



# ACORN

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[www.oakwoodfl.org](http://www.oakwoodfl.org)

## From Pastor Darin

### Revival and Evangelism

You pray for revival. You do the work of an evangelist. You observe that evangelism in the U.S. is hard because non-believers are busy, distracted and not terribly interested in spiritual conversations (at least not with us). But you are a faithful worker, so you press on in praying for your non-believing friends, family members, neighbors and co-workers and watching for opportunities to invite them to church and engage them with the Gospel.

And then you go on a missions trip. You visit Latin America, Africa or Asia and in just a few days of evangelism you see dozens, if not hundreds, of people commit their lives to Jesus and several new churches planted. Kristin and I went to Colombia in 2010 and our team of 22 Americans saw over 600 people trust in Jesus and 12 new churches started in just four days of evangelism. Ask Patrick Pellizze or Chuck Milner about Cuba and they will tell you similar, and even more dramatic stories.

What is the difference between the two realities? The answer: **revival**. God is working in special ways in other parts of the world so that tens of thousands are coming to Christ every single day. (See the church blog for statistics: [www.oakwoodfl.org/blog](http://www.oakwoodfl.org/blog)). The church is growing like crazy in China, Africa, India and even in Muslim countries throughout the Middle East. But here in America we are blessed to break even decade after decade - larger churches tend to grow at the expense of the smaller churches.

Could it be that the Gospel that sounded forth from Jerusalem two thousand years ago is making its way back to its birthplace? Jesus promised in Acts 1:8 "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, all of Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth." The book of Acts documents the fulfillment of this promise as the Word of God spread first in Israel then throughout the Mediterranean. Church history shows how the Gospel expanded out from the Mediterranean, even in the lifetime of the apostles.

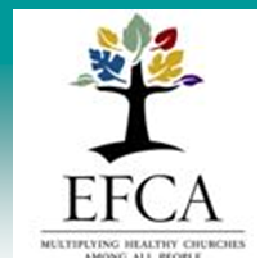
Waves of Spirit-empowered evangelism and church planting brought the Gospel forward and the center of Christianity moved. First it was in Jerusalem. Then it was Antioch, north of Israel. Then it was Ephesus (modern day Turkey), and later Rome. The Reformation exploded from Germany and Geneva. Then streams of Revival flowed throughout Europe, into England and across the Atlantic to America.

Continued on Page 4

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:

Prayer & Share Day	2
Women's News	2
Fall Festival	3
PH Parents Meeting	4
PowerHouse News	5
Revive Florida	6
Revival & End Times	7
Calendar	8

## Prayer & Share Day

Meet in the PowerHouse on October 6 at 9:00 a.m. for prayer and training in [how to use the wordless book](#) to present the Gospel. Then we will head out into a nearby neighborhood to connect with some people and practice until 11:00 or so.



## Women's Ministry

There are two Women's Bible studies available each week at Oakwood.

**Tuesday morning—10:15—11:45 AM** in the Church Library. This group is studying the Book of Judges and is led by Sandy Wyatt.



**Wednesday early evening—5:30—7:00 PM** in the Church Library. This group is studying the book "Lord I Want To Know You" which is a study on the names of God. This study is led by Terri Johnson.

## Oakwood Mill

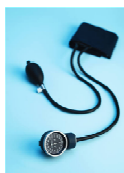
It isn't too late to join an Oakwood Mill education class on Sunday mornings. Classes are available during both the 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM Worship Services.



[Click here](#) for more details on the classes and times.

## Blood Pressure checks

Blood pressure checks will take place on Sunday, October 7 in the kitchen following the Worship Service. Don't miss this important health screening.



