

The GAZETTE.

Features

Essential Fatherhood...	1
Book Review...	4
Sanctification...	10
LWY Graduates 2011...	11

Departments

Getting To Know...	3,8
Pathway Update...	5
Women of the Word...	6,7
FYI...	9
Budget Update...	9
Calendar of Events...	12

Essential Fatherhood



by Bob Forney

Did you ever see Walter Cronkite sitting at the news anchor desk at CBS signing off with his baritone voice, “And that’s the way it is...?” You’d have to be 35 years or older, since his last broadcast was in 1981. Back in the Golden Age of television, father figures were common. Many tuned in to hear these men report on the events of the day and accepted their opinions uncritically.

News anchors and other men in media mimicked real fathers. Solid, calm, and in control, fathers in television comedies and dramas were the “rock” of their families, supporting them and holding everyone—and everything—together. Fatherhood looked good. Of course television characters are one thing, reality another.

Since the 70’s, the positive public face of fatherhood has all but disappeared. Popular culture is feminist. The image of Homer Simpson’s weak incompetence underscores the tragedy of our nation where more and more kids fend for themselves without a father’s support and guidance. Charlie Sheen shouts “Winning!” as his profligate life unravels. Undaunted, producers are busy finding a replacement so Sheen’s popular “Two and a Half

Men” series (about a mild-versus-wild tag-team raising a child) can go on.

Did you know that from the beginning, Fatherhood, one of the most overlooked attributes of God, has been a key focus of the leadership of Christ The Word. Why? Is it because of the neglect of or attack on fatherhood by our matriarchal society with its confused sexual identities? In part, but it is mainly because “Father” is the most theologically significant title for God in all of Scripture. The Fatherhood of God is an eternal, immutable attribute—not an outdated anthropomorphism. For example, Jesus taught us to pray addressing God as “Our Father who art in heaven” (Matt. 6:9).

The dictionary defines a father as one that establishes or is head of a household; an originator or patron of a class, profession, or art; a producer or generator. He feeds his household, physically and spiritually. He loves and cares for this household because it is his. In Greek, Father literally means one who nourishes, protects or upholds. In the Bible, fatherhood describes (1) headship: the generating and establishing of a household; (2) shepherd: feeding, guiding and protecting his family; and, (3) priest: establishing his family spiritually and maintaining it with the gospel and prayer. Our heavenly Father is holy, powerful and loving. His attributes and work are our blueprint.

First essential:

A father is the generator and head of his family.

The Fatherhood of God begins with His creation of Adam and providing him with the Garden of Eden before creating Eve. Because of this created order, and the fact that Eve was created from Adam’s rib, the husband is the head of his wife.

“I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent. For Adam was formed first, then Eve.”

1 TIM 2:12-13

And,

“A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man. For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.”

1 COR 11:7-9

Adam, as a son of God (see Luke 3:38), was given a wife to assist him. Adam then became a father, generating Cain, Abel and Seth.

Women working and in many cases being the principal provider of their families blur the image of God as father and head. Our young men should prepare to generate and support their families. With God's help, they should take the initiative, carefully picking and wooing a spouse and giving to her their name.

Second essential:

A father is a shepherd, feeding, guiding and protecting his family.

God the Father not only created Adam, but He also fed him with both divine revelation and with physical food.

“And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of it: for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die”

GEN 2:16-17

Godly fathers in scripture fed their people physically and spiritually. Joseph's honor in Egypt was based upon his feeding Egypt, his family and the world during the famine. He also revealed the providence of God to his brothers who had sold him into slavery: “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”

Passover was celebrated with fathers gathering their families under their roofs for a sacred feast. The Lord's Supper, a Passover feast, commemorates the death of Jesus for our sins by eating the bread, His Body and drinking the wine, His Blood.

Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, yet He, too, is pictured and addressed in Scripture as a father. A passage in Isaiah accurately describes Christ as our father.

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.”

ISAIAH 9:5

The great miracle of Jesus, the only one recorded in all

four Gospels, is the feeding of the five thousand (Matt. 14:13-21; Mark 6:31-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:5-15).

Jesus Christ, as Father, is our generator and head. He will order and establish a government. He is our Guide, a counselor providing wisdom and spiritual food. He establishes, feeds, guides and maintains His household. He is the Head and the second Adam of the new creation (see Rom 5:14, 1 Cor 15:22,45).

