

The GAZETTE.

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The Glory of Godly Mothers



by **Nathan Bayly**

As Mother's Day approaches us, it is beneficial and right to dwell on the goodness of God that comes to us through the mothers of Christian history and our church body. This is especially important in a day and age where motherhood is portrayed as something less than desirable by culture.

As Aleaha and I prepare to have our first child, we both gain much strength from knowing that God has given us access to a large supply of wisdom and knowledge from other mothers; everything from where to go for the cheapest diapers to how to treat a baby rash, to how to discern between a tired baby and a tantrum baby can all be addressed by our biological mothers as well as the mothers of CTW.

When we think about biblical history, many great mothers come to mind. One of the first that comes to my mind is Abraham's wife, Sarah. In our wedding, Aleaha's vows to me were not identical to my vows to her. She said, "Love, cherish, and obey." Obedience is

something that Sarah exemplifies to all of us in a powerful way. When Abraham was living in Gerar, he declared that Sarah was his sister because he was afraid that he might be killed and his wife stolen. Out of submission, Sarah went along with him. This was the sort of woman that she was. She loved her husband and was submissive to him in the small things and the large things.

Skipping ahead to the story of Isaac, I have always wondered why Isaac let his father get him onto that altar in the first place. You would think that after asking Abraham about the missing sacrifice, Isaac would be putting two and two together. My view of this changed after thinking about Isaac's mother; he was raised by a woman that served as a model of submission. Considering this, is it any wonder that Isaac himself was submissive to his father?

Thinking about my own life as a son, I see my mother teaching me submission through her submission to my father. She is a great example of what godly submission looks like, and watching her has already been of great benefit to me. Knowing how to conduct myself in the face of authority—for instance, when I was pulled over by the police while working for a church in Switzerland—is a great blessing.

Hannah is another mother whose glory radiates through the halls of Scripture. For years, her womb was barren. Being a woman of faith, she sought the Lord, praying that He would bless her with a child. She said that if He did, she would give her son to the Lord. God heard Hannah's prayer, and gave her a son whom she named Samuel. When Samuel was weaned, Hannah took him up to the temple, and gave him to the Lord saying, "For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my

petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord. As long as he lives, he is lent to the Lord.”

For Hannah to do this was no small thing. Samuel wouldn't be growing up at a church across town. Hannah might have only seen him once a year when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. For Hannah, this was an act of faith.

One of the biggest blessings that the Lord can give to a child are parents who have faith in the Lord. This is a blessing that I have received. Throughout my childhood, I had the privilege of doing many things because my mom trusted in

the Lord's provision of me. One specific instance of this was her encouraging me to travel to Guadalajara, Mexico when I was fifteen years old, did not know Spanish, and knew my host parents only casually. Despite these challenges, my mom was fully supportive of me going because she, like Hannah, trusted that the Lord would keep me safe and use me for His kingdom.

The mothers of Christ the Word lend their children's lives to the Lord and the fruit of doing so is glorious. Think of Adrienne Miklovic sending her children into the public school system and expecting that they would win over their classmates to the Lord rather than be influenced by sin. Consider all the mothers who are putting faith in the Lord for their child's safety as they help work on the church roof, or as they are standing out on the sidewalk in front of an abortuary. These mothers are demonstrating powerful faith in the Lord, and this doesn't go unnoticed by their children.

Among the genealogy of Jesus Christ, there is a woman whose name is Ruth. When she was left as one of three widows in a foreign land, she did not return to her homeland, but rather chose to travel back to Bethlehem. Doing this meant that Ruth had a very uncertain future ahead, yet she remained loyal. Little did she know what glories would result from her loyalty to her mother-in-law.

I remember how things were toward the end of our former church's life, and they were not good. There was gossip flying around the church; there was a large portion of the congregants who stopped giving tithe; in general, things were tough. For both my father and our associate pastor Gary Knapp, the future was unclear. It was in these times that my Dad needed support, and he got it

THINKING ABOUT MY OWN LIFE AS A SON, I SEE MY MOTHER TEACHING ME SUBMISSION THROUGH HER SUBMISSION TO MY FATHER. SHE IS A GREAT EXAMPLE OF WHAT GODLY SUBMISSION LOOKS LIKE. . .

from his loyal wife. No matter how bad things were or how hazy the future looked, we saw our mother's loyalty, and that is no small thing.

Loyalty is passed down to children as well. When I think of loyalty within a family at Christ the Word, I think of the Forney clan. Those boys protect their older sister, and their sister thinks the world of them. Loyalty to each other is interwoven into the fiber of their being it seems. Where did this come from? It came from the example of their mother interacting with their father. Debbie is loyal to Bob. She thinks the world of him, and that is something that is visible.

Finally, in Luke we receive an account of an unnamed woman who, when she was with Jesus, took an alabaster flask of ointment and began washing Jesus' feet with her hair and tears. Following this, she poured the costly ointment onto his feet. This woman is an example to us of sacrificial, loving service.

