

The GAZETTE.



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Running the Race to Win



by Jordan Daugherty

OK, here it is. I must confess: I absolutely love winning and cannot stand losing. Remember the saying “it is not whether you win or lose, it is how you play the game?” There is a part of me that cringes when I hear it. True, sportsmanship is good and right. In fact, most of my spankings as a kid were directed at my failure to control my temper amid competition (lifelong friend Tim Varner and sister Jennifer Clark will happily confirm this). Yet, are not the more important lessons really found in winning and losing? Should we really not care if we lose? Are we not to strive so as to attain? Even more to the point, does not our Father teach us through the Apostle Paul that we are to discipline our own body for the purpose of attaining the prize?

“Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. Everyone who competes in

the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I [!]discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified. “

I CORINTHIANS 9:24-27

Many lessons and commandments from the Lord Jesus are illustrated within the theme of competition in racing. Does it matter whether we win or lose, whether we finish the course or not? Not only does it matter, but there are eternal consequences. CTW family, we are in a race. To be certain, you and I are racers. The start, the endurance, and the finish are collectively and of themselves critical to winning the prize.

The Start

Christ the Word family, I praise you! Brothers and sisters, you have started well. Here we are, two years into the capital campaign and months from entering into our church building. You have been generous in so many ways. You are stretched thin financially and physically—not because of mismanagement, but rather purposefully, in faith for the glory of the LORD, and in submission to Him. In faith, you have pledged money which you do not have. You have been open-handed with your time and energy. As a result, you have witnessed blessings from the very hand of God. You have tested God and are seeing Him abundantly pour out His goodness. Your generosity and sacrifice is well noted. It is an honor to be counted among you. As in racing, it is vital that we start well, endure well, and finish well. Thus far, you have started well.

The Endurance

Most people are strongest either at the beginning or at the end. Both parts of the race are filled with excitement and adrenaline that provides us with the burst of energy to push. In this particular race, the church building project, we have now transitioned into the endurance stage.

It is at this time when discipline, patience, and understanding are crucial. Soberly, we must also note that this is also the time when most racers quit. The temptation to give in is strongest. We are tempted to focus on the struggle rather than the finish line. We want to focus on the pain and effort of each step rather than the glory of the prize. Good Racer, faith in the Lord Jesus is what causes us to endure as He is the holder of the prize. Does it matter whether we win or lose? Oh yes, it matters—as throughout the Bible it is clear that salvation and glory depend on God's people enduring to the end.

Many were either in attendance—or aware of—the presentation of next year's budget by Mike Ahrendt that took place the Sunday evening of October 2nd. It is clear from his presentation that CTW is decidedly exercising discipline in her spending for the next year. To reach our goal of getting into our church home, our pastors and elders cut every line item in the budget. They are focused on the finish line and the associated prize. It is noteworthy that the CTW staff is setting the tone for this discipline. Our largest expense, salaries and wages, was significantly cut. In addition to that, ministries such as WOW and LWY had their budgets cut, and leaders were asked to find new ways of reducing expenses while not jeopardizing the ministries. Some of our preferred items are being cut.

Enduring is difficult; there is no way around it. Yet we must get to the finish line of this project. Though difficult for a time, we should endure for the joy set before us. Our approach to winning and losing, finishing and quitting is absolutely vital. To be sure, there will be a temptation to be critical and skeptical about the church budget. Our Adversary, the Devil, does not want to see us endure. Be on guard and be not deceived, Satan will attack during this stage. We will be tempted to lose sight of the finish line and the prize. But hear me now: let us be careful to lay aside our preferences and sin and put on patience and understanding. Now, more carefully, hear the Word of God:

“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles

us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us”

HEBREWS 12:1

In every race, there is an audience. As shown in the verse above, there are witnesses in heaven right now cheering us on. In my head, I hear them shouting “Endure well, brothers and sisters, endure well!” We

also have witnesses immediately around us watching how we race. Our young ones are watching us, learning from us how to race. They are making notes on how we race during this challenging time

in the building project. Let us teach them by supporting and encouraging the efforts to get into our church house.

The Finish Line

The finish line of this project is getting into the building and the year that follows. We know that with the new building comes a greater expense. It is the end of this particular race. It is the culmination of our commitment, planning, strategy, starting, and enduring. We must not lose heart and shrink from the necessary discipline that this stage of the race demands. Fixing our eyes on the finish line cannot be done in our own strength. It must be done with eyes of faith in our Lord Jesus, who endured the cross for the joy set before Him. Endure in discipline and faith particu-

larly in 1) prayer, 2) applying the Word of God to your own hearts, 3) doing battle with sin, 4) dying to self, 5) preferring others, and 6) submitting to our pastors and elders.