Fathers should feed their family both the Word of God and daily bread. Even though his wife is an invaluable help in both activities, Dad should sit at the head of the dinner table and direct conversation such that all are fed physically and spiritually. Each child should learn to expect their fathers to have wisdom from God and encouragement as they face the joys and trials of life. And the father should take responsibility protecting the family from evil, demonstrate prudence and fortitude and teach them the same.

Third essential:

A father is a priest, maintaining his family spiritually.

Adam and Eve believed the doctrine of Satan, rejecting God's command and teaching, and the food He had provided. Instead they partook of an unholy communion, eating the food provided for them by their new father, the devil.

But God, Adam's Father, took the initiative searching for Adam and addressing him first as the head of his family. Adam is held to account as the father of the human race, and thus faced the largest responsibility for the fall (Rom 5:12; 1 Cor 15:22).

But our heavenly Father maintained and upheld His relationship with Adam and Eve. He provided atonement and clothing for them (Gen 3:21). Furthermore, He continues to provide food for them. Because of his sin, Adam has to wrestle food from the cursed ground yet God still provides it for him. Though He disciplines Adam, God does not disinherit man but atones for his sin.

A Father should take responsibility leading his children to Christ. He should pray for and with his family and lead them to confess sin and forgive others willingly and readily. A father's love for God—and fear of Him—should be as palpable and constant as his love for his wife and children. The family's fear of dad should be palpable as well. Peace reigns when a faithful Dad calmly expresses the truths of God's Word and calls his family to follow.

Imitating our heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus Christ in these ways should be the goal of every man. By God's grace we strive to have a church full of strong, loving and responsible men who feed, guide and maintain their families and our church. In a world full of fatherless people, no calling is greater. Popular culture will continue to distort the significance of the roles God, the Father, has assigned. But our heavenly Father has promised us the victory in His only Begotten Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. “And that's the way it is.”

Getting to Know... **The Holders** by Josh DeSonne

When he was facing the choice between looking for work outside the Toledo area or staying nearby, Kevin Holder knew what he wanted to do.

The choice? Sticking around Toledo. The reason? Christ the Word.

“The reason we stayed here is the preaching of God's work,” Kevin said. “The standing up for truth and the heart's desire of the people to live it out. You can be sure your brothers and sisters are living it out on Monday and Tuesday. They're not perfect, but they try to live God's Word the way we hear it preached on Sundays.”

Another city's loss was Toledo's continued gain as the Holder family, one of Christ the Word's original families, remains a committed part of the body.

Kevin and Michelle Holder are the parents of four daughters. Their eldest, Lauren, will be 15 in June and is a student at Toledo Technology Academy. She is known for her organizational skills and for her excellent cooking ability in addition to being able to play both the piano and double bass.

Julia turned 11 on May 17 and has quite the collection of animals: two fish, a hamster and some rabbits she shares with her other sisters. She is also a voracious reader. If her parents can't find her, they know to look for her in her closet with a good book.

Ana Renae is 9 and is friendly, to say the least. Her parents say she's never met a stranger, as she turns anyone she meets into an instant friend. She enjoys singing and sampling whatever scrumptious food her sister Lauren whips up.

Selah is their youngest and will turn 5 in July. She has no fear and loves animals. At one point these two traits joined together to cause her to attempt to befriend a wood spider.

The Holder family has its origins in Tennessee. While Michelle is from Gibsonburg, Ohio, Kevin is a native

of the Volunteer State. They met while students at the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy.

The method God used to bring them together? An anti-Valentine's Day party. Both Kevin and Michelle attended the gathering at a Mexican restaurant. During the course of the evening, Kevin gave Michelle a smile, but not just any smile. It told her something; “I knew that night I was going to marry him. He smiled at me and I knew,” Michelle said.

They began dating, but not immediately. First, Kevin went on a trip to New Mexico to spend time on a Native American reservation as part of



his college rotation.

Kevin and Michelle are both pharmacists, though Michelle says she assumes the role of mother, first and foremost. After they graduated from college, they began their married life in Memphis. From there it was on to Hazard, Kentucky, and then Cincinnati before they finally arrived in Toledo in 2000.

Kevin's journey to faith began as a teenager. He was brought up in a Baptist church down south. He had an uncle who was a Baptist preacher who was a significant influence on Kevin's life and helped steer him toward Christ. Michelle grew up in a Lutheran church. She also came alive in her faith during her teenage years, thanks in part to the godly influence of her grandmother.

