



# ACORN

## Seeds for Growth

### *God Still Speaks and Soggy Clothing*

Martha and I just got back from a quick trip to South Carolina for a family funeral. A really wonderful man that went to be with the Lord. There are some other family dynamics that made the trip even more challenging. I have come to appreciate that most everyone has some difficult circumstances with immediate family that causes deep wounds. Sometimes even persecution comes from someone in our own earthly families. As I thought about dealing with this circumstance, the Lord reminded me of several things. In Matthew 5, we are told to “pray for those who persecute you (me).” This is particularly hard when it is someone who was close at one time. I also thought about Nehemiah and how he prayed a lot and at every instance possible. When he heard about the destruction in his homeland, he “mourned, fasted and prayed to the God of heaven.” (Neh. 1:4) When the king asked how he could help, it says in chapter 2 that “with a prayer to the God of heaven, I replied.” Even as he was being asked questions by the king, or later as he was being challenged by Israel’s enemies or hearing complaints from his people, he prayed. Good stuff. So, I prayed on Monday morning that I would remember to pray at the point of confrontation with the person I was sure to see that day! It was very humbling to experience the peace of God that passes all understanding in such a tough spot!

I wish I could say that all was healed that day. It wasn’t. I wish I could also say that we saw some hope in restoration. We didn’t. In the article last month, I talked about one of the verses we learned in TreeHouse in the last month. John 16:33 says that “here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows.” This is a harder pill when the sorrows come from someone you love. Our emotions can overcome us and weigh us down.

This year, Martha and I are reading the One Year Book of Encouragement as our daily devotional. We take the book when we go out of town so we can keep up with the readings. As we left Greenville, South Carolina early Tuesday morning, Martha pulled the book out and began to read the story for October 25. The author cites Jill Briscoe, a pastor’s wife, who told of a time when she was not able to sleep for several days because of the betrayal of someone who had

been very close to her. She couldn’t get passed her feelings and was “drowning in despondency.” Ever felt like that?

As Jill Briscoe was reading the Bible, she came upon Isaiah 61:1,3: “The Lord has anointed Me to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.” What struck her



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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:

Giving Thanksgiving	2
OCC Updates	2-3
Service Opportunity	3
Oakwood Mill	4
PowerHouse News	4
Kids Corner	5
Marriage Matters	6
Calendar at a Glance	7

## Evening of Giving Thanksgiving

Everyone is invited to the "Evening of Giving Thanksgiving" on November 13 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. We will meet around a bonfire in the area east of the PowerHouse.



You will have opportunity to **"give thanksgiving" tangibly** by donating to Metropolitan Ministries. In preparation for their holiday food distribution effort the items they need most are:

Canned fruit	Boxed Cereal
Beans	Yams

They can also use these items:

Crib and Stroller Toys	Make-up
Jewelry	Watches
Sports clothing or hats	

There will also be opportunity to **"give thanksgiving" verbally** by sharing in 1-2 minutes your personal reasons for giving thanksgiving to God.

How has God recently answered your prayers?

What Bible passage has recently encouraged you?

How have you recently seen God at work in your life?



For family units with school age children you could ask them to answer the question "What can you be thankful for today?"

Prayerfully consider friends and neighbors you can invite to this "Evening of Thanksgiving". For your comfort and safety you may want to bring a flashlight, a lawn chair and insect repellent.

*I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving.*

Psalm 69:30



## Daylight Saving Time Ends

Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 6. Be sure to turn your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night, November 6.



## Blood Mobile

The Blood Mobile will be at Oakwood on Sunday, November 20 from 9:00 AM to 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, November 6, in the kitchen following the Worship Service. Don't miss this important health screening.

## Opportunity to *Serve The World*



This year, Oakwood is being given the privilege to *Serve the World* by helping at Metropolitan Ministries during the holiday season. This Thanksgiving, we have been asked to provide some of the volunteer work. Needed are people to help with parking, shopping, loading the cart and getting the goods to their cars. We need 10 volunteers on each of the following days: Monday, November 21, 3:30 ó 6:30 PM; Tuesday, November 22, 1:30 ó 4:00 PM; and 3:30 ó 6:30 PM.