## Missionary of the Month



**Dave & Page Hawes  
serve with  
Navigators  
here in Tampa**

I (Dave) lead Bible studies at MacDill Air Force Base and work with the Chapel program. MacDill is home to 36 different commands. I lead Bible studies at some of the commands you may have heard about in the news:

- \* CENTCOM (Central Command for all US forces in the Middle East) -Tuesday
- \* SOCOM (Special Operations Command)-Thursday
- \* MARCENT (Marine Central Command)-Tuesday
- \* Enlisted (Airmen, Soldiers, Marines)-Wednesday

I meet one on one with a pilot, an investigator, and enlisted Airmen, Marines, and Army soldiers, as well as Government Services personnel. Page and I counsel a number of couples, and I do discipleship training with two associate pastors and a chaplain. This summer we did NavStaff training for an Ohio-Maryland Missions Project at a local college campus and in the fall and spring we help the FL Collegiate Staff with training.

Thank you for your prayers for us over the years. Here are some current prayer requests:

1. *"Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord"* (Ps. 40:3), and the Lord would raise up a team of godly laborers at MacDill.
2. Page will heal from gum graft surgery. Dave's health to improve.
3. Pray for military believers to reach out to their friends and co-workers with the gospel.
4. Thanks to the Lord for a diagnosis and treatment for son, John.
5. Pray for wisdom in planning our schedules to include regular rest.

## Fall Festival

**It's time for the Annual Oakwood Fall Festival  
Invite your family & friends**



We still need volunteers to help in the following areas to make this a successful outreach to the community:

- ★ 6 Intergalactic Security & Parking Volunteers
- ★ 2 Hayride Attendants
- ★ 7 Game Station Attendants
- ★ 17 Trunk-or-Treat cars
- ★ 150 Large bags of Candy
- ★ \$ donations for Game Station prizes
- ★ Clean Up Crew

If you can help, please visit the Fall Festival table outside the Worship Center on Sunday or contact Kristin Anderson ([ander4sons@gmail.com](mailto:ander4sons@gmail.com)) or Terri Johnson ([bcj\\_tjj@verizon.net](mailto:bcj_tjj@verizon.net)).

## Attention PowerHouse Parents

There is an important meeting for all parents of PowerHouse students on Sunday, October 14, right after the 10:30 Worship Service in the Library. The meeting will take place while students are filling Food Bags.

We will be discussing the summer 2019 missions/ministry trip to Haiti.

- If your student is planning to go on this trip, this meeting is for you
- If you aren't sure if your student will go on this trip, this meeting is for you

We will share details about the trip and try to answer any questions you may have.

See you then,  
Cam Whipple

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## From Pastor Darin—continued

The United States had a Great Awakening in the 1700s and, depending on how you track the numbers, one or two more extended times of revival in the 1800s (see *Revival and Revivalism* by Iain Murray - a fantastic historical and theological summary of the second great awakening and revival in general). Missionary movements were mobilized from England and the United States led by heroes like William Carey, Hudson Taylor, Adoniram Judson and Jim Elliot.

But it seems that as the twentieth century closed the spiritual center of Christianity shifted from the west to other places - Latin America, Africa, Asia and now the Middle East. It looks to me like the Gospel that went out from Jerusalem on its way to the ends of the earth came through the United States and moved on. The Holy Spirit has not abandoned our country but it seems that He is not working in power here like He did in the past and like He is elsewhere in the world. And this makes me wonder if the Word of God is in the home stretch that will bring it all the way back to Jerusalem, where the drama of salvation history is set to conclude.

We know that: "a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until *the fullness of the Gentiles* has come in. And in this way all Israel will be saved" (Rom. 11:25-26). And we know that God will use the salvation of many Gentiles to provoke Israel to jealousy (Rom. 11:11). The conversion of thousands upon thousands of Muslims could certainly be part of this divine provocation of spiritual envy.

It is useless to speculate about the exact timing of the Day of the Lord or the end of the world. In fact, it's rebellious to do so. However, we are commanded to watch for certain signs and to pay attention to the patterns in Scripture. And this pattern of the Word of God advancing through Spirit-empowered evangelism and church planting is exactly what we saw in the West in the 17-1800s and is exactly what we are seeing in other parts of the world right now.

