



ACORN

Seeds for Growth

Random Thoughts

I am enjoying my read through the Chronological Bible again this year. I am currently reading in Exodus and am intrigued that the more things change the more things stay the same. As you may recall, the people of Israel had been captive in Egypt and things were getting harder for them by command of the ruler. Then, from the text, it seems they endured the first 4 plagues that God brought to all of Egypt. In fact, they endured most of the plagues along with everyone else. But God was still with them. The final plague was the loss of all first born. The people of Israel prepared themselves as instructed by Moses and Aaron. When the Lord passed through Egypt and took the life of everything first born, those prepared by obeying were spared. Then they were set free to go to the land God had promised. As they left, they also had the privilege of seeing God work again by splitting a body of water! Three days after this happened; the passage says “the people grumbled against Moses” because they had no water. About 40 days later, it says “the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.” Not even two months out of Egypt and seeing some incredible things, these folks were complaining. I am so convicted by this passage. I have seen the Lord do some amazing things in the lives of so many people. Yet, I catch myself being so ungrateful at times and complaining about something of little eternal value. In an ACORN article last year, I mentioned that I am working on the challenges of 2 Peter 1:5-7. One of the qualities mentioned is “steadfastness.” Several of the synonyms of steadfastness are persistence and resoluteness. I want so much to be resolute and persistent in giving thanks to Jesus Christ for the life He has given me and the blessing of His presence. I like the plain and clear message from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. In The Message, it says “Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; **thank God no matter what happens.** This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live.” I’m working on this. It isn’t always so easy. How can you give thanks today to a God who has done great things?

As you have read and heard many times in the last several months, our discipleship process here at Oakwood is to Love God, to Grow in Community and to Serve the Church and World. The key to seeing God do some great things in this process is to ask Him for His help and blessing. Prayer is the key to anything we do as it makes us realize that we cannot do anything in our own strength. We desperately need God’s guidance and strength personally and collectively. On Sunday, February 24, we will be doing something we have not done in a very long time as a church family. I would encourage you to be here to see and hear what we will be asking of the Lord.



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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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Special Worship Service Invitation

The Expanding your Prayeritory Team
Invites You!

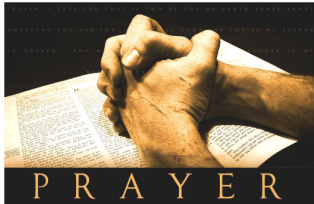
Who: The Oakwood Family

To: A Special Worship Service

When: February 24, 2013

Time: 10:30 a.m. Service

What to bring: Expectant hearts for what God can accomplish through
prayer this year
at Oakwood Community Church.



Prayer Guide

Oakwood Community Church is fueling the **love ~ grow ~ serve** vision with prayer in 2013. Our continued focus on prayer is leading us to include two memory verses along with the prayer guide. The **first memory verse is designed to pair with the prayer focus of the month.** The **second memory verse is the same verse the TreeHouse children are learning in their curriculum.** Our hope is to continue to grow in the context of the vision as family members as well as Oakwood family in the body of Christ, further seeking His will.

February: We will love God by praying the **prayer of Jabez every day for this month.**

You can find a copy of the February Prayer Guide at the Information Center or on our website.

Seeds for Growth—*continued*

In the last 4 months, we have had the privilege of hearing from three of our supported missionaries during the Sunday morning worship service. Dave and Jen Cox told us about their ministry in Romania; Bob and Ellen Hargrave gave us a report on their work with ECHO and Africa Inland Mission. A couple of weeks ago, Gene and Linda Wilson blessed us with a report of the EFCA's church planting strategy around the world. Our own Pete Kluck just returned from a three week trip to Cameroon where he led a conference in training workers to be more effective in leadership in their respective areas. We are preparing to send our 14th team to the Czech Republic this summer in partnership with Brno Christian Fellowship. Craig and Carolyn Clendinen are moving along in their transition with Wycliffe and will continue to have impact in east Africa. The Prudens (Gerry, Sharon, Brett and Leanne) provide so much support to the field missionaries at Bible Basics. I am so thankful Oakwood has a hand in reaching people all around the world. I know it would encourage these folks if you asked them about their work and prayed for the challenges they face. Our Missions' Team is working on ways we can be more connected to the work of "Serving the World." Great stuff!!

That is all I am saying today.