My mom has been a wonderful example to me in many ways, but perhaps one of her greatest influences on me has been the desire to serve other people. I cannot remember a period in my life when we were not consistently having people into our home weekly. This hospitality is something that my father could never have achieved on his own. From cleaning before company came over, to washing the dishes after they were gone, my mother served. Our mother's tireless service to those within (and outside of) our church has resulted in her children also desiring to serve.

As we speak of godly mothers serving, we must not neglect to remember that there are mothers who serve who may not have physical children. Just as there are fathers in the faith, there are also mothers in the faith. The work of a woman like Doris German who shows motherly care to my elderly grandmother; reading to her, coming to have tea with her, and taking her for walks is glorious and will bear eternal rewards. The service of women like Lisa Twining, who pours spiritual knowledge into the young women of our church is priceless and everlasting, and is in every respect as important as being a biological mother. Praise God for women like these!

This Mother's Day, let us remember the blessing that our godly mothers are to us, and praise the Lord for them.

Getting to Know... Shan Grogan by Tyson Turner

For this month's issue of the Gazette, I had the joy and honor of getting to know Shan Grogan.

Did you know that Shan grew up in a loving and happy Catholic family here in Toledo, or that she has a twin sister and a set of older twin brothers? Did you know that Shan's mom wanted to name her Caroline but her dad said "no" because he would not stand for a daughter of his having the same name as a cow that lived down the street from his childhood farm? Instead, Shan's full name is Shandonrose Grogan.

Did you know that Shan enjoys eating whale meat and traveling in Europe? Did you know that Shan is an artist, that she enjoys taking photos and making cards? (You should ask her for tips on getting close-up shots of deer at the Toledo Metroparks.)

Shan is an energetic Christian lady who loves serving people and sharing the love of Jesus with them.

Shan loves Jesus. She grew up Catholic but after being in an accident and attending a Christian group at the University of Toledo, Shan went to a Bill Gothard conference and was filled with the joy of the Lord that night as she gave up her life to Jesus. She now has deep comfort in knowing that Jesus is in control of her life.

Her older brother, Tom, had already come to know Christ Jesus by then and worked hard to get each sibling to follow Jesus. Shan's parents softened to the Gospel towards the end of their lives as they dealt with cancer and started watching the 700 Club regularly. Shan praises God for

the way He has worked in her family.

Shan loves her family. Her dad ran the Grogan Realty business and often instructed his children to "keep the faith." John D. Grogan passed away December 31, 1985 and was quickly followed by his wife on February 17, 1986.

Shan remembers her mother's tasty potato soup and apple crisp. She likes to cook for herself to this day (but refuses to cook or eat liver).

As an answer to prayer, Shan now

delights to make cards and gifts for people all throughout the year. My wife and I received Shan's love in the form of specially decorated cookies for our honeymoon!

Shan loves Christ the Word Church. She started attending in 2007 and became a member in 2008. She shared with me that she is thankful for the "good Word" that is so regularly given at CTW. She enjoys participating in WOW events and in the Swanton Pathway.



lives in a condo unit above her sister. She really enjoys getting together with her siblings and nieces and nephews. She also has one son, Anthony, who lives in Baltimore, Maryland, where he runs a lawn service company.

You may pray with Shan for her son to come out of the Catholic church and have a living faith in Jesus Christ.

Shan loves to serve others. She has been working with Visiting Angels for 20 years now. God has given Shan the gifts of patience, compassion, and service which are needed for this type of work. She expects to see many of her patients in heaven as a result of her prayers, witnessing, and love. These care-giving gifts also overflow to many others, as Shan

At the Daugherty home in Swanton, the pathway begins by singing songs, then teaching from God's Word, then the men and women spilt apart to pray. Shan has been encouraged by the deliberate time of confession at pathway. It helps her to know that she is not the only one struggling against various sins. Shan came to CTW as a result of her friendship with Cassandra Macino. It is a gift from God to have Shan as a member of the CTW family. If you have not done so already, take the time to get to know Shandonrose Grogan. You will be encouraged in your faith and you will make a good friend, too.

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones' Spiritual Depression book review by Nate Miklovic

"At some places, they play football. At Alabama we live it."

This slogan, commonly placed on University of Alabama paraphernalia is completely true. At 'Bama,' people live for football. People talk, think, and worship football. Home games are exhilarating; 101,821 Bama fans cram into the stadium and scream "Roll Tide" at the top of their lungs for about four hours straight.

And all this commotion is simply for 22 college kids in red jerseys. Football is enjoyable, but it is certainly not something to live for. As Christians, we truly do have something to live for; we have the blood of Christ, we have the Holy Spirit, and we have an eternity in Heaven to look forward to. Despite this, we often lack the passion and joy that unbelievers find in such activities as football.

Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, in his book *Spiritual Depression*, addresses this lack of joy that is unfortunately so prevalent among Christians.

