

The GAZETTE.

2011

Features

- Living Before God, Not Man... 1
- Wedding vs. Marriage... 4
- Pathways 2011-2012... 6
- Introducing Max Curell... 10

Departments

- Getting To Know... 3,5
- Women of the Word... 8,9
- FYI... 11
- Budget Update... 11
- Calendar of Events... 12

Living Before God, Not Man



an interview with Kevin Simpson
by Josh DeSonne

As Christians the truth and message of Christ is paramount to our lives. But how often are we willing to go out on a limb to stand up for truth? How often are we willing to be persecuted for truth? How often are we willing to let God use truth to refine us and strengthen our faith?

Will we fear God or will we fear man?

Kevin Simpson is a leader at Christ the Word. He's a deacon and the church's treasurer, but he has not always been in a position of authority. God used an event in Kevin's life to strengthen his faith in ways he had not imagined and showed him what faith in Christ can do. This is that story.

In the spring of 1994, Kevin was finishing his freshman year at Bowling Green State University. Colleges are centers of thought-provoking discussion and Kevin's

spring semester English class was no different. The evening class, taught by a professor named James Troutner, focused on "group mind." One of the topics under discussion was the Stanley Milgram experiments, conducted after World War II. Milgram wanted to prove Americans could be as bad as the Nazis in Germany had been. He subjected volunteers to experiments in which they were told to administer electric shocks to a second volunteer if they answered a question incorrectly. The purpose was to see how far the average person would go if someone in authority—like a man in a lab coat with a clipboard—told them to give a shock.

Would they go as far as deliver a fatal jolt? The findings showed that many people would administer the lethal shock. What they did not know was that the "second volunteer" was actually an actor who was only pretending to be electrocuted.

Kevin found the subject interesting because it revealed how depraved man truly is. As part of the class and discussion, Kevin wrote a paper on group mind and how authorities can change our morals.

"My hypothesis was: because of the liberal media and Hollywood, more and more people are accepting homosexuality as an alternative lifestyle," Kevin said. "The paper said how homosexuality was once shunned in this country, but in a short time, with the media and Hollywood's interpretation, within 50 years you have a complete moral shift in this country. What was once viewed as sinful is now acceptable."

Much as the Milgram experiments showed how a person could be pushed to accept delivering an electric shock, the United States came to accept homosexuality because "experts," the media and Hollywood, told people it was a perfectly acceptable lifestyle.

When Kevin got his paper back, Dr. Troutner told him to come to his office hours before the next class and then took Kevin's paper back from him.

The next week around 5 p.m., two and a half hours before his 7:30 class, Kevin went to Dr. Troutner's office. The professor pulled Kevin's paper out and together they examined the pros and cons of it. Finally, Dr. Troutner pointed to a single sentence and said it needed to be changed. It was Kevin's hypothesis. The professor said Kevin was not allowed to make that claim.

"At that point I thought, it's my paper," Kevin said. "Grammatically, I understood I had corrections to make, but I would not change that sentence."

Dr. Troutner then gave Kevin an ultimatum: Change the sentence or be kicked out of his class. He then stood up and called Kevin a homophobic, fundamentalist, narrow-minded bigot. Bellowing at him, telling him he had wasted his time, he finished by instructing Kevin that "I'm not done with you. You come to class tonight." Kevin left the office and went to the campus chapel to contemplate what to do next. There was a choice facing him. Stand for truth, or wither from the assault. He read through the book of 2 Timothy, and asked the Lord to give him strength and wisdom to do what was right, while at the same time thinking about getting thrown out of a class and what it meant from an academic standpoint.

"The biggest focus was 'how do I stand firm on this?'" Kevin said. "So I wasn't confused about what I should do, but how."

The discussion that night in class was intense. Dr. Troutner railed against Christians, ridiculing Kevin, who was singled out.

Kevin's response was "Of all the people in this classroom, I seem to stand alone, so who has the group mind? You are all together."

After class, Kevin got another challenge. Dr. Troutner told Kevin "You and I are going back to my office." It was after 9 p.m. The office in University Hall was dark and deserted. Once there, Dr. Troutner began the same process of trying to convince Kevin to change his paper.

"He starts by arguing with me that I'm too smart to believe what I put in the paper," Kevin said. "He said 'Your parents brainwashed you into believing these things. Don't you understand why you're wrong?'"

After some more debate and more name-calling by Dr. Troutner, Kevin decided it was time to leave. He had finally had enough; he had expected something else, he didn't know what to do, and to be honest, he was getting a little scared.

