



The Grapevine

“Humble yourselves therefore under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on I’m because he cares for you. “ 1 Peter 5:6-7

PRAY!

Unbelievers don’t pray because they are afraid that God might be there. Believers don’t pray because they are afraid that He might not be.

God is really there! I’ve checked!

The most important thing I’ve found is that prayer is not just for experts. It’s for people like you and me. It’s for people who mess up, who have doubts, and who wonder. It’s for those who cry out in pain and who search for a resource that will get them through it. It’s for the powerless, the weak, and the lonely. It’s for those who pretend that they have it together and are afraid others will discover the lie. It’s for people who wince then they see the bumper sticker that says, “Life is hard and then you die.” Prayer is for people who sometimes feel like eagles in chicken coops and who dream about flying.

Prayer is for those who, in the hazy time between waking and sleeping, think that there has got to be more to life than getting up the next morning to make enough money to pay the mortgage on a house so they have a place to sleep to get up in the morning to make enough to pay the mortgage.

For those of you who doubt, wouldn’t it be nice if there were a God Who liked you, Who cared about you, and Who was interested in you and your dreams? I know. I know. You wonder and have doubts. But wouldn’t it be nice?

For those of you who doubt and admit it, and for those of you who seldom doubt but sometimes wonder, I’ve got some good news for you. It’s about you and it’s about God. But mostly it’s about a relationship.

For those of you who are afraid to pray because you are afraid that He might not be there. I have some very good news. I've checked, and He's really there.

For those of you who won't pray because you are afraid that He might be there, I have some rather disturbing news: You have every reason to be disturbed – and overjoyed. He's there! He's really there!

Prayer is what happens when we cry out to our Heavenly Father and, no matter what the words, no matter what the feelings, no matter what the method, when it happens, that is prayer!

Pray! God desires an on-going personal relationship with you....Pray!

A couple of further thoughts concerning prayer....

One rabbi, when asked about the proper position for prayer, commented that he had once fallen down a very narrow well and that the best praying he ever did was standing on his head!

Ruth Bell Graham (Billy Graham's wife) wrote:

"God has not always answered my prayers. If He had, I would have married the wrong man – several times!"





CW SPORTS

And Jesus said: “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them for as such belongs the Kingdom of Heaven”

Well, after a rough, cold, and snowy start, we have had several weeks of practice with the new teams

that are playing basketball for CWSports League this year.

We have a wonderful group of athletes this year. All of them seem eager to play and have a good time. Our practice nights are Tuesday and Friday. I am handling the Tuesday evening practice and Tracy is handling the Friday evening. That makes things a bit easier on the Commissioners. Our Coaches are really fired up and anxious to help our young athletes learn and grow in every way.....learning basketball, spiritual ideas and as team players.

We had to cancel our first week of play because of the snow but we are determined to move ahead and play this week. I have found that it is a joy to watch and cheer our teams on to victory. Victory doesn't always mean winning the games. Sometimes it means just being able to dribble down the floor or passing successfully to another team member. I would encourage all to become a part of the support by attending the games and cheering

the kids and the coaches and of course the families on to a morning of fun, fairness, and meeting new friends.

I want to thank those that have volunteered their time.....we have a wonderful Board of Directors that have helped us with every goofy idea we have.....I can't begin to name them all but I hope they know that Tracy and I appreciate the help and hugs along the way. We had a family donate several new balls this year and Pastor Ralph worked on the timer so that I won't forget and give the teams longer play time.

Have a great month and if you just can't come to cheer us on, please pray for all of us...for health and prosperity.

CWSports Board of Directors Tracy Milburn Karen Watts

Parents and Coaches we are so blessed by your encouragement and attitudes.





MISSIONS

Missionary work is so important in the furthering of God's kingdom here on earth. They are called to go all over the world to reach the unsaved. Their hours are long and their work is hard but they drive on because there is still so much more to be done.

