

the Oakwood ACORN

A Chronicle Of our News

Seeds for Growth

Loving God – Through Public Worship

Three Sunday morning’s ago, I woke up with a bad headache after a night of moderate pain. My discomfort eased with a couple of Excedrin, yet I was contemplating relaxing “at home” for the morning instead of going with Bev and our family to church. You see, I was on vacation – I didn’t *have* to go to church! Ahh, part of me thought that would have been nice. Yet I decided it was valuable for me to go. So, in spite of how I *felt*, I choose to go to express my love for God through public worship. The church we attended was solid, yet the worship music style was dated by a few decades and the preaching had good content but was delivered in a manner that I didn’t prefer.

Yet God did something in that service with me. During the song of response to the message from God’s Word, with a silent prayer, I renewed my dedication to God and to loving Him by serving others. I got something from that service, and hopefully God got something from me – in spite of my initial impulse to stay home or to “turn off” in the service because it wasn’t presented in my preferred styles.

It all started after making a choice to “go to church” to love God through public worship. What prompted my telling you of my experience was my reading today these words, “When [Jesus] came to the village of Nazareth ... he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath ...” (Luke 4:16). Think of this! It was Jesus’ chosen pattern in life to take His place among the worshipping people on a weekly basis.

As B.B. Warfield wrote, “If any one could have pled that his spiritual experience was so lofty that it did not require public worship [or because of the synagogues imperfections] ... it was Jesus. But he made no such plea. Sabbath after Sabbath even he was found in the place of worship, side by side with God’s people, not for the mere sake of setting a good example, but for deeper reasons.”



May those deeper reasons for making public worship a priority for our lives be to express our love for God in the company of God’s people. Remember: *Love God ~ Grow in Community ~ Serve the Church and the World.*

~ Pastor Paul

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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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WIN Sunday—August 14

Our Team Tampa XII will give a report of their experiences at the English Camp in the Czech Republic during our special WIN Sunday, August 14 at 10:00 AM. Be here to hear how your prayers were answered through our team.



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



How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger who brings good news, the good news of peace and salvation, the news that the God of Israel reigns!

Isaiah 52:7



August PowerHouse Schedule

- 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



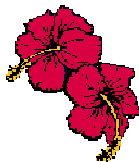
Rainbow River Tubing "Adventure"

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.

TreeHouse Summer Fun

Get ready to wear your best island garb as we are planning the first annual TreeHouse Luau on **August 26 (note new date)!** 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 August Prayer Guide from the Information Center and find out how.

Fall Schedule



Beginning September 11

9:15 AM—Education Classes—Children’s Ministry,
Middle & High School, Oakwood Mill
10:30 AM—Worship Service & Full TreeHouse Ministry

Watch for more details

Shoes for Orphans

Oakwood is partnering with The JOY FM in collecting shoes for orphans in Honduras. You can help by bringing in NEW leather or canvas athletic shoes of any size. Through August 26, there will be bins in the Worship Center lobby and the office for you to drop off your shoes.



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.

Ministry in Peru

If you'd asked me when I was 18, I'd have told you my plan was to go as a missionary to Peru, build an orphanage in the Andes, and live there till I died. My plans haven't come about as I'd expected, but I finally made it to those mountains this year!



In March, I traveled with a 13-member team to the Cotahuasi Canyon of the Andes Mountains in southern Peru where we shared the gospel in remote villages and worshipped Christ with fellow believers. We served alongside our hosts, Brad & Gina Shaw, SIM missionaries who have been sent by God to share the gospel and strengthen the church there for the last 10 years.

Our main activities were evangelistic programs for children that we presented in elementary schools and community gatherings for all villagers at which we sang, offered our testimonies, and preached from God's Word. The men from our group also hung out one day with the teen boys at the Youth Home in Cotahuasi, encouraging them in their faith and having some fun... the autographed football from the Indianapolis Colts they delivered was a big hit (most of our team was from Indy)!



We also had sweet fellowship with believers there. The women in our group made special plans for encouraging the Peruvian women who gather weekly (one traveling 5+ hours from her village) for Bible study in Cotahuasi... a foot-washing and tea party! The guys of our group meet with the Peruvian men who serve as pastors to the various villages, studying God's Word and praying together.

With tenderness, I remember the village of Píramarca which was a 1-hour drive and 2+ hour serious hike for us and in which there is only one family of Christians. The faces of the believers beamed as we shared our faith in Christ during the community meeting at night. As in every village, the children were quick to accept us and play with us and listen to our news about Jesus. During a short walk with a few women from our team, we came to a woman pleading in Quechua, no word of which I could understand; she calmed as we sat beside her and prayed for her freedom from alcoholism.



My mind often turns back to memories of the trip and I continue to pray for the Lord to make use of our efforts there, that His renown would increase and so, too, His kingdom. It was a privilege and joy to be sent!

