



ACORN

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.



Seeds For Growth

Let's Get Really Practical About Praying Part 2

By Dr. Bill Clarke

In the last ACORN, I wrote about the incredible privilege of prayer to God, of communing with our Father. Prayer is also *commanded* in Scripture (e. g., Ephesians 6:18 and 1 Thessalonians 5:17). However, I talk to my wife because I *love* her. No command is necessary.

I asked you: *Do you have a prayer list? What and how many prayer requests you will pray about each time? Who and what is on your list?*

May I ask you two more questions?

Question #4 *Do you keep up with those for whom you pray, what is important to them, their personal, family needs? "How did the operation go?" "Was that problem resolved?"* Some prayer requests are very temporary. Knowing significant needs, problems, gets us involved in lives and our prayers are more serious. Do you continually revise your list of requests?

Question #5 *When do you pray?* I know life gets hectic, overfull sometimes with working on your marriage, guiding your children, going to work every day, keeping the house in order—and more. Have you, or you and your spouse, settled on regular times, made these times a habit, a habit that you would not miss—except, of course, for conflicts? (*"Life is inseparable from conflict."* This is one of my favorite quotes from a Christian psychiatrist. Often, silently, I would say these words—*especially when our sons were teenagers.*) Times that become as sure as going to bed, brushing your teeth, as saying "I love you" to those you love.

We have found that in addition to praying together at another time of the day, praying (and kissing and just talking—but I digress) very briefly before we go to sleep at night is a great and wonderful practice. It is like a daily, day-ending injection of worship, joy, conversation with God, showing love to one another. (I confess, as one saved sinner to another, that I began this practice when Kathleen was very ill. *You* could begin now, before someone gets ill.)



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Prayer Focus

Our Prayer Team works each month to provide a guide for specific prayer requests. You will have a weekly Prayer Focus printed on the Announcement Sheet in your Worship Program. There is also a Summer Prayer Guide available at the Information Center.

Elder led Prayer

Everyone is invited to join in a time of prayer with the elders **from 9:00—9:45 AM** the first and third Sunday of the month. We meet in the Library. Childcare will be provided.

Prayer Chain Ministry

The purpose of Oakwood's **E-Prayer Connection** is to communicate prayer requests for our fellow Oakwood members, our families, friends, others personally known to us, and the ministries of our church.

If you would like to partner in prayer for the needs of our church family, send your full name and email address to ekrex@verizon.net with Prayer Chain Ministry in the subject line. You can also send items to be published for prayer at this same email address.

Women's Ministry Opportunities



Women's Crock Pot Luncheon

All women are invited to bring a Crock Pot specialty or if you prefer, a salad or dessert to share. We will meet in PowerHouse on Sunday, August 21st following the Worship Service. *Come early to plug in your pot or refrigerate your dish.*

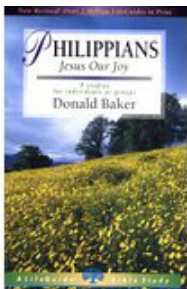
Beth Moore Simulcast

Beth Moore Living Proof Ministries Simulcast



Don't miss this mini retreat on Saturday, Sept 17th 10:30am - 5:15pm! We will plan to carpool and sit together. To register, go to www.idlewild.org and click on "Register for an event." Cost is \$25 and includes lunch.

Women's Summer Bible Study—*Jesus Our Joy*



It is easy to be happy when things go well. But what would it be like to have a sense of joy that continues even in times of trouble? Such was the deep joy that the apostle Paul experienced - even in prison. His contentment was neither dependent on circumstances nor changed by difficulty. In his brief letter to the *Philippians*, Paul teaches us how to live joyfully in every situation.

This study meets in the Worship Center from 7:00-8:30 pm on Monday evenings. Using a LifeGuide Scripture Study, participants will be encouraged to do their own personal study at home and then come prepared to share what they've learned in a small group discussion. Please contact Andrea Cress at (813-615-0838) or (andrea-cress@outlook.com) if you are interested in this study.