Also, we will be collecting non-perishable food for their holiday food distribution effort. Their most needed items are canned fruit, boxed cereal, beans, and yams. They can also use donations of crib and stroller toys, make-up, jewelry, watches, sports clothing or hats.

These are great opportunities to show compassion and give a sense of hope to those who may not know The One who is Hope. The volunteer sign-up sheet is in the Information Center. Please join us as we give thanks by giving time.

## Prayer 2011

Oakwood is focusing on prayer in 2011. Did you know that you can **BLESS** others with your prayers? Pick up a copy of our November Prayer Guide from the Information Center or check it out on our website and find out how.



## Elder Recommendations

Oakwood Community Church desires to follow the guidance of God the Holy Spirit in the selection of our church elders (Acts 20:28; 13:1-3; 6:1-6). You can be helpful in discerning the Lord's guidance by prayerfully recommending a prospect to our current elders for their consideration. The following are necessary qualifications for prospective elders. (1) A man of proven godly maturity as prescribed in Scripture; (2) Philosophical alignment with elders (values, vision, & philosophy of ministry); (3) Positive relational chemistry with current elders; (4) Active, local membership at Oakwood for a minimum of two years.

As you consider recommendations, we offer you a tool we've developed to guide you. It is entitled: *Elder Qualification Descriptions, Evaluation & Recommendation Form I* and is available at our Information Center. You can write your recommendation on the back of your Connection Card on Sunday or contact one of the current elders.

## Seeds For Growth—continued from Page 1

(and me) is that she (and I) had been wearing heaviness as a garment. God was challenging me to praise him for the one who had betrayed me!! (See Matthew 5) When we are really mad at someone, or when someone we love and trust has betrayed us, the last thing we feel like doing is giving God praise for that person. Yet we've all heard it's in forgiving those who have done terrible things to us that we ourselves find release. Some of us need to put on some new clothes. Some forgiveness needs to be extended even to other members of the Oakwood family. This requires a special work of the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:26-27 is a helpful reminder how the Holy Spirit helps us in this. The spirit of heaviness can feel like a heavy, wet raincoat that drags us down. Lord, help us fling off the soggy garments. Please put a song of praise within me and us!

That's all I'm saying today!

Dave Dorsey  
Director of Ministries

## New Oakwood Mill class



**Winter 2011  
Beginning December 4  
9:15 – 10:15 AM**

The Oakwood Mill is the Adult Education Ministry of Oakwood Community Church. All Classes are held in the Education Center. Contact the Church Office ([office@oakwoodfl.org](mailto:office@oakwoodfl.org)) to register.

Please be sure to include information on any children so we can adequately plan for childcare during that hour.

### ***DANIEL***

**Location: Room 106/108**

Led by Guy Sas

Much like Moses (and Joseph) at the court of the Egyptians, Daniel was from boyhood raised in noble Babylonian surroundings. His mind nurtured by scholars and, more importantly, the Holy Spirit, he would rank first among the highest offices of the Babylonian and Medo-Persian Empires. His chronicle, the portrait of a man totally committed to God, encompasses the full scope of history. Described in the account of Daniel's journey with God are some of the most exciting incidents of faith and prayer recorded in all of Scripture.

Join us as we study Daniel's walk with his God and see what we can learn and, by so doing, improve our walk with God as well.



## PowerHouse Schedule

**Oct 28-30** Campout No PowerHouse Sunday Morning classes or Evening Meeting

**Nov 6** Regular Meeting  $\hat{=}$  Channel For Blessing

**Nov 13** Churchwide Bonfire  $\hat{=}$  Evening of Giving Thanksgiving

**Nov 20** PowerHouse Food Bag Fundraiser  
Monthly Outreach Party

**Nov 27** Regular Meeting  $\hat{=}$  Faith or Consequences

### **Student and Parents**

Mark your Calendar

**Challenge 2012**, New Orleans, July 1-6, 2012

<http://www.efca.org/reachnational/reachstudents/-challenge-2012-conference>



## 4 Communication Firecrackers—Pt 2

*And how to avoid them* by H. Kent Hughes



*The most frequent statement I hear is, "You make me so mad!"*

Part 1 of this article was in our last issue. You can read it on our website.