"I stood up to leave, he stood up, slammed the office door, and put his foot in front of it," Kevin said. "We were standing face-to-face, and then he said 'You'll sit down you homophobic fundamentalist narrow-minded bigot!' He was angry, he was beet-red and when he said that last thing, he spit in my face.

"So at this point I was terrified. I sat back down, trembling. I remember thinking 'Lord, Lord, what is going on? This is not what I expected.'"

But if Kevin hadn't expected what had already come, he was even less prepared for what God was about to do next. Dr. Troutner sat down, looked at Kevin, and then broke down in tears, falling to his knees in front of him, uncontrollably weeping.

"I didn't know what to do," Kevin said. "He sat back up in his chair and collected himself. He said 'Kevin, tell me what the Bible says about homosexuality.'"

For the next 15 to 20 minutes Kevin shared the gospel, the love of Christ and issues of sin and hell with Dr. Troutner. He discussed sexual sin and how homosexuals need to fight these temptations. After their talk, they got up and left the office together, Dr. Troutner putting his arm around Kevin's shoulder.

At the next class, Kevin got back his paper, with a grade of B-plus, and for the rest of the semester, at the end of the discussion time, Dr. Troutner would give Kevin the floor to voice his opinion on whatever the topic was, giving Kevin the opportunity to share how his Christianity influenced his views.

From that point on, Kevin and Dr. Troutner had many more spiritual discussions. While Kevin did not believe Dr. Troutner to be a Christian, he hoped that a seed was planted.

For Kevin, the experience was a major influence on his life as a believer.

"I was just rejoicing in the Lord," Kevin said. "I got an A for the semester instead of getting kicked out. He changed his whole view on me, I was no longer a brainwashed child, but I was someone whose opinion the whole class needed to hear. It was remarkable, I'll never forget it.

"It was a point where my faith was tested. I grew up in a Christian home and Christian middle school and high school, so being tested my freshman year was a big thing.

"I look back to that day and I remember it frequently as the day the Lord showed me His power. Right in front of my face the Lord breaks a man and brings him to his knees. When I had no strength, the Holy Spirit came and broke him and the gospel was presented. It was a glorious thing."

Kevin said he feels today's college students can use his experience during their time on campus. He said universities are a place where many of the people have convinced themselves there is no truth, yet they are desperate for the very truth they pronounce to be fiction. They are desperate for something to hold onto, because in their own way, they have ripped apart whatever foundation was once in their life. While the college students of Christ the Word may feel alone at school, they are not.

"They have the foundation, they have Christ," Kevin said. "Everyone else there is hopeless. The Holy Spirit will break them when necessary. It's tough at times, maybe you need to suffer. But look to Job. All these things pressing in on you, all these concerns, all of us recognize that is the Lord pressing down on us, disciplining us, and refining us, growing our faith through that process. So it is not the Lord's absence, it is the Lord's very presence."

Getting to Know... Annette Colchagoff by Ashley Forney

Christ the Word Church has been abundantly blessed with numerous pairs of tiny feet. While these feet bring joy to many hearts, there are few smiles bigger than the one on the face of a new grandma. Several women in the church have experienced the fresh joy of becoming a grandmother during the first nine years of CTW's life. One of the newest of these grandmothers is Annette Colchagoff.

Annette was raised in Bay Village, Ohio as a nominal Catholic. Her mother took her to mass periodically, but Annette felt convicted to attend more frequently. When she made it to the services, however, she detected very little profit. The service felt very mechanical. Everything was done by rote, which gave the atmosphere a superficial feel. She always departed wanting to know more about God.

Unwilling to give up completely, she attended the religion classes at the church. Still she was left unsatisfied. There was no Bible in her family's house, so whenever they went on vacation, Annette would pick up the Gideon Bible in the hotel room and read. She always started at the beginning and read through most of Genesis. Then, one day, a New Testament was delivered to her family's house. For the first time, Annette was able to read the gospel. It was not until later on in adulthood that she realized that this was the necessary remedy. To know more about God, she needed to read the Bible.

God brought many people into Annette's life to work on her. She had both Christian and non-Christian friends. The comparison of their lives was a testimony to her; she

wanted what her Christian friends had. When she had been married four years and was pregnant with her son, Andrew, she surrendered her life to the Lord.

Annette did not find Pastor David's church immediately. She attended Westgate Chapel, followed by Emmanuel United Brethren. Once she moved to her Crissey Road home, she began attending Springfield United Brethren, Pastor David's former church. It was the AWANA children's program that first attracted Annette to Springfield. She began taking Andrew there when he was



five years old. While he was kept busy, she helped with the program's 3rd and 4th grade girls. Pastor David and Pastor Gary Knapp, who headed up the AWANA program, were soon well-loved by Annette and her son.

