



ACORN

Seeds for Growth

An Adventure of Faith

Right now, Oakwood is in a fresh new season of taking an adventure of faith in partnership with one another. We're in this together and we aspire to have 100% of us fully involved in this journey. It is amazing that we can delight God's heart when we believe that He is the God who achieves the impossible for those who look to Him in trusting faith to accomplish His purposes in and through our lives (Hebrews 11:6).

On Sunday morning, January 29, your leaders in this faith adventure, will present to you what we believe to be God's vision for us all in 2012 & 2013. We are calling it, *Expanding Our Territory, Together!* I am asking you to prepare for this by grasping Biblical truths about the nature of faith in our faith building seminar. That seminar is being communicated to you during my morning messages on January 8, 15, 22, 29, & February 5. I pray every week that everyone who is a part of Oakwood will be present each Sunday. Yet I do realize that for very good reasons, you may not be able to worship with us on each of these Sundays. So will you purpose to go to our web site at www.oakwoodfl.org, then click on the messages tab, type in the password: ooctree, and then scroll to the Sunday's message you may have missed? You can stream in through your PC or download it to an MP3 player.

The second thing I am asking us all to pray for at least one month is the following. I've pasted it into my smart phone guide to personal prayer – you may wish to do the same. Here's how I expressed it to you last Sunday:

Expanding Our Territory, Together!

I believe God wants me to team with Oakwood to expect the impossible for His kingdom's sake. Therefore, based on 1 Chronicles 4:9-10, I will passionately & regularly pray for the following 3 things:

God's Power in my life & Oakwood's

"Oh, that you would bless me and expand my territory [for your kingdom's sake!]



God's Presence in my life & Oakwood's

Please be with me in all that I do

God's Protection in my life & Oakwood's

Keep me from all trouble and pain!

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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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Seeds for Growth—continued

Living out of our faith can determine what wonderful things God will do in our lives and our congregation. As Jesus said, *Let it happen, then, just as you believe..* (Matthew 9:29 TEV). We're in this together! We need you! Look to God to do great things in your life and our congregation – and then step forward as He directs and empowers you.

~ Pastor Paul



Valentine's Celebration

Come celebrate with your sweetheart at our Annual Sweetheart Dinner on Saturday, February 11, 6:00 PM in PowerHouse. You'll enjoy a wonderful dinner and some fun interaction with other couples. Watch for more details coming soon.



Blood Mobile

The Blood Mobile will be at Oakwood on Sunday, January 29 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 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.

Blood Pressure checks

Blood pressure checks Sunday, February 5, in the kitchen following the Worship Service. Don't miss this important health screening.

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday—January 22

Since 1973 this observance has taken place annually on the Sunday closest to the anniversary of the Roe v Wade decision that legalized abortion in America. Because God is the God of life, we at Oakwood strongly affirm the sanctity and preciousness of life. This means, as the people of God, we recognize the value of fellow human beings created in the image of God from the womb to the grave, and everything in between. We are committed to seeking the well-being of all, especially those who are weak, defenseless and marginalized. We remind you as God's people that He is a God of life, and that this truth has profound implications for how we care for others all year long!

Oakwood supports Pregnancy Care Center and appreciates their commitment to helping women on many levels with education and counseling.

Prayer 2012

Oakwood Community Church is extending its focus on prayer from the year 2011 into the New Year with the focus on prayer in conjunction with the new vision. As a result, we are continuing the prayer guides to expand in loving God.



For the month of January, we are taking time to get back to the basics of focusing on who God is and praying His names in order to honor and worship Him. Pick up your copy on Sunday or view it on our website.

Missions

Did we really go to Africa??

Yes, we did! For 10 days, Mary Ellen Kluck, LaVerne Cluff, and Dave & Martha Dorsey had the great privilege to go to Cameroon for the dedication of the New Testament in the Nooni language.

Want to hear more details about our experience? Join us on Friday, January 27 from 7:00 – 9:00 PM in TreeHouse for a relaxed evening of sharing pictures and stories, answering questions and light refreshments.