I thought it would be interesting this month to include articles written by two of the missionaries whom we support;

1. Ken Byron – LACF (Latin American Children's Fund)

"I am humbly appreciative of God's people who come to RLC School in Peru and give of their time and resources to advance God's work. Thank you to the Breiel Boulevard Church of God in Middletown, Ohio for bringing a work camp full of awesome workers this summer. You all did an amazing job constructing new sidewalks for the school, painting, and doing much-needed repairs. We appreciate all who helped with the two-week Vacation Bible School for the community. We enjoyed your fellowship and hope you enjoyed meeting the children and staff of RLC School. And a special thank you to those who selected a child to sponsor. Your personal involvement in this work that God has called me to do is a great encouragement, both to me and to the sponsored child. You and your church may schedule a work camp to RLC School by contacting our **Work Camp Coordinator Terrence Volden at trvolden@taylor.edu.**

LACF is just one of the four missionaries that our church supports. You see by Ken's

letter how much they want and need the involvement of churches and individuals.

2. Elizabeth Eno – Wycliffe Volunteer & Intern Placement (VIP)

I am currently working with **25 volunteers and interns** – 9 who are already serving overseas, 15 who are in the application process and therefore need: orientation, Travel arrangements (including visas/immunizations), and actual job assignments secured.

I have 1 intern who has returned from the field for whom I will conduct a Debrief.

I'm also coaching our new team member, Michael, as he walks through the VIP process with 4 additional overseas folks.

January and May is the busiest season for our department.

A lot of hours are spent vetting incoming applicants.

After accepting a candidate, the most important part of my job is matching the skills

and interests of the volunteer or intern with the needs of Bible Translators in the field.

The work of the missionary is long and hard and, they need help. If you are not already supporting a missionary then please consider one of the four that we support.

LACF --- Latin American Children's Fund --- Ken Byron
Wycliffe Bible Translators --- Elizabeth Eno
Missionary to the Indian Reservations – Chris Pick
Pregnancy Decision Health Center

Respectfully and Prayerfully Submitted,

Bud



A LETTER TO THE CHURCH

Dear CW Church,

These past almost 15 years has been so amazing and full of its ups and downs. Through them all everyone of you have been there to support me through my triumphs and my downfalls. God truly has blessed me with a family that worships together under one roof and also He has blessed me with a church family that has taken me and my family in as their own and we truly have become one big family of God. One that we can count on and lean on in hard times and share the burden of life with. My family may not all admit that this time of being gone is a big burden but I

promise you it is. The Watts curse is that we internalize everything and we put on strong fronts while inside we are completely melting. No matter how hard we try God places someone from church to call or stop by out of the blue and just say the right thing that pulls us together again. I thank God every day for placing you in my life and for giving me the trials He has so that I would grow and I'm so glad that you all have been there through the years to watch and let me succeed and fail on my own but also step in and guide me through my struggles and lead me to an outcome that shouts God's handiwork.

Thank you all so much for your love and support and for all that you have done, are doing and will do for my family and I during this rough and trying time.

With all my love and affection,
Andrew Watts





SPOTLIGHT FAMILY

Hi my name is Karen Phelps. I have been married 50+ years to the very witty man known as Ron around the church. We have two grown children, both married. Alan (Deniz) is our oldest son who lives in Springfield, Ohio. Alan has two children Courtney and Cody. Our daughter Stacy (Michael) lives close to us and you see her around church with her two boys Payton and Nate! We have a newer member to our household since last August. That is my 90 year old mother, Goldie. You see her with us at church. Come and say hi.

After Ron and I got married we moved from southern Ohio to Columbus and lived on the west side. Our former pastor was related to Richard and Bonnie Neff and he told us there was a First Church of God close to us. Being young and having jobs and a child on the way we never pursued church. After Alan was born I occasionally would take him to a Baptist church close by but not on a regular basis. Fast forward a couple of years and we had built our house and had Stacy. It was then I got more serious about finding a church. I searched out Columbus West and started going to church a few weeks later.

I think that was in 1971. Shortly after that I was baptized and both Ron and I have been



coming to Columbus West since.

There were lots of young married couples there at the time and most of us had small children. Richard and Bonnie invited us to the New Year's eve party that year. I have to say we were a wild and fun bunch. I seriously thought we may get excommunicated from the church at times. LOL! No seriously we had some wonderful times together and still enjoy the company of our church family.

As life does it takes many turns through the years and it certainly has with ours. In all the ups and downs our church family has always been by our side. I think Columbus West is a very supportive and loving church. With that I want to say we thank and love you all for being there!

