



ACORN

Seeds for Growth

Simple in Heart

This is the week on many Christian calendars that is designated as *Passion Week*. This past Sunday commemorated Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Crowds of people enthusiastically celebrated the arrival of their promised Messiah who came from God through the family line of King David. One of Jesus’ earlier activities of this week is recorded as follows,

Matthew 21:14-16 (NLT)

The blind and the lame came to him in the Temple, and he healed them. ¹⁵ The leading priests and the teachers of religious law saw these wonderful miracles and heard even the children in the Temple shouting, “Praise God for the Son of David.” But the leaders were indignant. ¹⁶ They asked Jesus, “Do you hear what these children are saying?” “Yes,” Jesus replied. “Haven’t you ever read the Scriptures? For they say, ‘You have taught children and infants to give you praise.’”

What are the evidences that the Messiah had come to them? Bright and powerful people had very flawed expectations due to their pride-filled hearts. Hence, “they missed it”. Yet Jesus said “simple-minded”, purer-in-heart children, “got it”.

Shortly after His arrival into the city, Jesus entered the temple and healed weak, needy, and vulnerable people. What the eyes of children saw, convinced them that what they heard from within the crowds earlier about Jesus was indeed true. Jesus compassionately displayed powerful acts toward people who were otherwise hopeless. As the children watched, God bestowed upon them the ability to know the signs intuitively. They then boisterously expressed their genuine faith with praise to God.



If you haven’t yet “gotten it” – maybe it’s because you have yet to look at Jesus with a “simple heart”. If you have “gotten it”, then you are filled with gratitude that it is God who has opened your eyes and heart. May He further open our hearts and wills to the needs of others. We will then increasingly show the signs that we are true followers of our Messiah.

~ 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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Easter at Oakwood

At Easter, people gather to celebrate Jesus' coming back alive from the dead. Did you know Jesus promised that you can come alive too? In fact you can come alive this Easter to a better life than you knew was possible! What is that better life Jesus offers and how can you experience it? Come, bring a friend with you, and find out! Oh, also come expecting to celebrate! ~ Pastor Paul



Come Alive This Easter

Services

Good Friday
March 29
7:00 PM

Childcare will be available for
children birth through 5 Years Old

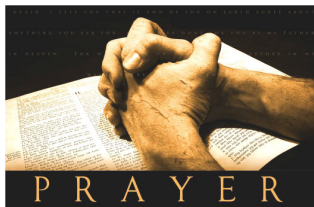
Easter Sunday
March 31
10:30 AM
No Education Classes at 9:15
Nursery and full TreeHouse
Children's Ministry during the
Worship Service





PowerHouse Talent Night

Everyone is invited to come and support our talented teens as they perform on Sunday, April 14, 5:30 PM in the Worship Center. Desserts will be available for purchase.



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.

Your April Prayer Guide will be available this Sunday.

Hospitality



We are making some changes to our Sunday morning Hospitality Table. The first Sunday of the month and on special occasions, there will be snacks available, as well as coffee and water. Other weeks there will be coffee and water available.

We thank those who have so willingly provided snacks and done the set-up and clean up each week.

Blood Mobile @ Oakwood

The Blood Mobile will be at Oakwood on Sunday, April 28, 2013 from 9:00 AM – 12:30 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.

Will you roll up your sleeves and help us with this worthy cause?



Blood Pressure checks

Blood pressure checks Sunday, April 7, 2013 in the kitchen following the Worship Service. Don't miss this important health screening.

TreeHouse News



Attention Parents: We are revising and reinstating our parent notification system—our way to let you know if your child needs you during the Worship Service.

Each family will be assigned a 2-digit **Family Identification Number (FIN)**. If you have a child in the Nursery, that number will be preceded by a **1** and if you have a child in TreeHouse, that number will be preceded by a **3**.

If you see your **FIN** on the LED Display in the right corner of the Worship Center, please proceed to the Nursery or TreeHouse Welcome Station.

If you have a child in the Nursery, you can pick up your **FIN** there. If you have a child in TreeHouse, or have children in both the Nursery and TreeHouse, your **FIN** will be available at the TreeHouse Welcome Station.

Opportunities to *Serve The Church & World*

Cookies for Prisoners



Ray Ross will be going to Polk Correctional Institution with Kairos Prison Ministry International April 18-21.

Supplying meals and cookies during this event are part of the program. Donations of store bought non-fruit filled packaged cookies are requested; Fig Newtons are okay. No home made or fresh bakery made cookies are allowed into the prison.



If you are interested in making a donation, there will be a bin located in the lobby area for the next three Sundays.

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.

We are especially in need of Spring clothing and pantry items to fill up the food pantry.

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.