I share this to encourage us that ***God is actively at work in the world*** and to move us to prayerfully celebrate and support the explosive growth of the church in other nations. And I share this to stir us up to ***pray that the holy waters of revival might come again*** to the United States, that we might once again see more fruitful evangelism and exponential church planting, along with movements of compassion and justice.



Until then our work remains the same. We pray. We encourage one another. We reach out to the people around us. And we invest as much as we can in God's missionary work in the world. "*This Gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come*" (Matthew 24:14).

Pastor Darin



## PowerHouse Schedule

Oct 7—Outreach Party  
Oct 12—Aldi Food Bag shopping & PowerHouse Fun Night  
Oct 14—Food Bags, Leadership Meeting & Regular Evening Meeting  
Oct 21—Regular Evening Meeting  
Oct 28—Regular Evening Meeting

## Outreach Party

On **October 7th**, there will be an outreach party at Altitude Trampoline Park! It costs \$15 to get in. You will leave church at 5:15 PM and will get back around 8:15 PM. Waivers **MUST** be completed to participate. Please click the links below and have them filled out before you go!

[Adult Wavier](#)

[Teen Wavier](#)

## Coming soon to PH

**October 14—Important meeting for parents to discuss the summer 2019 trip to Haiti**

**November 4—PowerHouse Fall Festival**

**November 30-December 2—Winter Retreat. Pick up your registration form in Power-House**

## Food Bag Ministry

Our PowerHouse students have a monthly fundraiser assembling food bags that are distributed to medical clinics in Tampa, New Port Richey Lakeland, Haines City and Winter Haven and Jacksonville. 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 second Sunday of each month. Our next Food Bag prep day is **Sunday, October 14** right after the Worship Service.



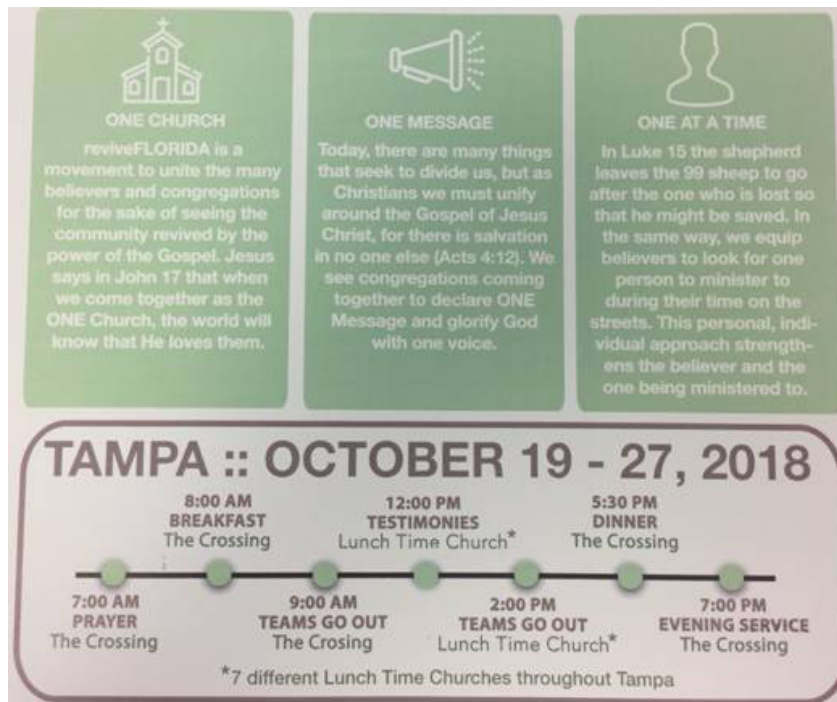
Teens can raise extra funds by helping shop for the food and/or helping with delivery of the food bags to the medical clinics. Shopping for the next fundraiser will be Friday, October 12. Meet at Aldi at **Linebaugh & Sheldon Rd** at 5:00 PM (or contact Cam Whipple—813.265.9895) if you want to help. For more details on deliveries, contact Cindy Giannone at (813) 969-4136.