The Prize

Make no mistake, we run so as to win the prize. The prize is the glory of our Father being given in our own church house. Part of that glory includes, souls saved from eternal judgment, our ministries and congregation bearing fruit, sanctification, victory over sin, and watching our children surpass us in service to the LORD. We desire that this building not be a source of pride, but rather the place where we worship God our Father with greater vigor and purity, where strangers are made children of God, where babies are taught to fear and love God, where pastors and their wives are trained, where children's hearts are for their fathers and where kids call their mothers blessed. So much joy awaits in the prize. I repeat: the prize is not the building itself. Rather it is the glory and joy found by those who worship the one true God within its walls.

MANY LESSONS...ARE ILLUSTRATED WITHIN THE THEME OF COMPETITION IN RACING. DOES IT MATTER WHETHER WE WIN OR LOSE, WHETHER WE FINISH THE COURSE OR NOT?

NOT ONLY DOES IT MATTER, BUT THERE ARE ETERNAL CONSEQUENCES. CTW FAMILY, WE ARE IN A RACE.

Getting to Know... The Rakers by Michelle Holder

What happens when an adrenaline-loving guy marries a book-reading, tea-drinking gal, then proceeds to have two fun-loving, prank-pulling boys? The Raker family.

Sheila Raker first laid eyes on Dale in 1988 when they both worked for the airlines in Washington, D.C. It wasn't until 1991 that they would actually “meet.” Sheila, a city girl from the D.C. area, began working for the airlines on a dare—TWA was in town looking for flight attendants, and a client at the fitness center (where Sheila was head of computer operations) challenged Sheila to go for this job, as it would be more exciting. She took the dare, never imagining it would pan out.

She worked as an international flight attendant before coming to work in the airport as a “bag lady” extraordinaire (the finder of all lost luggage).

Dale, a native of Michigan, grew up on a large vegetable farm. (FYI: Before she met Dale, Sheila, while visiting her mom in rural Maryland, declared to her that she would *never* marry a farm boy). When Dale was eighteen, his grandmother suggested that she take him to visit a neighbor who was a bigwig for Northwest Orient airlines in hopes of landing a job. Dale dated his daughter for a bit, and then was hired in 1977 to work for NWO at Detroit Metro Airport. From there, his career with NWO took him to Pittsburgh, back to Detroit, to Honolulu (where he was of course a surfer-dude), then to D.C. (where he met Sheila).

He has a son, Christopher, from his first marriage, who is a senior in

college in Maryland.

Dale and Sheila have also hopped the country during their marriage, living in the D.C. area, Orlando (too hot for Sheila), Denver and now Michigan.

The decision to live in rural Michigan stems from the way they desired to raise their boys. They found that they have had to sacrifice a lot of their ideas on “living” in order to achieve their goals in this area. Sheila homeschools Collin and Brandon. Both boys are talented musicians, composing the music and writing the lyrics for songs that Dale says are far better than a lot of what you hear on



the radio. Collin is a drummer who also plays the clarinet, violin and guitar. Brandon plays the trombone, acoustic and electric guitar, piano/ keyboard and has a wide range of musical tastes. Among his favorites are the Trans-Siberian Orchestra and John Williams compositions.

In his free time, Collin is baseball player and a would-be skateboarder (finding a spot to skate these days is challenging on a farm). He also has his first job—working on a farm (following after Dad?).

Brandon loves puzzles, is a computer geek (Mom?) and likes writing song lyrics. Dale, because of his 35 year service to the airline, has had opportunity to participate in a buy-out of his position. When asked why he doesn't take it, he responds that the boys have outrageous appetites and that the buy-out salary would cover about 8 or 9 months of feeding them—and then what is he going to do?

We have had the pleasure of knowing the Rakers for about two years at CTW. Prior to that, they were attending church in Britton, Michigan. Having met the Keplers about 8 years ago, they have consistently had the CTW bug put in their ear. They have also had the opportunity to meet some CTW families through the Keplers. Through this they have long noted the “difference” but were not fully ready to be obedient to God's plan. In their growing years, both had been in church, but Sheila was sure that God was calling them as she had renewed her commitment to Him after the stillbirth of their daughter in 1999.