Beach Fun & Baptism Day



Everyone is invited to join us for an afternoon and evening of fun at the beach. Bring chairs, and your own picnic meal. This is a relaxed way for us to enjoy fun and fellowship together. It will be on **Sunday, May 12** beginning mid afternoon through evening (“come and go as you please”). The location is at Sand Key Beach, just south of Clearwater.

At 4:00 PM we will also baptize those who have stepped across the line of faith to trust Jesus as their Forgiver and Leader. This is the key ceremony that Jesus prescribed to us to publicly declare and mark the beginning of our trusting Christ and our intention to be one of His fully devoted followers. If you desire to be baptized at the beach, please contact the Church Office by May 1 at the latest. Information about the meaning and procedure for baptism is available on our website at www.oakwoodfl.org – scroll to the bottom of the home page and choose Reference Documents, then scroll down to the Special Observances section and choose the age appropriate information on Baptism. If you don't have web access, contact the Church Office and we will provide you with the information.



You may also be baptized at just about any time of the year in conjunction with your Community Group or a special gathering that we can assemble with you at someone's pool or lake. (That's right; you get your choice of salt water, fresh water, or chlorinated water!) Ask your Community Group Leader, Pastor Paul, Dave Dorsey, or one of our elders to arrange this significant event with you.

Watch for more details on our *Beach Fun & Baptism Day* on directions and specifically where we will meet at the beach.

Team Tampa XIV

English Camp in the Czech Republic ~ July 6-13, 2013

We're please to announce that our Czech Team—Team Tampa XIV—is complete. Members of this team pictured below are (L-R): Rob Weyand (Team Leader), Whitney Whipple, Marcia Whipple, Lauren Fucarino, Kathy Long, and La Verne Cluff. Not pictured are Matt Fucarino, Dean Johnson and Sarah Salgado. Please pray for this team as they prepare lessons for ministering at the English Camp July 6—13.





PowerHouse Schedule

Mar 31—Easter - No Youth Group Meeting

Apr 7—Regular Evening Meeting

Apr 14—PowerHouse Talent Night

Apr 21—Food Bag Ministry

BUMP Training

Regular 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 Cindy Giannone at (813) 969-4136.

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, April 21** 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, April 19. Meet at Aldi at Bearss & Florida Ave. at 5:00 PM (or contact Cam Whipple) if you want to help. For more details contact Cindy Giannone at (813) 969-4136.

BUMP is coming...

Fourteen of our students and four adult workers will travel to New York July 19-28 to minister in an inner city church. BUMP is **B**ridging **U**rban **M**ission **P**roject and is part of the student ministry arm of the Evangelical Free Church of America.

Monthly training will be held after the Food Bag Ministry for students attending BUMP.

Bridging Urban
BUMP
Mission Project





Family-life educators Claudia and Dave Arp are co-founders of Marriage Alive Seminars and co-hosts of "The Family Workshop" radio program. They are co-authors of *The Second Half of Marriage* (Zondervan); *The Ultimate Marriage Builder* (Thomas Nelson); and *Ten Great Dates to Revitalize Your Marriage* (Zondervan, a book and video resource).

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Partners or Parents—Pt 2—David & Claudia Arp

In the last issue, we had Part 1 of this article on:

The Early Years - Time to Talk

1. *Solidify your bond.*
2. *Learn how to really talk.*

The Middle Years - No Time, No Energy

A friend named Charlie jokingly told us, "If it wasn't for the kids, building our marriage while parenting our children would be a piece of cake!" Then he asked, "Seriously, how can you keep a marriage vital and alive when you're a parent with no time and no energy?"

Good question. Too often, the vital relationship you used to enjoy sinks to a low-maintenance survival mode. And if your relationship wasn't so great to begin with, after struggling with the demands of parenthood, you may be starting to give up hope of ever having a fulfilling marriage. The two times of greatest tension in our marriage came when we had toddlers and again when we had teenagers. We survived those years and you can, too. But it takes effort. Here are three ways you can keep building your marriage.

1. *Slow the pace.* We had just begun leading a session on building a creative love life when a young mom said in sheer frustration, "For me, life is too complex—the children, our own parents and extended family, jobs, church responsibilities, the yard. I feel like I'm stuck in the fast lane with no way to slow down." We were happy to tell her there is hope! Here are practical ways to simplify your life.

—Learn to say no. You'll never reach the point when you can do it all, so pare things down to what's most important.

—Move your kids' bedtime up by 15 to 30 minutes and spend the extra time with your spouse. The kids may complain, but stand your ground.

—Save time and energy by taking shortcuts. Occasionally eat off paper plates. Let your preschoolers sleep in sweats and the next morning they'll already be dressed!