Annette loved the intimate days of Springfield. The campouts and 4th of July fireworks that CTW enjoys so well originated at that church.

Annette has fond memories of carpooling with the Baylys to the downtown fireworks. There was much laughter and conversation as enjoyed now by CTW among its own larger congregation.

The University of Toledo was what

initially drew Annette out of Bay Village. She obtained a degree in health and worked for five years as a respiratory therapist at Toledo Hospital. She especially loved working with the children. For this reason, she loved the ten-year position that she held at the Toledo Botanical Gardens. There she helped with the Pioneer Life program and eventually led it herself for a few years. The children brought joy to her heart.

Although she is no longer married, Annette was previously married to a man named Mark, with whom she raised her only son, Andrew.

The way in which God brought Mark and Annette together was very interesting.

Mark and Annette first discovered each other through Annette's interest in glass blowing. His father met Annette at a gas station and discovered her interest. At that time, Mark happened to be teaching a class in his barn. After experiencing glass blowing first-hand, Annette decided it was no longer appealing. However, Mark was a different story. He and Annette remained friends.

One year later, Mark landed in the hospital with Rocky Mountain spotted fever. He called Annette to come visit him

and one year later they tied the knot, and shortly thereafter, God blessed them with their son, Andrew.

There has recently been an addition to Annette's family. Annette has a grandson named Edwin Andrew Colchagoff. She loves him dearly, but is unable to see him very often as he and Andrew and Brittany live in Jackson, Michigan. Grandma Annette places a high value on her grandson's pair of tiny feet especially since they can rarely travel her way.

If you haven't had a chance to meet Annette yet, say hello. You'll enjoy a chance to chat with one of CTW's newest grandmothers; she's a true treasure of Christ the Word.

Wedding vs. Marriage

by Cheryl Bayly

We live in a society where weddings have become all about the bride's desires. Weddings are no longer ceremonies where God is called to witness a couple's vows, but where the bride's body and ego are displayed before men. And all too often, modern weddings are conducted after the fact: the relationship was consummated long before the vows took place. Even within the church, the false teaching of society—that the wedding is all about the desires of the bride—has come to be accepted.

When we look out over CTW's pews and see them filled with children, we can see a future filled with weddings. How should we be preparing to hold weddings that will reflect the types of marriages we desire our children to have?

A successful marriage is not self-serving, but self-sacrificial. Will we approach our weddings this way by causing our wedding ceremonies to honor our future spouse, demonstrate thoughtfulness to our guests and bring glory to God? The approach we take to our wedding will be the character of our marriage.

Will we honor our future spouse by valuing his or her desires for the wedding more than our own?

Will the hospitality we show at our wedding prefigure a hospitable home in years to come? Will the behavior we display at our wedding reveal a desire to honor God first and foremost in our marriage?

I am not suggesting that weddings should be bland. It's entirely appropriate to exercise creativity in planning weddings. Marriage ceremonies should be joyful and wedding receptions should be filled with delight. Our weddings are meant to be an earthly picture of the marriage between Christ and His bride the Church, when the Church will adorn herself for Christ as a bride, radiant and beautiful. And the marriage feast of the Lamb will be a delight for all who attend. But

the bride at that wedding feast will be focused on the Groom. Likewise, our weddings should be filled not by the bride's ego, but with the humility that comes from the bride desiring to please her husband.

Peter tells wives that their beauty should come from a "gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight." To live this way daily within our marriages, we must begin by preparing our weddings with these qualities in view.

I have seen brides rule over the day of their wedding with the imperious authority of a queen. This is "their" day—a day over which their future husband has little say. And then they



wonder why their marriages are filled with strife...

The needs and desires of guests should also weigh heavily in our considerations when we are planning a wedding and reception. Guests are there, ultimately, to serve as witnesses to a covenant. This is a good thing. It is right to make our covenant vows publicly. Guests will remind us of our duties when the going gets rough later in marriage. Yet in preparing for weddings, do we consider the guests as more important than ourselves?

God calls all of us to demonstrate hospitality by providing for others. As a couple prepares for their wedding day, do they consider this their first act of hospitality, or is it a day where it is assumed that the guest will be the one showing the hospitality? It is not necessary to provide an elaborate feast to be hospitable. One recent wedding I was delighted to attend was followed by a reception where there was a simple spread of

desserts and a coffee bar. Despite the lack of ostentation, it was clear this couple had spent time thinking of their guests, planning for their comfort and enjoyment. This brought them joy.