Spiritual depression is a condition which afflicts even the greatest men of God. King David, the man after God's own heart, commonly dealt with this condition, as seen in Psalm 42, 43, and 51. David's state of depression is a sad one, and one all too common in Christians today. Moreover, Christians who are depressed damage the witness of the church. Rather than seeing Christianity as a joyous faith, the world sees the church as a gloomy organization.

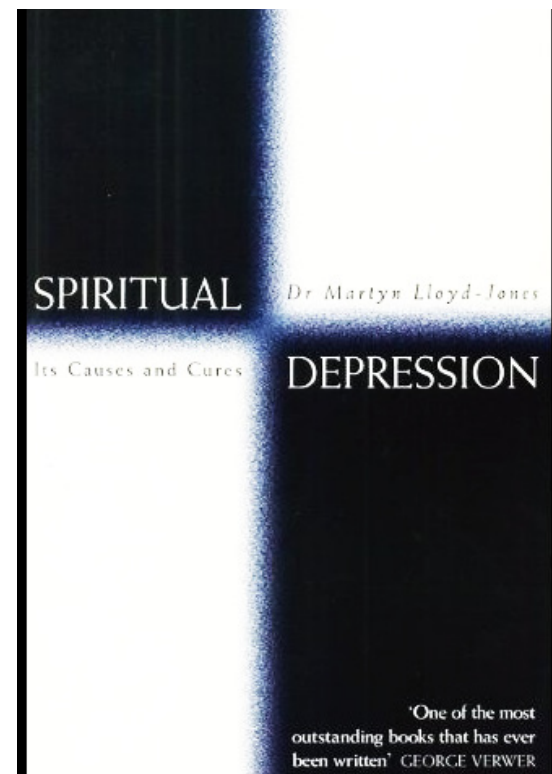
Spiritual Depression was originally preached by Dr. Lloyd-Jones as a set of 21 sermons. Each sermon subsequently became a chapter in the book.

Though the title may suggest otherwise, *Spiritual Depression* is a book which any Christian should read, not simply those who are going through hard times. It is not merely

a self-help book for the depressed Christian, but it's "really a mini-encyclopedia on how to know God and to walk with God," George Verwer says in the forward.

The first thing which Lloyd-Jones discusses in his book is what he calls "preliminary difficulties," or the most primary causes of spiritual depression. These preliminary difficulties arise from a failure to properly understand the nature of Christ's salvation and often lead to doubt. The cure to such doubts is simple: preach to yourself. When Satan attacks you with lies, refute him with the truth. Remind yourself that it was not the righteous, but sinners Jesus came to save. Tell yourself of His mercy. Recall that His steadfast love never fails.

One theme throughout many of these early sermons is balance. The



Christian life is a life of balance. In one of the most impactful sermons in this book, the failure to understand the balance between the mind, the heart, and the will is addressed. It is imperative to let the Gospel permeate all the faculties which God grants us (i.e. the mind, the heart, and the will). A terribly common

error for Christians is to live out the Gospel in one or two of these areas but not all three.

For instance, one might be part of the "frozen chosen." These are Christians who have sound theology (mind) and even obey many of Christ's commandments (will), but whose hearts are not engaged. They lack the all-important virtue of love. In other cases, a Christian's experience is purely emotional; only his heart is engaged, and his mind and will are void of the solid teaching of Scripture. In both of these cases, the Christian is missing a great deal of the Gospel, and is thus prone to eventually become spiritually depressed.

Dr. Lloyd-Jones then addresses the causes of spiritual depression more common in mature Christians who have passed the stages of preliminary difficulties. These struggles include lack of discipline, failure to understand that trials are often God's chastening, and a lack of contentment in all situations.

Lastly, he presents the panacea for spiritual depression: live in Christ. The text used for this final sermon is Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through him who gives me strength." It is of utmost importance to remember that we don't live our life alone; to be a Christian "is to be so vitally related to Christ that His life and His power are working in us."

If we want to be free from our doubts and fears, we must pick up our cross and follow Christ. Only by truly living through Jesus and obeying his commandments will we overcome this spiritual depression.

Scripture memorization made easy! the music of Jamie Soles by Ryan Brown

Dreams. Tree. Nadab and Abihu. Tool. Shiloh. Bad Guys. Ahithophel. Backward...

No, these aren't the random answers on the latest Netflix radio commercial, they're song titles by Jamie Soles!

I love Jamie Soles. There, I said it! That felt good. I can say this even if he never produced a song for public release. How?! I've never even met him! I only know about him.

Well, first of all, he's a brother in the Lord, so that's enough to have to love him! Secondly, he's the husband of one wife and has "only eight children" whom they homeschool. Third, he writes music with Scripture (lists, whole passages, and obscure Bible stories) with the purpose of "putting the Bible in his children's bones."

Fourth, he includes his family in his music: his wife and children do the background vocals!

Jamie Soles is an elder, songwriter, and minister of music at Christ Covenant Church in Alberta, Canada. Overall, he's best known for his Bible story music for children. CTW even included a couple of his songs on the BYBC CD's a few years ago (on a side note, he was gracious in let-

ting us do it. He isn't in this for the money).

