

The GAZETTE.

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What Does Witnessing Look Like?



by Mario Dominguez

Witness—A witness is someone who has firsthand knowledge about an event, through his or her senses (e.g. seeing, hearing, smelling, touching) and can help certify important considerations about the event.

Testify—A testimony is a solemn attestation as to the truth of a matter. All testimonies should be well thought out and truthful.

When I think of witnessing, I can't help but see a courtroom with a judge, two lawyers, a witness stand and myself, testifying under oath about what I've witnessed.

Wouldn't it be great if life were that way? If people only listen to what comes out of our mouths? On the witness stand, it's all about what we say. On the contrary, life is

so little about what we say. It's more about what we do.

So as we ponder our witness, what does our testimony look like? I remember when I first came alive to the saving grace of Jesus. I was on fire. I changed the name of my Dirt Devil sweeper to the "Dirt Angel." I mean, I actually put a sign over the sweeper that said, "Dirt Angel." I put a sign on my door that said "Jesus is the Son of God." Everyone knew I was all about Jesus.

My friends didn't want to see me. My number one evangelism technique was to light a match, stick it to a person's arm and say, "Hell is that hot forever! Better give your heart to Jesus." To which most people would scream and cuss. I don't remember anyone getting saved from that technique. Thankfully, the change in me led a few to the church and some to salvation.

I must admit, after spending time questioning what my life speaks to others, I've found times in my life I have slacked in this, the greatest call, spreading the gospel of Christ. There must be, in every Christian's life, a drive to turn every eye to Jesus, to share the good news, and serve God whole-heartedly. In my eyes, I weigh two questions: How do I live out my testimony? How do I share what I have witnessed?

I can't help but think about when I had a Jesus bumper sticker on my truck. I ended up removing it because my driving was so aggressive. It was easier for me to remove the sticker from the truck than to drive with courtesy and patience.

How many times is life like that? We quiet down. We stop talking about Christ. We pick and choose our words with care because we don't want to offend or turn away others. We say we don't want to bring shame to Jesus, but the truth is, we don't want to change our actions, or pay the price of others not liking us and what we say. The

biggest reason is, we don't want to be different. We don't want people to judge us because they hold Christians at a higher standard. It's easier to not talk about Jesus than it is to live a holy life, a life set apart and different.

I remember a time I met a superintendent on a job. In talking, he revealed he was a Christian. Over the course of the job we would talk and have some good conversations. Until one day, I asked him how he was doing and he told me about some real problems he was having on the job. In the process of telling me this, he let off a string of foul words. I said, "Hey!" This led him to apologize over and over. He then said something I'll never forget. "Oh, darn it! Of all the people to cuss around, it had to be you!"

To which I replied, "What do you mean, darn it? I'm your brother. I won't judge you. I'm just here to sharpen you. It's the unbeliever who will judge you, causing them to blaspheme God. They'll believe Him powerless and your faith meaningless."

The guys who worked with him didn't know he was a Christian. That's why he could live and walk as they walk. He could say whatever words made him fit in with the crowd without a challenge. This is one of the reasons our witness is so limited. I want to hammer home this one point.

Say you are in court and you've been called as a witness to testify. You are an eyewitness, and your testimony is powerful. As you look at the jury, by the looks on their faces, you can tell you have gained their respect and admiration. Now the cross-examination starts. In the cross examination, it comes out that you have been convicted of false testimony against your neighbor. Now what? The looks on the jurors' faces have changed to disgust. Your testimony is worthless. Who's going to believe a liar? Your answers were perfect during the testimony, but the actions of your life nullified them.

Say it went a little differently. What if you take the stand and act like the perfect citizen, but have no relevant testimony to the case? You're perfectly dressed. By all standards of appearance, you fit the character exactly, but you sit there and say nothing. Again, your witness and testimony is worthless. They admired your life and achievements, but you were powerless to influence anyone because your speech did nothing to help the case. In both cases, you were shamefully asked to leave the witness stand.

"You are the salt of the world, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

MATTHEW 5: 13-16

"How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?"

ROMANS 10:14

These two verses tell us to let the actions of our lives line up with the commands of our mouths. We are to spread the good news.

When was the last time you told a stranger what Jesus has done for you? How He saved you from the pit of hell? Have you shared with others the basics of what God has provided for you; a wife, a home, children, healing you and your family of diseases and infirmities? He provided you with food in times of need. When was the last time you told someone that without Jesus they will experience the wrath of God and without the blood of Jesus Christ we are all doomed for the pit?

HE WHO HAS AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR!

"For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To one we are the aroma of death leading to death and to the other we are the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things?"

2 CORINTHIANS 2:15

"But even if our gospel is vile, it is vile to those who are perishing."