KIDS CLUB

The **patriarchs** of the **Bible**; **Abraham**, his son **Isaac**, and Isaac's son **Jacob**, also named Israel, the ancestor of the **Israelites**. These three figures are referred to collectively as the **patriarchs**, and the period in which they lived is known as the **patriarchal age**. (Wikipedia)

What do you know about them? What significance do they play in the life of the church? What can we learn from their lives that help us in our daily walk of faith with God?

On Wednesday nights, Kids Club has begun a journey back in time from the beginning of the Worlds Creation through the important characters in the Bible. We have just learned, among many things, about the importance of forgiveness from two brothers that began fighting with each other from the womb. Jacob and Esau.

Many times in life we are asked to forgive others when they have wronged us and our response is, "nope, I can't." "You don't know what they have done to me." We saw Jacob, the trickster, change many times. We learned how God grew Jacob and saw the things that happened to him because of his tricking others many times in his life. He, Jacob, became the subject of others tricking him and he finally understood what God was trying to teach him.

This week he is forced to come face to face with his brother whom he has wounded very badly many times. Esau has every right to be mad and has threatened to kill his brother if ever they met again. But Esau changes too. He allows love to change his heart. Instead of two warring brothers, we see how God's Love brings forgiveness and reconciliation.

Even though it is hard, we can learn to do this with the people we interact with in our lives. Miss Sharon and I are so blessed to share this time with the kids in Kids Club.

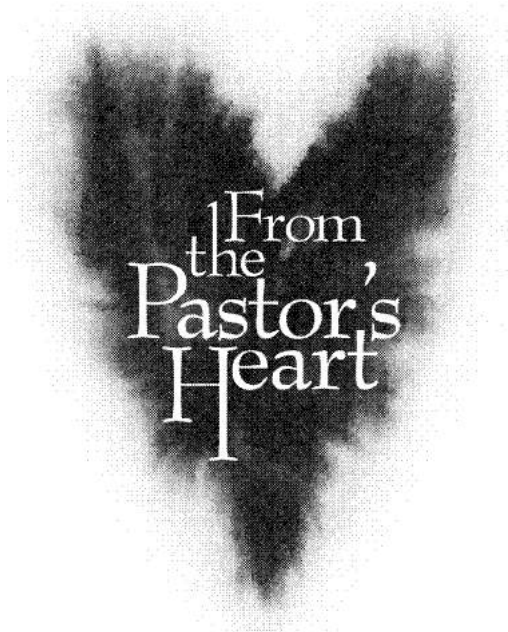
I hope we will see YOU in Kids Club, as we continue to go, back in time!



J Q Y N L H B Y P H F
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ABRAHAM
 ISAAC
 JACOB

FORGIVENESS
 ISRAELITES
 PATRIARCH



*“O God, I have tasted Thy goodness, and it has both satisfied me and made me thirsty for more. I am painfully conscious of my need for further grace. I am ashamed of my lack of desire. O God, the Triune God, I want to want Thee: I long to be filled with longing; I thirst to be made more thirsty still. Show me Thy glory, I pray Thee, so that I may know Thee indeed. Begin in mercy a new work of love within me. Say to my soul, ‘Rise up my love, my fair one, and come away.’ Then give me grace to rise and follow Thee up from this misty lowland where I have wandered so long.” A. W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God**

I read this in a recent book that I’m reading and thought, “Is this my desire? Do I want to want God?” Think about that for a moment. We talk about the passage of Scripture that says, **“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”** However, do we really know what that means? Now, before I get too far into this, I don’t want to evoke a spirit of fear in the Lord, unless it’s one of respect. I don’t want to evoke a spirit of guilt. You see the concern that I



have for the church, not God’s Church, but the church, is that many who attend are *“Lukewarm.”* They are satisfied with where they are in their walk with the Lord. That burdens me. That bothers me. That drives me to my knees. That drives me to the Word. That drives me to reach out to people and minister on a level that I’ve not ministered on in a really long time. However, evoking an emotion of fear and guilt are not an antidote for lukewarm, selfish, comfortable living people.

The answer instead is to love. There’s a person who once said, “I love, love.” Don’t we all? Don’t we crave it? Isn’t that what God wants of us, to crave this relationship with Him as we crave all genuine love relationships? Isn’t that what brings Him glory—when believers *desire, hunger and thirst* after Him and are not merely slaves who serve him out of obligation? Paul wrote it this way to the church at Galitia, **“You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” Galatians 5:13-14**

Do you understand what this passage is saying? When we love, we’re free!!!! We don’t have to worry about a burdensome load of commands, because when we are loving, we can’t sin. Do you feel free in your Christian life? In the same chapter, Paul writes, **“The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love” (v. 6).** Is loving God—and, by extension, loving

people—what you are about? Is it what being a Christian means to you? Do you live as though faith, demonstrated through love, really is the only thing that counts?