The church they began attending when they moved to Michigan had liberal female leadership, the boys were often ridiculed and challenged for their Biblical beliefs (Collin recalls a day when he had to defend creationism and actually had to provide the proofs to discount evolution).

The family wasn't growing and Dale wasn't challenged to be the leader or even a part of the family's spiritual growth. Sheila knew that it wasn't God's plan for her to take the leadership role. After a couple of discussions with the church leadership, they decided this was no longer the place where God would have them.

Provisionally, Dale ran into Robin Kepler one day during this dry period. It clicked: the Rakers needed to be at CTW, growing in the Lord. Dale can't stop telling anyone who will listen what God has done for him through this time. He wants to read the Word and know God, he wants to lead his family. The entire family appreciates the love and fellowship and reflects, with joy, on how God has changed them and challenged them in their growth. Praise the Lord!

Pathway Update: More Than Patriarchs



by Mario Dominguez

Every Saturday morning, men of this church (and some visitors) come together at 7a.m. To work? No. To make money? No. To eat breakfast? No. (although we do share food.)

Why would someone take a Saturday, get up early and give up sleep or much needed time to catch up on work/chores and the like? Here's the answer: "Patriarchs." We come together to look at the scriptures with the power of the Holy Spirit working in us and through us to ask how can we become a patriarch in the eyes of God the Father.

The definition of Patriarch is simple as the world sees it: "The head of a family because of age and bloodline." Not our God! Yes, while we see that the father does record bloodlines and does show us the importance of it, in most cases that is just the starting point. Beyond this, the call to be a patriarch is the call of God, the obedience to the call and the faith in things not seen.

Psalm 1, I believe, gives us a powerful picture of a patriarch.

"How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.

The wicked are not so, But they are like chaff which the wind drives away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the wicked will perish."

PSALM 1:1-6

Let's look at this man. He is a tree planted in earth/dirt (God's Word) by a stream of water (flowing Holy Spirit). Yet the arms of the tree are still reaching up to heaven in faith, even though the Father has given us the gifts here, which make us reach up for more from the Son.

While we abide in the Son, we bear fruit and our leaves never wither. Who benefits from this fruit? Us? Yes, but why? We are fulfilling the call of our lives. Bearing fruit, that all those who need may find shelter and supply under our branches. When they have needs, they don't wonder, "Where did that tree move to?"

The tree doesn't move. It's always reaching for heaven, and good trees bear good fruit.

A patriarch looks for a city (as well as a family/church/country) whose builder and maker is God.

Take a minute and look at King Hezekiah in Isaiah 38. The prophet tells him, "You are going to die and not live." What does Hezekiah do? He turns to weeping and praying. Is that wrong? No, I know we would all plead with God, who is merciful.

Now, let's look at Isaiah 39. Hezekiah shows off all he has to Babylonia and afterwards is told by the prophet Isaiah that all he has shown them will be taken away by the Babylonians' king. Worst of all, his sons, whom he shall beget, will be eunuchs in Babylon.

So what does Hezekiah do? Does he fall on his face and pray as he did before for his own life? No. He says, "At least there will be peace in my time." A patriarch? Bearing fruit (like Manasseh?) for those who need shelter?

Now look at Abraham in Genesis 15. The Lord tells Abram "I will be your great reward," and Abram asks "How will you bless me? I don't have a son."

God know Abram's reason for the question, so the Lord says "look to the heavens count the stars if you are able." A son? Abram, you will have so many that no one will be able to count them.

Look at Genesis 17. The Lord says, "I am going to bless you with a son." Abraham thinks, "I have a son; I love Ishmael." So what does Abraham say? "Oh that Ishmael will walk before you!" Later, the Lord replies, stating, "As for Ishmael, because of YOU, I will make him a great nation." No question why he is called *father* Abraham. People want him to be their father. Why?

Abraham's life was faith, and he realized faith is the substance of things hoped for, and the evidence of things not seen. His fruit was there for someone else. Here's what the Lord says about Abraham:

"For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him and they will keep the way of the Lord to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which He hath spoken of him."

GEN 18 :19

A good tree bears fruit for all those who find shelter under his branches. Look at the greatest patriarch, Jesus, who is a shelter, bearing fruit for, and through, all those who belong to the Father. Bless the Lord! Jesus! Amen.