Dave Dorsey
Director of Ministries

Financial Peace University



13 week class
 Begins Thursday, February 21
 6:30 - 8:30 PM
 Church library
 Cost: \$60/family unit
 Contact Bob Mendenhall
 email: mendenhall_r@earthlink.net
 Phone: 813-920-3140

Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, February 24 we will be having an OCC Family Meeting right after the Worship Service. The meeting will begin a few minutes after the end of the Worship Service and will last no longer than 45 minutes. The Elders want to allow sufficient time for questions and comments from our church family.

Childcare will be available for those who sign up at the Welcome Center in TreeHouse or at the Information Center in the Worship Center lobby.



Mark Your Calendars—We're Having a Picnic

Immediately following the service on March 3, the Deacons will be hosting a barbecue picnic outside on the lawn. Bring the whole family and your friends, too, as there will be plenty of food for everyone. We will have tables and chairs set up, a kickball field, corn hole and other fun games for the "competitors." Look for more details on this special event in the days ahead!



We are asking each family unit to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Please help us plan appropriately by letting us know which you will bring by marking your Connection Card or email the Church Office @ office@oakwoodfl.org.

Senior Ministry

The **WE** Group (**W**orld of **E**xperiences) will have a potluck lunch on Sunday, March 10, following the Worship Service in TreeHouse.



If you are 60+, you are a member of **WE** and are invited to join us for some food, fun and fellowship. If you're married and your spouse is under 60, they are invited as well. Please bring a dish to share for our potluck lunch.



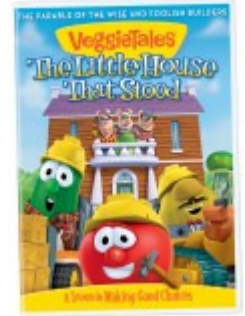
In Search Of...

LOST The TreeHouse laminator has been misplaced. If you know of its whereabouts, please contact the Church Office. Thank you.



Family Fun Night

Join us Friday, March 1 at 7:00 PM in The TreeHouse for a Family Fun Night. We will be showing a premier of the newest VeggieTales movie, *The Little House That Stood*. There will be food available for purchase for a nominal fee, and, as always, lots of fun for all. This is always an easy way to invite family and friends to church with you. Information fliers will be available at the Welcome Center in TreeHouse.



Opportunity to *Serve The Church & World*

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

This ministry meets the 1st & 3rd Tuesday each month in PowerHouse and TreeHouse. If you would like to volunteer some time, please contact Beth Ross at (813) 879-5231



Your continued donations of **new or gently worn clothes and non-perishable foods** are greatly appreciated. Donations can be left on the screened area in the back of the gray house on our property. There are bins provided along with tax deductible forms. **Pantry needs:** cereal, canned goods, rice, pasta, paper goods, personal care items.

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 our doors.

Blood Pressure checks

Blood pressure checks Sunday, March 3, 2013 in the kitchen following the Worship Service. Don't miss this important health screening.



Blood Mobile @ Oakwood

Thank you for your help with our recent blood drive. Our goal was 7 units and with your help we got 16!

We will have the Blood Mobile at Oakwood again on April 28. Watch for details.



PowerHouse Schedule

Feb 15-17—*Be Last*—PH Winter Retreat in Orlando

Feb 17—No Sunday evening meeting

Feb 24—Regular Sunday evening—5:00—7:30 PM

Mar 3—Regular Sunday evening—5:00—7:30 PM

Mar 9-15—Tennessee Mission Trip

Mar 10—No Sunday evening meeting

Food Bag Delivery Drivers Needed

Our PowerHouse students have a monthly ministry assembling food bags that are distributed to medical clinics in Tampa, Lakeland, Haines City and Winter Haven.



We are in need of people who can help with delivery of these food bags, especially to Lakeland, Haines City, and Winter Haven. 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.

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 third Sunday of each month. Our next Food Bag Prep day is **Sunday, February 24** 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, February 22. Meet at Aldi at the corner of Bearss & Florida Ave. at 5:00 PM (or contact Cam Whipple) if you want to help. For more details contact Sandy Clarke at 931-0668.

Winter Retreat



Please be in prayer for our PowerHouse students and leaders as they attend the *Be Last* Student Life conference in Orlando this weekend.



Building A Divorce-Proof Marriage—Pt 2

Tips from what we learned—the hard way

Tammy Darling

Part 1 of this article was in the previous issue of the *ACORN*. You can read it on our website.



Choose to serve your spouse. How often we expect more from our spouses than we are willing to give! We can either selfishly demand our way or unselfishly give up our own way and bless our spouses in every possible way. It's not hard to see which choice would foster a lasting and joyful marriage.

