

the Oakwood ACORN

A Chronicle Of our News

Angola Trip Recap



Arnie Mejias, Dave Dorsey, Ed Jurewicz, Luke Piazza, Ray Ross

On Thursday, July 7, five guys from Oakwood left Tampa International Airport bound for the Louisiana State Penitentiary, also known as Angola Prison. We went to support the “Returning Hearts Celebration” which is an AWANA program for inmate dads. Before the Celebration on Saturday, we had the privilege of worshipping with a large number of inmates along with volunteers from 23 states. Angola has some talented musicians that love the Lord and are allowed to use that talent to honor the One who loves them and forgives them. What a time of worship as we sang “Your Grace Is Enough!”

We also were able to tour this vast prison compound. Angola encompasses 18,000 acres that includes five different prison camps. With a population that exceeds 5,000 inmates, there is a job for everyone. Angola has a fully functioning farm where they grow soy beans, cotton and corn. They also have a large stable of horses used by the guards and also for the annual rodeo. Trustee inmates run the farm and the stables. As one inmate put it, “At Angola, there is zero unemployment. Everyone has a job.”

The goal for AWANA is to keep these dads involved in their kids’ lives even from behind bars. Many of these men have completed a Bible based program developed by AWANA called “Malachi Dads” which is based on the passage in Malachi 4:6. That verse talks about “the hearts of the fathers will turn toward their children and the hearts of the children will turn toward their fathers.” By completing this program, these dads had the privilege of spending a fun day with their kids. On Saturday, inmate fathers were able to enjoy the time with their kids playing carnival games, climbing rock walls, playing miniature golf and basketball, or just sitting in the stands and talking. We were there as Family Support Volunteers (aka chaperones). What a day it was seeing these men love on their kids. Most of the kids were glad to be with their dads. Some weren’t. That was heart breaking to see.



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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.

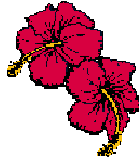


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TreeHouse Summer Fun

Get ready to wear your best island garb as we are planning the first annual TreeHouse Luau on **August 12!** Mark your calendar and watch the weekly Worship Program for details.



The *Minute To Win It* Family Fun Night is being rescheduled for the fall. Watch for the new date and details.

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. The August Guide will be available soon.



July/August PowerHouse Schedule

Saturday, July 23—BUMP Team returns

Sunday, July 24—Pool Party @ Giannones 5:00—8:30 PM

Sunday, July 31—BUMP Team Celebration

Sunday, August 7—Regular Evening Meeting + Extra Activity

Saturday, August 13—Rainbow River Tubing

Sunday, August 14—Regular Evening Meeting + Extra Activity

Sunday, August 21—Back To School Party

Sunday, August 28—Regular Evening Meeting



Rainbow River Tubing "Adventure"

Rescheduled

The Youth Group is planning a family outing to the Rainbow River State Park (www.kphole.com) for **Saturday, August 13**. Join us for the fun. We will meet at the park at 8:00 AM. Contact Andrea Cress (acress@tampabay.rr.com) or 813-760-2444 for more details.

Angola Trip recap—continued

At the end of the day, we all went into the arena where the annual rodeo is held and heard a gospel presentation where a number of the kids prayed to receive Christ. After that time, there was a balloon release that was spectacular! Almost one thousand balloons were released. Many fathers and kids tied their balloons together. They were able to see the balloons as far as they could. When it came time for the kids to leave, there were a lot of tears. But even more amazing was the number of pockets of people in small huddles praying. Dads and their kids (and many volunteers) were either holding hands or had their arms around each other and were praying! What a sight! God is doing some incredible things all around the world, even in a state prison.

To see a video of the event, click on the following link and scroll down to "When Laughter Left."

<http://awanalifeline.org/media.php?pageID=39>

BUMP Trip Update



Monday morning brought our first opportunity to serve God extravagantly by beginning to clean a vacant property behind Jubilee Church. Even though the church doesn't own the property their desire is to bless their community by maintaining the land. Perhaps God will bless them with ownership which is their hearts desire.

Monday evening we began our Vacation Bible School by hosting a Block Party.

You can follow our adventures by clicking on this link:
<http://www.bumpstlouis.blogspot.com/>



Team Tampa XII

Be sure to keep Team Tampa XII in your prayers. They arrived safely in the Czech Republic, and are getting prepared for their week of English Camp that begins this Saturday, July 23.

Pictured at right are:

Front: Jill Cariaga, Lisa Beale, Nicole Roman, Mary-Lynn Reilly, Alisa Linares, Jose Cariaga.

Back: Lauren Fucarino, Mark Beale, Kenna Kelly, Laurissa Corrales, Randall Huber

Not pictured: Dean Johnson & Andrew Reilly



Prayer of Dedication for the team during Worship on Sunday, July 17.

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

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.

Kids Corner

Make a Friendship Flyer



You will need:

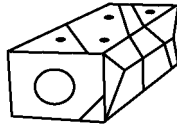
- a paper or lunch bag, or the paper bag that Italian bread comes in
- string
- a heavy pipe cleaner
- scissors
- markers or crayons



How to do:

Decorate the bag with symbols of friendship.

Cut a hole in the bottom of the bag.

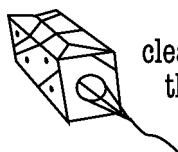
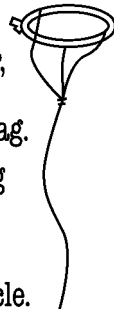


From the pipe cleaner, make a circle larger than the hole in the bag.

Tie 3 lengths of string on the circle.

