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# The Diligent

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ARP LAKE WALES, FL

“...a Christ-centered fellowship of believers devoted to glorifying God through true worship, personal evangelism, discipleship, and servanthood.”

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## APPOINTED

From Pastor Chad

*“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”*

- Jeremiah 1:5

These are God’s words to Jeremiah when he made it known to him that he would be a prophet to Judah, indeed to the nations. Jeremiah would give the Lord some push back (vv. 6-7). The prophet-to-be was afraid but ultimately he submitted to the will of the Lord and pursued God’s calling. Jeremiah’s call was to the particular office of prophet during a particular time in the existence of God’s people (the decline of the nation of Judah and the exile in Babylon). God’s words to Jeremiah are still instructive for us as followers of Christ. We see in Jeremiah 1:5 that (1) God formed us, (2) he knew us even before that, (3) he set us apart in Christ, and (4) he appointed us for particular callings.

God formed us. That means we are not here by accident, nor are we present merely as a biological result of the sexual union between a man and a woman. No, we have each been formed in the womb by God. Yes, this formation came in part through the means of sexual union and the resulting biological processes but ultimately our genetic sequencing, our spiritual giftedness, and all the facets of our being are the work of God for his purposes.

God knew us before he formed us. The word “know” here has a deeper meaning than simply that God had some data or facts about each of us before our births. No, the word connotes a knowledge through relationship. The implication is this - we are not our own. Our identity is bound up in God’s sovereign foreknowledge and subsequent forming of us



biologically, emotionally, and spiritually. It also means that our identity is not what we have determined for ourselves. Before we ever had a thought about ourselves or about God he knew us.

God consecrated us before we were born. This means that he set us apart as his people in Christ to be holy in order to serve him in the Church and in the world to his glory. Paul affirms this in his letter to the church of Ephesus when he writes, “he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him,” (Ephesians 1:4) and, “we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them,” (Ephesians 2:10). In the New Testament believers are frequently called saints, which means holy or consecrated ones. All believers were called saints, not just “the really good” Christians. In Jesus we are all set apart unto righteousness. Jeremiah was consecrated as holy unto the Lord and he was particularly gifted with the Holy Spirit to speak prophetically.

God has appointed us for particular callings. In his commentary on this verse, Christopher Wright says, “it is not so much that God gives a job to Jeremiah as that God gives Jeremiah to the job.” Is that how you look at ministry in the Church and through the Church to your community and to the world? Do you see ministry as something that God, who knew you and formed you, has consecrated you for and given you to according to his will? Or, do you see ministry as something that is for you to volunteer for according to your own will?

Eugene Peterson tells of a time when he was watching cliff swallows at a lake near his home in Montana. There was an adult swallow and three younger birds on a tree hanging off a cliff over the water. The adult, one by one, began to push the younger birds off the branch. The third young swallow was resistant, holding on, upside down

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eventually, by his talons but the adult's will finally won out and the little one let go and plummeted toward the lake. He, along with the two before him, flapped his wings and caught flight before hitting the water's surface. His parent knew that he was made to fly, set apart for it, bearing the identity of swallow, being gifted with wings, feathers, a tail, and the instincts to flap and soar. So it is, and even more so, for us as Christians. We may initially resist God's calling in our lives but eventually, by the Spirit and frequently through the means of fellow believers, he will move us off the branches of our self-made comfort zones into the full expanse of Gospel ministry in our homes, in the Church, in our community, and to

the ends of the earth. That doesn't mean we will all become pastors, missionaries, elders, deacons, or Sunday School teachers, but it does mean we will all come to serve the Lord with our particular gifts, carrying out our callings in "the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ," (Ephesians 4:12-13).

In light of Jeremiah 1:5, we could say that there are not really any volunteers in the Church. There are only saints who are known, formed, consecrated, and appointed to do the will of God in Christ. To what ministries has the Lord appointed you? ■

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The elders of First Presbyterian Church meet monthly on the fourth Tuesday. The following are some highlights from the January 22 meeting.

