



ACORN

Seeds for Growth

Supreme Devotion

The Community Group I have the privilege of coaching is currently studying Jesus’ demands for those who respond to His offer and challenge to follow Him; that’s every single genuine “believer”. Adding up all His specific commands, we are to grasp that He’s demanding nothing short of supreme devotion. The last few days I have been memorizing and reflecting upon one set of Jesus’ demands. It’s the following:

Luke 14:25-27, 33 (NLT)

A large crowd was following Jesus. He turned around and said to them, ²⁶ “If you want to be my disciple, you must hate everyone else by comparison—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple. ... ³³ So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.

In short, Jesus calls every true believer-follower to love Him more than any relationship, more than all or any of our possessions, and more than even our own lives. We must not apply these demands in a manner that is out of harmony with other commands from God. Yet we must not soften Jesus’ demands so that its “punch” is pulled back. Furthermore, I remind myself, I must not think that Jesus limits such devotion to exceptional people in the Bible, or those I read about in Christian biographies that both “shame” me and inspire me. We each have different and specific ways in which Jesus directs us to serve Him – but our loving devotion is be of the same highest sort – supreme.

I ask you to reflect along with me, in what specific ways does that relate to my relationships, my possessions and the “good life”, and my own life? Certainly, it involves the big decisions in my life. It also involves the specific choices I make every day. It also encompasses the affections deep within my heart.

In my studies, I stumbled upon the following prayer (I do not know its source). Pray it with me:

Jesus,

Whatever You say, I believe You.

Whatever You do, I trust You.

Wherever You lead, I will follow You.

I devote myself to You above all others.

I give up all my desires and pursuits for Yours.

There is no cost too great for being Your disciple.

I abandon everything that I may come after You.

For You alone are worthy.

Amen.



~ Pastor Paul

Oakwood Community Church
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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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Pictorial Directory

We are in the process of producing a Pictorial Directory for the Oakwood family. This is being done in-house, so you won't have any pressure to purchase pictures—we just want to have face recognition photos to be included.

We'd love to have a picture of every family attending Oakwood in the upcoming directory, so please help us by setting your appointment soon. You can set your appointment by either contacting the Church Office (813-969-2303) or by signing up in the lobby this Sunday, April 28.

Dates with appointments times still available are:

Saturday, April 27 – Many available appointment times
 Saturday, May 4 – Many available appointment times
 Sunday, May 5 – Very few appointments times available
 Saturday, May 11 – Many available appointment times



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 collect 14 units for this worthy cause?

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.

We meet at the south end of the park—out from the 2nd restroom/shower building. Maps will be available at the Information Center in the Oakwood lobby.

Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, May 5 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.



TreeHouse Volunteers needed

We have a number of TreeHouse volunteers who give of their time every week to minister to our wonderful children. We like to give this team of workers a break for the summer. Will you give us a hand and teach for a week, a month, or the summer? Please contact Dave Dorsey at 813-969-2303 or dave@oakwoodfl.org if you are interested in volunteering your time.

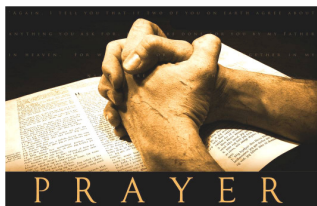


Move Up Sunday

Move Up Sunday is June 9 for all children of the TreeHouse. What is *Move Up Sunday*? All children will move up to the school grade that they will be in this August. This allows them to develop relationships with children that they will be worshipping with through High School.

Graduating 5th Graders will be recognized during the Worship Services on June 10. They are welcome to join us in TreeHouse and PowerHouse throughout the summer.

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 May Prayer Guide will be available in your Worship Program this Sunday, at the Information Center and on our website.



Worship Schedule Change

As we have done in the past, from June 9—September 1, we will have only one hour on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM—no education classes for Youth or Adults at 9:15 AM. There will be nursery care for children birth—23 months old and a full TreeHouse Ministry for children two years old—5th Graders during this service.

Be sure to mark your calendar so you don't miss this change.

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.

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.

Child-care help needed



Naomi's Daughters, our ministry to single moms, meets the first and third Tuesday night of each month. We need help with childcare on these nights for the children of the moms, so they can have time for their Bible study time.

If you can help with this need, please contact Beth Ross at 813-758-2423

National Day of Prayer

The Tampa Rally for the 62nd Annual National Day of Prayer will take place Friday, May 3, 2013. Millions will unite in prayer at thousands of events from coast to coast. The theme, "**Pray For America,**" is based on the verse from **.Psalm 33:12** which states: "*Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD.*"

You are encouraging to attend the city-wide prayer rally at Steinbrenner Field on Friday, May 3 at 7:00 PM. Steinbrenner Field is directly across the street from Raymond James Stadium on Dale Mabry. Special Guest Speaker Reinhard Bonnke.





PowerHouse Schedule

Apr 28—Regular Evening Meeting

May 5—Regular Evening Meeting

May 12—Beach Party & Baptism—NO YOUTH GROUP

May 19—Food Bag Ministry

BUMP Training

Regular Evening Meeting

May 26—Grad Party

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, May 19** 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, May 17. 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.

Graduate Recognition



We would like to honor our graduates – whether from High School or College. Please loan us five or so pictures of your graduating student from infancy to graduation and a short bio of their future plans. These will be part of a graduation recognition video presentation on June 2. Pictures are due in to the Church Office no later than May 12. If you prefer, you may email digital photos to Doug-cress@outlook.com or put printed photos in the “Church Office” mail slot in the Worship Center kitchen. Please include what school they are graduating from and their future plans.