2 CORINTHIANS 4:3

So why are we afraid to share the gospel? To God's people we are the aroma of life. In this present day, many of God's people are still bound, deceived and have never heard the truth of the gospel lived out. They have seen plenty of so-called "Christians." They have never met a Christian with power to deny himself, the power to have joy in any situation, the power to give up his coat or lay down his life, the power to be committed to his wife, the power to love his enemy. This is the testimony the world needs to see and hear.

In closing, I challenge you to make sure there is no present action of your life that would nullify your life's testimony during the cross-examination.

"And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death."

REVELATION 12:11

Getting to Know... The Clarks

by The Editors

"Adrienne Miklovic opened the door for me and Jason Wiltse the first time we showed up at Friday Night Bible Study," says Kevin Clark. "She didn't know what to think."

The epic saga of Kevin and Jennifer Clark arriving at Christ the Word actually begins in an even earlier time, before Kevin's first foray (with dreadlocks, and accompanied by Jason Wiltse) into the Forneys' home...

Kevin Clark grew up in the humble town of Clyde, Ohio, where he was raised in a Baptist household, and attended Clyde High School. While there, he competed for the Clyde Fliers on both the golf and wrestling teams. Kevin says that he "got walloped" while wrestling, because, during practice, he always had to wrestle against a fellow student of the same weight, who had been a winner at the state level. Kevin wrestled at the lean, mean, super-flyweight weight of 103 lbs. All gristle. "Unlike Nathan Bayly," he says, "I didn't get to go to states."

When not strangling (or being strangled), Kevin would golf in the off-season, and says that his best score was probably 40 on a 9-hole.

Kevin's father worked for Armstrong HVAC in Toledo, and landed Kevin his first job there in high school. However, Armstrong was not fond of family members working together in the same shop, so Kevin left when he graduated, and got a job with Mark, the son of the owner of Toledo's Overhead Door Company, who was starting up an Overhead Door Roofing Division. Mark decided he could use Kevin's roofing skills, and Kevin found himself in the Toledo area.



Jason Wiltse was also working at Overhead Door, in sales, and Kevin ended up renting a room from Jason, on Alvin Street, where "Overhead Mark" also lived. Also, there were several acquaintances of Kevin's from Clyde High School living in the neighborhood, who were going to U.T.

Jason, Kevin's landlord, had recently become a Christian through University Bible Fellowship and a mutual friend of theirs known only as "Toof." ("What kind of a name is 'Toof', anyway?" remarks Kevin.)

"Jason was talking about going to church a lot, and we ended up going to Grace (Church) on Dorr Street."

"We were hungry for the Word at that time," says Kevin, and "I got a roofing job doing Robin Kepler's roof, and Robin told us about Friday Night Bible Study."

Thus Jason and Kevin showed up at Friday Night, were greeted by Adrienne Miklovic, and the rest, as they say, is history. Except, of course, how Jennifer came into the scene.

Jennifer Clark, sister of Jordan Daugherty, grew up in Whitehouse, third in the Daugherty story that goes: Jonathan, Jody, Jennifer, Jordan.

"Jennifer was homeschooled at a time when people were still getting in trouble with the law for homeschooling," says Kevin. "It's a real testimony to their faith; and her parents, while not 'Reformed', display many disciplines that all of us would call 'Reformed,'" he adds. "Her parents obeyed God, and God blessed it."

Kevin and Jason ended up com-

ing to Christ the Word for the first time after hearing Geoff Thomas, a speaker at the last of the Great Lakes Bible Conferences arranged by Bob Forney, in 2002. "We sat with Tim Bayly at the GLBC luncheon," says Kevin. "He seemed annoyed with us, but it was OK. Jason was just being Jason."

Kevin noticed Jennifer the first time he came to a Christ the Word evening service, which he attended to hear Geoff Thomas preach. Jennifer and her brother, Jordan Daugherty, had attended Pastor Bayly's previous church in Springfield, and had made the transition to Christ the Word. Kevin said that Jennifer caught his

eye immediately, but he was disappointed, because he thought that she was "married to Jordan" (literally).

Fortunately, after hanging out with Jordan a few times, Jordan recommended that Kevin go ahead and ask Jennifer out. They started dating in 2004, and the rest, as they say, is history.

The Clarks have been blessed with three children. Wolfgang, the oldest, is 6, and loves to be with dad, and be like dad. He just wants to play all day long.

Stella is 4, and has qualities that are a lot like her mother. Kevin is glad to see that she is developing a lot of good characteristics. "She actually started crossing her legs like a lady at age 2," he notes.

Joaquin, the youngest, is 2, and Kevin says he sees "lots of sin emerging in him." "But we're working on that. He's very loving, probably the most loving of the children thus far."

The Clarks are glad to be part of CTW because of the accountability and biblical challenges that are always an aspect of the preaching and teaching of the church.

Have you had a chance to stop and get to know Kevin and Jennifer yet? If not, stop and thank them for the work Kevin has done on the CTW building roof; he'll be glad you did!