- The Session considered Proverbs 1:7, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction," for its devotional passage before the meeting.
- Stewardship and Finance reported that as of the end of December 2018 tithes and offerings toward the church's general budget are at 96.65% of the annual budget. This is ahead of the average of 93.86% (2013-2017) our church has historically received by the end of December. Because expenses were less than what was budgeted, we ended 2018 with a small surplus. Praise was given to God in prayer for His financial blessing.
- The Session accepted a request from other local churches to participate in an evangelism program called "Saturate," which seeks to distribute a packet of information, including a DVD with three Christian films in eight different languages, to the 21,000 homes in and around Lake Wales, FL. The Evangelism and Outreach Committee will help lead the effort to organize our members for this ministry. The Session received a request from the Lake Wales Charter School System to host a portion of the Bok North Academy in the 2019-2020 school year. This request is currently under further, prayerful consideration. Join with us in praying for the Lord's leading.
- The Session voted to change its meeting time to 6 pm on the fourth Tuesday of each month.
- The chairmen of the committees of the Session gave reports of the work and ministry they are overseeing (see the ministry sections of the Diligent for more on these ministries). Prayer was offered after each report, asking for the Lord's guidance and blessing.
- A season of prayer was had for various needs within our congregation, community, and world. ■

## PRAYER FOCUS

**FEBRUARY 3** - Bridge Europe/ Pikes

**FEBRUARY 10** - Marriages

**FEBRUARY 17** - World Witness Banquet...2\*2\*20

**FEBRUARY 24** - Personal Holiness/ Communion Prep

# Discipleship

## READY IN WEAKNESS

From Pastor Mackay

*I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.*

- *Philippians 1:12-14*

In many areas of life, we equate effectiveness to preparation and strength. If there's a final exam on the horizon, I want to be studied up and well-rested. Even in daily life: work, home, and play, we strive to be in positions of strength. When life brings difficulty, we often look to "circle the wagons," limiting contact with others and turning our attention to ourselves and those closest to us.

We apply that math to spiritual matters, as well. There are moments when I'm in a great book or feeling close to God that I think, "OK, now I'm ready to do something for the Lord!" More often, though, I find myself bemoaning my lack of preparation and readiness when opportunities to evangelize, speak a wise word, or pray come along in life. I often assume that my weakness is a sure path to ineffectiveness.

Enter the Apostle Paul. Paul and his ministry partners founded the church in Philippi, and they did so in a wave of God-given power. While their ministry began humbly; among a group of women gathering to pray, Acts 16 relates the dramatic riots and earthquakes that shook the prosperous city to its core and left no person unaware of God's might.

As Paul writes his letter, things have changed. He is in prison! He's no longer the "Bringing of Quakes," but the "Bound in Chains." He has been brought low. He is in a position of weakness, even one that is being exploited by others (see Phil. 1:15ff).

We may expect Paul to become introspective and brooding in a time such as this; prayerful, silent, sedate. Yet, Paul encourages the Philippians that God has continued his

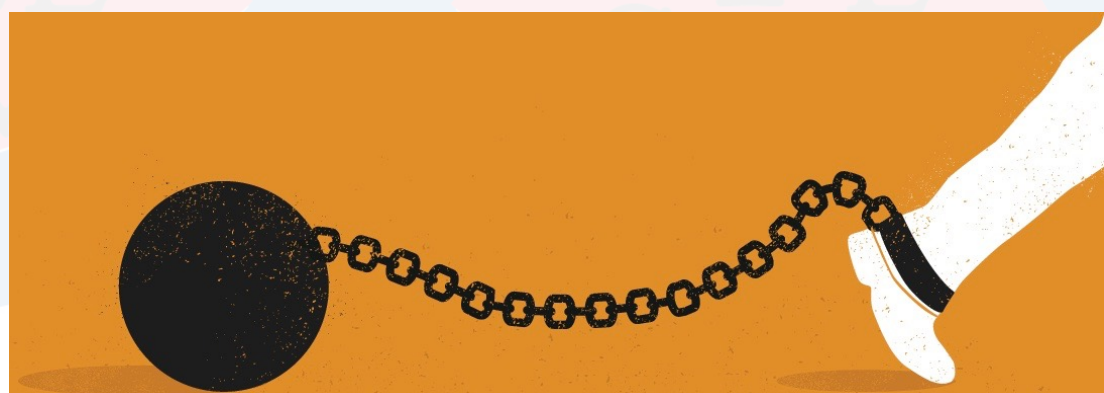
powerful Gospel work.