The upcoming summer months will be a good time for the Holder family as they are self-proclaimed

“water parks fanatics.” A trip to Kalahari indoor water park near Sandusky is a regular trip for the family. In fact, their favorite vacation involved water parks. Some time ago, they went on a trip to Wisconsin Dells. The resort they stayed in had seven different water parks attached to it. The vacation also included time spent in Chicago and a visit to the Jelly Belly jellybean factory. Needless to say, it was a trip the Holders look back on with fond memories.

They also love to fly kites at Maumee Bay, go horseback riding, and attending Mud Hens games. When the temperatures begin to

plunge, they are known to enjoy sledding, too. When it comes to board games, Qwirkle is the family's favorite.

The Holders also are regular attendees of the annual church camping trip. While they love camping, they had unexpected visitors last summer. A band of raccoons broke into their tent to get at their food. One of the raccoons even opened (not *broke*, but *opened*) their jug of Sunny D.

But while the Holder family loves to spend quality time together, center stage in their lives is the proclamation fo the Gospel. It's for this reason that this summer the Holder's will again be hosting a Backyard Bible Club to bring the message of Jesus to the children of their neighborhood.

Martin Luther's Bondage of the Will



book review by Nate Miklovic

Many think that the Reformation was centered on certain Roman Catholic traditions like indulgences and penance. It is true that these traditions were attacked by reformers such as Martin Luther, but a much deeper issue was at stake; a difference in the fundamental understanding of man's position before God separated the reformers from the Roman church. Martin Luther's *The Bondage of the Will* strikes at the heart of the issue and shows the reader a truly reformed view of salvation.

The first sixty pages of *The Bondage of the Will* (translated by J.I. Packer and O.R. Johnston) are a historical background on the two opponents in this book: Desiderius Erasmus and Martin Luther. Desiderius Erasmus was a renowned humanist scholar about fourteen years older than Martin Luther. His learning was unsurpassed, but his conciliatory mindset led him to compromise gospel truth with poor theology for the sake of peace. Luther tells Erasmus, "What you say comes down to this: that you do not think it matters a scrap what anyone believes anywhere, so long as the world is at peace."

While Erasmus believed matters of doctrine are relatively unimportant, Luther held that having proper doctrine is of utmost necessity. More specifically, he believed that the

doctrine of the bondage of the will is the "cornerstone of the gospel," and the "very foundation of faith."

After being urged by the Catholic Church to refute Luther's preaching, Erasmus published a book called *Discussion, or Collation, Concerning Free Will*, or simply *The Diatribe*, which supports the free will of man. Luther wrote *Bondage of the Will* as a response to Erasmus and *The Diatribe*, and it is probably his greatest theological work. Presbyterian preacher B.B. Warfield called *Bondage of the Will* the "manifesto of the Reformation."

The logical impeccability of *Bondage* is profound; Luther meticulously pulls apart each of Erasmus' arguments in *The Diatribe*. He first addresses Erasmus' introduction, then dissects Erasmus' mistreatment of Biblical texts one by one.

For instance, Erasmus claims that since God gave the law, man must have the choice to obey it. However, Luther explains that commandments "prove and establish nothing about the ability of man, but only lay down what is and is not to be done." The law simply reveals man's inability to be righteous.

After effectively refuting Erasmus' arguments for free will, Luther takes the offensive in the section titled "The Bible Doctrine of the Bondage of the Will." In this segment, he references only two books of the Bible: Romans and John.

Luther demonstrates how the doctrine of man's depravity found in Romans 3 is irreconcilable to free will; proponents of free will claim that God rewards our endeavors after good, even if we are sinful. But if man is totally depraved, Luther asks

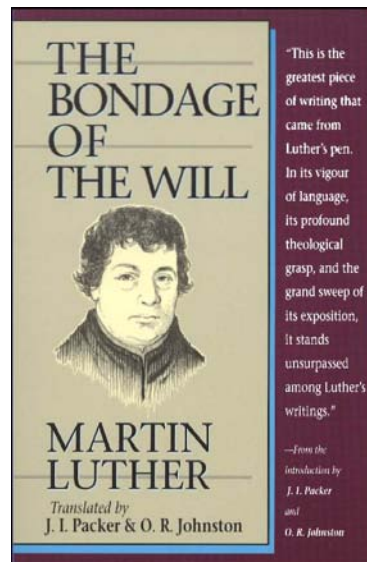
"how then are endeavors after good made by those who one and all are ignorant of God, and neither regard nor seek God?" To desire righteousness is inconsistent with man's fallen nature, so nothing man wills or does can please God.

