



ACORN

Seeds For Growth

Baseball and My Dad

As many of you are reading this, Martha and I are on vacation! We are driving across the state of New York and seeing some beautiful country side. The highlight for me will be seeing the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY. While I will enjoy seeing so many of the players that I watched on television as a young kid or got to see in Spring Training games, there will be a bit of sadness that I can't talk to my dad about the adventure. He went to be with the Lord three years ago. Growing up, baseball is how my dad and I primarily related. It was a passion for him and became a passion for me. We went to as many Spring Training games as we could and also went to a lot of Tampa Tarpon games back in the day. He was my coach as long as I was playing. Many Saturdays were taken up at the baseball field. Many of you dads can relate. It would be great to tell my dad what I had seen and show him the pictures we had taken at the Hall of Fame.

In Hebrews 12, there are some verses that mean much to me. In verse 1, it talks about the "great crowd of witnesses." This refers back to chapter 11 which tells us about so many who have lived their faith (and many who died for their faith in God). They are in the "grandstand" cheering for us as we are engaged in this game of life. Verse 1 also tells us to lay aside everything that hinders us from running the race. That may include some things we think are good but, in reality, slow us down and tire us out. Verse 2 says we are to be "looking to Jesus" as we play the game. I have learned that as I keep my eyes on Jesus, He is keeping his eye on me. When I stumble in the game, He sees and helps me up. When I am experiencing some good "at bats" or a "great play in the field," He sees and celebrates with me. When I am "hit by a pitch," He is the best training staff and gets me back in the game. As many of you have experienced, I have known that quality of Jesus recently and it is good.

So, I don't have my earthly dad to talk baseball with and relish the time at Cooperstown. But I have an even greater Heavenly Father who enjoys hearing from me about all the great stuff I experience every day. I get to thank Him for loving me and letting me **Love** Him back. I get to thank Him for the friends and church family I have that have helped me **Grow** in relationship with each other and with Him. I am also blessed to **Serve** Him with the talents He has given me. (Yes, that was a subtle reminder!)

We have some events coming up that you need to put on your calendar. Our next Oakwood Prayer Event is Saturday evening, July 28. There is some additional information in another part of the ACORN. On Sunday, August 5, we will be hearing from Tampa Team XIII during the Worship Service. And, on Sunday evening, August 26, we will be hosting Harvest America. This is a nationwide simulcast from southern California and will provide an opportunity to invite friends who are not Christ followers. More information is in another part of the ACORN and more details will be coming in the next few weeks. Please begin to pray about who you can invite. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!**



That's all I'm saying today.

Dave Dorsey
Director of Ministries

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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.



Inside this issue:

Petersen Drop-In	2
Family Fun Night	2
Worship Arts Opportunity	3
Praise & Prayer Event	4
OCC Updates	2-4
PowerHouse News	5
Marriage Matters	6
Kids Corner	7
Calendar at a Glance	8

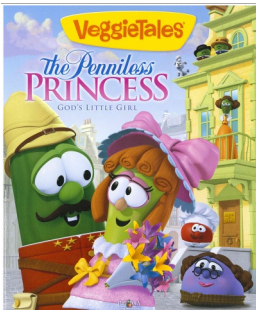
Petersen Drop-In



Oakwood will host a Drop-In Reception for Jerry & Mildred Petersen on Saturday, August 4 from 1:00—4:00 PM in TreeHouse. Jerry & Mildred serve with Bible Basics International at Radio HRGS in Roatan, Honduras.

Stop by any time and meet them (if you don't already know them) or greet them (if you do know them) and learn about their ministry in Roatan.

Family Fun Night



Join us Friday, August 10 at 7:00 PM in The TreeHouse for a Family Fun Night. We will be showing a premier of the newest Veggie Tales movie, *The Penniless Princess*.