Radical

by David Platt

book review

by Nate Miklovic

David Platt's 4000-member mega-church in Birmingham, Alabama had it all: elaborate lighting, great audio-visual technology, comfortable seating, and a beautiful facility. But after visiting impoverished underground churches in Asia, Pastor Platt realized that his church might be a bit too comfortable. So he stripped away all these luxuries, and began having meetings modeled after Asian secret churches which last from 6 p.m. until midnight. These six hours are filled with nothing but unadulterated Bible study and prayer. There is no music, no fancy audio-visual presentations, just simply the Word of God.

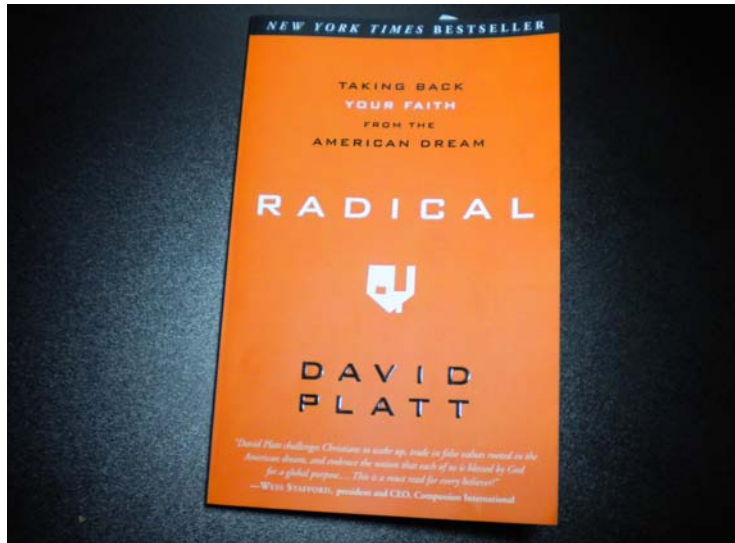
Since Platt started having these meetings regularly, his church has come alive in powerful ways. For instance, after Pastor Platt's preaching on James 1:27, the command to care for orphans and widows in distress, the church adopted 150 children in the Birmingham area! In his book *Radical*, Platt calls the American Christian to be less comfortable, and to pick up his cross and follow Christ.

Many megachurches grow large because the pastors "tickle the ears" of the congregation (2 Tim 4:3). In other words, the preachers only preach inspirational, feel-good, warm-and-fuzzy sermons. They don't preach about hell, they don't assert the sinfulness of man, nor do they call their members to repent. It is no surprise, then, that these megachurches grow to be so "mega"; most people would much rather listen to a sermon about what wonderful lives Christians can have than listen

to a sermon saying they will go to hell unless they repent. So when I started *Radical*, I was rather worried that Platt would be an "ear-tickler" when it comes to issues like original sin. But my worries were unnecessary, especially as I read the several Biblical truths which he expounds in chapter seven:

- 1) All people have knowledge of God
- 2) All people reject God
- 3) All people are guilty before God
- 4) All people are condemned before God (yes, even the guy in the middle of Africa who's never heard the name "Jesus")
- 5) God has made a way of salvation for the lost
- 6) People cannot come to God apart from faith in Christ.

Moreover, he follows up these six truths with a challenging seventh: Christ commands the Church to



make the Gospel known to all peoples. If indeed God has made a way of salvation for the lost, and if indeed people cannot come to God apart from faith in Christ, then we as the Church have a burden to preach the Word to the world. Paul tells us in Romans 10:17 that "faith comes from hearing, and hearing from the word of Christ." If we truly want men and women to come to faith in God, we must be spreading the Word.

In addition to the powerful call to spread the Gospel, David Platt also urges his readers to consider whether

they use their wealth righteously. The subtitle of *Radical* is "Taking Your Faith Back from the American Dream." The American Dream is a comfortable life; if a family is "living the American Dream," they are most likely a double-income family residing in the heart of suburbia with two children and one dog. The children will attend nice state colleges, find good-paying jobs, and finally marry at thirty once their career is well-established. The parents will save enough money to retire comfortably once the children are out of the house. They will buy name-brand food products, and drive Lexus cars. All-in-all, the American Dream is a life of ease and prosperity. Yet Christ didn't call us to live a life of ease; He called us to pick up our cross and follow Him. Just because we can afford a Lexus doesn't mean we need one. Take John Wesley, for example; he had an income of about \$160,000

per year in today's terms. However, he put a cap on his spending so that he actually lived on \$20,000. Thus he had \$140,000 to devote to the poor! Platt challenges us to do the same, to devote our money to the Kingdom of Heaven rather than to our own comfort.

The goal of *Radical* isn't to teach theology or

to present a case for the existence of God. Instead, it calls us to consider whether we really are taking up our cross and following Jesus, whether we would be willing (like the young man in Mark 10) to sell everything we have and give to the poor, and whether we are "radically abandoning" our lives of comfort to follow Jesus Christ.