Getting to Know... The Dawns by Aleaha Bayly

Was it love at first sight? Well, not quite. In fact, when Michael and Amanda first met at SemperRef's Spring Fling shoot-out, neither was veryimpressed by the other. They both used the same adjective to describe their first impressions, though: creepy. Amanda thought that Michael was creepy because he wore all black, and seemed to be keeping a distance from the group as he quietly watched the activities.

Michael thought that Amanda was creepy because she was just too outgoing and wouldn't leave him alone. In actuality, Amanda says that she was only talking to him to be nice, because it didn't seem to her like he had many friends. Michael didn't see things that way.

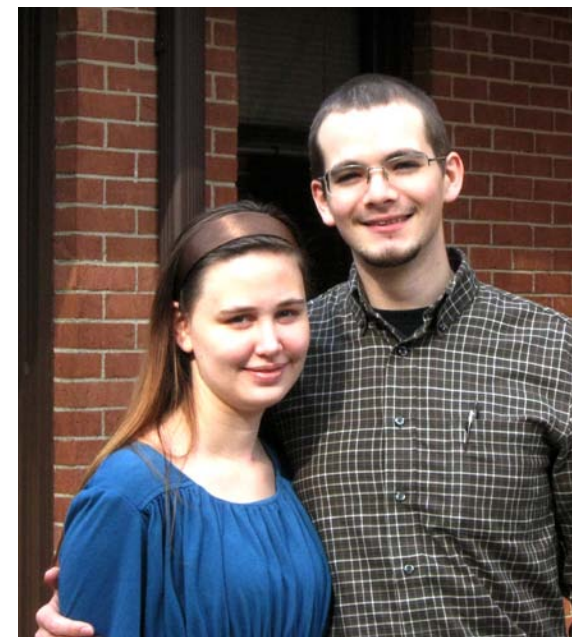
Amanda was born in Virginia Beach, Virginia and moved to Bowling Green with her family before her senior year of high school. While she washome-schooled until that point, once in Ohio, she attended Otsego High School.

Amanda is the oldest of eight children, five boys and threegirls. Her dad is a nurse assistant and her mom is a nurse. In high school, Amanda was interested in singing and playing the piano. She appreciated Otsego because there were opportunities to audition for choirs and musicals, and by participating in these, she was pushed to not be shy about her abilities, as had formally been.

After high school, Amanda attended BGSU; first as a musical performance major, then musical theater, and finally music education. While at BG, she met Ashley Forney in the commuters' lounge. Amanda was searching for a group of college students that would be a better influence than thefriends that she had at

the time, and Ashley invited her to the Bible study at that met in BG. Amanda says that while she grew up attending church and youth group, it was not until college that she truly recognized her need for the Lord. Amanda took Ashley up on her invitation, and soon became a regular SemperRef attendee. This is how she wound up with a gun in her hand at the shoot-out.

Michael was born in Wyandot, Michigan, but grew up in nearby Monroe. Unlike Amanda's large family, Michael is one of two children,



and grew up with a cousin who lived with his family for much of Michael's upbringing. Michael's mother works for a chiropractor, which means Michael enjoys free adjustments when needed. His dad is a defense contract auditor, meaning that he makes sure that federal money is actually going where it is supposed to.

Michael has always enjoyed reading and writing, so after taking a year off after high school to work, Michael began the English program at Monroe County Community College. The program was discontinued after his first year, but Michael was never notified of that fact, so he continued there for a few years as he worked in the writing center, helping fellow students with their papers.

It was while working at the writing center that Michael met Sam

McNamara. Sam, who was attending CTW at the time, told Michael he should start going to church. While Michael had gone to Nazarene churches with his family until high school, he no longer attended.

At the time, Michael was working at McDonald's six or seven days a week, and one of those days was always a Sunday. Michael told Sam that the first Sunday he was off he would go with her, and it wasn't too long after that that he visited for the first time. Michael says that it only took that first visit to see that CTW was different than the church that he chose to stop attending in high school.

He appreciated that the call to repentance was a mainstay, and after that visit, he told McDonald's that he was no longer working Sundays.

It was a year before this visit that Michael came to the point in his life when he decided that he needed God, and he called out to Him. After he began attending Christ the Word, Michael says he came to an even greater understanding of his need for a Savior.