It's not always easy to do the right and considerate thing toward your spouse. But Scripture didn't tell wives and husbands to submit to and love each other only if they were each doing their part. We do our part regardless of what the other is doing. However, both partners choosing to serve will result in a marriage blessed with many years of happiness.

"Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too" (Philippians 2:3-4).

Choose to not change your spouse. Husbands and wives who remain happily married for many years are those who accept each other's faults or differences and learn to work out the problems that do occur. They deliberately choose to not make mountains out of molehills.

If there's any changing to be done, it's the Holy Spirit's responsibility, not ours. Too often in the early years of my marriage I tried to change my husband. Only when I backed off and began praying for our marriage did things begin to change—in both of us.

"And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own?" (Matthew 7:3).

Choose mutual submission. Scripture emphasizes mutual submission among all people, deferring to one another when possible. Paul speaks of submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ (Ephesians 5:21). And in 1 Peter 3:7, Peter advises husbands to "give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together."

God is the author of submission. The husband and wife who mutually submit do so with God as their guide. An improved marriage can't help but follow.

The opposite of submitting is opposing, which is exactly what my husband and I were doing the first six years of our marriage as we continued to battle for our own "rights." Once we learned submission—laying down our rights in deference to the other—our marriage improved drastically.

"But there is one thing I want you to know: The head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God" (1 Corinthians 11:3).

Choose to place God first in your life and marriage. This may seem obvious as Christians, but it actually requires a conscious, deliberate decision for it to happen. God expects married couples to remain dedicated to each other through him.

Putting God first assures that a husband and wife will put each other ahead of themselves in their marital relationship. There is no competition here—both God and our partners are honored when God is the director of our lives and our marriages.

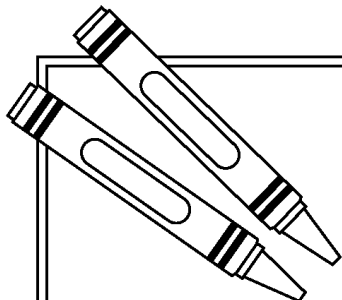
"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need" (Matthew 6:33).

The choices we make every day determine the strength of our marriages, but we have not been left alone to figure it all out. God's Word gives us everything we need to build a divorce-proof marriage.

Tammy Darling is a freelance writer living in Three Springs, Pennsylvania.

Used with permission from todayschristian-woman.com.

Kids Corner



Just for KIDS

Mark 12:30-31

Change some of the letters below to find the words in these important verses.

Change:	C's to L	J's to A	K's to O	Z's to H
	Q's to T	P's to R	X's to E	

(The other letters stay the same.)

“ L

C K V X Q Z X C K P D Y K U P

G K D W I Q Z J C C Y K U P

Z X J P Q J N D W I Q Z J C C

Y K U P S K U C J N D W I Q Z

J C C Y K U P M I N D J N D

W I Q Z J C C Y K U P

S Q P X N G Q Z . . . C K V X

Y K U P N X I G Z B K P

”

A S Y K U P S X C F .

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength ... Love your neighbor as yourself.”



Oakwood Community Church
 11209 Casey Rd
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 813.969.2303
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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—Melanie Hoglievina

Office hours:

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

Worship:

Sundays - 10:30 AM

Our Elder Team

Edson Bustamante
 Pete Kluck
 Paul Phair
 Eric Pratt

Our Deacon Team

Nan Duncan
 Matt Fucarino
 Bob Mendenhall
 Ray Ross
 Ben Smith
 Dave Young

Calendar at a Glance



Feb 15-17—PowerHouse Winter Retreat—Orlando
 Feb 17—Compassion Offering
 Board Meeting for elder & deacon teams
 Feb 19—Naomi’s Daughters dinner/Bible study
 Feb 21—Financial Peace University begins
 Feb 24—Special “Prayer” Worship Service
 Congregational Meeting
 PowerHouse Food Bag Ministry



Mar 1—Family Fun Night
 Mar 3—Blood Pressure Checks following Worship
 Picnic following Worship
 Mar 5—Naomi’s Daughters dinner/Bible study
 Mar 9—15—Youth Tennessee service trip
 Mar 10—Daylight Saving Time begins
 Board Meeting
 WE Potluck Lunch

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...
Feb 22	Feb 27	Mar 2—Mar 15
Mar 8	Mar 13	Mar 16—Mar 29

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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