Getting to Know...

Joe Hanley

by The Editors

Joe Hanley was born in the Toledo area, but his family moved to Connecticut when he was 5, where his father worked for General Electric Credit Corporation. Joe attended Norwalk High School in Connecticut (yes, there is another Norwalk!), where he played center for his high school's hockey team. Joe says that Connecticut was a nice place to grow up, because the neighborhoods around him were "a little bit more settled back in the woods."

Upon graduation, Joe decided to attend Central Connecticut State College, where he initially studied Political Science and then switched to marketing.

Joe's first year studying at Central Conn. didn't go too well; he says that the college campus at that time was exceptionally "rowdy," and he was living in a 6-story dormitory packed with rowdy residents. Eventually, someone even set the typing room of the dorm on fire; "it just wasn't the place to be!" says Joe.

After considering other options, it turned out that Joe would end up coming back to the Toledo area, as his family had moved back to North-west Ohio due to his father's work. Joe's dad thought it would be a wise move for Joe, as well, so Joe made the journey here in 1991.

Joe has an older sister, and two younger brothers. His sister Gail is married with 3 children, and lives in Sylvania. She moved back to the area in 2007.

Joe's younger brother, Steve, also lives in Sylvania, and works as a carpenter. He has two children.

Then there's Dave, who is a career Navy man, and is currently a commander in the Navy. Currently, Dave is back in the Naval Academy in Rhode Island, gaining more education to further his career. Dave recently remarried, and he and his wife will soon have their first child.

Currently, Joe commutes to Dearborn, Michigan, where he works at

the Ford World Headquarters, doing warranty analysis for Ford's Export Operations and Global Growth Initiative. Joe worked in a different job, in the same office, in 1998, but was laid off in 2004. Through a long series of other jobs over about 6 years, the Lord eventually brought Joe back to work for Ford in Dearborn, at his current position.

Joe grew up in the Lutheran church, which was where he first heard the Gospel. However, his family had initially been Roman Catholic, but his mother came to faith in the Lutheran church, and brought the rest of the family with her, when Joe was just a baby. (Joe's



older sister, Gail, had actually been baptized Roman Catholic.)

Joe says that although he never rebelled against the faith "to the point of becoming an atheist or anything," he did begin to drift away in high school, where the focus of his life shifted and became "more about hockey games and partying." Joe says that he was "a little too involved in the social scene," because of his father's service on his school's board of education.

Then, during that first rough year at college, Joe believes God brought him to true repentance. "I believe God came to me at that time and told me to follow Him" says Joe.

After moving to the Toledo area, Joe was unable to find a church that he felt would become his home church, until he found Christ the Word a couple of years ago. Through God's providence, Joe's next door neighbor turned out to be Scott Killy

I, (father of Pastor Scott Killy II). Scott I told Joe about CTW, and in summer of 2009, Joe ended up coming to the CTW Fourth of July outreach event in Sylvania, where he met Scott Killy, Jr., who invited him to church for the first time.

In his free time, Joe enjoys working on restoring the two old cars that he owns— a '73 Mustang and a '73 Maverick (which was previously owned by his mom.) While Joe hopes to restore the Mustang to pristine factory condition, he says that the Maverick "is more of a modification."

Joe likes to golf when he can find the time, and he still enjoys follow-

ing hockey; he grew up as a Rangers fan, but says that "you can't live anywhere near Detroit and not follow the Red Wings... especially since they're usually in the playoffs."

Over the past couple years, Joe has enjoyed being a member of both the Friday Night Pathway, and the More Than Conquerors Men's Pathway. Joe says he really appreciates the stellar teaching at Friday Night, and has enjoyed the recent studies of the book of I Corinthians, as well as the various studies during the Summer Topics series.

Joe can't get over how overwhelmed he has been by the warm fellowship and welcoming atmosphere he was greeted with upon first arriving at CTW. If you haven't done so already, take some time to fellowship with him yourself— you'll be glad you did!

W

Women of the Word

God's Provision by Bethany White

In my life, I have seen many times that God works in ways that I do not expect. Those of you who know me well know that about eighteen months ago, my life underwent a radical change. Due to the economy, I was laid off from my full-time job; for someone who has worked at least two jobs for the last fourteen years, this was huge.

What you may not know is that the day before the lay-off, I prayed to God, "Please let something GREAT happen to me." I was shaken, no doubt about it, although the first words out of my wise husband, when I called him to let him know, were, "Everything will be all right; God has a plan in this."