Couple Time—Pt 1

With a little planning, you can make your own moments together

Tammy Darling

I once heard that a successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person. If you've ever gone a month without spending any real quality time with your spouse, you know how negatively it can affect your marriage. All relationships need to be nurtured, and none more than spousal relationships.

Marriage was created to give people companionship: "It is not good for the man to be alone" (Genesis 2:18). A successful Christian marriage may be best seen as a triangle with God at the top and each partner at one of the lower corners. The closer we draw to God, the closer we'll be to each other.

Marriage is not a "done deal" at the altar, followed by happily ever after. It's a continuous, daily "I do." While it may seem impossible to spend quality time alone with your spouse, it can be done. It just takes a little planning and creativity. The following ideas can get you started:

Celebrate a monthly anniversary. Each month on the same date you were married, get a babysitter for the kids and go out on the town. Dinner, a concert, or even simple inexpensive or free dates—such as miniature golf, a picnic in the park, or ice skating—can do a lot to keep the flame burning. You're not likely to forget the reason you got married when you're both celebrating it monthly.

Attend a marriage/couples' retreat. Held year-round throughout the country, usually on weekends, these retreats often include inspirational speakers, beautiful scenery, good food, activities, and plenty of time to be alone with your spouse.

Give the gift of time. Surprise your mate from time to time by arranging childcare for the kids and giving your spouse the gift of time. Reschedule a meeting to spend extra time together. On weekends, forgo a favorite personal activity to spend the time with your mate instead. A gift of time speaks volumes and can do a lot to strengthen your marriage.

Attend a wedding together. You're likely to

have the occasion to attend at least one wedding per year, so don't miss out. As you attend the wedding with your spouse, discreetly exchange your rings and silently renew your vows together while holding hands as the bride and groom say their vows. My husband and I recently attended a very moving wedding ceremony, and although we didn't pre-plan it, we held hands as we both silently renewed our own vows to one another. It's a great reminder of the marriage covenant and of all the reasons you got married in the first place.

Pull the plug. Once the kids are in bed, resist the urge to crash on the couch in front of the TV. Instead, put on an instrumental or praise-and-worship CD and snuggle together. Talk about your goals, dreams, and desires. Plan a future getaway. Spend some time talking about what you appreciate about each other.

Walk the block. Each evening after the supper dishes have been cleared away, take a walk (or two) around the block. This works especially well if you have children who are old enough to spend brief periods at home without supervision or who are mature and responsible enough to look after younger siblings. The evening walks not only are invigorating but also allow for good, private conversations.

Schedule a mandatory weekend getaway. Each year, make it a tradition to get away for a weekend alone with your spouse. Schedule a specific weekend just for the two of you, and don't change it for any other event. My husband and I go away each year on the weekend (Friday and Saturday) just before Mother's Day. Keeping the timing the same each year makes it easier on everyone; it's expected, and it gives us something to look forward to.

Watch for Part 2 of this article in the next issue of the *ACORN*.

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

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Kids Corner

Make a Joyful noise

Here are two instruments that you can make.

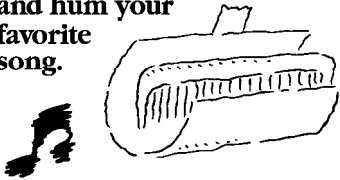
A Humming Comb

You will need:

- a comb
- a piece of wax paper
- a small piece of tape

Cut the wax paper so that it is as long as the comb. Fold it over the comb. Tape to hold it in place – do not make the wax paper fit too tightly, though.

To play: put your Humming Comb between your lips and hum your favorite song.



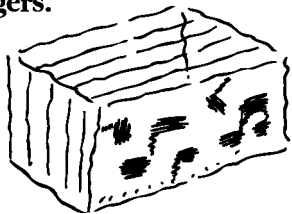
Shoebbox Lyre

You will need:

- a shoebox
- large rubber bands

Remove the lid from the box. Place the rubber bands lengthwise around the box. Decorate the box with crayons or markers if desired.

To play: Pluck the rubber bands with your fingers.





Just for KIDS

Psalm 33:1-3

Use the code to find the words to this joyful song.

 =A	 =B	 =C	 =D	 =E	 =F
 =G	 =H	 =I	 =J	 =K	 =L
 =M	 =N	 =O	 =P	 =Q	 =R
 =S	 =T	 =U	 =V	 =W	 =X
 =Y	 =Z				

Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him. Praise the Lord with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre. Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.



Oakwood Community Church
 11209 Casey Rd
 Tampa FL 33618-5306
 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



Apr 27—Photos for the Pictorial Directory
 Apr 28—Blood Mobile @ Oakwood
 Special Prayer Focused Worship Service
 Photos for the Pictorial Directory



May 4—Photos for the Pictorial Directory
 May 5—Photos for the Pictorial Directory
 Blood Pressure checks following Worship
 Congregational Meeting
 Photos for the Pictorial Directory
 May 12—*Mother’s Day*
 Beach Party & Baptism
 May 19—Compassion Offering
 Board Meeting
 PH Food Bag Ministry & BUMP training

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...
May 3	May 8	May 11—May 24
May 17	May 22	May 25—June 7

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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