Moreover, as Luther expounds John's Gospel, he shows that if man's free will "is not wholly and damnable astray, but sees and wills what is good," the need for Christ the Redeemer is eliminated.

It is important to understand that Luther does not believe man's actions are performed under compulsion, as if man were forced against his will to sin and act in certain ways. Man's actions are in fact spontaneous and man does indeed carry out the desires of his heart. The problem is that the desires of man's heart are only evil continually. When Luther denies free will, he simply affirms that man has absolutely no ability to earn even the smallest degree of God's

favor or to "choose God." Since man can choose to do nothing except to sin, it must be solely God's grace which saves him. St. Augustine holds that we have free will which avails to nothing but sin. Luther slightly disagrees; he states that if free will can do no good of its own accord, then "free will" is an empty term. Thus man's will is in complete bondage to sin.

If you struggle with questions of why man's will is enslaved, of how God can be just in sending men to hell who don't have free will, or if you simply want to have a greater understanding of the way God works salvation in us, I highly recommend *Bondage of the Will*. Its thorough exposition gives the reader a much stronger grasp of God's sovereignty and salvation.



Pathway Update Defending the Weak by Abbi Bellas

The abortuary on Sylvania Avenue has a disheveled appearance. It does not look like a place anyone would want to enter, much less enter to undergo surgery. On a "typical" Friday or Saturday morning about 15-20 women enter this abortuary to have their child murdered by Thomas Michaelis, the residing abortionist.

On the sidewalk that surrounds the building stand the specified pathway members who are serving that week to protest. They are holding signs that show the graphic truth of what abortion really is, as well as signs calling them to repent, believe in Christ, and signs offering to adopt their baby.

Those who drive by on Sylvania Avenue will often honk their horns in agreement with what we are standing for. Also standing on the sidewalk are the sidewalk counselors.

There are two women counselors assigned each week whose specific ministry is to call out to the women entering the abortuary. They have a 6-8 second window to try and engage the women in conversation to recognize that they are carrying a human being and that they have other options such as adoption.

Neighborhood support has been shown in many ways to those who are protesting. There are those neighbors who honk and wave every time they drive past. Others stop and talk with those who are protesting about the evils of abortion, expressing their agreement and their sorrow that such a facility is located near their home. The neighbors who have stopped have also told the Christ the Word group how appreciative they are of our fight against abortion and letting passersby know that children are being murdered there. They are constantly thanking us for our presence there and encouraging us to persevere in this fight.

I urge everyone to pray for this ministry as we continue on. There are many areas that need your

consistent prayer. Please pray that the hearts of the workers will be softened and that the hand of the doctor would be stopped. Pray for the women going into the abortuary, that their ears would be open to hearing what the counselors have to say and that they would be willing to stop and talk. Also, please pray that those who are counseling would have wisdom in what they say and how to proceed in the varied situations.

Praise the Lord for those who have turned away, driven past and have chosen not to come. Continue to pray that these women would have strength and courage to do what is right. Most importantly, pray for their salvation.

In closing, here is a verse to think about:

**"Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.
"Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked."**

PSALM 82:3-4



W

Women of the Word

A Final Call to Press On by Jen Turner

Ladies, in this month's look at Philippians 3, we come to verses 15-16: "Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained."

In conclusion to Philippians 3, Paul encourages "those of us who are mature" (3:15) to think and act according to the pattern of pursuing the "prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (3:14). Who are the "mature" that Paul is addressing?

In the preceding verses (3:12-14), the apostle Paul has exhorted us to focus our lives on pursuing Christ. We are to strain, to press on towards this goal. Paul has challenged us to throw off the sin and encumbrances of the past. This enables us to run after Christ and boast in His righteousness instead of holding on to our own filthy "righteousness." In all of life, our goal is to know Jesus, to belong to Him, to have His righteousness justifying us and to be conformed to His likeness for our sanctification and for our glorification.

ESV translates one of the original Greek words here as "mature." Other translations render it as "perfect" (KJV and NASB). Which translation is best? Some commentators understand Paul as being a bit sarcastic, making sure that even those Christians who think they have "arrived" understand that they too must constantly press on in knowing and cherishing Christ. Other commentators understand Paul to simply be reminding those that are mature in the faith to never leave their dependence upon Christ. After comparing notes and speaking with my husband, I believe that Scripture here is worded in such a way so as to convict and encourage both sets of people.