The other day I was on my “Pastor” group FB page. There was a question that was posed to all of us, “What passage did we read today that has challenged us?” There were several entries and posts, mine included. There was one pastor who wrote, “*1 John 4:8... 'How can I love more like God loves me?'*” That struck a huge cord in me. Maybe it was the day, maybe it was the soup I had for lunch, however, I believe it was the Holy Spirit speaking to me. Am I loving like God in all areas of my life? There are people who attack my family, me, the church, and it gets really hard to look at them and love them as God loves them. Yet, *I want to want God*. Not just the pieces of Him that fit, all of Him. That means loving in the hard times. I need to hunger and thirst after righteousness. We’ll talk more about this next time, but for now evaluate your Christian walk and see if you love, love. Do you love God the way He loves you?

Love y’all,
Pastor Rob



How does the Mosquito Illustrate Endurance by Knowing How and When to use its Resources?



The irritation was so annoying that it was hard for him to concentrate on anything else. The more he scratched, the worse it became. He had rubbed so much that now the area was an open sore. He was a strong, burly man toughened by constant exposure to harsh weather and the rigorous life of a lumberjack. His skin was like leather. It was a wonder that anything could have penetrated it. But something had, and the large, itching welt on his arm was an exasperating reminder of a tiny insect.

It was early June, and the mosquitoes were just hatching. Within a few weeks a profusion of these little creatures would fill the woods, giving no rest to the occupants. This was the lumberjack’s first bite of the season. Each year he noticed that the first was always the worst. It would take a while for his body to build up an immunity to the irritating stings, but by the end of

the season the bites would have very little effect and he would be able to overlook and ignore these pesky, little things.

The mosquito is a remarkable creature. It actually has no teeth, so it is not accurate to say that it bites. It would be more correct to say that it pierces the skin with its long, slender beak. During its seventeen to thirty-day lifespan, the female engages in a “biting” spree every two to three days.

How is it possible for this tiny insect to penetrate tough skin? The secret lies in its proboscis. It is difficult to fully appreciate this insect without the use of a magnifying glass or microscope. When studying the insect under a microscope, one is astonished to see the intricate and complex way in which the mosquito is constructed. What appears to the naked eye as a simple piercing instrument is actually a sheath-like case formed by the mosquito’s lower lip. Like a surgeon’s black bag, it contains a set of specialized tools neatly arranged and ready for the mosquito’s use.

These minute instruments include a pair of lances, two saws—each with a different cutting edge, one fine and one coarse—and two syringes. One syringe is for the purpose of injecting saliva; the other draws out the victim’s blood. On either side of the mosquito’s head is another set of instruments—long feelers which the mosquito skillfully uses to perform its operations. To overcome a difficult object such as the lumberjack’s tough skin, the mosquito explores the surface with the long feelers attached to the sides of its head. The feelers assist it in finding the softest spot to attack.

Once the spot has been found the mosquito skillfully goes to work using the tip of its beak as a guide. It forces the cover back around the tools and begins operating, first penetrating the skin with sharp lances and saws. The mosquito uses whichever tool is necessary to make a cut through the surface of the skin. It then inserts the syringes into the cut and injects saliva with an anticoagulant quality. This allows the blood to be freely siphoned up through the other syringe.

Its array of precision tools, the skill with which it uses them and great persistence in obtaining the blood necessary for its offspring, enables the mosquito not only to endure but about in vast quantities.



How does Scripture Illustrate the Need to Know How and When to use the Resources Available to us?



What king conquered an army of a million men because he relied upon the Lord but when faced with a much smaller army depended upon his own wisdom?

A young king heard reports of an approaching army. At first he was confident. He had spent ten years preparing his nations for battle. Tearing down all the heathen altars, images, high places, and groves, he had commanded the people to seek the Lord and follow His commandments. He built fortified cities and established a standing army of over half a million mighty men of valor. But when he approached the battlefield, he was dismayed to face an army of a million men with hundreds of chariots.