In his albums, you will find many obscure Bible stories (in extreme detail) that would rarely be found in a Sunday School curriculum. We know the four things that ALL Scripture is profitable for, and that doesn't just apply to adults.

Jamie has 14 albums out: 3 are really old tapes (and old haircuts), five are kids' albums, two are straight Psalms (the first 16, and the Psalms of Ascents), and a few adult-oriented albums.

My main experience with Jamie Soles' music is in his two Psalms albums, most of which I have come to love. In fact, on my iTunes at work, of the top ten most played songs, seven are Psalms played by Jamie Soles! What I really love about them is that most of them are taken word for word out of the ESV Bible. I even just discovered this a few days ago as I read Psalm 11. Thanks to Jamie, I have probably memorized over 10 chapters of the Word of God!

His musical style is very difficult to characterize. His Bible story songs are mainly written for a child's vocal range, and in a variety of tempos. Now, be aware that I have never encountered music like this before. You may initially find some of the songs to have very eclectic instrumentation, in addition to guitar, piano, synthesizer, upright bass, and drums.

Even within just his Psalm music, the styles range from somber tones

and melancholy chants to exuberant beats and joyful melodies. He takes into account the mood and words of the Psalms when he writes the music, which is extremely helpful to the listener (Nathan Bayly, Matt Miklovic, and others from CTW have also done a great job at this.) This is what Jamie says about why it's important to sing Psalms: "If you want to understand the mind of Christ and grow in His likeness, the Psalms are a great place for that."

To summarize Jamie's music, let me give you this quote: "Whether you're looking for Christian music for your children, your family, or just yourself, the music of Jamie Soles is a sound, biblical, and highly listenable choice."

I recommend that you browse his website. There you can read all about his albums and listen to song samples, as well as read his full bio including how he became a Calvinist and his deep love for his family. It will be a great joy to meet the Soles family when they visit CTW.

Now if you want the best deal on his albums, they're \$9 each on amazon.com to download as mp3's.

However, if you want to support him the most, you'll probably want to buy directly from his website, www.solmusic.ca, or at the concert held at the SDA church building on May 22 at 7:00pm.

JAMIE SOLES IN CONCERT

SUNDAY, MAY 22
7:00 P.M.
at the S.D.A. building





W

Women of the Word

Our Goal by Marcia James

As Women of the Word, we are challenged in Philip-
pians 3:12 to press on toward the goal of Christ-likeness
that He desires for us. That process takes many forms in
our life and leads us on paths we might not choose. Of-
ten the paths are difficult and discouraging; this process
tests our faith and is a part of our needed discipline.

James 1:2 says we should count it all joy when we
experience various trials, for God perfects us and grows
us spiritually through them. They reveal His truths and
make us conscious of our dependence on Him. Many
times we think that we can control events and solve any
obstacle that stands before us. We feel invincible. Those
prideful thoughts quickly disappear when trouble brings
circumstances we cannot control.

The past few years the Lord brought various trials into
my life. I faced difficulty through illness and pain. Every-
day activities once considered important quickly faded in
their importance and priority. I questioned why these tri-
als happened and what would follow. I came face-to-face
with my own mortality. I was given comfort in the midst

of these challenges knowing that God orchestrates the
events of our lives and is in control of everything. I was
reminded, as I read the book “Heaven” by Randy Alcorn
that God has prepared a wonderful place
for those who know Him.

The beauty of heaven is encouraging and spectacular.
The promises in God’s Word were a great comfort. His
love and care ministered to my heart. He is preparing us
for heaven and eternity.

We may wonder why God sends us difficulties; what
purpose He has for these trials. We may not understand,
but as clay in the potter’s hand, we must not question the
way God molds us. His ways are not our ways and His
thoughts are not our thoughts (Isaiah 55:8-9).

These difficulties brought me into a closer relationship
with God. They gave me a greater desire for His leading
and teaching. He made me more caring and sensitive to
others who go through difficult times. The importance of
prayer and God’s Word became clearer than ever.
There was a renewed appreciation for each day as a gift
from God.

God may not remove our “thorn in the flesh”, yet it
is a constant reminder that God is teaching us how we
should live.

ment, she pressured women to submit to sterilization af-
ter a first child and to have abortions when they became
pregnant without government permission.

After years of coercing women to have abortions, as late
as 9 months into pregnancy, Chi An found herself in
America, pregnant with an “illegal” second child, facing
deportation and certain persecution from the very agency
she had worked for.

Chi An’s first-hand account offers a window into the
political and social climate of China and the one-child
policy, and how one woman came to realize the immense
value of life!

If you are interested, be sure to let Tai French know by
Sunday, May 14th so she can place the book order. Dates
and locations for the discussions will be posted in future
correspondence.

Hope to see you there!