Monthly Morsel

Look outside yourself to see the needs of others.

When you see a need, act on it. Even if the need is something as simple as holding the door for someone or offering a hand to carry something, you could be ministering to them in a very big way.

Now, if you are like me, you probably have also found this same idea welling up inside you at times, convincing you that you have advanced enough in following Christ that you have something in which to boast. Maybe you have been a Christian for 5 months and are so impressed with your new obedience and transformation, or maybe you have been enduring hardship as a Christian for 25 years and are confident that others could not have endured as long as you have. Yet in verses 15-16, Paul confronts this sinful pride of ours no matter how it manifests itself. We cannot advance enough to ever add any of our own righteousness to the justification we have in Christ. Instead, we must "hold true" to what we have attained in pursuing Christ.

We end our look at Philippians 3 this month with a quote from Charles Simeon, a 19th century English pastor. May his words encourage you as they do me:

"True religion affords such perfect satisfaction to the mind, that from the time we become possessed of it, we lose our relish for other things, and feel ourselves at rest, as having attained the summit of our ambition.

"But though we cease to hunger or thirst after the vanities of time and sense, our appetite for spiritual blessings is quickened: nor can the richest acquisitions content us, as long as there remains anything further to be enjoyed.

"This was St. Paul's experience. He had been apprehended and arrested, as it were, by the Lord Jesus, in order that he might be made to possess all the treasures of grace and glory: and, from that hour, he could never be satisfied with anything short of the full enjoyment of them. And, while he cherished this holy ambition in his own bosom, he recommended it earnestly to all others."

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves."

PHILIPPIANS 2:3

Looking Ahead...

An interview with
Michelle Holder
by Emily Wiltse

EW: I'm glad we could get together and talk about the upcoming changes to the bridal and baby showers. Most ladies will probably notice some significant changes in the way the bridal shower announcement is in this month's issue. It would be helpful if you could guide us through some of the changes that the women of Christ the Word will see when they attend the next shower, in this case a bridal shower.

MH: As we looked forward to the many children we've been blessed with at CTW becoming adults, marrying and starting their families, it became apparent that the number of showers being thrown would increase dramatically. While we all have a desire to celebrate these blessings, it also has become apparent that this increase in showers would increase the time and financial commitments of all involved. The new method of celebration would allow more women to participate without feeling challenged on either the time or financial front.

EW: So how will the "new method" differ to what we have had in the past?

MH: The new method will be that of an "open house." While the intention is still to keep to Saturday, we may have an occasional shower on another day of the week based on the activity levels of the church as a whole. During a two hour period, women would be welcomed to come and go as they please, thereby allowing them to participate in other events that may be occurring in their lives. It is also possible, once the new format takes effect, that CTW would host two showers in one day.

These showers would be staggered in time and overlap by about forty-five minutes.

EW: The devotional has been a key element to past showers. Will this still

occur?

MH: There will still be a devotional given at each event with the devotional being about twenty minutes into the shower.

A specific time will be included on the invitation so that women could time their visit accordingly.

EW: With the possibility of having two showers in one day, how does this change in planning alleviate the potential commitments in time and finances?

MH: Christ the Word women are committed—to their families and to each other—and being able to balance those commitments by not having to dedicate a full two hours or more would be a benefit, particularly where there are other events occurring both in the church or in their family life. How many times has a woman not been able to celebrate at a shower because there are things already on her family calendar?

Similarly, child care issues would be decreased. Financially speaking, with the change in method comes a change in cost of the shower. There will be a hostess who can call upon several friends if she chooses to provide a more simple offering of muffins, juice and coffee for a morning shower, or cake/cookies and punch, coffee, and tea for an evening shower.

The "group gift" option will also be made available at the shower: the giver would simply sign the card and place their gift in an envelope without anyone else's knowledge of that gift. This would allow more women to participate without feeling a burden to gift more than they are truly able.

EW: Are there any guidelines in regards to babies and/or daughters at the showers?

MH: Nursing babies, of course, are always welcomed, as are daughters aged twelve and older. A rare exception would be made in the case of a younger girl who has a close personal relationship to the woman being celebrated, if she is able to conduct herself in an adult manner.