First, God has used Paul's position to reach the highest levels of the Roman army. The Imperial Guard was Caesar's personal Secret Service, charged to protect the one understood to be a literal god among men. Paul's imprisonment has become a powerful testimony to them. They know that he is imprisoned for Jesus, thus Paul's chains are a direct witness to Jesus' cross. While no doubt some would say, "What sort of a god allows his followers to be chained?" Others probably said, "What sort of God is worth serving, even to the point of imprisonment?"

Secondly, Paul's imprisonment had emboldened other believers. Just like us, we certainly don't *want* to be imprisoned or persecuted for our faith. However, when we see our brothers and sisters so oppressed, and then see how God uses that imprisonment to do mighty things, we have positive proof that God does not abandon his people even in the lowest moments.

So, we see that God works through Paul not in spite of his imprisonment, but *because* of his imprisonment. Paul's position of weakness is not a hindrance to God, but a means for him to continue to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Let's take that view of our weaknesses, too. Is God's Word telling us that we should abandon our families and self-care when hard times come? No, but I doubt many of us are in danger of becoming *too* sacrificial. When we aren't sure what to say, when we aren't feeling great, when the house is messy, when we just don't want to deal with people; those moments of weakness are often when God uses us in the most powerful ways. Pray that God would turn our eyes out in those low moments. Jesus did not exploit his equality with God in a selfish way, but became a servant by making himself lowly (2:5-11). May God help us follow his perfect example. ■



# EKKLESIA

**REMEMBER**, there will be no Ekklesia Feb. 6th. Join us at the Marriage Conference!

## SPECIAL EVENT:

“Habits of a Healthy Marriage” With Dr. Paul Tripp  
Marriage Seminar Livestream  
Feb. 8-9, Friday - 7pm - 10pm  
Saturday - 9am - 12pm

Every marriage is guided by a set of habits. The question is: Are they healthy habits that result in a God-honoring and joyful marriage, or are they bad habits that lead to a self-centered and strained

marriage? In this new 4-lesson seminar, pastor, marriage counselor, and best-selling author Dr. Paul David will detail the necessary habits required for a healthy marriage while identifying the bad habits that need to be uprooted.

### COST:

\$5 per couple, plus a Babysitter for Friday Night.

Childcare:

Saturday Morning -

Nursery and Childcare (through 5th Grade)

Friday night -

Employ your favorite Babysitter!

**CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE ASAP IF YOU HAVEN'T REGISTERED.**



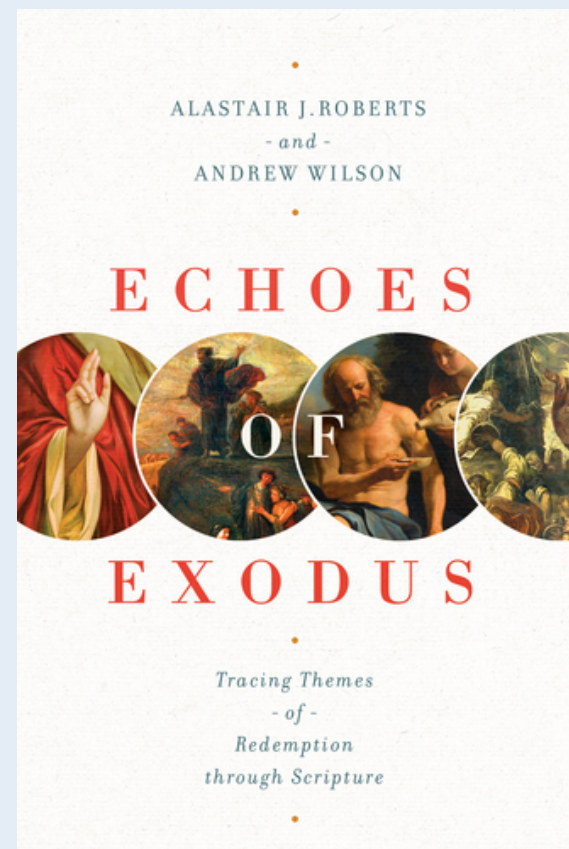
**We enjoyed a walkthrough of our newly expanded Rieger Organ with Vince on January 9. Praise God for this beautiful instrument!**