Missions Spotlight—Bob & Ann Henriques

Dear Ministry Partner,

Among the varied ministries that the Lord has given me is teaching the English language.

Every Wednesday evening Magdiel Pineda, a 30 year-old bank official, comes to our house to learn English. She is married and the mother of 2 little girls. In her childhood, Magdiel attended an evangelical church with her parents. Years have gone by and she still remembers some of the details of the Gospel; however, she stays home on Sundays and sends her daughters to church with her mother.

Pray that **Magdiel** will soon become a true believer.

A believer in **Cuba** writes: my country is turning from bad to worse. I need a vacation far from here!

Because of a limited cash flow to purchase low-grade oil from Venezuela, electrical shortages have become a common place in Cuba. Many stoves work on electricity, and water is a scarcity because pumps run on electric current. In the midst of sweltering heat, electric fans cease to function. People are very discouraged, and want the freedom to find another place to live.

Continue to pray for **Cuba**. I leave for Cuba on another ministry trip on September 2. Pray for funds for this journey.

Ann was recently in Medellin, Colombia attending a conference on how to evaluate evangelical seminaries in the Hispanic world. She and three other colleagues have been greatly enriched with wise counsel in how to apply this knowledge in order that our seminary's ministry in Guatemala will be enhanced.

Your participation with us has encouraged us over the years. Thank you.

In His Grip,

Bob, for Ann also

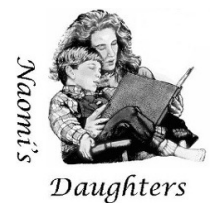


Opportunities to *Serve the Church & World*

Naomi's Daughters is a ministry for single moms that provides clothing to the moms and their children. The Oakwood family, along with others in the community, provides donations of clothing, food and money to keep this ministry moving forward.

During the month of July we are collecting school supplies to help these single moms have their children ready for school in August. There will be a box in the lobby for your contributions.

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 our doors.



PTSD Support Group

Supportive Arms Support Group meets every Friday from 7-9 PM in the Church Library.



This support group is for Veterans and current service members that suffer from PTSD/Trauma. Open to men and women. The goal is to give support and comfort in a group environment to those that struggle with PTSD/Trauma; to help in their daily lives with insight, support, and spiritual guidance; to show that they are loved and cared for through the Grace of God. While everyone may not have served, chances are we have a family member or friend who has and that is struggling in their everyday life. This is an opportunity for them to receive much needed care and support.

Group facilitators are Terrence Morman and Chris Schmidt.



Blood Pressure checks

Blood pressure checks on August 7 the kitchen following the Worship Service. Don't miss this important health screening.

Financial Update

| Oakwood 2016 Financial Update through June | | |
|--------------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| | Budget | Actual |
| YTD Offerings Received | | 198,593 |
| YTD Expenses | 264,986 | 268,604 |
| Offerings Over/(Under) Exp | (63,393) | (70,011) |

Oakwood finances. You may have noticed the recent financial updates in our Worship Program and we want to provide you with some additional information. YTD offerings are about \$54K under our YTD expenses.

This was somewhat anticipated because until the end of June we had been paying two pastors.

The balance in our operating account has been declining and based on our current trend we decided to redirect some funds from our equity accounts in order to cover July's expenses. The Elders and Deacons agreed to move \$10k from a dormant emergency medical account set aside for the Phairs into our operating account.

An additional measure has been taken by the Missions Team to reduce financial support to our missionaries by 15% effective September 1st.

If you would like to discuss any of this in further detail please feel welcome to approach any Elder or Deacon.

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 <http://www.oakwoodfl.org> and click "Give Online" on the right side of the menu on the home page.



Oakwood Website

Visit the Oakwood website at <http://www.oakwoodfl.org> for information about our staff and ministries, as well as to listen to past messages.