Is God honored at our weddings? Is He seen as the central guest and witness at the ceremony? Or is His presence taken for granted, or even ignored? How do we honor God at a wedding?

First, we honor God by refusing to lie to His face in our wedding ceremony. If our marriage has been consummated physically before the wedding day and we nevertheless forge ahead with the symbolism and statements of virginity in our ceremony, we're playing God for a fool. If you're going to have a wedding, let it be a true wedding. Don't make the ceremony a sham by eating your cake before your vows are spoken. We're told in Hebrews 13:4; "Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure." This purity begins as we fight the temptation to pursue the physical side of marriage before taking the public vows of marriage. Hold high this gift that God has given.

Second, God is honored when our wedding speaks God's truth. At the wedding of a friend's daughter, after the vows were spoken, the pastor said, "Notice I did not say, 'obey,'" at which the congregation laughed. Many people want to be married within the church without a thought for honoring God. When the guests walk away from a wedding what will be in their minds? "Wasn't the bride beautiful?" "They spent a lot of money." "I've never seen a dog as a ring bearer before." Or will they leave having worshipped and glorified God? Will they be perplexed by how different the focus of this wedding was from all the others they attended this summer?

Weddings are not the conclusion of a process, but the beginning. Understand that the preparations for the wedding are preparing the bride and groom for how they will live out their marriage.

Getting to Know... Andy Nyberg by Ryan Brown

So, how similar are you to Andrew Nyberg? I asked myself that question and took this quiz to find out:

Like being outdoors? **Check.**

Went to UT? **Check.**

Prefer natural foods? **Check.**

Enjoy skiing since a kid? **Check.**

Father's an architect? **Check.**

Enjoy hangin' with Tim Varner? **Check.**

Never liked the Pinocchio movie? **Check.**

Been to Antarctica? **No.**

I have definitely not been to Antarctica, or even to every single continent on Earth. But Andrew has!

Anyway, we'll start at the very beginning, a very good place to start. Andrew was born; born to a school teacher and to an architect who designed schools. He grew up in Minnesota with an older brother, who now lives in Denver with his wife and children.

Andrew was raised in the Congregationalist denomination where he was involved with youth camps at his church during high school, mainly because it was the cool thing to do in his community. However, God used this for His purpose. Andrew remembers that it was at these camps that his love for God began. During college, God continued to grow faith in Andrew while attending InterVarsity Fellowships in New York City and at University of Denver during his undergrad years.

After moving to Toledo, CTW member Allison Curtis sat behind Andrew in one of his classes in med school at UT, and soon invited him to CTW.

He originally thought that Pastor David was a fire-and-brimstone pastor! While scared of him at first, Andrew says that he's really come to love David a lot. Andrew currently

attends the South Toledo [French] Pathway when he's able, and enjoys being around his church family at that time.

Andrew tries to live simply—by enjoying life and the creation that God has made. If he can open the windows and turn the A/C off, he'll do it. If it's raining, he'd enjoy reading a book on the front porch. If he wants something to listen to, he's likely to listen to NPR. If outside, he'd prefer to be sea kayaking or skiing. If traveling, he may choose Oregon, because he's been to all the other forty-nine US states and every continent!

Andrew desires to be friendly and easy going and he likes to make his work fun. Right now, he is working in the trauma surgery service at St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center as part of his residency program. Yes, he has graduated from UTMC, and is now a medical doctor. So you're welcome to call him Dr. Nyberg, but he's cool with Andrew.

Andrew lives in south Toledo, right next to the Zoo off Broadway, where he can listen to concerts at the Zoo amphitheater from his porch. While Toledo is far too flat for his tastes, he is content being at St. V's. He's glad it's a Catholic hospital system because there are medical issues that, as a Christian, he doesn't have to worry about, such as administering abortion pills.

In college, Andrew loved his visit to Antarctica, where he went with his family on an ice-breaking ship to visit one of the bases there. One of the things Andrew would love to do is to be an on-site physician there

for a year (the standard rotation length). He also would love to end up practicing wilderness medicine in Nepal, at a ski resort or somewhere where he'd handle emergency care, but he'd also treat many locals as a typical physician would. But if the Lord wills, he'd also be happy to find a practice out west, perhaps in the American Samoa, once he's done with residency.

Please be praying for Andrew. He desires to be a good doctor, and wants to continue to be helpful and genuinely caring to his patients. Pray that he'd make good decisions at work that are best for his patients. He also wants to be closer to God.



Pray that our Lord would draw him nearer, and that Andrew would be faithful to Him.