When unexpected guests appear, close more doors, dim the lights and use candles.

—Create time by hiring a neighborhood preteen to play occasionally with your children. Or find play groups for your kids.

2. *Carve out time for two.* Here are some of our favorite ways to connect as a couple.

—Every day, grab five or ten minutes when you can touch base with each other. For instance, share a cup of tea or coffee each morning—before the kids get up.

—Plan regular dates. They don't have to be expensive or long. Our favorite is a "walk and talk" date. While working on our physical fitness, we enhance our communication.

—Spark up your love life by planning a 24-hour getaway. If your kids protest, tell them you're doing it for their own good.

3. *Let your kids enrich your marriage.* If you're careful to notice the right things, you'll develop the attitude that children complement, not compete with, your marriage. Kids remind you that you are literally one. Each time you see Junior's toes you have to admit they are just like Dad's. Or Susie's bright smile is a picture of Mom's smile that still melts Dad's heart.

Children also promote appreciation. Because it's more challenging to make time for your mate, you appreciate it more when you do get together. Romance thrives on overcoming obstacles, waiting out delays and reconnecting after times apart, so the parenting years offer plenty of opportunities to renew romance.

Romance thrives on overcoming obstacles and waiting out delays. So the parenting years offer plenty of opportunities to renew romance.

You can read Part 1 of this article in Issue 6 of *The ACORN* on our website. See Part 3 of this article in the next issue.

Kids Corner

Make your own

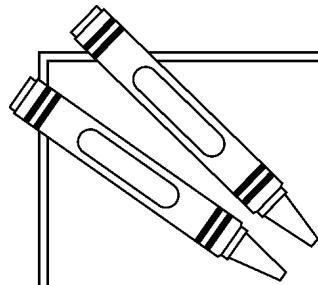


You will need:

- a piece of cardboard cut from a cereal box
- solid color contact paper (a little larger than the cardboard)
- yarn
- paper punch
- watercolor marker (non-permanent)
- scissors

What to do:

1. Cover the cardboard with contact paper.
2. Punch 2 holes in the top.
3. Tie a piece of yarn in the holes to hang it.
4. Tie a piece of yarn around a watercolor/washable marker. Hang it from one of the holes also.
5. Write an Easter message for your family!



Just for KIDS

Springtime Messages

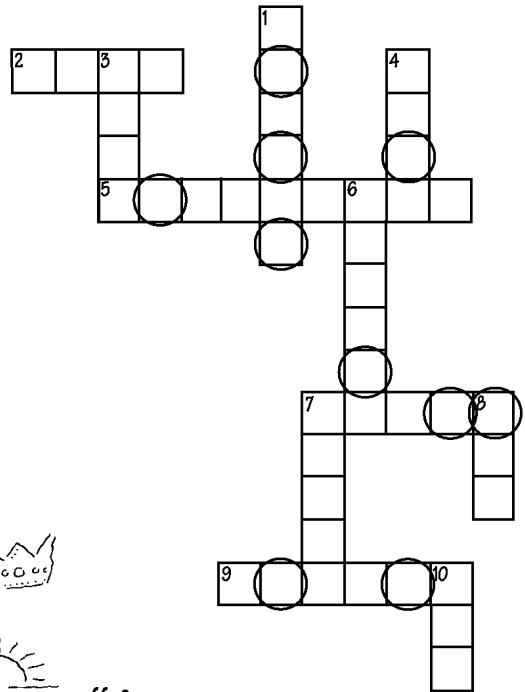
We see many Christian symbols and signs during Lent and Easter. Write the name of each picture in the boxes. Unscramble the letters that are circled to find the message that these symbols and signs bring us each spring.

ACROSS

- 2.
- 5.
- 7.
- 9.

DOWN

- 1.
- 3.
- 4.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 10.



“J
— — — — —
I
— — — — —
!”

Missing phrase: Jesus is alive!

Across: 2. Palm, 5. Butterfly, 7. Cross, 9. Candle
Down: 1. Leaves, 3. Lamb, 4. Nail, 6. Flower, 7. Crown, 8. Sun, 10. Egg



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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



Mar 29—Good Friday Service
 Mar 31—Easter



Apr 7—Blood Pressure checks following Worship
 Apr 14—Board Meeting
 PowerHouse Talent Night
 Apr 21—Compassion Offering
 Discovering Oakwood seminar
 PowerHouse Food Bag Ministry
 PowerHouse BUMP Training
 Apr 23—PowerHouse Leaders Meeting
 Apr 28—Blood Mobile @ Oakwood

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...
Apr 5	Apr 10	Apr 13—Apr 26
Apr 19	Apr 24	Apr 27—May 10

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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