Also available on our website:

Oakwood Directory Online. Did you know that you can access the Oakwood Directory from our website? Access the directory by clicking “Member Login” on the top line (left side above “Home”) of the home page or under “Directory and Giving History” on the right side of any other page. If you haven’t registered yet, you will be prompted to do so. You will then have access to your personal records, including your giving report, and an Oakwood directory. We must have the email address you are using to register in our database in order for you to log in. Please be assured that only you can see your personal information.

Membership at Oakwood. Interested in investigating how to become a member of Oakwood Community Church? You can view our Membership Process on our website. Scroll to the bottom of the home page to view the documents for becoming a member.

Staff e-mails. For e-mail messages directly to the staff, their addresses are:

Larry Chute – Larry@Oakwoodfl.org or chutelarry@gmail.com

Dave Dorsey – Dave@Oakwoodfl.org

Martha Dorsey – Martha@Oakwoodfl.org

Melanie Hoglievina – Melanie@Oakwoodfl.org

or general information should be sent to Office@Oakwoodfl.org.

Seeds For Growth—continued

I think that for families, sometime after dinner can be best for family prayer. Prayer times should not be long. (You can pray long when you are alone.) These times take priority over television, even homework. Praying together tells the children that Mom and Dad go to the Lord--when things are fine and when things are falling apart; it shows them the way.

Corrie Ten Boom: “Don’t pray when you feel like it. Have an appointment with the King and keep it.”

Mike Bickle, *Growing in Prayer*: “If you *schedule time for prayer* and *make a list*, you will pray ten times more than you do now.”

Coming to the throne of God, our Father, and talking with Him! Amazing grace!

“Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16).

“And God’s peace be yours, that tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot of whatsoever sort that is, that peace which transcends all understanding, shall garrison and mount guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:7, *The Amplified Bible*).

What’s your plan?



PowerHouse Schedule

July 24—PowerHouse Olympic Games—ends at 8:30 PM

July 31—Fifth Sunday & extended evening—TBD—ends at 8:30 PM

Aug 7—Regular Evening Meeting

Aug 14—PowerHouse Food Bag Ministry & Back to School Pool Party @ Bustamante home

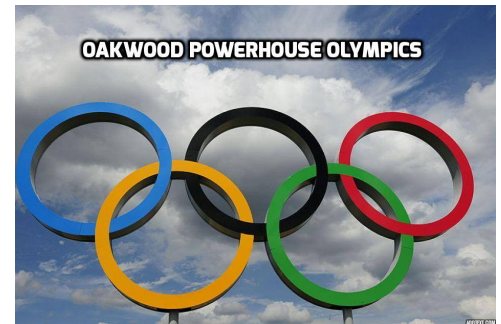
PowerHouse Olympics*

This Sunday night our students will become Powerhouse Olympians and compete in several different events with some unique twists. We will be dividing the participants into teams and each event will earn them points to be tallied at closing ceremonies. We will have a tiki torch to open and the close the games. We encourage Olympians to invite any friends



whom they think may enjoy this evening. Please wear shoes and clothing that are suitable for running. Also we encourage everyone to wear clothing and bring flags that represents their heritage. Church members and parents are invited to come cheer.

*This is not a United States Olympic Committee (USOC) sanctioned event and winners do not qualify for the Rio Games.