In the ensuing months, our family has been blessed by God through the love of our families and friends, and I personally have been so grateful to be able to be a part of a WOW Bible study. I often have to confess the sin of running to friends or family to make me feel better when I have a problem, instead of turning to the Lord, examining my heart, confessing my sin, and being made clean. Somehow it seems so preferable to talk to a "real person" instead of devoting myself to the discipline of prayer to calm my heart. However, I am blessed to have some very wise friends, and when I told Tai about being laid off, her first response was, "This is great! Now you can come to Bible study!" She offered to have me ride with her and her girls, and so, the very next day, we went.

There were often times when I was working that I

would look out the window of my office and think, "I wish I could participate in this event..." or "I wish I could go to that study..." but the time never seemed to be there for me to do so, although looking back on it, I often would not prioritize my time correctly.

In the last year and a half, I have had the privilege to gather at Adrienne Miklovic's home to study God's Word with some of the most precious ladies I have ever known. We have laughed together, cried together, and our hearts have been knit together and drawn closer to the LORD by studying His Word. The leaders of our study are such an encouragement to the other women with their wise counsel, and the obvious time and care that they take to prepare the discussion time. Our study is going through the book of Romans as a two-year study, and the materials the WOW committee chose are substantial and challenging—not a week went by last year that I was not challenged in some way to become more Christ-like.

In addition to the actual study, I have been blessed by the time devoted to prayer as part of our study. Through this meaningful time of prayer, we learned about each other, and thankfully, over the course of the year, were able to see many prayer requests answered. Many times the leaders would charge us to each pray for a specific person over the course of the next week, which was an amazing discipline for me.

If you are not currently attending a weekly Bible Study, I would strongly encourage you to make time in your schedule to attend one, as the time commitment is immeasurably worth it!

“Repentance always has a companion—a blessed companion. It is always accompanied by lively faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Wherever faith is, there is repentance; wherever repentance is, there is always faith. I do not decide which comes first—whether repentance comes before faith, or faith before repentance. But I am bold to say that the two graces are never found separate, one from the other. Just as you cannot have the sun without light, or ice without cold, or fire without heat, or water without moisture—so long you will never find true faith without true repentance, and you will never find true repentance without lively faith. The two things will always go side by side.” —**J. C. Ryle**

Fall Bible Studies

Dear Ladies of Christ the Word, Next month the Women of the Word Bible studies will begin for the fall with a variety of times that will hopefully open an opportunity for you to attend a study. Please prayerfully consider which study to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Diane Walls or the contact person listed below for a particular study.

Monday evening

Topic: Colossians/Philemon
Place: TBD *Time:* 7:00 p.m.
Start date: Sept. 12
Contact: Lisa Twining

Tuesday evening

Topic: Hebrews
Place: Lynnette Killy's home
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Contact: Lynnette Killy

Wednesday morning

Topic: 2nd half of Romans
Place: Adrienne Miklovic's home
Time: 9:15 a.m.
Contact: Julie Morgan

Wednesday morning

Topic: James
Place: Diane Walls' home
Time: 9:15 a.m.
Contact: Sarah French

Outreach Study: Thursday morning

Topic: TBD
Place: Erika Simpson's home
Time: 9:15 a.m.
Contact: Cheryl Bayly

Do One Thing By Andrea Van Engen

Hopefully, you've been encouraged as you've read the stories of CTW women taking up the "Do One Thing" challenge over the past year. Our prayer is that the effort to reach out to those around us with the love of Jesus would not simply be something we do once just to say we've done it, but that it would become a natural part of our daily lives.

In Acts 1:8, Jesus talks about being His witness by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Lord has placed people in our lives in various ways and His word commands that we bear witness to others about His good news of salvation. Pray for opportunities to speak about the Lord with those around you and be ready to follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit...and continue to share your stories with your CTW sisters!

Announcements

Mother-Son Baseball Day

*Take your son out to the ballgame,
Take him out to the crowd,
Maybe you'll buy him a Cracker Jack,
And not care if you ever get back,
So Mom, take your son to the Hens game,
On a Friday in August!
For it's nine bucks for each ticket
At the Mud Hens game!*

Friday, August 26th at 7 p.m.
Cost: \$9/person, 2 and under are free. See Sharon Ahrendt to make a reservation. All reservations and payments are due by August 7th.

Monthly Morsel

*Speak boldly and live boldly - all for the LORD.
Live your life as God commands and do not worry
what others think.*

GALATIANS 1:10

"AM I NOW TRYING TO WIN THE APPROVAL OF MEN, OR OF GOD? OR AM I TRYING TO PLEASE MEN? IF I WERE STILL TRYING TO PLEASE MEN, I WOULD NOT BE A SERVANT OF CHRIST."

WOW Teaching Event

Have you ever felt insincere when interacting with your Christian sisters? Hypocritical? Counterfeit? Not loving? In Romans 12:9, why does Paul follow his exhortation to genuine love with a call to hate? Plan to attend our upcoming WOW teaching event **Love: The Real Deal** on September 17th from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Maumee Indoor Theater on Conant Street, as we explore how God calls us to love and how it is possible.