After the initial meeting at the Heyerlys', Michael and Amanda saw each other more regularly at SemperRef events. They eventually started talking more, and their initial perceptions of each other faded. They began dating a few months after the shoot-out, and they were married a year later. The Dawns are expecting their first child in the spring of next year. Michael now works at Taco Bell and is attending Bowling Green State University as a Classical Civilizations major. He hopes to attend the Pastors' College after he graduates. If you haven't done so yet, take a minute to talk to the Dawns and get to know them yourselves!

W

Women of the Word

The Resistance of My Heart by Allison Daugherty

As Thanksgiving approaches, our minds quickly think of the staple foods associated with the holiday: pumpkin pie and mashed potatoes. It may sound funny, but I do not get excited about those two foods and the reason has nothing to do with the taste.

When I was growing up, we had special jobs associated with the holiday. It came to be that my sister, Jessica, always stirred the pumpkin pie and mashed the potatoes. Because these jobs were assigned to her, I never got excited about them. It was not until I was an adult that I realized that the preferences linked with my sister were things that I resisted. Do not get me wrong, my sister and I get along well and I love her very much. However, sin abounds in our own preferences and personalities. Why do you think Paul warns in Philippians

“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others?”

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4

When I boil it down, my heart resists things that I associate with Jessica because I favor my way over hers. If that did not sound funny to you, then stay with me. In the last couple of months I have realized that a woman at church reminds me of my sister. I began to realize that in the same way that I resisted mashed potatoes and the color blue, I was resisting this dear sister in Christ because she reminded me of my biological sister!

Going further with my previous thoughts, I then resisted her ways over mine. I denied it for a while, but the truth is that the Holy Spirit was showing me my sin.

The verse WOW has chosen for us to learn this year is Romans 12: 9-10. “Let love be genuine. Abhor what

is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.”

In my heart and mind, I did not love my sister in Christ with a genuine love. I was letting preferences prevent me from love. I had to repent of that sin, but furthermore I needed to ask her for forgiveness. She did not know my sin. I could ask God to forgive me and move on, but the offense was not just against God. I was humbled. I was scared. I was resisting my sister in Christ when I could be learning from her. I had sinned against her whether she knew it or not. So one Sunday I shared my story and asked her for forgiveness. She freely gave it without question! She even encouraged me in how to talk to my biological sister.

At the point of confession, the Holy Spirit removed all resistance in my heart and replaced it with an abundant portion of love and honor and respect. Praise the LORD!

As the holidays approach we will be spending an increased amount of time with our church body, with our families, and with our friends. We need to ask ourselves if our love is genuine. Are we able to genuinely inquire about loved ones’ interests and not take offense when they do not ask in return? Are we able to acknowledge those hidden resistances and repent of them when called upon by the Holy Spirit? Are we thankful for opportunities to love others that are not exactly like us? Are we ready to outdo one another in showing honor? Will you regard them as more important than yourself?

In October’s gazette, Elizabeth Bayly posed a similar challenge to the genuineness of our love. If the Holy Spirit is addressing the same sin again, then it must be an issue. Let us attack it! Ask God to examine your heart and show you where your love falls short of genuine... and confess, repent, and...rejoice!

Monthly Morsel

“SHARE WITH GOD’S PEOPLE WHO ARE IN NEED. PRACTICE HOSPITALITY.”
ROMANS 12:13

Invite someone to your home for dinner this month. Don’t worry about how clean the house is or how perfect the place settings are. Share the love of Christ and be an encouragement to someone.

Esther Post

Dear Esther Post,

We are a loving church whose members serve one another in many ways. Is it wrong of me to expect a thank you note when I’ve provided help, given a gift, or shown hospitality to a member of our church family?

Sincerely,

Waiting for the Mail

Dear Waiting,

It is important for us to show gratitude—first to the Lord, and second to each other. Some of us will demonstrate this gratitude with a handwritten note on beautiful stationery. Others may send a thoughtful email. Others may thank their benefactor in person, describing in detail the blessings they received from their friend.

Notice I did not say that it is sufficient to merely toss a quick “Thanks” over one’s shoulder. In our overly casual culture, we often assume others know we are thankful and don’t like to inconvenience ourselves too much to thank them properly. Even worse, we may feel others “owe” us meals, gifts, or hospitality. This attitude of entitlement almost always is a symptom of not being properly grateful to God for His many blessings.

WOW’s theme verse for the year says to “outdo one another in showing honor.” Let’s put this verse into practice by enthusiastically, purposefully, and creatively expressing our gratitude toward others.