If anyone would like a copy of the complete guidelines, they will be made available at the WOW table during the month of June. The new style celebration will take effect July 1st. Already there are several showers on the CTW calendar for the mid to late summer months. If there are any questions regarding these guidelines, I am willing to answer them.

Do One Thing By Ashley Marcuz

After studying more about outreach at her bible study, Mary Slick felt led to do more. She asked the other women to pray that the Lord would open a door for her.

While teaching swim classes at the Y.M.C.A. the next day, a parent came up to her and said that their son would not be at class next week because he was having surgery. Mary had been waiting all day, so she was ready. "I will be praying for him" she replied. She went home, put the date on her calendar, and made sure that she and her children prayed for him that day. When he came back, she told him that she had prayed for him. We never know how God might use us, but if we learn from Mary and keep watch, God will work through us.

Announcements

Ladies, please plan to attend an open house bridal shower in honor of Amanda Agan on July 6th. She and Michael Dawn will be exchanging wedding vows later that month. They are registered at JC Penney, Target, Walmart, and Bed Bath and Beyond. The shower will be held at the home of Lynette Killy, 2342 Tanglewood Drive, Toledo. Feel free to drop in anytime between 6:30-8:30 pm. Cake and punch will be served; a short devotional will be given at 7:15. Let's shower Amanda with blessings as she prepares for her marriage!

Getting to Know... The Hoots

by Tyson Turner

"It's a leap of faith" Todd said more than once while sharing what God has done in his family's life over the past few years. God's loving providence shines through Todd and Erin Hoot's lives and testimonies. Maybe I can whet your appetite enough to seek them out and be encouraged by hearing more of their praises to God!

Todd and Erin both grew up in the Greater Toledo area but met only a few years ago. They both smile in wonder at God's humorous provision in having them meet on a Thanksgiving Day while both were out and not spending time with family. When Erin saw Todd that day, she knew that she'd met the most handsome man in the world, and so with uncharacteristic persistence, secured Todd's attention.

They soon began enjoying long phone conversations and then dating. Erin was won over by the way Todd behaved as a gentleman toward her. Todd was won over by the beauty of Erin's whole person. He is especially taken with her lovely face. They were married after coming to Christ the Word for a while.

When they met, Todd was attending a church with his boss, and Erin was content to go to church since it was important to Todd. Then they finally attended the Pastors College graduation service for Erin's brother, "Scotty" Killy.

Erin had teased Scott for a long time about his church being a "cult"

where women didn't work fulltime and followed their husbands. But, when they attended Scott's graduation, Todd felt God's presence and knew that he wanted to be with these men and families of Christ the Word. They have been attending CTW since 2008.

The Hoots pour out thankfulness and praise for the fellowship, encouragement, and challenge they have received from the body at Christ the Word. CTW's WOW Bible studies are a joy to Erin, and Todd can't say enough of his thankfulness to the men of CTW.

They have had many prayers answered in the past couple of years.

Soon after coming to CTW, Todd

nity to plant seeds of the Gospel in other inmates' lives. Now, Todd is out and God answered has answered his desire to have a house instead of an apartment. God has even seen fit to work things out so that Todd's parole is being cut short by a year.

Todd is currently running his own painting business, *Final Touch Painting*. God is proving faithful here, as well. The business is growing faster than Todd can keep up with.

They are praying that Erin will soon be able to stay home full-time with the children, and then also be more of a help with the administrative side of the painting business.

Todd and Erin have seven children—Mackenzie (7) and Nicholas



turned himself in to the police for a past offense. God still saw fit to have Todd endure a prison sentence, but during that time God cared well for Erin by giving her a raise at work, and the support of family and new friends from CTW.

After receiving so much support from the women at CTW, Erin now delights in taking meals to others through CTW's caring committee.

While in prison, Todd was able to read through the Bible over 3 times. Men from CTW regularly visited him and he even had the opportu-

(2) live with Todd and Erin now. Todd's second oldest daughter is now working with him at the painting business. Todd is proud of her excellent work and thankful to get to work together. The Hoots would appreciate prayer as they juggle spending time with and caring for children—and for the salvation of all their children.

The Hoots praise God for His mercy and new life in Jesus. They rejoice in being a part of Christ the Word Church.

CTW's Annual Camping Trip this Month!