## Revive Florida

There is a 9 day evangelism campaign coming to Hillsborough County Oct. 19-27 called Revive Florida ([www.oakwoodfl.org/revive](http://www.oakwoodfl.org/revive)).

Oakwood people will be helping with this campaign in several ways:



10/22 Monday – **serving breakfast** for 200-300 people at *The Crossing Church* from 8-9 a.m. (the hub of the outreach effort) in Brandon

10/22 Monday – leading the **morning prayer** room from 9-noon at The Crossing

10/23 Tuesday – **personal evangelism** in teams of 4 – Revive provides a team leader for each team. Teams go to assigned areas to use Revive’s “Bible and bands” approach to sharing the gospel. 10/23 is the day the evangelism will be in our part of Hillsborough Co  
10/23 Tuesday – **disciple-maker follow up** – at the evening gathering (7 pm at The Crossing) all who made a commitment to Christ each day will be paired with a disciple-maker to meet with them for one year, using a through the Bible discipleship book

10/23 Tuesday – **help with kids program** – We are looking for 5-10 already screened and trained TreeHouse workers to help run a program for children (mainly for people who trusted in Christ, so they can bring their kids to the evening rally)

On Saturday, Oct. 6 we are doing a “**prayer and share**” morning to practice this evangelism style. We’ll meet in PowerHouse at 9 a.m. to pray and learn the Bible and Bands approach. Then we’ll head into Plantation to invite people to Fall Festival and ask if we can pray for them. We’ll listen to prayer requests and pray for those who ask us to – then see if the Lord opens the door to share with them the meaning of the wordless book wristbands, using the color-tabbed wordless book New Testaments.

**SATURDAY (10/19)**  
Temple Terrace (B)

**MONDAY (10/22)**  
Apollo Beach (F)

**TUESDAY (10/23)**  
Tampa (A)

**WEDNESDAY (10/24)**  
Brandon West (D)

**THURSDAY (10/25)**  
Riverview East (G)

**FRIDAY (10/26)**  
Brandon East (E)

**SATURDAY (10/27)**  
TBD

reviveFlorida

**Let’s join together in praying** that the Lord will prepare hearts to respond to the Good News of Jesus Christ not only during these nine days, but throughout this fall. And let’s participate as the Lord leads each of us to do our part in supporting this evangelistic effort to reach our city!



## Revival and The End Times

You've heard me say a couple of times now that I believe Christians should be prepared to endure both the regular tribulation of life and the Great Tribulation. Let me explain what I mean and don't mean by this.

First of all, it's very clear in Scripture that ***Christians will go through trials and suffering***. "In this world you will have *trouble*" (John 16:33) - the word is "tribulation," the same word used to refer to the seven year period that will unleash the wrath of man through the Antichrist and the wrath of God through seven seals, trumpets and bowls (which provide the basic structure for the book of Revelation). Peter writes, "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you" (1 Pet. 4:12). James writes, "Count it all joy when you meet trials of various kinds" (James 1:3). Paul writes about a fellowship of "sharing in Christ's sufferings" (Php. 3:10). And Jesus himself taught that we are especially blessed when we are persecuted (Matt. 5:11).

This is important for us to keep in mind in a culture that is all about self-indulgence, personal comfort and individual goal fulfillment. These days "It's all about you" is the default message and every one of us is influenced by it. (Remember, a fish doesn't know that it's wet. We have no idea how materialistic and consumeristic we really are.) Suffering is part of the regular Christian life. We should not be surprised by it, we should expect it. And if we don't face *any* persecution or opposition for our faith it should make us wonder if we are really being faithful witnesses for Christ. Can we truly say with Paul that we are not ashamed of the Gospel (Rom. 1:16)?

So we should all be prepared for trials and tribulations - expecting God to shape us through them and deepen our joy *in Him* as He chips away our attachments to this world and prepares us for eternity.