Sincerely,

Esther Post

WOW Events

Heidi Cole Baby Shower

A baby shower for Heidi Cole will be held on Saturday, November 12th at the home of XinXin Turner, 808 Southover Rd, Toledo. Please join us to welcome Heidi and Nick’s new baby boy!

The shower will be an open house between the hours of 10a.m. and noon. Stop in anytime to drop off a gift, or come to hear the devotional at 10:30a.m. Muffins and coffee will be served.

Heidi and Nick are registered for gifts at Babies R’ Us and Walmart.

Please contact XinXin Turner or Sarah DeSonne with questions.

Christmas Fellowship Event

Please join the ladies of Christ the Word at our Christmas fellowship event, “O Come Let Us Adore Him.” on November 29th at 6:30 p.m. at the Oostr’s home. We will gather to sing praises to the Lord, enjoy a devotional, and share snacks and desserts.

If your first name starts with A-L, please bring a savory snack; M-Z bring a dessert. We will also be doing an ornament exchange. If you would like to participate, please bring an inexpensive wrapped ornament.

Do One Thing

by Ashley Marcuz

In Isaiah 52, God declares, **“How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who announces peace and brings good news of happiness, who announces salvation, and says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’”**

As we approach the holiday season in celebration of Thanksgiving and Christmas, no doubt we will be gathering with family members who do not know peace, good news of happiness, or salvation that Isaiah speaks of. Ladies, how lovely are your feet? Who in your family needs to hear about the God who reigns in your life? Let us be diligent this season to share the good news of Christ with our lost family members.

WOW Calendar:

November 12th:
Heidi Cole’s Baby Shower

November 29th
WOW Christmas Fellowship

March 9-10, 2012
WOW Retreat

April quote:

“Even if we cannot reform the world in a moment, we can begin the work by reforming ourselves and our households—it is woman’s mission. Let her not look away from her own little family circle for the means of producing moral and social reforms, but begin at home.”
from *The True Woman* by **Susan Hunt**

Created Equal by Sheila Raker

At least a dozen members of Christ the Word (including teens and adults) attended a Created Equal informational training session held on a Monday evening prior to abortion protest activities which took place the following two days. During the training, we were being equipped (by means of educational talks, video presentations, and a mock debate session) to persuasively engage the college campus culture on the issue of abortion.

Topics included the legal history of abortion in the USA, the scientific perspective, the pro-life defense, the foundational principle of social reform through social action, and the conversational and graphic aspects of the protest movement.

The effectiveness of the training was immediately evident during the protest activity which followed. As Created Equal protest volunteers, many of us took up multiple posts on the campuses of BGSU and UT while displaying graphic images of a preborn human and an aborted human. While these images were stirring and emotional for many passersby, they were an effective catalyst in engaging conversation about our purpose and message. We engaged in meaningful conversation and sound debate with students who were stated pro-choice and pro-life

advocates, as well as with those who were uninformed, wrongly informed or undecided on this profound issue.

At times, students spontaneously engaged other students of opposing viewpoints in lively debate. Brochure information was disseminated as we collected hundreds of names and e-mail addresses of potential protest movement participants.

What is Created Equal? In their own words, "We are a movement, not just a cause. We're a social action movement seeking to end the greatest human rights injustice of our time. Killing preborn babies is nothing less than age-based discrimination. Abortion robs us of our future."

Our goal is to restore the true meaning of equality to include equal protection between the born and the preborn. Protecting the preborn child is our cause. Many current pro-life efforts lack the makings of an authentic social movement because of a general unwillingness to tactically come together and sacrifice for the cause of defending babies."

The Created Equal movement is "an organized, mobilized generation" much like America's Civil Rights Movement, which brought about social and legal reform due to discrimination. We are "intelligently responding to injustice. We draw upon the lessons of the past." Civil rights "freedom riders" went from town to town all across America to make their cause—Created Equal "justice riders," also, aren't waiting for people

to come to us. We go to them. Some of the CTW participants in the training and protest activity had this to say, "It was good to go through argument issues during the training, giving me a solid answer and message for pro-life arguments. Being able to link the training to real-life situations in the following days encourages me to be more active in readily engaging in future conversation about abortion."

Other attendees of the Created Equal Training had this to say:

"Nick Cole's recent sermon about not relying solely on methodology convicted me to rely on God's presence to handle my fears about talking to people. I was very effective in getting people to re-think their points of view, even for those who stated they did not have an opinion"
-Abbi Bellas (a trained abortion clinic sidewalk counselor)

"The training video presentation was motivating. The illustrations brought out the apathy issue in our society dealing with violence and trauma.