Iron 2 Iron Summer Book Group

There will be three great reads for the Iron 2 Iron
book group that will be gathering in May, June and July
to discuss challenging books, which will include “Anne
Bradstreet: A Guided Tour of the Life and Thought of
a Puritan Poet,” and “A Place of Quiet Rest” by Nancy
Leigh DeMoss.

Our first book, “*A Mother’s Ordeal: One Woman’s
Fight Against China’s One-Child Policy*,” tells the story
of Chi An, a woman who grew up in China’s increasingly
rigid communist society and worked for the government,
helping to enforce China’s one child policy.

She recounts how, under the instruction of the govern-

Soxercise!

Coming up on Saturday, June 4th
from 10-12 a.m., Cassandra Macino
will be opening her ballet studio to
share some stretching techniques,
have a brief time of exercise, and
share in some light refreshments
and fellowship.

All exercise experience levels are
welcome—just come prepared with
some loose fitting “work-out” clothes
and a pair of socks (their is a special
floor in the studio so no shoes are
allowed). For questions or to RSVP,
please contact Julie Morgan at 419-
843-3167 or at juliemorgan2000@
hotmail.com.

Green Thumbs

Spring is the perfect time to start
a gardening project. Many of you
ladies are veteran gardeners and
have been rooting around, weeding
and planting, for a month already.
However, if you are a novice gar-
dener, undertaking the task can seem
daunting. Sure, packets of seeds and
blossoming flats of bedding plants
look nice, but what to do with them?
Why, plant and nurture them and
then watch God’s magnificent handi-
work bloom!

Gardening can be done any-
where; perhaps a huge yard or a
small windowsill pot, the rewards
of gardening are great. To enjoy the
beauty of flowers can require only a
little maintenance for many varieties.
A small vegetable plot in your yard
can be easy to plant and easy to care
for; with some plants, like zucchini,
cucumber, and bell peppers, you can
look forward to a good harvest of

fresh veggies all summer long.

Herbs are also low-maintenance
and high yield. Fresh cilantro, mint,
basil, and rosemary make excellent
additions to summer meals.

If you have little or no yard, you
can always plant a window or small
porch pot and enjoy fresh herbs or
small flowers such as sweet peas.
Since you should fill the pots with
store-bought soil, you can easily
plant either seeds or seedlings. Just
be sure to check the sunlight recom-
mendations and water frequently.

Ask questions! When you are
purchasing plants; greenhouse work-
ers are usually a wealth of gardening
information! Most gardeners are
also happy to share tips and advice
that they have learned as well. When
should you plant? Conventional
wisdom says to plant no earlier than
Mother’s Day to avoid late frosts.

For you “green thumb” ladies, is
there someone you know who seems
interested in starting a garden? This
is a great way to strike up a conversa-
tion, develop a friendship, or arrange
a tea appointment some afternoon
and learn by doing.

Do One Thing by Bethany White

For the last few months, Rebekah,
Wendy and I have been blessed to
have the opportunity to start a new
Kid’s Club at Ft. Meigs Element-
ary. God has gone before us in so
many instances to move the logistics
forward, and we are so grateful for
the great kids who have been part of
our club!

Two girls have accepted Christ as
their Savior, and many others have

expressed excitement about com-
ing to BYBC this summer. One girl
recently had the opportunity to go to
Imagination Station for her birthday
on a Thursday, but turned it down,
because it would mean missing Kid’s
Club.

If you have a heart for kids, please
consider working in a Kid’s Club
next year—it is VERY rewarding!

Summer Bible Studies

This summer, both a day and an
evening five-week Bible study will
be offered for the women of CTW.
Both groups will use the same book,
*Choosing Gratitude—Your Journey
to Joy* by Nancy Leigh DeMoss.

Another plus for these studies is
that, at the finish of the study, there
is a 30-day devotional on gratitude
that you can work through during
July to really develop an attitude of
praise to the Lord. Please let Diane
Walls know if you are interested in
either study by May 9 so she can or-
der you a book (\$10.00) and get it to
you before the study. Any questions,
give Diane a call.

DAYTIME STUDY

PLACE: Diane Walls’ home

DATE: Wednesdays, May 25-June 22

TIME: 9:15–11:15 a.m.

LEADERS: Diane Walls and

Rebekah Wing
(Babysitting will be provided.)

EVENING STUDY

PLACE: Sue Oberly’s home

DATE: Mondays May 23- June 27;

(skipping Memorial Day)

TIME: 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

LEADERS: Sue Oberly and

Rebecca Byers

Monthly Morsel

Holy—set apart, different, unique.

*The LORD commands us to be holy...to separate ourselves
from sin and dedicate ourselves to His perfect purpose for us.
Focus on the sins that keep you from growing closer to the
LORD. Pray about it in the morning before you rise, throughout
the day, and before you lay your head on your pillow at night.*

**“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of
God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living
sacrifices, holy and pleasing to GOD - this
is your spiritual act of worship.”**

ROMANS 12:1-2

Getting to Know... Sonya Elsworth by Ashley Forney

The year was 2002. The month, February. As I entered the SDA building, my toes and fingers were freezing. Inside, however, the start of a warm friendship waited me. That friend is Sonya (as in “say ‘ahhh’”) Elsworth.