CTW's annual camping trip begins Wednesday, June 29 (check-in 3 p.m.) through Saturday, July 2 (check-out 1 p.m.). We will be camping at Somerset Beach Campground, a Christian campground.

We trust this will be another terrific time of fun and fellowship with exciting volleyball games, daily devotionals, great swimming, late night conversations around a campfire, and much more.

You must have pre-registered with Jeff and Shelley Schriener to camp. If you do not plan on camping, you are still encouraged to visit and enjoy the daily activities.

Somerset Beach Campground is located in Somerset Center, MI on US-12, four miles west of US-127, about an hour from Toledo. For directions, please visit: www.somersetbeach.org/index.php/contact/.

If you have further questions, contact Jeff & Shelley Schriener at Schrinerfam@metalink.net or at 734-856-4660.

WOW Iron 2 Iron

The first installment of our women's summer reading group will be held on Thursday, June 2 at 7 p.m. at Julie Morgan's home with a discussion on *A Mother's Ordeal*. The books have been ordered and you will be able to get your book through Tai French. The book is out of print, but you may be able to borrow a fast reader's book if you want to attend and did not purchase a book. Any questions? Please contact Tai French.

2011 Backyard Bible Clubs are here!

It's that time of year again when several CTW volunteers gather to host Backyard Bible Clubs (BYBCs) throughout the area. Kids ages 4 to sixth grade are invited to participate. 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 opportunity to invite neighbors, friends, and family as an opportunity to share the joy of the Gospel.

June 13-17

Kevin & Erika Simpson's Home
10 a.m.-Noon

Bill & Julie Van Wormer's Home
6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

June 20-24

Matt & Sarah French's Home
10am – Noon

Kevin & Michelle Holder's Home
6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

July 25-29

Matt & Adrienne Miklovic's Home
10 a.m. – Noon

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

Officer Elections Following Evening Service, June 5

Elections for deacon candidates will take place at a brief congregational meeting following the evening service on Sunday, June 5. Candidates on the ballot for the office of deacon are Dave Foulke, Dave Meyers, Jeff Schriener, Matt Slick, and Tim Speweik.

2011 CTW Softball

The CTW Softball Team opens their 2011 season Friday, June 3 at 6 p.m. against Heritage Church of God and again for the second game Monday, June 6 at 7:10 p.m. versus Washington Church. Admission is free and games are played at WPOS softball field located at 7112 Angola Rd. in Holland. This is a fun time and great opportunity to cheer your team on to victory! CTW has earned the reputation of having the best fans, let's keep that reputation by having you join the fun. We look forward to seeing you there!

June Softball Calendar

June 3

vs. Heritage Church of God

June 6

vs. Washington Church

June 20 (double-header)

vs. The Church
vs. The Dwelling Place

June 27

vs. Holland Free Methodist

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!

Sanctification



by Craig French

If you've been a believer for a while, you've likely read this piece of Scripture and heard other Christians use it: "You are not under law but under grace" (Rom. 6:14b).

These words of assurance spoken from Romans 6 ought to push us forward in sanctification. Often Christians use this as a cop-out from the hard work of Christian living. Some reason like this: "that law stuff is over... God's not about hard stuff... grace, man... it's all grace".

And so it is. It is all about grace, just not that kind of "grace." Grace isn't simply the way God lets us off the hook. When we reduce grace to such a level, it is impossible to see where the grace that justifies us connects with holy living, or, as the Bible calls it: Sanctification.

God's grace does, in fact, bring us forgiveness. In justification, God declares us righteous on account of Christ. His righteousness is credited to our account freely, apart from our works and is in no way merited by our strivings. So what does this mean for us when it comes to living a Christian life? What relevance does sanctification have in light of the free gift of justification? The free gift was accomplished through the power of God. Only God could cancel a debt so powerful that its effects are not

limited to our souls, but reverberates through the entire universe through death. In order for God to declare us righteous, it requires tremendous power. This is where justification and sanctification connect.

What is sanctification? It includes two key aspects to our walk with Christ.

First: We are set apart. To be sanctified is to be "separate". We are in the world, but not of it (John 17:15-17). We are to be a peculiar people, and pilgrims on this earth (1 Peter 2:11).

Second: We are to become what God has declared us to be. God doesn't declare a man righteous only to leave him in his sins. Jesus came from His Father's side to take on flesh and speak. He is rightly called the "Word" of God. He was not only a messenger, but the Message Himself, and He places a high emphasis on the power of the Scripture. In Christ's high priestly prayer He attests to the special power of God's Word to purify us (John 17:17-19), and it just so happens to be the same means a man is to use to purify his wife (Eph 5:25-26). Being in the Word, praying it, and leading our wives and children by it are powerful means by which God purifies us.