He realized that his resources were insufficient and cried out to God, “It is nothing with Thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O Lord our God; for we rest on Thee, and in Thy name we go against this multitude. O Lord, Thou art our God; Let no man prevail against Thee.”

He recognized that this was God’s battle, and God fought for him. The invading army was completely destroyed. Vast amounts of gold, silver, precious things, cattle, sheep, and camels were carried away by this victorious king and his men.

News of the victory spread throughout the land, and many came to live in the kingdom when they saw that the Lord God was with him. All the people renewed their covenant to see the Lord. The king even removed his grandmother from being queen because she had made an idol. But the high places—altars of improper worship—began to reappear.

Another enemy came against the king. This time he took money from the house of God and hired a neighboring army to fight against the enemy. This strategy was successful militarily, but a prophet warned, “Was not the first army huge but because you relied on the Lord He

delivered them into your hand? Now because you have relied on a neighboring army you have done foolishly. It was God's intention that you conquer that neighboring army also. From this time forth you will have wars."

Three years later the king faced another test when he became diseased in his feet. Once again he failed to rely on the Lord. Instead he sought only the help of physicians. Two years later he died.

It is inconceivable that a king would fail to use the resources which had already proven so effective, but those resources required in him a perfect heart. To this king, Asa these words were spoken, ***"The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong in the behalf to those whose hearts are perfect toward Him."*** *1 Kings 15:9-24 and 2 Chronicles 14-16*



The youth have been busy spending a lot of time in the Word of God, literally. For the past 3 months we have been in competition with a set of Scriptures that Pastor Rob has given us to practice during the week. On Wednesday the competition is on. Bibles on the table, hands in our lap, Pastor Rob gives us one of the passages, says "go" and we are off. The one who finds it first, stands and reads the passage. You get a point for every correct one that you find and 5 points if you are able to figure out the theme for the week. He also gave us an opportunity to earn extra points by learning the order of the New and Old Testaments. It's been challenging, fun and has brought a lot of competition to the group. Of course all is good until he gives us Zechariah, Micah, Jude, and books that we aren't that familiar with. However, we are getting familiar with them. At the end we will be having our final in front of the congregation on a Sunday morning to see who the big winner is. The winner receives a \$50 gift card of their choosing. Big stakes and we've had some who have come from behind to give the front runners a run for their money, or gift card if you will.

One of the major issues that we've found out in our lives is





that we're not that familiar with Bible Stories. As a result Pastor Rob has been walking us through the books of the Bible. We're still in the book of Genesis and just started talking about Abram and Sarai. The plan is to finish Genesis and move right on into Exodus. We read the story and then have a discussion on what the Lord might be trying to tell us through His Word. This has led to some awesome discussions that has taken us all over the Bible. We started this study at Teen Week this past year with the study of Creation. The difference is that Pastor Rob is not going as deep as we did during Teen

Week. That doesn't mean that the discussions aren't as meaningful, they definitely are, it just means that we aren't digging into the Hebrew words as much. It's been great also to be meeting over in the Office Complex. This has provided a more intimate atmosphere for our discussions, plus Pastor Rob can hear better.

We are planning some great events. One is an outing to a bowling alley. We're looking at Friday, March 22nd. We're planning on heading out to Plain City bowling and pizza. It is going to be a great night of relaxing, fun and games. All youth are encourage to see Candy for permission slips for this year to travel out there. We'll be announcing the cost for the evening as we get closer to the date.

We have several irons in the fire as possible trips this summer. Please be praying for wisdom and direction as we look into the different options for the youth group. God definitely has something special planned and we want to be in the center of His Will as we plan out the summer trip.

The February Le Grande Chateau was a HUGE success. We would like to thank all of you for coming out on that snowy, icy night to support us. We have heard nothing but positive feedback about the new menu, the band and all the decorations. Because of your generosity, we are able to put \$1,144.00 toward our summer trip. We can't say, "Thank you" enough. God is good and has blessed through all of you.



Thank you all for your continued support during the Le Grande Chateau's, the selling of Candy Bars, and other fund raisers. Most importantly the support that you give through your prayers. It is because of this support that we're able to do what we do and grow where the Lord has planted

us. We are about furthering the Kingdom of God and want to see the impact of that on His Church knowing that it will impact our congregation as well.

Youth Leadership