She was among the very first to welcome me to the infant church. I was greeted with, “At last! Another girl!” On the spot, she told me about youth group that Wednesday at Pastor Gary Knapp’s house. It was a warm welcome to Christ the Word.

Sonya’s history with CTW traces back with the Baylys and Killys to Springfield United Brethren. She was in the 5th grade then and was friends with twin girls, Faith and Hope. These virtuously named girls invited her to AWANA, a children’s program that Springfield held at that time. It was there that she first met Pastor David, who was in the middle of disciplining one of the other children. This first impression left her rather in awe of him. Her awe did not prevent her from eventually attending the church, however. And it certainly did not stop the Bayly family from concocting a rather peculiar nickname for her. But I’ll let her tell you that one at her discretion.

While Sonya has only been a member of Pastor David’s flock, her mom did take her to another church prior to that. The same event that led to this church attendance caused Sonya to consider eternity and salvation.

You see, Sonya has lived in just about every area of Toledo, and this pattern began in her childhood. At one of the early homes, she had a friend next door. She served as this girl’s lifeline. Though she does not blame herself, it was not long after Sonya and her family moved on to their next dwelling that this troubled girl committed suicide.

So the sporadic church attendance and baptism was precipitated. Sonya

paid close attention at the services after learning of her friend’s despair and death. God softened her heart to the message preached then. She was about 9 years old.

Sonya loves useful gifts. “And games are so very useful!” she reports. *Monopoly*, euchre, and *Apples to Apples* are particular favorites.

Of the other sort of gifts, Sonya has always enjoyed singing with the choir. She first sang the distinguished role of Elf #7 back in 2nd grade for her school’s Christmas production of *Santa’s Carwash*. Middle school choir and contests followed along with the somewhat-less-juvenile shows *Love Rides the Rails*, *Anything Goes*, *Bye-Bye-Birdie*, and, her



favorite, *Joseph*, in which she played the role of Rachel.

She claims to not be the best singer out there but states, “I loved doing it...It sounds so silly, but I miss the butterflies in your stomach when you’re so tense and nervous and afraid that you’re going to bomb everything.”

The Messiah Sing-Along is one of the highlights in the year for Sonya, and she is always thrilled to be able to sing with the CTW choir.

Sonya recently became an aunt again. The other day she walked into Desmond (the apartment she currently shares with Grace Olson and

the author) waving a picture of the adorably chunky Addison, or Addy, and promptly found a prestigious spot for it on the fridge.

She regularly spends time with her family, helping with the baby and her grandpa who suffers from Alzheimer’s. Her family has nicknamed Addy “Sonya’s *own* little disease”—but she doesn’t appear to mind the affliction.

Sonya has held many service-oriented jobs. Currently, she is working her all-time favorite job at Elizabeth Scott Nursing Home, where she was able to spend time with Pastor David’s mother during her stay there. She became certified as an STNA 3 years ago. Her past employers

include JCPenny, Speedway, and multiple restaurants including Holland Gardens, a caterer.

We at Desmond have benefitted from Sonya’s love of cooking. Back in high school, she spent time learning culinary arts. Several times (those rare occasions when we three are at Desmond) she has concocted some tasty dishes for our enjoyment. If you have not yet had a chance to get to know Sonya Elsworth, or sampled her cooking, I recommend putting in a request for her monkeybread. (Ah, yes. I see many heads bobbing in agreement!)

Jamie Soles & Family Concert May 22

Maybe you’ve bought Jamie’s CDs to teach your children lessons from God’s Word or maybe your kids have heard his songs at Backyard Bible Clubs. Perhaps you are only familiar with Jamie Soles through the version of Psalm 1 that we sing as a congregation? Wherever it has been, it is likely that as part of the CTW family, you have heard Jamie Soles’ music. Now, on May 22, we have the opportunity to hear him and his family in person. Jamie will be putting on a concert that evening in the SDA Building. This is an open-invitation concert. A free-will offering will be collected. If you want to know more about Jamie, visit his website, www.solmusic.ca.

Softball: Team Meeting and First Practice

CTW’s coed softball team has a one-time team meeting scheduled Sunday, May 1 at 5:15 p.m. at the SDA building. All players are expected to attend this meeting. Also, the first team practice is scheduled for Monday, May 2 from 6-8 p.m. at the WPOS softball field located at 7112 Angola Rd in Holland. If you have not yet signed up please contact head coach Matt Slick.

Summer Backyard Bible Club Volunteers Needed

It might seem crazy, but before we know it, June will be upon us and Backyard Bible Clubs (BYBCs) will be in full swing. In an effort to plan ahead we are looking for volunteers willing to assist with BYBCs this summer. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Shelley Schriener, and see her article in this issue of the Gazette.