In closing, I encourage you go talk to Andrew and say hello. He's very easy to chat with, and enjoys life. He has many fascinating stories and experiences to talk about. Invite him over for dinner or go out for coffee sometime. You'll be glad you got to know Dr. Andrew Nyberg better!

ctw PATHWAYS

2011-2012

Are Pathways for Me?



by Jason Wiltse

Are you interested in growing in your relationship with Christ? Do you desire to have intimate Christian fellowship? Do you like to laugh joyfully with the members of your spiritual family? Does the term "loving atmosphere" appeal to you? If you answered "yes," to the questions above, then Pathways are for you, and now is the time to join one because Christ the Word's 2011-2012 Pathway year is just about underway.

If the term *Pathways* is not familiar to you, let me explain. Pathways is the name we have given our Bible study/fellowship/care group/prayer meeting/worship time/spiritual family get-together home-based ministry. That may sound like a lot, and it is; Pathways encompass much of what we do in corporate worship, but in a smaller, more intimate context.

Let me briefly describe what you can expect to find at Christ the Word's Pathways:

Bible Study

Pathway Bible studies are in-depth, teacher-led, with a focus on applica-

tion from the Word. The word instructs, reveals, challenges and shapes our view of everything in the world. Our Pathways are anchored by our commitment to God's word. From the Word we are taught the most important fact in history: God gave His Son, Jesus Christ to die for sinners and that sinners need to have faith in Him in order to have eternal life. The Christian needs to be nourished by the Word, and Pathways provide a place to eat our spiritual food.

Fellowship

Pathway fellowship is joyful. Our fellowship is an expression of our love for one another, and by participating in it, we strengthen our love for the Body of Christ. By this we are able to effectively minister to one another.

In fellowship we give and receive guidance, accountability, support and prayer.

An important part of our Pathway fellowship is the sharing of meals or snacks. I have to confess that I have a Wednesday night ritual where I get home from Pathway and groan on the couch from enjoying the fellowship around the snack table for too long. What can I say? I love fellowship!

Care (Meeting the Needs of the Body)

"If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,' and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself."

JAMES 2:15-17

As I stated earlier, our Pathway members love one another. Love is not just a kind or warm thought; it is

action. We express love and faith by caring for the spiritual and physical welfare of each other.

Prayer

There is almost nothing more exciting than the fact that God hears us and answers our prayers. At Pathways we lift up our needs before God, expecting that He will graciously attend to our needs. He does, and He is good.

We also are in the practice of confessing our sins to one another during the prayer time. The Scripture states: "If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us." "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

During the time of prayer and confession, the men and women of the group separate. This facilitates a more comfortable atmosphere where we can share requests and speak honestly about the particular struggles in our Christian walk. Let me say, if this sounds uncomfortable, you won't be forced or coerced by your group into confessing your sins; rather, our hope is that confession will become a regular practice for all of us, as the Word states that it should. It is cleansing to the soul, and you will be surrounded by other sinners who love you.

Worship

At Christ the Word we are committed to exuberant worship that is joyful and glorifying to God. At Pathways we sing, and some of us are loud and off-key, and that's okay. (Thankfully, there is that Scripture passage about "making a joyful noise.")

Being a Light in the World

As of February 2011, our Pathways have taken part in the CTW abortion protest ministry located at 1160 W. Sylvania Ave., in Toledo. Each Pathway takes a turn approximately once every three months to witness to the women seeking abortions. God has graciously given us success in this ministry. Several women have turned away, and one woman not only decided not to kill her child, but she may give her baby up to be adopted by a family in our church.

We praise God for this work of the Holy Spirit, and for the members of Pathways who have not hidden their light.

Again, Love...

I am convinced that if you join a Pathway, you will sense that you are part of a spiritual family whose members are committed to obeying Jesus's words: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

"By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35

Pathways are the place where we grow in faith and prove that we are His disciples.

We have eleven Pathways that meet during the week throughout the Toledo area, and yes, that does include two Pathways in Southeast Michigan! If you would like more information about Pathways (or exercising self-control around the fellowship snack table) please call the church office at: 419-329-1100.