The morning will conclude with a luncheon. Look for your invitation to arrive soon, and plan to invite a friend!

WOW Calendar:

August 9th

Iron to Iron

August 26th

Mother/Son Mudhens Game

September 17th

Teaching Event @ Maumee Indoor Theater

November 29th

WOW Christmas Fellowship

March 9-10, 2012

WOW Retreat

Fields of Harvest by Josh DeSonne

The theme of Christ the Word's capital campaign has been "To A Thousand Generations." As we've given, we've thought about how through our donations, we can glorify God and build a place to worship Him, not only in our time, but in the future as our children and their children worship the Lord. It is humbling to think that 100 years from now our descendants will be able to come to church every Sunday at the corner of Central and Murd, and praise God in the building we are constructing now.

But the land itself is not new land. It has a history of its own. Generations have lived at the corner of Central and Murd before Christ the Word came. They are the generations of the family of Fred Miller. Mr. Miller, along with his siblings, owned the land CTW's church sits on, and it was from his family which we purchased the land.

The land had been in Mr. Miller's family for decades; he was actually born in the house in which he still lives, which is adjacent to the CTW building.

The original home on the property was wiped out by a tornado nearly 100 years ago. The current house where Mr. Miller lives was built in the 1920s on the original foundation.

While he and his family loved their farm land, they eventually decided it was time to find a buyer.

"We always enjoyed having the farm land," Mr. Miller said. "[But] we were getting up in years and we decided to sell it."

Once the Millers put the land up for sale, it was CTW's Ben James who first came and contacted them about acquiring the property.

After the property was sold and CTW began building, Mr. Miller

was a bit surprised.

"It's been quite a change," he said. "The size of the church, I didn't know it was going to be that big."

The Miller's have been helpful to CTW, even though the land is no longer theirs. During the construction process they have allowed CTW to run lines from their home for electrical and water needs. In addition, last year when some of the men from CTW were working on the church roof, the Millers allowed their barn to be a rest area where the women of CTW could have a warm meal set up and give the guys a chance to get out of the cold.

"It just seemed like the right thing to do," Mr. Miller said. "We try to be there in small ways when we can." Mr. Miller and his wife, Ramona, have been very interested in seeing the church go up.

"It's been really exciting," he said. "We've been taking pictures. She



Eric Beerbower, on the riding mower, navigates the divide between Mr. Miller's yard and the CTW property during the LWY / Clearnote Youth July mission trip.

[Ramona] gave a six-hour DVD with pictures on it to the church."

The theme of generations also takes on a special meaning when it comes to Mr. Miller and his family. His daughter, Audrey and her husband, John Johnson, have been coming to CTW for well over a year now.

John had checked out CTW previously thanks to his friendship with Scott Killy. Around Easter in 2010, they had a discussion about finding a possible church home.

"When I asked him about going to

church together, he decided Christ the Word would be a great place," Audrey said. "He wanted me to give it a shot and I fell in love with it right away."

Audrey has already seen generations at the corner of Murd and Central. Her father was born and raised in the house next to the church property and she herself grew up there after moving there when she was 3 years old.

Audrey said she encouraged her dad to sell the property to CTW, before she even considered going there. "I told dad if anyone is going in back there, it's great to have a church back there," Audrey said. "People are usually only congregating once a week. They'll be good neighbors to have."

She's also excited about seeing a new part of her life at the new building.

"I'm so excited to have the church go in there," she said. "It's so funny how God works. We were coming to Christ before we [her and John] started dating. Then, to have that be John's church going in right behind my family's home—it's neat the way He worked. It's exciting to have my new friends at Christ the Word be so excited about something which

I love, which is that area of land. It's a new beginning and it's fun to share it with other people."

While Mr. Miller and his wife do not attend CTW, they have enjoyed getting to meet some of the many people who come by the new building.

"The people are all polite and courteous," Mr. Miller said.

"I haven't seen one that isn't nice to be around."

Have You Fallen Prey to Coveting?



by Julie Van Wormer

This past June, Bill and I celebrated our 14th wedding anniversary. I could have been thinking about our long walks along the Maumee River or our honeymoon trip to Florida. However, on this day, I was actually thinking about my dad who passed away last May. I am the youngest in my family and the last out of three daughters to get married. My dad told us that he could only give us \$2000 to spend on the wedding. He challenged me to just elope and have a nice honeymoon. We had just attended a friend's wedding that cost at least \$10,000 including gourmet food and many extras. After careful thought and preparations, we had a beautiful wedding in Bill's parent's backyard with a select group of family and friends for a little over \$2000.

When I was asked to write this article about coveting, my wedding was fresh in my mind. I began thinking about this part of our society where covetousness thrives. Not necessarily the marriage vows themselves, but the preparations for the wedding. Women spend outrageous amounts of money on a dress, not to mention the rings, the flowers, the music, the hall, the registry and the food. Brides attend wedding expos that highlight all the newest and best wedding ideas—even including the bride's and groom's

initials imprinted on M&Ms.