### Firecracker #3: Blame

Julie and Steve sat in my office arguing over household responsibilities.

"You make me so mad when you come home and just watch TV," Julie said.

"Well, you frustrate me every time you gripe and complain about all I don't do."

"I'm tired of all your excuses to be lazy," Julie threw back.

Can you see where this was headed?

Of all the things I hear in my office, blame is the most common. If allowed, most couples would use the entire counseling session just blaming each other for their problems. The most frequent statement I hear is, "You make me so mad!"

I don't dispute that often we feel angry in response to our mate's actions. But it's inaccurate to say, "You make me so angry." Your emotions are in your control—not somebody else's.

A great way to know if you're placing blame is to watch how often you put the word you at the beginning of your sentences. For example, "You don't listen to me when I'm talking." While that statement may be true, it's a blaming phrase and will quickly be seen as an aggressive move. And your spouse will respond in kind.

### Better Choice:

A more effective way to communicate is to use "I feel" statements: "I feel unheard." "I feel disrespected when you interrupt." "I need you to listen and try to understand what I'm feeling." Spouses feel much less defensive with this communication technique.

Don't manipulate the "I feel" into a blaming statement, though: "I feel you are a jerk" won't elicit a positive response.

### Firecracker #4: Exaggerations

Fred and Helen were in my office. Through tears she stated, "He never wants to cuddle and talk. All he ever wants is sex."

"That's not true!" Fred responded.

"Yesterday we talked for almost an hour. You're just never satisfied."

"But you always go back to your old ways once you get what you want," Helen cried.

This firecracker is the easiest to lob into the fire of conflict. While such words as always, never, and every time may seem harmless on the surface, their impact on an argument is deadly. As soon as you say, "You never let me finish a sentence," or "You always say that," your spouse is thinking of an exception. Rarely, if ever, is an exaggeration true.

### Better Choice:

Another way to phrase that thought would be, "I feel cut off when you don't let me finish my thoughts."

Focus on the here and now rather than connecting today's disagreement to past problems. If there's an existing pattern and you need to make that connection, pick one instance rather than saying "always" or "every time."

Self-control implies that we don't have to speak everything we think. The art of conflict resolution isn't so much about proving our point, but using tools that work rather than throwing in firecrackers that explode.

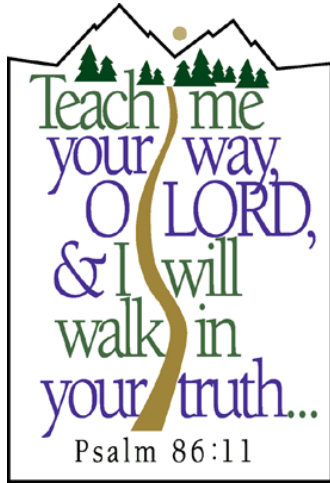
*H. Kent Hughes, a psychologist, speaker, and author, lives in Tennessee.*

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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**



Nov 6<sup>th</sup> Daylight Saving Time Ends  
 Blood Pressure checks following Worship  
 Nov 8<sup>th</sup> MISCOM Meeting  
 Nov 13<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting  
 Evening of Giving Thanksgiving

Nov 20<sup>th</sup> Blood Mobile @ Oakwood  
 Compassion Offering  
 Food Bag Fundraiser  
 Nov 24<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Day  
 Nov 24-25<sup>th</sup> Church Office Closed

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](mailto:Office@oakwoodfl.org). Article deadlines and publication schedule is:

Deadline	Publication date	News for dates including...
Nov 4	Nov 9	Nov 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2
Nov 25	Nov 30	Dec 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec 16

Do you know someone at Oakwood with a noteworthy achievement? Send the information to [Office@OakwoodFL.org](mailto:Office@OakwoodFL.org) and we'll include it in a future article.

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