Whiteford Rd. Pathway

Day: 1st & 3rd Sundays
Time: After service
Location: Ahrendt Home
Start Date: Sept. 18
Book: Galatians
Teacher: Mike Ahrendt

Sylvania Pathway

Day: 2nd & 4th Sundays
Time: 6:00p.m.
Location: Miklovic Home
Start Date: Sept. 11
Book: James
Teacher: Jeff Schriener

South Toledo Pathway

Day: 2nd & 4th Sundays
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Location: French Home
Start Date: Sept. 11
Book: Hebrews
Teacher: Matt French

Consear Road Pathway

Day: Wednesdays
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Wing Home
Start Date: Oct. 12
Book: Romans
Teacher: Steve Wing

West Toledo Pathway

Day: Wednesdays
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Holder Home
Start Date: Sept. 7
Book: Romans
Teacher: Kevin Holder

Swanton Pathway

Day: Thursdays
Time: 6:45 p.m.
Location: Daugherty Home
Start Date: Sept. 15*
Book: Ephesians
Teacher: Ben Byers

Timber Creek Pathway

Day: 1st and 3rd Fridays**
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Meyers Home
Start Date: Sept. 9
Book: Phillipians
Teacher: Dave Meyers

Haskins Pathway

Day: Fridays
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Simpson Home
Start Date: Sept. 16
Book: Romans
Teacher: Kevin Simpson

Old Orchard Pathway

Day: 2nd and 4th Fridays
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Van Wormers Home
Start Date: Sept. 9
Book: Ephesians
Teacher: Cary Duchene

Friday Night Bible Study

Day: Fridays
Time: 7:30 p.m.***
Location: Forney Home
Start Date: Sept. 16
Book: Joshua
Teacher: Bob Forney

More Than Conquerors

Day: Saturdays
Time: 7:00 a.m.
Location: Church office
Start Date: Sept. 10
Topic: The Patriarchs
Teacher: Mario Dominguez

*will kick off with a cookout

**will be meeting on 2nd & 4th Fridays for fellowship & service projects

***Sept. 16 will meet at 6:00 pm for cookout prior to study

W

Women of the Word

Learn and Live by Wendy Foulke

“There can be no intimacy without sacrifice.” As I recently heard this quote, my mind drifted off to all of the sacrifices made by my husband, my friends, and even myself, and all of the beautiful relationships developed because of those sacrifices. The same is true with our relationship with God. In order for it to deepen, we must make efforts to know Him. A minimal-effort relationship results in a cursory knowledge of our Lord. However, a sacrificial relationship produces a better understanding of His character, makes us relish His deep love and mercy, and causes us to grow in holiness.

Developing a disciplined spiritual life takes time and effort. We must adopt certain behaviors, like being in the Word and praying throughout the day, and shed other behaviors, like self-dependence and trusting in worldly wisdom. Keep in mind, of course, that all of our most godly outward behaviors must stem from a heart changed and inflamed by the Holy Spirit alone.

When we are learning more and more about the Lord, when His Word is being placed deep within our hearts and memories, when we go to Him in prayer and depend upon Him for comfort, peace and truth, then there is a natural outpouring from our lives. We believe the truth of the Word rather than the lies of the world. We have peace that passes all understanding. We speak and pray the Word and it encourages its hearers.

Rather than a “live and learn” attitude where our life is purposeless and random, and where we keep making mistakes and learn from them after-the-fact, the WOW committee wants to challenge the women of Christ the Word to live disciplined, self-sacrificial lives where we are actually “learning and living” in a purposeful, God-centered way. To start off, we must first be new creations; otherwise, without a regenerated heart, we are just doing “good, Christian things.” When we have been given faith and have been redeemed by the blood of Christ, then we desire to know God more and more. Often, though, we must be challenged to become spiritually disciplined in order to deepen that intimacy.

This discipline of our flesh involves memorizing the Word of God, consistent time in prayer, and times of fasting, among other aspects.

This past year I began a new spiritual discipline: memorizing large chunks of scripture. It has been difficult, and I have known that any success was only due to God’s power working through me. This was not a natural skill for me (at least not since my much-younger days!). You may be coming up with all sorts of reasons why memory work is not “your thing.” Consider this quote by Don Whitney, though.

“What if I offered you one thousand dollars for every verse you could memorize in the next seven days? Do you think your attitude towards Scripture memory and your ability to memorize would improve? Any financial reward would be minimal when compared to the accumulating value of the treasure of God’s Word deposited within your mind.”

II Peter describes several ways for us to grow our faith as we “learn and live”:

“But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness, love.

“For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is short-sighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

“Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure. For if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

2 PETER 1: 5-11

Take up the challenge to “Learn and Live.” Know that you will need to make sacrifices. But, like the apostle Paul, we will be able to say “I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.”

Save the Date!

Van Engen Baby Shower

Please join the ladies of Christ the Word in a baby shower to celebrate God’s gift of a child to Andrew and Andrea Van Engen. The open house shower will be held October 15th from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the home of Cindy Skaff, with the devotional being given at 10:30.