Round Robin Dinners this Summer

This summer, we are offering a three-month round robin dinner/social group. Here is how it works: Once a month you will have the opportunity to get together with a group from CTW. Some you may know, some you may not, and others you may just not know well. You will get together at someone’s home for a time of food, fun and fellowship. Each month you will do the same with a totally different group. The dinners will be in June, July and August.

Sound intriguing? All you need to do is sign-up on the sheet in the narthex or email Jeff and LeeAnn Thomas at jalthomas@bex.net. The deadline to sign up is Sunday, May 8.

CTW Camping Trip

Howdy, fellow CTW friends...I know it still seems a ways off, but we are finalizing the details of this year’s camping trip. All reservations and payments must be made by May 31st. So, check your calendars and get back to us as soon as you are able. There are still a few electric sites left and lots of non-electric sites. Don’t miss this amazing time of fun and fellowship. We look forward to hearing from you. Call Jeff or Shelley at 419-290-0618 or email schrinerfam@metalink.net

CTW’s Annual Pinewood Derby Saturday, May 21

Our annual pinewood derby will be run on Saturday, May 21 at 2 p.m. in the Dominguez Barn. Daughters and sons as well as fathers are welcomed to participate. Children must be old enough to do significant work on their own cars. Money for the cars will be collected on the day of the race. If you have further questions please contact Dave Meyers.

Save the Date: Men’s Canoe Trip August 12-14

Registration will begin soon for the annual men’s canoe and camping trip to Grayling, Michigan. Save the dates of August 12-14 for this manly adventure and relaxing weekend. We look forward to a great time as fathers, sons, and men together in God’s creation. Further details coming soon.

Prayer requests
are now
available online!
Just go to:

www.christtheword.com
->community links
->prayer list

Then sign in with
your password.
It’s just that easy!

Onto Dry Ground by Matt Miklovic

As our new building emerges from the deep freeze of winter, the construction process is now ramping up into high gear. Currently, much of the activity has been centered on getting the building dried out and sealed up so that interior work can proceed forward.

The last few weeks we have seen the hard work of many in our church family helping with this process. We have had roofing crews laboring long hours on Saturdays to complete all the detail work needed to seal the roof. Last week, as I stood on the roof, I was amazed at how impressive it looks. We will have to do guided tours up there someday for all to see.

I also had a good view of the shiny new 50-ton air units that are perched up there waiting to be put into service.

Mario and his men are very busy

completing the high bay areas, both outside and inside.

Down below, in what I would term “Extreme Mud,” many from Living Word Youth, *semperRef* and their leaders have worked to pump out water and carry out ice blocks from around all the columns and the foundation. When our pump broke temporarily, this didn’t stop the action. Bucket brigades took over and passed thousands of buckets out while others repaired the pump. This hard work allowed the concrete contractor to begin grouting underneath every steel column.

Before concrete can be poured on the second floor, grout that is stronger than concrete must be placed under each steel column, so that the weight of the building will sit on it and not on the steel bolts which hold the beams in place. At last report, parts of the building are now starting to dry out.

The weeks ahead will bring even more activity. As soon as the grout

is set in each section of the building, the concrete on the second floor will be poured.

Painters from ClearNote Church will return, weather permitting, as they hope to get another coat of paint on before the windows are installed just a few weeks from now. Several hundred window frames and glass are currently being manufactured. As soon as the ground is dry enough, we will place compact subfloors (ground stone) inside the entire building interior. Then we will begin trenching and placing all of the under-floor pipes and conduits that must be in before we pour the concrete for the first floor.

Lord willing, it won’t be too much longer—perhaps October of this year if all goes well—when we can enjoy worshipping in our new facility.

Right now, I am just happy that we won’t have to slog through the mud for much longer while we work on the building. Praise the Lord and bring on the concrete!

Rampin’ up for Round Robins! by LeeAnn Thomas

Have you looked around the church and noticed all of the new faces? Have you met someone once and really connected, but have been unable to get together again? As our church grows we are looking for ways to keep connected.

Fellowship is the biblical calling of every Christian. The apostle Paul mentions it numerous times in his writings. In his final salutation to the Corinthians, he writes “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all” (13:14).

Fellowship is a gift. It is important

that we gather with others. The disciples of Christ “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” in the early days of the church (Acts 2:42).

Fellowship is and is a demonstration of love and support. It is an opportunity to surround ourselves with other believers and have a time to rejuvenate ourselves with the love and support of other Christians. In

our own lives, we have witnessed the blessings of fellowship. As we have met with other families in fellowship on a regular basis, we have shared the joys of new births and blessings, the comforts in times of disappointments, and the opportunity to reprove and be reprovved in Christian love. “Iron sharpens iron,” the Bible teaches (Pr 27:17). In other words, a real

intimacy develops along with the freedom to enjoy all of the aforementioned benefits!

This is why this summer we are offering a three-month round-robin dinner/social group. Here is how it works. Once a month, you would have the opportunity to get together with a group of families from church. Depending on the group, this could be either a providential dinner or someone can host the whole thing. The next month you will do the same thing with a totally different group, and yet another group the final month. The dinners will be in June, July and August.