This sounds like work. "So where's the grace?" some might be wondering. Answer: adoption and power.

"You have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!'"

ROMANS 8:15B

"Who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord"

ROMANS 1:4

We are sons of God by virtue of Christ taking on our flesh, dying, and resurrecting. Not only are our sins forgiven, but the power associated with Christ's resurrection takes

root in us. In fact, the difference between living by the dead works of the law and living by grace is marked by power. As Paul phrases it, the truth that fuels the notion we are not under law, but grace is this: "For sin shall not have dominion over you" (Rom 6:14a).

There are two powers at work in men: Unbelievers are under the power of sin, believers are filled with the power of God's Spirit. This is why sin is bondage. It is being under control and constrained. Not just a burden to carry and overcome, it is a prison no man can escape—except by God's Spirit.

Grace, on the other hand, is freedom. God doesn't just wink at the sin you struggle with. He doesn't only offer you a way out of sin (1 Cor. 10:13), but supplies us with the Spirit of adoption, which is also the Spirit of power (2 Tim. 1:7).

The truths that we are to be separated and pure (i.e. holy) are unified by the notion of our adoption, or sonship.

How do we apply this truth and see fruit in our lives? It begins with grace (the powerful kind). It centers on the fact that, if you are born again, you are born of God. You are a son. You have a Father with wisdom and power beyond your comprehension. Sanctification is a work of God you must also apply yourself to, but in your working it is always with the understanding of Who is at work in you (Phil 2:13).

"So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?"

GALATIANS 4:7-9

LWY Graduates '11



by Hunter Turner

I asked our current crop of LWY High School graduates the following:

1. *Where will you be graduating from this year?*
2. *Do you have plans for the summer and fall?*
3. *How can we pray for you?*

Here are the grads and their answers!

Olivia Cornwell

1. I'm graduating from homeschool.
2. While I'm at home continuing my training to be a wife and mother, I will also be doing an educational program called *CollegePlus!* This will enable me to earn my degree in a more efficient manner through a process called 'Credit by Exam.' I will study independently and after passing an exam I will be granted college credit because I have proven that I understand and know the material as well as a student who has taken the class. I have a personal coach who is guiding me step by step through all my studies, and I plan to graduate with a fully accredited English degree in two years or less.
3. That I would be able to keep up with the studying.

Jonathan Zellers

1. I am graduating from Home-school/Eastwood HS/Owens.
2. I will be attending UT, doing pre-med in the Bio-Engineering College.
3. Pray that the Lord would allow me to grow in my witness to others, to not be ashamed of speaking the Lord's name, and to grow in courage. Also, that I would continue to grow in leadership at college, and at CTW. Also that the Lord would guide my path, as whether to join the ministry, or to go to Med School to become a doctor.

Timothy Rethorn

1. I'm graduating from homeschool.
2. I'll be attending the University of Findlay looking to get a Doctorate in Physical Therapy. I have a job on campus for the fall.
3. That I would be content with where the Lord has placed me and that I would be diligent in the work before me.

Katie Kepler

1. I am graduating from Lenawee Christian School.
2. This summer I plan to either continue working for my OJT (on the job training) office, or for Peter Wolfram as a dental assistant. This coming fall I plan to attend Owens Community College's Dental Hygiene program. Please pray that, as these last few weeks come to close, I will manage my time and work wisely.
3. Please pray that I get my enrollment into college done correctly and on time. Pray that my parents have the wisdom to help me do all of this. Pray that I respect their guidance. Really, any prayer will be much appreciated. And one more small thing, please pray that I get my x-rays in my Dental Aide class done quickly and correctly!



calendar of events

June Calendar

- June 4** **WOW Soxercise**
- June 13** **WOW 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

Mark Your Calendar

- July 6th** **Amanda Agan's Bridal Shower**
- July 14th** **WOW Iron to Iron**
- July 25-29** **Miklovic Backyard Bible Club**
- July 30th** **Aleaha Bayly's Baby Shower**
- Aug. 7** **Mother-Son Baseball Day**
- Aug. 12-14** **Men's Canoe Trip**
- Aug. 27** **Presbytery**