Want a primer? Click the link below for a YouTube video of what we experienced on Dedication Day.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnqOza_5Oms



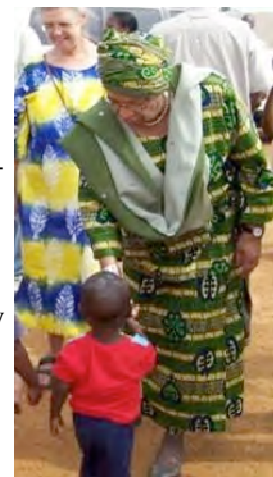
Rafiki Update—Survivor

We returned on December 12 from our third visit to the Rafiki orphanage in Liberia West Africa. While there we celebrated the 7th birthday of Benjamin, also known as Survivor. As an infant, he was found in the “bush” by refugees fleeing into Monrovia during the last years of Liberia’s long civil war. He was tied to his dead mother’s back. No one thought he would live, but with some emergency feeding at a Red Cross center, he did.

A woman finally agreed to care for him. The Red Cross and the Ministry of Health contacted Rafiki Liberia for possible placement for Survivor. At close to five years old, he weighed twenty pounds and wore size two clothing. He did not own even a single toy. He lived in a humble home with many other people. These people wanted a better life and an education for Survivor, things they could not provide for him.



And so he joined the family at Rafiki Village Liberia. He now has a Mother, new clothes, new toys, good food, and lots of love. And he has shaken hands with a president! Ten days after arriving at his new home, a motorcade traveled down the dirt road past the Rafiki Village. Hearing the sirens, the mothers took the children to the fence to wave. It was the President of Liberia! She ordered her driver to stop, got out of her vehicle, and entered the Village to greet the children. From lying in the “bush” to shaking hands with the president—Survivor (now called Benjamin) has been given hope for his future.



“Who is like the Lord our God? . . . He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes. . .” (Psalm 113: 5-8).

We were once again blessed by our time with the children and the missionaries who serve "God’s least ones". We served in a variety of roles (especially in the school program) as two of the missionary teachers were on furlough during our time at the orphanage. There were eleven new residents added since we were in Liberia eight months ago plus two additional orphans transitioned into life in the Rafiki village the Friday after we arrived. At present, 56 resident orphans plus approximately 40 day students take advantage of the school program offered at Rafiki Liberia. The day students are provided breakfast and lunch as well as a Christian education. We continued to be honored to be a small part of this ministry.

Thank you again for your prayers and the much needed clothing donations.

Rick and Brenda Smith

Opportunities to *Serve The Church & World*

Blessing Others

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 and money to keep this ministry moving forward.

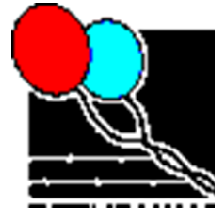
In the last week, I received an e-mail from Linda who is one of the ladies that so faithfully manages the ministry. In part, she mentioned two opportunities that came during the last part of December. Word of this ministry has spread to other churches. She wrote, "We had several families from two area churches that heard about us and called with families in need...we were able to help a woman right out of prison who had nothing but the clothes on her back...I also gave her a Sanctuary Bible that we have for the moms. Another family of 6 who had limited clothing who had called my church and the Pastor asked if we could help....and we did."

Currently, this ministry opens once a month, typically on the 3rd Saturday of the month, for any single mom in need. We are considering adding a small food pantry of non-perishables for the moms as well. Your continued donations of new or gently worn clothes 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.



Angola Here We Come Again!

Many of you remember that we had a team of 5 men



Returning HEARTS Celebration

attend the "Returning Hearts Celebration" last July at the Louisiana State Prison at Angola. We are going back again this year! The experience of worshipping with the inmates on Friday night was so humbling. Then being with the dads and kids on Saturday as they were able to just have fun

was so exciting to see. This year's event will be held on Saturday, May 19. We will be traveling to Louisiana on May 17 and returning to Tampa on Sunday, May 20. The greatest need is for Family Volunteers that will chaperone the dads and their kids for the day. As this event has grown, administrative help is also needed. There were many women volunteers who came to assist dads with daughters and others came to help with the check-in process as well as work the games. So, if there are any husband/wife teams that would like to go, it would be great for both of you to see how God is doing some significant things

in what was once one of the toughest prisons in America. Last year, costs for the trip were around \$500 per person. We anticipate it being a bit more this year



with airfare increases. More specifics will be coming in the next few weeks. A signup sheet will be in the Information Center in the lobby. Please give prayerful consideration about this trip.