Let us know if you are interested in being a host family or simply attending. When the lists are finalized you will be “introduced” to your first dinner dates, and the host family will contact the group to announce the food plans, time and location.

Sound intriguing? There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex, or you may email Jeff and LeeAnn Thomas at jalthomas@bex.net. The deadline to sign up is Sunday, May 1st.

100-Day Blessing by Jeff Thomas

Do you ever pick up the Bible and look at all of those books and pages within and wonder what it would be like to read the whole book cover to cover? Would this even be possible? Would I stay awake through all of the lineages, the begats, begots and all of those funny-sounding names? Haven’t I heard all of the good “stories” already?

After a challenge by Andrew Dionne to the congregation in a Sunday night service over a year ago to read through the bible, it got the Thomas family thinking, “Yeah, we can do that!”

We actually began the process earlier (though we didn’t know it at the time) as we debated as a family the merits of having a TV or not. Of course, the purpose of giving up something is to replace it with something as good or better. What’s better than God’s word?

After researching Bible reading schedules, we decided on a three-month time frame. This seemed doable, though we modified it to 100 days to account for sick days, off-schedule days or the odd times when we just couldn’t do it. We also decided to read a chronological Bible instead of just going

through from Genesis to Revelation. This really brought the Bible to life in a whole new way as we saw connections between people, places and times that we never saw before.

We began our reading in January. Of course, as the TV was turned off (and actually unplugged and turned around) Jeff began to think of the things we would miss (the Olympics, March Madness, etc.). It was more difficult on some of us than others (the names have been left out to protect the guilty!)

The first step to success was planning each day’s reading time the night before. We would look at the day’s activities and see where to make time for our Bible reading. If there was an evening event, we would read before dinner. If there were late days, we would read before bed.

Most of all, our Bible time took priority over all other activities! We even read in the car on weekend getaways. Any time we couldn’t do our reading was a time of huge disappointment. There were not many of those days.

As the days went on there were huge benefits to our family. Not only



did we learn the Word, we spent time together as a family. Time and time again, the Word we read came to our hearts in times of need. We would be closely familiar with a particular story as David preached and felt a special connection. We felt closer to God and his people and to each other. LeeAnn described it as a Normal Rockwell painting come to life. Daddy read God’s word in front of the fire with his family at his feet... literally. Sometimes we let the girls knit or LeeAnn would find a coloring page that went with the reading for the little ones to do.

It was an incredible time of family intimacy. The final day (just under 100 days) was met with excitement, but also sadness. An incredible journey was realized.

Yes, the TV turned back around, but it takes a back seat now. It is no longer a part of the family. (It is not even in the family room anymore.) The memories of sitting around reading the Bible together as a family are present. We have since begun family devotions in a different Bible reading program, but we still talk about what a great experience our 100-day journey was. And, oh yeah, we can all pronounce “Zerubbabel!”

Pathway Update by Matt French

What can I say about the South Toledo Pathway? Well... we have some of the finest people of the church in attendance. The food is spectacular. The children are a delight. Our times of prayer have been an encouragement and a challenge. Pathway Sundays are the best. Of course, none of this is meant to diminish the other great Pathway groups in our church, but I’ve never been to them so I can only speak of ours!

Really, God has been good to us

and our group over the years. Many of the faces have changed as people move and schedules vary, but what has remained constant is the love we have for each other because of God’s love for us. Our group is diverse. We have several young families with children but we also have retirees, teenagers, singles and college-age men and women. Our Pathway, I would say, is a good cross section of Christ the Word. Each member of our group brings unique gifts, needs, insight and wisdom.

This is how the church functions, isn’t it? On a large scale we see this dynamic at work in Christ the Word—and it’s a blessing to all of

us—but I have also been blessed to experience this twice a month on a smaller scale in our Pathway meetings. Sharing a meal, studying God’s word and praying together have drawn us close.

Applying Scripture to our lives in a smaller setting gives us the opportunity to learn from each other. Sharing praises and requests reminds us of our dependence on God. I know that the other Pathway groups feel the same way, so CTW is no doubt growing stronger each week because of what God is doing in these smaller groups meeting in homes. Praise the Lord!

calendar of events

May Calendar

- May 1** **Softball Team Meeting**
- May 7** **Presbytery**
- May 9** **WOW Fellowship Dinners**
- May 14** **Sarah Frank Bridal Shower**
- May 21** **Pinewood Derby**
@ the Dominguez barn
- May 22** **Jamie Soles concert**
@ the S.D.A. building
- May 30** **semperRef Memorial Day Picnic**

Mark Your Calendar

- June 4** **WOW Soxercise**
- June 13** **Iron 2 Iron**
- June 13-17** **Backyard Bible Clubs:**
Van Wormers' and Simpsons'
- June 16** **LWY Mighty Maumee**
Adventure
- June 20-24** **Backyard Bible Clubs:**
Frenches' and Holders'
- June 29** **CTW Camping Trip**
-July 2