Trisha Emerson

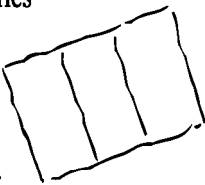
Kids Corner



Make a Travel Brochure

You will need:

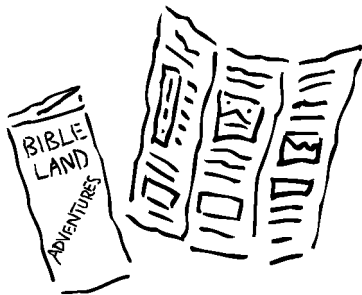
- piece of white/light paper
- old magazines
- scissors
- glue stick
- markers



How to do it:

Fold the paper in 3 parts. Use the names of the Biblical places from the puzzle answers. Make a section for each of those places. Cut letters from magazines. Cut out pictures to match each one. Glue them on. Describe each place.

Make a cover with ticket and travel information, etc....



Just for KIDS

“Take a Vacation”

Use your imagination to plan a great “Bible Lands” vacation. Use the code to find the names of these Biblical places. Look up the verses to find out about each place.

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(Matthew 26:36)

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(Genesis 2:15)

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(Matthew 4:18)

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(Matthew 3:13)

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(Exodus 19:20)

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(John 4:6)

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(Acts 18:2)

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(Genesis 11:5-9)

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(Daniel 6:16)

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(Exodus 16:1)

Garden of Gethsemane, Garden of Eden, Sea of Galilee, Jordan River, Mount Sinai, Jacobs Well, Rome, Tower of Babel, Lions' Den, Wilderness

Is it 50/50 or Half and Half? - Part 1

By Aaron Sharp



A few years ago my parents and I shared a meal with my paternal grandparents. While any meal at "Nanny and Papaw's" was an adventure, this time was especially entertaining. At the time, my grandfather and my father shared a hunting lease, and over lunch the subject of making deer sausage came up.

My papaw proclaimed boldly that when grinding meat, the proportion of deer meat to sausage meat was 50-50. This was all well and good until my grandmother politely corrected him, telling all of us that he was mistaken and the correct proportion was actually half and half.

For a moment, no one spoke, then in no uncertain terms my grandfather informed her that she was wrong and the correct proportion was 50-50, as he'd originally stated.

My grandmother, this time more adamantly, responded by telling all at the table that it was most certainly half and half.

This discussion, between two people well into their seventh decade, went on for several minutes while the rest of the family exchanged confused glances and tried not to laugh. Finally, my father interrupted the conversation long enough to tell his parents that they were both saying the same thing. Always one to get in the last word, my grandfather pointed his finger and triumphantly told my grandmother, "See, I told you woman!"

We all might get a laugh out of how quickly and how far off my grandparent's argument went, but if I'm honest, my wife and I have been guilty of some of the same types of communication errors. Disagreements over how I pronounce the word *ap-plicable*, whether toilet paper should go over or under (the obvious answer is over), and the often repeated phrase, "When did we discuss that?" are all telltale signs that my elderly grandparents aren't the only ones who've dealt with a failure to communicate.

Although the need for good communication is rarely disputed, what it takes to actually practice it is much harder to grasp. What's often lost in the shuffle is the "how to" of communication. Consider the following three suggestions as guardrails ensuring that you stay on the road to good communication.

It Isn't What You Say, It's ...

It's important to remember that our tone says as much about what we're saying as the actual words we use. I was first introduced to this concept as a child. Being a little stubborn and a lot independent, I didn't appreciate my parents correcting me. At times I'd backtalk my mother when she told me to do something such as taking out the trash. Those times would almost always result in my father and I having a sort of "Come-to-Jesus meeting," where we discussed my bad attitude. Often I'd defend myself by saying, "But Dad, I said I'd take out the trash. Why am I in trouble?" He'd then respond, "Son, it isn't what you said; it's how you said it." My words had indicated willingness, but the tone in which they were delivered had indicated anything but a willing attitude.

In marriage this issue often manifests itself in a sarcastic or belittling tone. A negative tone can be a way to say one thing but really mean another. Phrases such as, *I'm sorry*, *You're right*, and even *I love you* can take on different meanings depending on the tone with which they're delivered. At times your tone, though not malicious, can convey that you're upset when the truth is that you're just a little more animated or emphatic. Staying aware of your tone and what it says helps to avoid conflicts, and to keep conflicts that do arise from becoming bigger.

Part 2 in the next Issue of the *ACORN*.

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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



Aug 7—Blood Pressure checks following Worship
 Aug 9—MISCOM Meeting
 Aug 13—Rainbow River Tubing
 Aug 14—WIN Sunday—Czech Team Report
 Board Meeting

Aug 21—Compassion Offering
 PowerHouse Back To School Party
 Aug 26—Luau
 Aug 27—Community Group Leaders 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... |
|----------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Aug 12 | Aug 17 | Aug 20—Sept 2 |
| Aug 26 | Aug 31 | Sept 3—Sept 16 |

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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