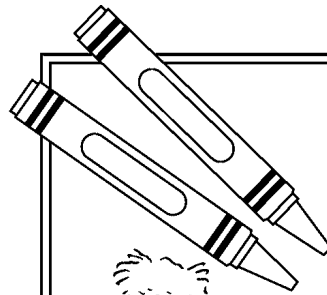
Tie them all together, about 6" from the circle.

Trim two strings, leave one long for flying.



Insert the pipe cleaner and string through the hole in the bag.

Find a friend and go flying together!



Just for KIDS



Proverbs 17:17a ♥ John 15:13 ♥ Proverbs 27:10a

The Scriptures above and the names and the words below all have a common thread.

Circle the words and names in the puzzle. You will find them



The 11 letters that remain uncircled will spell the word that connects them all.

- Jesus & Mary & Martha & Lazarus
- Paul & Timothy
- David & Jonathon
- God & Abraham
- Job & Eliphaz & Bildad & Zophar
- Loving – True – Valuable –
- Loyal – Faithful – Helpful
- Close – Like-minded – Kind – We
- Ruth & Naomi

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

Slowly, But Together—by Rachel Pankow

I had no idea the kind of sacrificial gift my husband was willing to give.



It was the day of the marathon. My running buddies and I had signed up to raise funds for World Vision to help provide clean drinking water to children and families in Africa. I was set to run alongside 38,000 other runners. I remember the smiles on our faces as my friends and I officially crossed the starting line about 30 minutes after the race had started. The first nine miles flew by and I was feeling good.

But it was hot that day. The race organizers put out an emergency alert from green to yellow and then red, meaning high risk conditions for dehydration. My legs started to cramp around the 10-mile mark, and by the 12-mile mark I'd decided I wasn't going to make it. My running partner, Anne, was sticking to the code, "No one runs alone," and wasn't about to leave me behind. Between 10 and 12 miles she ran up to our pace group then circled back to me about a block or two behind, and back and forth she'd go. At one point I told her to stay with the others or she'd wind up running a 30-mile marathon. She wouldn't listen.

I decided I needed to quit before she fell so far back she couldn't catch the rest of our pace group. I knew I wasn't going to make it another 14 miles in the condition I was in.

At the 12-mile mark I found my husband, Matt, standing on the curb taking photos. When I saw him, I told Anne to please go ahead without me. I was quitting. My legs were aching terribly. I stumbled over to him and broke down in his arms.

"I can't finish," I cried. "The cramps in my legs are too bad."

"Okay," he said. "That's fine." But then he added, "Why don't we just walk to the half-marathon mark? It's only a mile down the street. I'll walk with you."

I looked into his face. He was going to walk it with me.

"Okay," I said. *I can do one more mile, I thought. Just take it easy, walk, and have Matt next to me.*

My legs were still cramping, but as I walked

and drank more Gatorade, they started to loosen up.

When we arrived at the 13.1 mark—the half-way point—Matt said, "What do you think will be harder to recover from: leg cramps or the disappointment of not finishing something you set out to do?"

He was right. The leg cramps would be gone in a few hours, while the pain and disappointment of not finishing the marathon would last probably forever.

"Let's go," he said. "We can do this. Let's just keep walking. You weren't planning to win anything today anyway, right? What's the difference if we finish in six hours or seven hours?"

I agreed and took a good look at my husband. He was carrying a five-pound Nikon camera around his neck, holding our daughter's purse (since she wanted to go ahead and run the last five miles with her sister who was several hours ahead of me), and dressed in spectator clothes and bad shoes.

My husband is not an athlete. He doesn't train or participate in walking or running events. He did once walk the two-mile Turkey Trot so he could get a cool shirt, though.

But here he stood next to me, offering to help me reach my goal, my dream. I knew what a sacrificial gift he was giving to me.

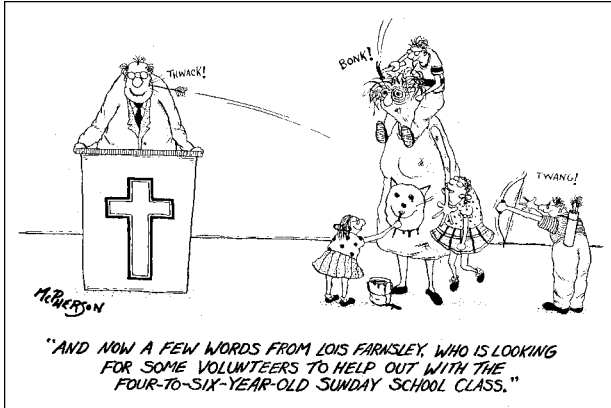
Walking together, I realized that I can be pretty weak-minded, more willing to give up and give in than to struggle on to reach my goal. When the pain started and the obstacles grew more difficult, I convinced myself that I couldn't go on, but my husband convinced me that I could.

Slowly but together, we walked 14 miles to the finish line. We crossed the line holding hands over our heads as though we'd won the race! And for our marriage, we had.

Rachel Pankow and her husband, Matthew, have been married 28 years and have three daughters. They live in Illinois.



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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

Worship:

Sundays, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Calendar at a Glance



July 23—Youth Mission Team returns
 English Camp being in Czech Republic
 July 24—Communion during Worship
 Compassion Offering



Aug 7—Blood Pressure checks following Worship
 Aug 9—MISCOM Meeting
 Aug 12—Luau
 Aug 13—Rainbow River Tubing
 Aug 21—PowerHouse Back To School Party

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 29	Aug 3	Aug 6—Aug 19
Aug 12	Aug 17	Aug 20—Sept 2

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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