PowerHouse Schedule

January 22—PowerHouse Food Bag Fundraiser—immediately following Worship
Lesson 12: Israel's Family Roots (Regular Meeting)

January 29—PowerHouse Band to lead Worship Sunday AM
Lesson 13: Dealing with the Past (Regular Meeting)

Upcoming Events—Watch for more details

Superbowl Party at the Conner's—Sunday Feb 5

Annual Powerhouse Talent Show—Sunday Mar 4 (Get your act together)

PH Food Bag Fundraisers

PowerHouse teens can raise money for summer mission/conference trips by participating in our monthly Food Bag Fundraisers on the third Sunday of each month. Our next Food Bag Prep fundraiser is **this Sunday, January 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, January 20. Meet at the Save-A-Lot on Bearss Ave at 5:00 PM if you want to help. For more details contact Sandy Clarke at 931-0668.



Drivers needed for Food Bag Ministry



Our PowerHouse students have a monthly fundraiser assembling food bags that are distributed to medical clinics in Tampa, Lakeland and Haines City. We are in need of people who can help with delivery of these food bags, especially to Lakeland and Haines City. 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.

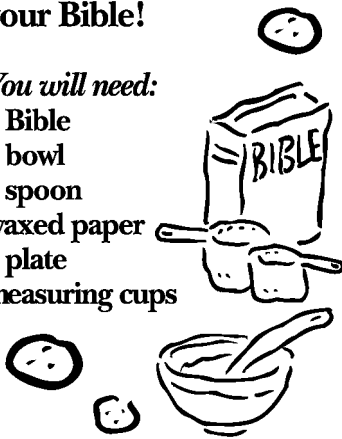
Kids Corner

Sweet Scripture Treat!

... a recipe hidden in your Bible!

You will need:

- a Bible
- a bowl
- a spoon
- waxed paper
- a plate
- measuring cups



In the bowl put:

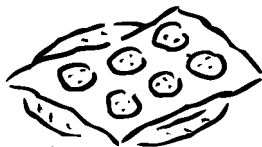
1/2 cup I Samuel 14:25
(Hint: H _ _ _ _)

1 1/2 cups Judges 5:25
(powdered/dried)
(Hint: M _ _ _)

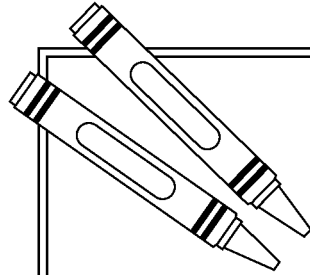
1/2 cup I Samuel 30:12
(Hint: R _ _ _ _ _)



Mix together and drop on waxed paper on the plate. Put in the refrigerator for a while to set.



Enjoy!



Just for KIDS

Matthew 6:21

“For where your _____ is, there your heart will be also.”

There is a special or valuable item in each verse below. Find the item and fit it into the boxes with the corresponding number circled. Unscramble the letters that are circled. Spell a word that fills the blank above.

Verses:

1. Zechariah 9:16
2. Esther 2:17
3. Matthew 13:45-46
4. Proverbs 25:4
5. 2 Timothy 2:20
6. Luke 21:2
7. Genesis 41:42a
8. Proverbs 3:15
9. Ezekiel 16:11
10. Exodus 35:22
11. Ezekiel 16:11

Hidden word: _____

Hidden Word: Treasure
1. Jewels 2. Crown 3. Pearls 4. Silver 5. Gold 6. Coins 7. Ring 8. Rubies 9. Bracelets 10. Earrings 11. Necklace



Oakwood Community Church
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Our Staff

Lead Pastor - Dr. Paul B. Phair
 Director of Ministries - Dave Dorsey
 Director of Worship Arts - Andrew Reilly
 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:

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

Worship:

Sundays - 10:30 AM

Calendar at a Glance



Jan 22—PowerHouse Food Bag Fundraiser
 Jan 27—Report from the Cameroon Team
 Jan 29—Blood Mobile @ Oakwood
 PowerHouse teens lead Worship
 Elder presentation of Vision for 2012-13
 Jan 31—Presidential Primary—be sure to vote



Feb 5—Blood Pressure checks
 PowerHouse Superbowl party @ Conner's
 Feb 11—Valentine’s Dinner
 Feb 12—Board 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...
Jan 27	Feb 1	Feb 4—Feb 17
Feb 10	Feb 15	Feb 18—Mar 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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