



# ACORN

## Seeds for Growth

### *Joy To The World*

Well, here it comes! “‘Tis the season to be jolly. Falalalalalalala!” Black Friday has come and gone. It even bled into Thanksgiving Day. The pull of the sales and the rush of the mall. Even my favorite store is getting into the act with flyers arriving daily in our mail box. The tension for Christ-followers is to not get caught in the hype of the season while at the same time remembering and celebrating the significance of the holiday. Jesus Christ came to earth as a child. He lived a life of perfect obedience to His Father. He experienced the full force of temptation and did not yield. Then He died as a sacrifice for my sin. The lyrics of a song written by a long ago friend have special meaning this time of year and connect the manger to the cross.

*Little baby in a manger, Son of God above, Born to die for all my sin  
Yes, I believe in love.*

*Life has triumphed; Death is finished. I cannot conceive  
Why One so lovely, One so kind would give new life to me.*

*What can this poor wounded soul give to a mighty King?  
Can He who holds the world in space have need of anything?*

*Yet, my soul shall never cease to offer gifts of praise.  
I'll kneel in spirit at His feet a sinner saved by grace.*

*Born to die to rise again to crush the power of Satan's sin  
I lift my voice; I'll shout and sing  
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna to the King!*

*Little baby in a manger.  
Yes, I believe in Love!*

Jose Cariaga reminded us last week of how beautiful it is to worship the Lord with a grateful heart. May we be like the shepherds in the story found in Luke 2. It says in verse 20, “the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen...”



Merry Christmas!  
Happy Birthday, Christ Jesus!!  
Dave Dorsey  
Director of Ministries

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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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## Christmas at Oakwood



This Christmas season we will focus on the gift that's worth everything! It's a gift that's worth giving, waiting for, receiving, and appreciating. It's the greatest gift ever purchased and the greatest gift that can be received. As we consider each of the messages in my series, may we all use them as an opportunity to deepen our gratitude for this gift – and may we share it with a friend by inviting them to worship beside us at Oakwood during the month of December. ~ Pastor Paul

### Christmas Eve Bonfire Service

An outdoor service under the stars—Saturday, December 24 @ 6:00 PM

A candlelight service filled with Christmas music. Wear your jeans and bring your own lawn chair and a personal flash light (for reading lyrics)

The service will be located just east of the Teen Center

Ushers will be available to guide you to our location

Contingency plan will be in the worship center (but not a candle light service)



### Christmas Day Service



We will be having a family Worship Service on Sunday, December 25 at 10:30 AM. There will be childcare for children birth through 4 years old. All other children will be with their families in the Worship Service. There will be no education classes for youth or adults.

**Sunday, January 1** we will resume our regular schedule with Education Classes for all ages at 9:15 AM and our Worship Service and TreeHouse ministry at 10:30 AM.

## Opportunities to *Serve The World*



### Metropolitan Ministries

We are collecting non-perishable food for Metropolitan Ministries' Christmas food distribution effort. These items can be put in the box in the lobby.

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.

### Cameroon offering

We have the opportunity to help four of our own – Mary Ellen Kluck, La Verne Cluff, and Dave & Martha Dorsey – make a trip to Cameroon to see the dedication of the Noni New Testament. The Noni people group is who Pete & Mary Ellen Kluck first lived among when they went to Cameroon and are excited to see the completion of this New Testament. We will collect a special offering this Sunday, December 4 to help with expenses for this trip. The trip will be December 15 – 24.

If you'd like more information about the dedication and to follow a blog while the team is in Cameroon, click on the following link: [www.NooniNewTestamentDedication.wordpress.com](http://www.NooniNewTestamentDedication.wordpress.com).

Please pray for quick processing of passports and visas.

## Voting on Proposed 2012 Budget



The Proposed 2012 Budget was presented at the Congregational Meeting on November 20. Members are encouraged to pick up a copy at the Information Center and look it over. Members will vote on the budget on Sunday, December 4.

## Prayer 2011

Oakwood is focusing on prayer in 2011. Pick up your copy of the December Prayer Guide focusing on Advent from the Information Center or check it out on our website. May this guide help you focus on the birth of our Lord and guide you in prayer during December.