## SMALL GROUPS

Adult Small Group Leaders have been equipped with *Echoes of Exodus: Tracing Themes of Redemption through Scripture*. This resource will be a help to you in many ways. If your group is discussing the sermon series, it will shed further light on the themes of Exodus. If not, it's still a great read!

From the publisher:

“The exodus—the story of God leading his chosen people out of slavery in Egypt—stands as a pivotal event in the Old Testament. But if you listen closely, you will hear echoes of this story of redemption all throughout God’s Word. Using music as a metaphor, the authors point us to the recurring theme of the exodus throughout the entire symphony of Scripture, shedding light on the Bible’s unified message of salvation and restoration that is at the heart of God’s plan for the world.”



***The Bible from 30,000 Feet***, our year-long Adult Bible Study series, will resume on Wednesday, February 13th.



# Missions & Outreach

## PAK7: A DEEPER LOOK

**From Alex Pettett,  
World Witness Executive**

As Andrew Hart (the new CEO of PAK7) and I landed in Islamabad, the first thing we noticed was the calm of the airport and generally new construction of roads. In the morning, looking out our hotel window, I noted markets, outdoor cafes, and a generally calm public making their way to work. The clear, blue skies and clean, crisp air were easy to breathe.

A short ride to a center housing the Pakistan Mission Society revealed a team of young, well-organized Christians managing well water projects, relief opportunities, and various other work associated with community development throughout Pakistan. Thanks to their efforts, we were able to visit with various bishops, pastors of large churches, and multi-media ministry leaders - from Islamabad to Faisalabad to Lahore.

We encountered glimpses of vigorous churches and ministries boldly proclaiming the Gospel to believers and nonbelievers alike. While I hesitate to say the Church of Pakistan, in general, is very healthy, I will say we encountered churches and ministries ready for growth.

**The purpose of the visit was to continue spreading the vision of PAK7 as a TV channel that can provide a picture of Christians as normal, God-loving people who are upstanding citizens of Pakistan. Usually the first few**



**Alex and Andrew met with Pakistani Christian leaders.**

minutes of conversation with each leader were met with tightly crossed arms and lips pursed with skepticism. Andrew explained, “Imagine filming competitions where aspiring, young directors submit vignettes of human interest stories about Christian life, such as a Christian husband and wife displaying a healthy relationship through home-remodeling projects (sound familiar?) singing competitions, wholesome children’s programming, street cricket matches, business startup advice, programming on family health, and of course, teaching on the beauty and grace of Jesus Christ to all the lost.” As Andrew spoke, arms slowly uncrossed and curiosities piqued. By the end, most leaders volunteered statements like, “**We need this.**” ■

**Andrew Hart will be sharing more about PAK7 at the World Witness Fellowship Dinner on February 22 at the Capernaum Lodge, beginning with a reception at 6:30 pm followed by dinner at 7:00 pm. Please contact the church office to make reservations.**

### **WHO IS ANDREW HART?**

Andrew Hart is the Chief Executive of PAK7, a Christian ministry that seeks to share God’s love with the people of Pakistan through high quality television programming. PAK7 has a strong focus on children, youth, and women and uses a wide variety of locally-made programming to engage them.