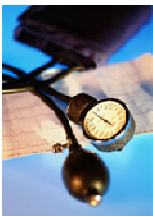
There will be snacks available for purchase for a nominal fee, a drawing for prizes and, as always, lots of fun for all.

This is always an easy way to invite family and friends to church with you. Watch for more details.



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 on August 5 the kitchen following the Worship Service. 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.

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.



Harvest America

If you are like most people, you have been on a quest since the day you were born. Deep down inside you sense there must be more to life than what you can touch, feel, hear or see.

While our nation's politicians argue and posture about problems in the economy and threats overseas, the bigger questions in life are overshadowed!

What is the meaning of life?
Is there really a heaven?
Why is there suffering?
Can I find true happiness?

Join us at Oakwood as we host this live simulcast on Sunday, August 26, 7:00 PM, as we look at the most important questions in life and look to the one Person in all of history who has provided answers—answers that have satisfied the souls of millions!

This is an excellent opportunity to invite your family and friends who may be seeking for answers to these questions.



Financial Peace University



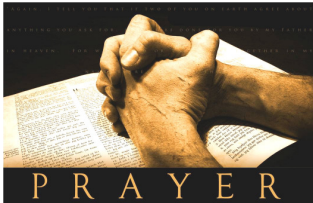
Learn God's way of handling money at Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University. Oakwood is hosting this seminar September 13 – Nov 8 at the Carrollwood Cultural Center. Class preview will be held August 30.

Click the link below for more information on our website. Watch for details.

<http://www.oakwoodfl.org/ramsey/>

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 Prayer Territory 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 PM**. 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 10:00 - 10:20 in the Church Library you will find a pair of Oakwoodians leading prayer. Everyone is invited, as you feel led, to join in this guided prayer time.

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

Saturday, July 21—Beach Day @ Ft. Desoto

July 22—Regular Sunday Evening

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

Saturday, Aug 4—Pool Party—watch for details

Aug 5—Regular Sunday Evening

Aug 12—Extended Activity Night—5:00—8:30 PM—Activity TBD

Ft. Desoto Beach Day



Saturday, July 21

We will leave Oakwood at 8:00 AM and return by 3:00 PM.

Bring lunch and drinks (cooler will be provided), towel and sun block.

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.

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.



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

The Purpose Drive Marriage - Pt 4

Rick Warren

Parts 1, 2 and 3 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.**
- 4. You and your spouse were both shaped for serving God.**

5. You and your spouse were both made for a mission. Your marriage not only involves ministry, it also involves mission. Your ministry is to believers and your mission is to non-believers—allowing God to use your marriage as a means for telling others about his love.

This may take many forms, from being a witness in your neighborhood to going overseas on mission trips together. The fact is, if you want God's blessing on your marriage, then you must care about what God cares about most. What is that? He wants his lost children found! He wants everyone to know him and his purposes for their lives.

If you want to see how much God cares about the people around you, just look at the Cross. With outstretched arms, Jesus says, "I love them this much!" Marriage is a life-long process designed to teach you to see the needs of another person as more important than

your own. It's a difficult transition because it's not natural. It's not natural for me to look at life from Kay's point of view, and it's not natural for her to look at life from my point of view.

To think this way requires an intentional shift that can be made only through the power of God in your life.

As you and your spouse make that shift, your marriage will become more and more purpose-driven—focused on the needs of others and balancing the purposes of worship, fellowship, discipleship, service, and missions.

The reward is greater than anything you could ever imagine. I've often thought what would have happened—or not happened—had Kay and I thrown in the towel many years ago. There would be no Saddleback Church, no purpose-driven ministry, and no "Purpose-Driven Life"!

God's plan for you and your spouse—for your marriage—is wider and deeper than anything in your wildest, craziest dreams. May our heavenly Father help you to catch this vision as you chase it into the future.

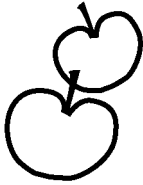
Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in Southern California, is best-selling author of The Purpose-Driven Life (Zondervan).