## 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 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.

## New Women's Study Beginning

Just for Joy is beginning a new Beth Moore study entitled, *James Mercy Triumphs*. We would like to invite you and your friends to join us beginning January 4, in this exciting new journey. We will be learning about the man called **James** and what it means to **live out our faith**. Please be praying that God would use this to draw us closer to Him and to each other. We will begin registration on December 11. We will also be showing the promotional video in the church Lobby. The accompanying workbook will be fifteen dollars plus three dollars toward the video series, but as always do not let the cost determine your participation, God will provide.

If you have questions about this study, please contact Sissy Saunders @ 926-9506.

## Missions Prayer Needs

**From Dave & Jen Cox**—Jen and I would appreciate your prayer over the next week for safety in travel and God's presence and guidance at our meetings with our area team. We'll be driving a Romanian friend's car from Bucharest to Sofia on Wednesday, November 30, driving back on Saturday to watch Joel and his friends in BCA's production of *Arsenic and Old Lace*, returning to Sofia early Sunday morning and finally driving back to Bucharest next Tuesday. We'll be on the road a lot of hours and Bulgaria is not always the easiest country to navigate. For one thing people nod "no" for "yes" and "yes" for "no"!

While in Sofia we'll be discussing human trafficking and modern slavery in this part of the world and prayerfully considering what roles we might all play in fighting this current day evil.

So please join us in prayer for: safety in travel; discernment in our discussions in Sofia, and a worshipful atmosphere; Joel's busy week preparing with his friends for the performance... may they see God at work in the midst of this cultural activity!

We are VERY THANKFUL for your presence in our lives!

**From Don & Ellen Harris**—please continue to pray for Don as he recuperates from prostate cancer surgery.

## New Oakwood Mill Class



The Oakwood Mill is the Adult Education Ministry of Oakwood Community Church. All Classes are held in the Education Center. The Winter session will be on December 4, 9:15—10:15 AM.

**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. 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.



## PowerHouse Christian Hip Hop Concert

All teens are invited to join us **this Friday, December 2**, at 7:00 PM for a concert featuring *His Glory Alone* and several other bands.

Advance tickets are available for \$5 at [www.hisgloryalone.com](http://www.hisgloryalone.com) or at the door Friday night for \$7. Doors open at 6:30 PM. Bring your friends and come have a good time. The snack bar will be open.



## PowerHouse Schedule

**Dec 4**—Regular Meeting—Taking Faith To The Altar

**Dec 11**—Regular Meeting—Isaac and Rebekah

**Dec 18**—Christmas Party

**Dec 25**—No PowerHouse morning classes  
No PowerHouse evening meeting

**Dec 30**—PowerHouse Lock-In—watch for details

**Jan 1**—No PowerHouse evening meeting



## 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 December 18, 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, December 16. 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.

## Sunday night PowerHouse Teen Ministry

Every Sunday night students 6-12 grades are invited to the PowerHouse. Doors open at 5:00 PM and students should be picked up by 7:30. The snack bar is open at 5:00 PM. Parents are welcome to come and see what happens at our youth meetings. Our actual meeting starts about 5:30 and ends at 7:00 PM.



Kids Corner

# Play a "Listening" Game

Here is a game that you can play by yourself or with a group of friends.

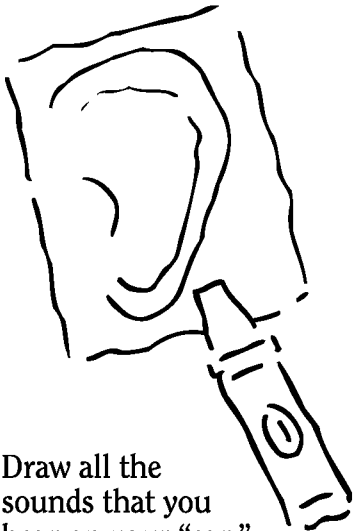
You will need:

- white paper
- pencil or markers or crayons

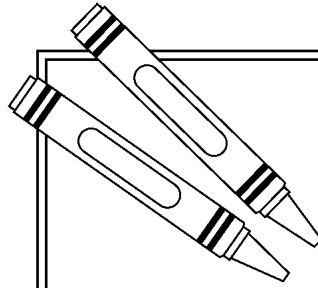


How to play:

Draw a large ear on your paper. Make it as big as the paper! *Sit quietly. Just listen.*



Draw all the sounds that you hear on your "ear." Choose different places to play. Set a time limit. If you're playing with friends, share what you heard.