Prior to joining PAK7 in 2018, Andrew worked with SAT-7 for 8 years, a leading Christian television ministry for the Middle East & North Africa. In that time, he was part of the Senior Leadership Team and served as Chief Operations Officer with responsibility for Strategy, Research, Broadcasting and IT. At the start of his career, Andrew worked for IBM for 13 years in a variety of leadership positions in Marketing, Sales, and Business Management.

Andrew brings a passion for supporting and building up the church in areas where Christians are in the minority, for investing in young people and children, and for using media in creative ways to share the Christian message. He is married and has three children.

# IGLESIA EN MOVIMIENTO (CHURCH ON THE MOVE)

From Tim Sewell



## Three Kings Outreach January 5th

Dear friends, we are so grateful for your support of "Iglesia en Movimiento, (Church on the Move). This January we began the year with our "3 Kings Day" outreach on January 5th. We had over 150 people attend. Although we had fewer people this year than

last, we had much better conversations with people about the Gospel. It was very encouraging to watch our church plant core group serve the community together and have natural conversations with their neighbors about 'why' we were throwing a party for the community. This was for us a bigdeal since last year with was mostly FPC volunteers and FPC interns running the activities. Many thanks to Mark and Jean Fortier and Dick and Sally Thompson's small group that also came to help run activities. After the event, we were able to speak to the apartment manager who gave us permission to start a Bible study in the apartment complex clubhouse! Pray for group leaders and follow-up after the even.

## Preview Services January 27th

Starting this Sunday (Jan. 27th), we will begin our monthly 'preview services' at 11 am in First Presbyterian Church of Lake Placid's "Fellowship Hall." The purpose of these services is to allow our Hispanic core group to worship in Spanish and invite friends to see what God is doing. These monthly services will be relatively simple and intimate as to enable us to meet people and encourage them to get involved in one of our small groups. There will be powerful messages (preaching), live worship music, and congregational prayer. We will be starting a series called 'Divine Direction: 7 Decisions that will Change Your Life' by Pastor Craig Groeschel. The messages are designed to encourage people to get involved in small groups and will coordinate with our small group studies throughout the week. Please invite your Hispanic

(Latino) friends to attend. Contact Tim at [info@iemovimiento.org](mailto:info@iemovimiento.org) for more information or call the church plant office number at (813) 658-8460.

## Subbing in the Local School System Starting in February

Tim will begin 'substitute teaching' twice a week at the local elementary and middle schools in Lake Placid. Our local school systems has a large Hispanic population of approximately 30% percent Hispanics (and growing). Pray that Tim will be able to meet many students and parents in months to come.

Please keep the church plant team and thier families in your prayers. Many individuals and churches have worked very hard to get us to this place. We are eternally grateful and excited for what is to come. ■



## GOD IS AT WORK IN NORMAN, OK

### From Rev. Justin Westmoreland Trinity Presbyterian Church

God is at work! God is always at work.

Sometimes we do not “see” God’s work. Sometimes we might seek to justify what we are doing by stamping “God is at work” onto it. Sometimes we theologically understand God is at work, but we have no idea how He is working. The positive experiences are not the only ways God works, as He worked in the ugly treatment of Joseph by his brothers and the perilous journey to Egypt. God worked in the ugly treatment of Jesus by EVERYONE and his perilous journey to Calvary. Nonetheless, at this era in redemptive history, Jesus himself told us we would receive power when we received the Holy Spirit. He is expanding His kingdom throughout all nations, forgiving sinners and translating them out of a kingdom of darkness into his light and life. God is at work in his church.

God is at work in Norman, OK. In May 2016, I was called from serving as RUF campus minister at the University of Oklahoma to a new call as explorer with intent to plant an ARP church in Norman, Oklahoma. This will be our first Associate Reformed Presbyterian (ARP) Church in Oklahoma. My family, another family, and a single man began praying. I started a weekly men’s breakfast bible study in a barbecue restaurant. I rented a room on campus at OU and we began a bible study on Sunday nights. In the Fall of 2016, we began a bible study with music on Sunday mornings. We had several “preview services” to give friends an opportunity to visit what an ARP church would look like. Few people of the (250,000 in our community) really had a lot of excitement for an ARP church here, and our small group of people knew very few people.