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Kids Corner

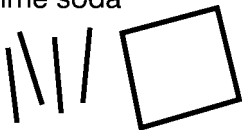
Make a Fun Picnic Snack

Apple Boats



You will need:

- an apple
- a square slice of cheese
- 4 toothpicks
- lemon-lime soda
- knife
- bowl



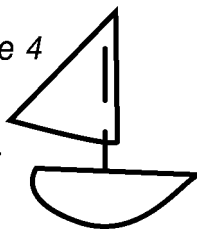
How to make 4 boats:

- Ask an adult to help you cut the apple into 4 parts.

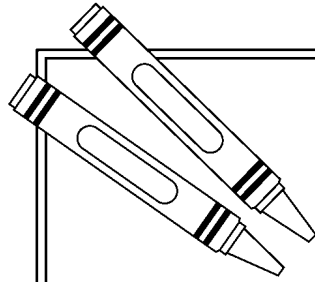


- Pour the lemon-lime soda into the bowl.
- Soak the apple slices in the bowl for a few minutes. This will keep them from turning brown.
- Cut the cheese from corner to corner. You will end up with 4 triangles. These are sails for your boats.
- Put a toothpick through each cheese sail.
- Stick a sail into each apple piece.

You will have 4 apple boats to share with friends.



Enjoy!



Just for KIDS

A Biblical Picnic

In the warm weather months we like to go on picnics. What do you pack in your picnic basket? If you lived in Bible times, what do you think you might have packed?

Below are the names of some people in the Bible. Use the code to find out what each person may have taken on a picnic. Look up the verses to read more about each person.

Code:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z										
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26										

- Saul $\overline{16} \overline{15} \overline{13} \overline{5} \overline{7} \overline{18} \overline{1} \overline{14} \overline{1} \overline{20} \overline{5} \overline{19}$ (1 Samuel 14:2)
- Jonathan $\overline{8} \overline{15} \overline{14} \overline{5} \overline{25}$ (1 Samuel 14:29)
- Eve $\overline{6} \overline{18} \overline{21} \overline{9} \overline{20}$ (Genesis 3:6)
- Daniel and friends $\overline{22} \overline{5} \overline{7} \overline{5} \overline{20} \overline{1} \overline{2} \overline{12} \overline{5} \overline{19}$ (Daniel 1:12-16)
- John the Baptist $\overline{12} \overline{15} \overline{3} \overline{21} \overline{19} \overline{20} \overline{19}$ (Matthew 3:4)
- The 5,000 people $\overline{12} \overline{15} \overline{1} \overline{22} \overline{5} \overline{19} \& \overline{6} \overline{9} \overline{19} \overline{8}$ (Matthew 14:17)
- Israelites in Egypt $\overline{3} \overline{21} \overline{3} \overline{21} \overline{13} \overline{2} \overline{5} \overline{18} \overline{19}$ (Numbers 11:5)
- Esau $\overline{19} \overline{20} \overline{5} \overline{23}$ (Genesis 25:34)
- Isaac $\overline{23} \overline{9} \overline{12} \overline{4} \overline{7} \overline{1} \overline{13} \overline{5}$ (Genesis 25:28)
- Ruth $\overline{7} \overline{18} \overline{1} \overline{9} \overline{14}$ (Ruth 2:1-4)

Answers: pomegranates, honey, fruit, vegetables, locusts, loaves & fish, cucumbers, stew, wild game, grain



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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 22—PowerHouse Food Bag Ministry
July 28—Prayer Event

Aug 4—Drop-In Reception for Jerry & Mildred Petersen
Aug 5—Blood Pressure checks
Aug 10—Family Fun Night
Aug 12—Board Meeting
Aug 14—Election Day—Remember to vote

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 27	Aug 1	Aug 4—Aug 17
Aug 10	Aug 15	Aug 18—Aug 31

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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