
 BUMP Team Parents Meeting

July 12—MISCOM Meeting  
 July 16—Youth Mission Team leaves for St. Louis  
 July 17—Congregational Meeting  
 July 18—Team Tampa XII leaves for Czech Republic  
 July 22—Family Game Night  
 July 23—Youth Mission Team returns

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...
July 15	July 20	July 23—Aug 5
July 29	Aug 3	Aug 6—Aug 19

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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