# Just for KIDS

## Psalm 46:10

Sometimes our lives are so busy that we cannot seem to fit another thing into the day! But there is something very important that we need to do each day.

Find the answer using the code below.

A	1	B	F	2	G	K	3	L	O	4	R	U	5	V
D		E	H		I	M		N	S		T	W		Y

W

5 1 3 5 4 4

4 1 3 3 4 4 2 4 1

1 3 1 3 2 4 4 1 3

2 4 4 2 4 1

" 1 1 4 4 2 3 3 ' 1 3 1

3 3 4 5 4 2 1 4

2 1 3 2 4 1

We must talk to God and listen for God. "Be still, and know that I am God."

## Seven Things I Wish I'd Known About Men Before I Married

by Tricia Goyer



Growing up with my stepdad and younger brother I thought I knew a thing or two about men. While I knew not to change the channel during a football game, not to serve quiche for dinner, and not to attempt to fix a broken doorknob with a rubber band, there were a few important things I missed—things that would have helped me prepare for marriage and be a better wife.

Here is my list:

1. **Men can't read your mind.** If you “hint” at wanting help, men will not get it. “I wish I was taller so I could reach that canister” sounds like a simple statement. Asking sweetly works much better. Say something like, “Honey, when you have a minute can you reach that canister for me?”
2. **Men don't like to be rushed with new problems as soon as they walk in the front door.** Providing time to unwind works much better. Let the worries of your husband’s workday dissipate before you tell him about new ones.
3. **Men often feel like they're failing as a spiritual leader.** Ever wonder why your spouse doesn't take the initiative on spiritual ventures more often? Sometimes it's easier for him not to try than to see disappointment in your gaze. Instead of “hinting” at ways he can lead or nagging when another day goes by without quiet time, pray for your husband to step up, and support any effort he makes.
4. **Men are visual.** Very visual. Even when we women feel unattractive or overweight, our husbands do like to look at us minus the clothing. They don't mind nearly as much as we do about the extra rolls around the middle, I promise. Remember this: You are the only naked woman your husband is allowed to look at!
5. **Men like someone to listen to their dreams.** It doesn't mean they're going to go out and quit their jobs tomorrow and set off on a sailboat around the world, but a listening ear matters. Take time to ask, “If you could do anything, what would you do?” Give him space to dream.
6. **Men are born with a desire to protect the weak and fight for honor, but those instincts rarely have a chance to exhibit themselves in the real world.** We don't have to hide our faults or be perfect wives. Instead we can turn to our men for help and advice. We can give our husbands a chance to save the day.
7. **A good meal and a warm wife can wash away every other care in the world.** I don't think there's much more I need to say about that. Try it, I bet your husband will agree!

*Tricia Goyer is a homeschooling mom of four and an acclaimed and prolific writer, publishing hundreds of articles in national magazines. She has also written books on marriage and parenting and contributed notes to the Women of Faith Study Bible. Tricia lives with her husband and four children in Arkansas. You can find out more information about Tricia at [www.triciagoyer.com](http://www.triciagoyer.com).*

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*The virgin will be with  
 child and will give  
 birth to a son,  
 and will call him  
 Immanuel.  
 Isaiah 7:14*

**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**

*December*

Dec 2—PowerHouse Christian Hip Hop Concert  
 Dec 4—New Oakwood Mill class begins  
     Blood Pressure checks following Worship  
     Special Offering for Cameroon trip  
 Dec 11—Board Meeting

Dec 12—MISCOM Meeting  
 Dec 18—Compassion Offering  
     PH Food Bag Fundraiser  
 Dec 24—Christmas Eve Bonfire Service  
 Dec 25—Christmas Day Service

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...
Dec 9	Dec 14	Dec 17—Jan 6
Dec 30	Jan 4	Jan 7—Jan 20

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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