Secondly, ***all believers should be prepared to testify for Jesus even if it means we and our loved ones die***. This isn't our day to day reality like it is for Christians in other parts of the world. But it could become our reality any day now. And some of us will be called as missionaries to other places where it is the reality. We cannot complete the Great Commission without sending missionaries into dangerous, hard to reach places where many of them will be persecuted and some of them will die. The easy to reach people groups have been reached. The ones that remain unengaged by the gospel are hard to reach and it will take great courage and sacrifice to finish the task.

As I have studied the prophecies related to the end times in Revelation, Daniel, 1 Thessalonians and elsewhere I believe "the rapture" (from 1 Thes. 4:17 "caught up") will take place when Jesus returns (Rev. 19:11-21). The return of Christ will be loud and visible - involving a shout that rings around the world, angelic hosts and heavenly trumpets. Other Bible-believing Christians believe there will be a secret rapture "for the church" (1 Thes. 4) before Jesus comes "with the church" (Rev. 19). As I have said before, I will be glad to be wrong on this point and I certainly don't believe it's a top priority doctrine to fight about or part ways over.

***My point here is more pastoral than theological***. When we interpret prophecy we should do so humbly, leaving room for misunderstanding. The Pharisees were terribly confident in their interpretation of Messianic prophecies, particularly related to the birthplace of the Christ. Their focus on one thing caused them to miss another, more important thing - the actual mission of the Messiah.

That is my message for Oakwood: as we think about the end times let's not get caught up in the tricky debate about the rapture. (I'm very thankful I have not observed any distractions along these lines - which indicates a wonderful maturity in our church.) Instead, let's focus on the work in front of us: to make disciples of all nations.

You may be pre-trib or post-trib in your view of the rapture. Study the Scriptures. Discuss graciously and humbly with others. But in the end let's follow my camp counselor who was "pan-trib," knowing that "it will all pan out in the end." God is in control. Whether He calls us home before the wheels come off or gives us strength to endure the Great Tribulation, He is faithful and good. And whether we live or die, whether we are rich or poor, healthy or sick, may we pour ourselves out to bring the Gospel to the nations!

Pastor Darin



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#### Our Vocation & Volunteer Staff

Lead Pastor—[Darin Anderson](#)  
Director of Ministries & Coordinator of Children's Ministry—[Dave Dorsey](#)  
Worship Ministry Intern—[Marcos Lopez](#)  
Director of PowerHouse Ministry—Cam Whipple  
Office Manager—[Martha Dorsey](#)  
Secretary—[Kailey Treadway](#)  
Facility Manager—[Sam Tison](#)

#### Our Elder Team

Darin Anderson  
Mark Beale  
Edson Bustamante  
John Schneider  
Rob Weyand

#### Our Deacon Team

David Conner  
Dave DePachter  
David Fowle  
Larry Giannone  
Brian Johnson  
Mike Wyatt

#### Office hours:

Monday: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

#### Worship

Sundays—9:00 AM & 10:30 AM  
Education Classes both hours

### Calendar at a Glance



Oct 6—Prayer & Share Day  
Oct 7—Communion during Worship  
Blood Pressure checks following Worship  
PH Outreach Party  
Oct 8—Elder Team Meeting  
Oct 11—Oasis Pregnancy Center Banquet  
Oct 12—PowerHouse food shopping & Hangout night

Oct 14—Deacon Team Meeting  
Fall Festival Team Meeting  
PH Food Bag Ministry  
Oct 15—Elder Team Meeting  
Oct 21—Compassion Offering  
Missions Team Meeting  
Oct 22—Elder/Deacon Teams meet  
Oct 27—Fall Festival

The Oakwood ACORN is a monthly 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	For events during...
October 20	November 2018
November 20	December 2018

Missed a Sunday message? Listen online @ [www.oakwoodfl.org/messages/](http://www.oakwoodfl.org/messages/)