Food Bag Ministry

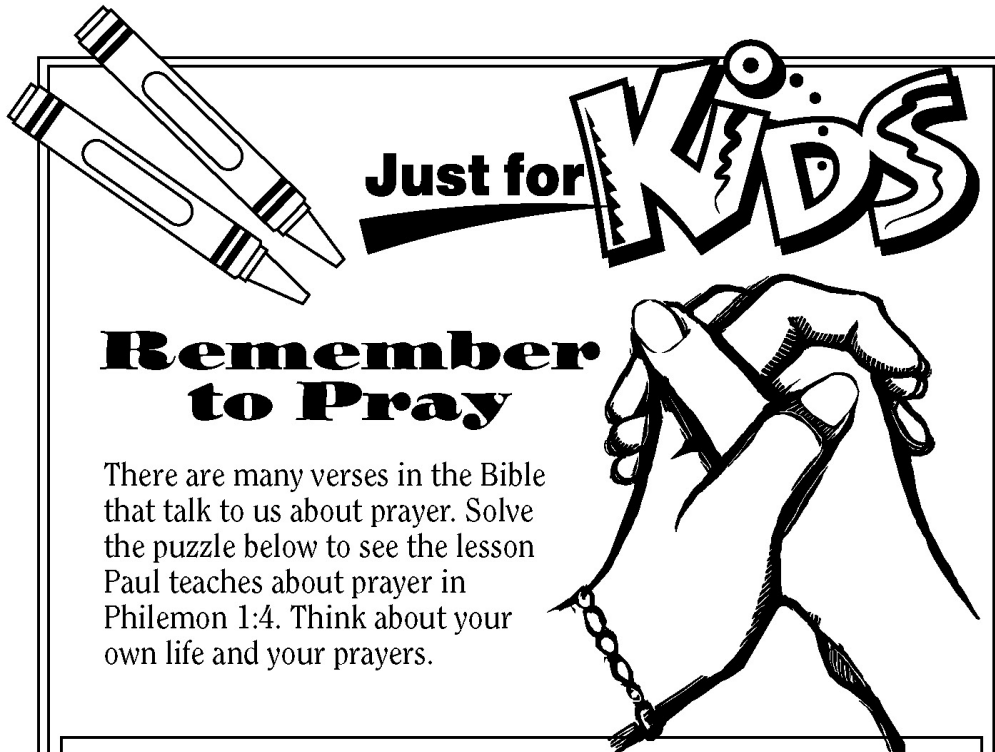
Our PowerHouse students have a monthly fundraiser assembling food bags that are distributed to medical clinics in Tampa, Lakeland, Haines City and Winter Haven? These bags are distributed to indigent patients at the clinic to provide some basic food needs of the patients and their family.

PowerHouse teens can raise money for summer mission/conference trips by participating in our monthly Food Bag Ministry, typically on the second Sunday of each month. Our next Food Bag prep day is **Sunday, August 14** 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, August 12. Meet at Aldi at Bearss & Florida Ave. at 5:00 PM (or contact Cam Whipple—813.265.9895) if you want to help. For more details on deliveries, contact Cindy Giannone at (813) 969-4136.

Kids Corner



Just for KIDS

Remember to Pray

There are many verses in the Bible that talk to us about prayer. Solve the puzzle below to see the lesson Paul teaches about prayer in Philemon 1:4. Think about your own life and your prayers.

Use the alphabet code to fill in the blanks, and then read Paul's message.

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

“
 R Z O D Z B H G S Z M P N B
 T L W Z H R I V N V N Y V I
 B L F R M N B K I Z B V I H ”

... Philemon 1:4, NIV

Answer:
 I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers



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Our Vocation & Volunteer Staff

Interim Pastor—Larry Chute
 Director of Ministries & Coordinator of Children’s
 Ministry—Dave Dorsey
 Director of PowerHouse Ministry—Doug Cress
 Associate Director of PowerHouse Ministry—Cam
 Whipple
 Office Manager—Martha Dorsey
 Secretary—Melanie Hoglievina

Our Elder Team

Mark Beale
 Edson Bustamante
 Larry Chute
 John Schneider
 Rob Weyand

Our Deacon Team

David Conner
 Dave DePagter
 David Fowle
 Larry Giannone
 Brian Johnson
 Mike Wyatt

Office hours:

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

Worship:

Sundays—10:00 AM

Calendar at a Glance



July 22—Women’s *Painting With A Twist*
 July 27—Prayer Team Meeting



Aug 3—Transition Team Meeting
 Aug 7—Elder led Prayer Time (9:00 AM)
 Blood Pressure checks following Worship
 Aug 9—Missions Team Meeting
 Aug 14—PowerHouse Food Bags
 Board Meeting
 Aug 17—Transition Team 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. 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 |

Missed a Sunday message? Listen online @ www.oakwoodfl.org/messages/