Covetousness is not just limited to weddings. Our society is littered with such covetousness. Our culture tells us we need a bigger house, need a more expensive car, need a giant flat screen tv, need the most current technology; you name it, we need it.

Maybe those "needs" don't strike a cord in your heart. Well, CTWers, we are not excluded from coveting. How about wanting more children if that is not how God blessed you; a job where you don't travel; a 12-15 passenger van (okay, no one covets one of these, but you might covet leather seats, a nicer stereo system or a Camry); a bigger home, a position on the WOW committee, being a deacon or elder, a gift or talent for your child, or that they don't have or to be friends with certain people. I know these are evident at CTW because I found a few of these in my own heart.

Coveting is yearning to possess or have something. Coveting is a sin, and very closely works together with pride. Mark 7:21-23 tells where this coveting comes from and the result of it:

"For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. (All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.)"

Did you catch where these sins come from? Right out of our own hearts.

As in anything we do, it is easy to desire or covet something someone else has, does or is. In fact, because God knew that our hearts would be selfish, wanting more for ourselves, placing idols above Him, that He gave us a directive to not covet right in the Ten Commandments:

"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

EXODUS 20:17

Coveting usually begins with a

comparison of what we have and what we don't have. This discontentment leads our hearts to selfishness. We begin to place this desire over God, and our desire crosses over into the realm of idolatry.

We are warned about coveting in Luke 12:15:

"And he said to them, 'Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.'"

So how do we fix this? The antidote for the disease of coveting is gratitude and contentment. Paul says in Philippians 4:11 "Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content." (Philippians 4 is also loaded with exhortations to rejoice always.)

Start by thanking God for His gift of salvation, freely given when we actually deserve hell. If you are coveting someone else's things, start looking at your possessions and thanking God for what you have. A missionary once thanked God for the rotten fruit that she was given in prison. Over time, her teeth had rotted out of her mouth but the rotten fruit could easily be eaten.

If you wish to have a specific position at church, work or in the community, start serving others where you are now, and thanking God that you can serve in this way. If you want your children to have certain talents or friends, start by encouraging them in the talents and relationships God has already given them, and pray that God will use these for His glory.

Turn your heart towards God in thankfulness daily. If you often fall prey to coveting and discontentment, try keeping a running list of what God has done for you. Read the Psalms daily, as they are loaded with praise and thanksgiving to our Lord. Finally, spend time each day in prayer, thanking God for His abundant blessing to you, not just listing your requests and needs to Him!

Saving Lives in Toledo by Sharon Ahrendt

It started out as a very “typical” day at the abortion clinic: pleading with the workers to leave the jobs that they will suffer eternally for performing, jumping out of the way as cars pulled into the parking lot, and watching helplessly as women and men proceeded into the clinic, one after another, like sheep going to slaughter. Not long after a woman made a beeline to Elizabeth from across the parking lot shouting expletives in her face, a couple arrived and slowly got out of their car.

This couple was different. We could tell by the countenance on their faces they were not sure they wanted to be there. They headed straight away for the door, like all the others, to avoid looking at us, or at our signs that revealed the truth of what they were about to do.

Upon reaching the door, they discovered it was locked and promptly went to the other door hoping it

her. She told us she was 13 weeks pregnant. I was able to pull my model of a 12-week-old baby out of my pocket to show her how her baby was totally formed and had a heartbeat. She was told the baby was a blob of cells and would not feel a thing when she had the abortion. As the conversation continued, we all sensed this girl did not want to have an abortion; she just felt trapped in a very difficult situation.

While Rhonda and I were speaking with this woman, Mike was getting to know the man with whom she had arrived. We came together and offered both of them the opportunity to meet the couple that could adopt this baby. We needed to show them we really did have a plan and were sincere in the help we offered. At first they said no, but after departing to their car to talk it over, they agreed to let Mike call Dave and Ana Meyers. At the time, Dave was at work about an hour away, but willing to meet with this couple.

Through conversation, Mike learned of Marcie’s love for ice cream. She was quite hungry at this

Church in Bloomington, to help answer some legal questions.

Toward the end of our time together, Marcie turned to me and asked how often we spent the whole day with people we meet at the clinic. To her surprise, she was the very first one that had ever engaged in a two way conversation with us. She was so grateful we were there to stop her from committing this horrific act. By the end of that day, we had addressed every concern that she had.

We found a home she would be welcome to stay in while waiting for the baby to arrive. Brian Bailey offered free legal counsel. Dr. Lillian Miller offered free obstetrical care. We prayed with the couple at the end of our time together.

So, a typical day at the clinic turned out to be not so typical. Those of us there witnessed the power of God in a mighty way. We will not soon forget how God orchestrated every detail and the people he placed there to help save this life.