There is a lack of care for the lives of others (including the unborn) in our country. I am glad I attended."

-Jeanette Beerbower

"I will continue actively working together with others in the Created Equal movement on the BGSU campus."

-Josh Zellers

"The Lord has called me to be a worker in his field that is ripe for harvest. He is training and equipping me through the abortion protest ministries at CTW, as well as with Created Equal. My experiences at BGSU and UT were both challenging and encouraging. I am committed to sacrificially defending the preborn. The graphic nature of the protest activity is the most difficult aspect for me, but I witnessed firsthand its effectiveness in engaging our hard hearted culture in the brutal truth of this horror."

-Sheila Raker

"First of all, I had never been at an event like this before, so was a bit apprehensive and for quite awhile I just stood with another guy who was with the Columbus Created Equal group and observed, saying very little.

"After watching him for a good amount of time and then being left on my own for a length of time, I found that talking with students was not as difficult as I had imagined it would be. I found a majority of the students that I addressed to be open to discussing the abortion issue awith me.

When I challenged them, they were willing to interact and I was amazed at their lack of knowledge and their ignorance. So many have been fed the pro-abortion arguments their whole life. They have not been challenged to think on their own and come to their own conclusions logically and morally. I was encouraged that some were genuinely thankful for the information that I gave them. I pray that many hearts were changed that day and that seeds were planted that the LORD will water and cause to grow."

-Kathryn Zellers

CTW: Giving Thanks!

"These paragraphs are not sufficient to explain the ways in which I am thankful to God for working in my life over the past couple of years...In the past two years, I have seen God sell our house in Maryland and provide



the funds for the shortfall, provide an amazing church filled with a loving body and biblical teaching, provide a wonderful place to work, bless me with a baby girl and provide comfort from His people as she went to be with Jesus, and bless me again with a baby who is growing (a lot!) in my womb.

"I am thankful for His provision in all of these areas, knowing that He ordained each of these events and walked the path with me. I am thankful for my brothers and sisters at CTW, who love and encourage me and hold me accountable. On top of it all, I am thankful for God's word, as I have clung to its promises time and again in a new way over the past couple of years.

"Praise the Lord!"
-Andrea Van Engen



"I'm thankful for Bethany White, that she didn't give up on inviting me to church.

I'm thankful that Christ the Word is a church that is not just a place with a building, but that it is a whole family of loving people.

"I'm thankful for Wayne Turner, who was one of the first to approach me and invite me out to his home, which made me want to come to CTW even more.

"I'm thankful that everyone at church has been so welcome and understanding. Once I started confessing my sin, I think people were even more welcoming than before. I was willing to open up, even with all the things that were weighing me down and keeping me from God.

"I've been able to be more forward; I was always pretty reserved, and I've always been more of a follower. I used to think about things a lot and then not say anything.

"CTW has probably helped me more than I can really say!"

-Ed Williams



have happened within the last year: That I finished my studies at the University of Toledo. That I have a full time job. We are thankful for the way God preserved Addie when she was hospitalized around the first of the year. We are thankful for the way He provided for us as we had no health insurance at the time. We are thankful for the way we have not been ill since Addie was in the hospital. We are thankful that most of our immediate family lives within a ten minute drive.

"We are thankful for God's faithfulness in all these "ordinary" ways that speak of His Fatherly care, and that we can look toward the future with laughter."

-Craig French



2012 Variety Show: The Last Laugh

by Ben Byers
and Nick Cole

As the world's many doomsayers look forward to yet another projected date for the end of the world, January of 2012 looms larger and larger; however, we know that the end of 2011 will be another milestone that, by God's grace, we will pass; regardless of what Harold Camping is now predicting.

Wouldn't you like to enjoy a hilarious, fun-filled evening of laughter, song, and, well—variety—with your brothers and sisters in the church, all the while knowing that you are safe in the Lord's hands, no matter what the current apocalyptic calendars may predict?

Well, look no further, the 2012 CTW Variety Show: The Last Laugh is the place to be on Sunday, January 1st, 2012! Yes, that's right, we'll be letting everyone do their "normal" New Year's Eve festivities on Saturday



Night, New Year's Eve 2011, so they can join us on New Year's Day; the driving is much safer!