The Van Engens are currently registered at Babies R’ Us.

Wow fellowship event!

“O Come Let Us Adore Him” will be the theme for the Women of the Word Christmas fellowship event this year on November 29th. Come join others in songs, prayer, and celebration for the birth of our Messiah!

2012 Women’s Retreat

Please prepare to join us March 9-10 at the Hilton Garden Inn at Levis Commons in Perrysburg. Keep watching for more details as the time draws closer!

WOW Teaching Event

We hope you’re planning to attend the upcoming WOW teaching event, *Love: The Real Deal*. Join us as Judy Cleveland unpacks the implications and actions that should follow an understanding of Paul’s call in Romans 12:9 to love sincerely, hate evil, and cling to good. Consider inviting a friend to attend and be

sure to RSVP at the WOW table in the Narthex by September 11th. Look for your invitation beginning August 21st.

Love: The Real Deal will take place on Saturday, September 17th at the Maumee Indoor Theater on Conant Street. The event will run from 9:30-12:30 a.m. and will be concluded with a luncheon.

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. Sign-up sheets are available in the narthex where you can put your name down, give your contact information, and indicate whether you need a study guide.

Monday evening

Topic: Colossians/Philemon

Place: Sue Oberly’s home

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: James, I & II Peter

Place: Erika Simpson’s home

Time: 9:15 a.m.

Contact: Cheryl Bayly

WOW Calendar:

September 17th

Teaching Event @ Maumee Indoor Theater

October 15th

Van Engen Baby Shower @Cindy Skaff’s

November 29th

WOW Christmas Fellowship

March 9-10, 2012

WOW Retreat

September quote:

“To abide in Christ means to keep up a habit of constant close communion with Him—to be always leaning on Him, resting on Him, pouring out our hearts to Him, and using Him as our Fountain of life and strength, as our chief Companion and best Friend. To have His words abiding in us, is to keep His sayings and precepts continually before our memories and minds, and to make them the guide of our actions and the rule of our daily conduct and behavior.” -J. C. Ryle

Christ the Word's New Trigger-Puller



by Mike Ahrendt

"The in-laws are coming for a visit." It sounds like the start of a joke or the plot from an episode of a situation comedy.

Following such a pronouncement, what follows might be tension derived from being face-to-face with long-standing dysfunction and the remnants of past family squabbles. There could also be conflict originating from well-meaning extended family members who try to offer advice on a myriad of topics. However, when Moses got the news that his father-in-law Jethro would be visiting him in the wilderness, it was a cause for great joy.

Moses had been a busy man. He had gone toe-to-toe with Pharaoh, watching as God brought plague after plague upon Egypt. Pharaoh eventually relented and allowed the Israelites to leave, but soon began an aggressive pursuit. Moses witnessed God's omnipotence and protection firsthand as He parted the Red Sea and wiped out Pharaoh's pursuing army. In the wilderness, Moses was quickly tested as the people complained that they were hungry and thirsty. He cried out to God for answers. God again proved faithful, providing water—first at the springs of Elim, and later from a rock. Manna rained down from the sky to feed the people.

The next challenge came at Rephidim. Amalek attacked Israel, and Moses had to switch from providing for his people to defending them. Moses implemented his battle plan. He told Joshua to assemble an army. Moses would then go to the top of the hill with the staff of God in his hand.

On the day of battle, Aaron and Hur joined Moses on the hill, providing support for him as he grew weary. The success of the army of Israel was tied to Moses' ability to hold the staff in the air. When his hands were held high, Israel prevailed. When his hands dropped, Amalek prevailed. Aaron and Hur held Moses' hands high until the evening. Joshua and the army were victorious. The assistance given by these men was a foreshadowing of the advice about to be given by Jethro.

As Jethro arrived, Moses enthusiastically recalled all that the people of Israel had experienced and God's faithfulness throughout. Jethro praised God, exclaiming, "Now I know that the LORD is greater than all the gods."

The next day he witnessed a typical day for Moses. Jethro was now greatly concerned and said, "You will surely wear out, both yourself and these people who are with you, for the task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone."

Jethro proposed that Moses assign men to share the workload. These were to be men who were not only able (having the skills to do the job), but also godly ("men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain"). Jethro not only suggested what Moses should delegate, he told him what jobs to keep:

"Now listen to me: I will give you counsel, and God be with you. You be the people's representative before God, and you bring the disputes to God, then teach them the statutes and the laws, and make known to them the way in which they are to walk and the work they are to do."