We are honored to see the fruit of this ministry so quickly. Please continue to pray that many more events like this will follow. Please pray for the salvation of Marcie and Jeff, continued protection for this baby, and praise God that He answers our prayers! Amen!

Addendum:

The following Friday, Ana and I took Marcie to meet Dr. Miller. Marcie, Ana,

and I witnessed an ultrasound that brought tears to our eyes: A perfectly healthy, 14-week-old baby, saved from being killed just six days prior. Marcie was so angry about the lies she was told at the clinic. Upon seeing the baby, she said, “Wow, the baby is totally formed.” She and her boyfriend want to protest with us at the clinic. This baby is scheduled to arrive on Christmas day. What a fitting due date.



would be open. Locked, too. They looked at Elizabeth as if to plead, “Where is the door?” This, of course, elicited no response. In desperation, they headed back to their car. We called out to them that we had other options for them, and would be willing to adopt the baby.

We were all delighted when this young girl chose to cross the parking lot to talk to us. We spent some time listening and offering help to

point. She had not eaten because clients are told to have an empty stomach before arriving to have an abortion. So, what did we do? Secured some ice cream for breakfast, of course! A short time later we were off to the restaurant to meet up with Dave and Ana. The six of us proceeded to have lunch and then continued on to the Meyers’ house to have a conference call with Brian Bailey, a lawyer from Clearnote

2011 Backyard Bible Clubs are here!

The first installments of the 2011 Backyard Bible Clubs have begun well! We look forward to sharing the Gospel message to children and their families at the remaining clubs. Kids ages 4 to sixth grade are invited. The clubs are free and center around the Gospel message of Jesus and include exciting stories, fun games, cool crafts, and delicious snacks. Please use this to invite neighbors, friends, and family as an opportunity to share the joy of the Gospel. For more information please contact Shelley Schriener or the club hosts.

Remaining BYBC's

Aug. 1-5

Dave & Wendy Foulke’s Home
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Aug. 15-19

Dave & Ana Meyer’s Home
9 a.m. – Noon

Come Support Your 2011 CTW Softball Team

Currently CTW’s softball team is undefeated and soon will be headed to the WPOS tournament. Come support CTW’s Softball Team as they compete to win this year’s title. This is a great time of fellowship, plus admission is free! Games are played at WPOS softball field located at 7112 Angola Rd. in Holland. There are metal bleachers available for seating or you can bring your own chair for greater comfort. See the weekly email for dates and times of tournament games. Hope to see you there!

Pastor Hotline Reminder

In an effort to improve our flow of information, about a year ago CTW obtained a phone number for members of our congregation to call with urgent or important news for the pastoral staff. Let us know when someone goes into the hospital, when a death occurs, when a surgery is planned, or when any other important event takes place which you would like a pastor to know about. The Pastor Hotline number is (419) 318-9298. This number is also listed on the back of the weekly bulletin. Pastors can also be reached via email at pastor@christtheword.com.

Last Days to Register for the Men’s Canoe Trip

Registration is open for the annual men’s canoe and camping trip to Grayling, Michigan. Come out for one or all of the days of Aug. 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. For more details and to register, go to www.tinyurl.com/menscanoe2011 or speak with Ben Zellers or Tyson Turner.

Weekly Men’s Prayer Meeting

All men are invited to come and pray together each Wednesday at Matt French’s office from Noon to 1 p.m. Matt’s office, at Amps Industrial Controls, is located at 1560 Holloway Rd. in Holland.

Men should bring a lunch with them to eat from Noon to 12:30; after this, the men spend the remaining time in prayer. Men, please consider joining together for this fruitful time of prayer and fellowship.

Abortion Protest Updates Via Email

It is no secret that God has wonderfully and powerfully blessed our stand against the murder of innocents in our abortion protest ministry at 1160 W. Sylvania Ave. Lives are being saved through our work. Hallelujah! God is forever praised! Though God is working miraculously, this ministry still needs faithful prayer. If you are interested in praying for this ministry and would like a brief weekly email describing the events of our latest protest and containing the most current information, please email: ctwabortionoutreach@gmail.com and type, “Add me to the list” in the subject line. If you have any questions regarding this weekly email, please contact Abbi Bellas.

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!

calendar of events

August Calendar

- Aug. 9th** **WOW Iron 2 Iron**
- Aug. 12-14** **Men's Canoe Trip**
- Aug. 20** **LWY Junior High Tubing Trip**
- Aug. 26** **Mother/sons Mud Hens game**
- Aug. 27** **Presbytery**

Mark Your Calendar

- Sept. 5** **Everlasting Word Band Concert
@ Fulton Co. Fair Gospel Tent**
- Sept. 17** **WOW Teaching Event at
Maumee Indoor Theater**
- Oct. 1** **CTW Annual Hoedown at
The Heyerlys'**