This final talent show of our sojourn at the SDA building is going to be a real doozy. We already

strations of wrestling prowess, not in a mere wrestling uniform, mind you, but in what can only be described as full-blown wrestling *regalia!*

Do you really want to miss out on the penultimate, quintessential, cosmic enigma of a celebration that our final Variety Show in the SDA building is destined to become!?

Of course you don't. So plan on being there, Sunday, January 1st, at the SDA Fellowship Hall, at 6:30p.m. You were going to be there for evening service, anyway, weren't you? Of course you were!

Interested in performing a hilarious act for the show? Please contact Nick Cole and Ben Byers, who, as entering Pastor's College freshmen, will continue the tradition of organizing the show and scheduling the acts. You can speak to Ben or Nick in person, or email your ideas to either of them:

Ben Byers:
bjbyers@gmail.com

Nick Cole
tcnick12@gmail.com

Be sure to make plans to attend now! This final SDA Variety Show is the one you don't want to miss! See you there!



have several top-secret acts lined up, which we can't tell you about (even if you *could* keep a secret, you *wouldn't!*)

So, just a reminder of what you may have missed at previous talent shows: crazy dance routines; bizarre skits that even the performers, to this day, have not quite plumbed the depths of; glorious musical roasts of CTW leadership, staff members, and pastor's college students!

And who can forget the Tim Verner metropolitan fashion show?

Or Mr. James belting out the classics, giving the show-stopping Elvis Presley performance of a lifetime?

Or David Bayly, rocking out with the band in an all-too-tight Hawaiian party shirt?

Or Nathan Bayly's bizarre demon-



Message From the Deacons: Supervision of CTW Children

As we continue toward the completion of our new building, we want to remind you, though, of our need to respect and take care of the SDA church grounds.

Please keep children out of the courtyard area directly behind the Narthex, particularly after evening services. Kids are not to be running around unattended, trampling flowerbeds, etc.

Kids are not to go in any of the front yard swingset areas or playgrounds. There is a door to one of them off the west side of the sanctuary. If you head towards the west wing, there is an exit on the right hand side, as well. Children are to be out of there **at all times.**

Children are not to be in the school hallways in the west wing, after Sunday schools have ended.

All children who are outdoors need to be supervised. Kids should also not be in classrooms unsupervised, playing with toys, etc., unless they are there for a class during class time.

Lastly, the parking lot can be very dark after evening worship so for reasons of safety we would ask you as parents to make sure your children don't play in the parking lot at that time.

Recently we have had some problems with candy and gum in classroom areas, especially gum. We are asking folks to please refrain from these items in classroom areas. We are also asking parents and teachers to be especially vigilant in keeping kids from chewing gum in the classroom areas. Thank you for your help in this.

Time to "Fall Back": November 6

Fall is upon us and with it comes the time for us to turn back our clocks. This year that happens November 6. If you want an extra hour of sleep before attending Sunday morning worship, please don't forget to set your clocks back one hour.

New Membership Class Begins in November

For those interested in becoming members a New Membership Class will begin November 13. The class is seven weeks and will be held Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour. If you would like to be part of this class or have questions, please contact Jason Wiltse or Scott Killy.

Thanksgiving Benevolence Offering Sunday, Nov. 20

The Deacons will be collecting the annual Thanksgiving offering on Sunday, Nov. 20.

The Thanksgiving offering replaces both the November and December Benevolence offerings. Please consider giving generously as this offering must meet the needs of our congregation for two months and the needs remain great.

Also, we ask you to discuss this with your children so they may participate in giving with understanding and joy as well. This is a time to show our thanks to God by loving and caring for each other in a tangible way. Children will bring their offerings to the front of the sanctuary while trays are passed to receive offerings from the adults.

"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

You are invited to help prepare your hearts and minds for Christmas with Christ the Word's Christmas program "Come Thou Long

Expected Jesus" on Sunday, Dec. 18 at 6:30 p.m. This program will feature both congregational and ensemble singing of praises to the advent of our King as well as scripture reading. A reception will follow in the fellowship hall.

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

November Calendar

- Nov. 6** Time to "Fall Back" 1 hour
- Nov. 12** Heidi Cole Baby Shower
- Nov. 20** Thanksgiving Benevolence Offering
- Nov. 29** WOW Christmas Fellowship

Mark Your Calendar

- Dec. 18** Come Thou Long Expected Jesus
- Jan. 1** CTW New Year's Variety Show
- Feb. 17-19** 2012 LWY Winter Retreat
- Mar. 9-10** 2012 WOW Retreat