Exodus 18: 19-20

Moses was to focus on seeking God on behalf of the people, teaching

God's law, and giving direction on how the people were to live in the context of the law. Interestingly, shortly after these changes are made, Israel moves from Rephidim to Sinai and Moses is given the Ten Commandments.

Christ the Word Church is also at a crossroads that requires an assessment of how the work is distributed. With Pastor Andrew's recent departure and the demands of a building program upon us, the workload on David and the rest of the staff has increased.

When David begins treatment for hepatitis-C in coming months, there is also concern for the fatigue that is likely to follow from taking these medications. Like Jethro, the elders see the need for able and godly support. Enter Max Curell.

Many in our congregation know Max as the Associate Pastor for ClearNote Church (formerly Church of the Good Shepherd) in Bloomington. What many don't know is that Max attended CTW for about six months before he took that position. Max had been sent to Toledo from Cincinnati in 1989 to plant a Vineyard church. In the meantime, his study of the word led him to become reformed. Max met David while David was pastor at Springfield United Brethren, and began attending Christ the Word when our church was started.

Max describes his role as that of a "trigger puller." In the early days of CTW, he was a part of an outreach committee and began our practice of distributing bottled water at Fourth of July festivities. When Tim Bayly's church needed a pastor, David recommended Max for the position. Max "pulled the trigger" on small groups and a change in worship music upon arrival in Bloomington.

The elders of ClearNote have graciously agreed to "share" Max with Christ the Word on an interim basis. Max is typically in Toledo from Tuesday through Thursday, leading the staff meeting, meeting with pastors and staff, and sharing wisdom from many years as a pastor. We praise God that we have an able and godly man to share the load!

No Gum, Candy or Other Food Items in Classrooms

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.

Everlasting Word Band Concert

Come and join the Everlasting Word Band for an exciting concert at the Fulton County Fair. They will be playing on Monday, Sept. 5, (Labor Day) at 9 p.m. The concert will be held in the Gospel Tent. Hope to see you there!

Dionne Family Contact Info

Home Address:

151 Plemmons Road
Lyman, SC 29365

Church Address:

Trinity Presbyterian Church
500 Oak Grove Road
Spartanburg, SC 29301

Andrew's Cell: 864-384-8770

Sarah's Cell: 864-431-1150

Building Project Update

If you have not been to the new church building site in the last month, or even in the last week, you are encouraged to come out and witness all the work being done.

Recently, stairs have been put in place, some drywall on the first floor, railing around the balcony and mall area of the building, plumbing for future sinks, toilets and a drinking fountain, plenty of HVAC and

electrical along with lots of metal studs for future walls and structures. We have also begun putting in insulation and the fire suppression equipment.

Although much work is done, there is still plenty to do. Praise God for the many hands that have worked on this project, especially those from Christ the Word who have sacrificed so much going all the way back to last November.

New Sunday Schools

God calls us in II Timothy to "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth."

We encourage you to make attendance to one of the following classes a priority beginning August 28 at 9 a.m. Your participation will not only strengthen your life in Christ but will also be a help to those with whom you study. The classes that will be available are:

Biblical Conflict Resolution

Conflict is a given when we are a part of any organization. However, the godly resolution of that conflict is not. Mike Ahrendt will lead this class focusing on responding to and resolving conflict in the manner prescribed by Scripture and in a way that brings glory to God.

Christian Contentment

In Phillipians, God admonishes us, through the apostle Paul, to be "content." He says it this way, "Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content". Darren Morgan and Jeremy Heyerly will admonish us to be "content" in all things, trusting God and his provision in our lives. Consider joining together for this fruitful time of prayer and fellowship.

Compass Class and New Membership Class

If you have ever asked yourself "What is Christ the Word really about?", "How do I get involved?", "Which "Pathway" should I attend, and what is a "Pathway," anyway?", then the Compass Class is for you!

Compass is an informal and conversational class that offers the opportunity to learn more about CTW and to meet both recent and long-term CTW worshippers. Each week will have a new topic, as well as plenty of fellowship and refreshments. This eight-week program will commence on September 18 in the kitchen during Sunday school hour, and on November 6 there will be an afternoon luncheon with the class.

Then, for those interested in becoming members, a New Membership Class will begin November 13. If you are interested in joining either of these classes, please contact Scott Kilby.

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

September Calendar

- Sept. 5** **Everlasting Word Band Concert
@ Fulton Co. Fair Gospel Tent**
- Sept. 17** **WOW Teaching Event at
Maumee Indoor Theater**

Mark Your Calendar

- Oct. 15** **Van Engen Baby Shower**
- Nov. 29** **WOW Christmas Fellowship**
- Mar. 9-10** **2012 WOW Retreat**