Yet God was (and is) at work. We kept praying and teaching the bible and sharing the gospel and by February of 2017 we began having weekly worship services. God was at work in these. Many people visited. Some were called to join our group. Some attended for a time and then disappeared. Some attended for a time and then moved. Some attended for a time and then because of sin and attacks of the devil became hardened to the church and the gospel. What ministers and church planters are called to do is, after all, an impossible task, if God were not at work in it.

It is God who created, upholds, and sustains every single atom of our universe. We are mere instruments in His hand. We prayed, opened up the scriptures, hustled around town meeting as many people as possible, all in a secular college town on the prairies of Oklahoma in the shadow of the

University of Oklahoma. If God were not at work, none of what I am about to tell you would be true. His eternal counsel worked out in the daily providence which led each soul to 324 West Main Street in Norman, OK, Sunday after Sunday. Sinners were awakened by God and rose on Sunday not just to go the big box church, but to a reformed, Presbyterian church plant-Trinity Pres. Here are 8 highlights of God at work:

- 1) God provided an amazing meeting space for our start-up church. It is comical just how suitable and cost-effective our meeting place is for a church plant.
- 2) God provides a worship service, Sunday school, & three small groups each week through our members.
- 3) One of the women in attendance in our early services was baptized in September of 2018 and Jesus has transformed her life! We carried a baptismal font about a mile over from the mainline Presbyterian church and baptized her with borrowed water that God provided.
- 4) In April of 2018, God sent a family from 98 miles away, an hour and forty two minutes one way (with tolls) on google maps, to our building because they were called. This summer, they sold their home, joined, and moved 5 minutes from our meeting space.
- 5) God brought one of the most talented and perhaps one of the most unlikely sophomores at OU to be a regular attendee of our church. He is representative of the kind of talented young millennial students that we believe reformed confessional churches can reach. We have a growing contingent of OU students.
- 6) God provided a church for a young woman who had been unchurched for 8 years in Norman.
- 7) God provided a church home for a young couple who just had their first baby who will get to baptize in 2019.
- 8) God provided a provisional session that plans for us to organize as the first ARP church in Oklahoma in January 2020. God is at work! If that happens, you’ll all be invited to that service. If the whole ARP shows up, we can hopefully move the special service down the street to the OU football stadium. 😊 But whether you can physically make it or not to visit us on the prairie, please pray that God’s work would be seen and that we would worship and enjoy Him! I wish I could share more. Ask me at Synod or presbytery how God is at work. ■



# Music Ministry

## WHAT DO YOU MEAN, THAT'S NOT A HYMN!?

From Vince Treadway

I hope to give some food for thought regarding the plethora of terms used for songs that are used in church with a goal of defining the word “hymn.” Among the terms are: hymn, spiritual song, gospel song/hymn, Psalm, and popular Christian song, to name a few. While we are commanded to “[speak] to yourselves in Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,” Eph. 5:19, some people lump anything sung in church into the same category.

Here is a definition of a hymn given by one of our church fathers, Augustine, answering the question, “What is a hymn?” *It is a song with praise of God. If thou praiseth God and singest not, thou utterest no hymn. If thou singest and praiseth not God thou utterest no hymn. A hymn containeth then three things: song, praise, and that of God. Praise, then, of God in song is called a hymn.* That seems like a straightforward statement, but for most hymnals that means that some of the songs in them are *not* hymns! Think of a few examples with me. *Holy, Holy, Holy* is a well known hymn for most reformed worshippers. It has “Lord, God Almighty” as the subject, and praises Him for His holiness. It is a hymn.

Another example is *Blessed Assurance*. The subject is “me,” *Jesus is mine, this is my story, this is my song*; and while it speaks of the blessings of knowing the Lord, it does not actually praise the Lord—it only speaks of the *person* praising the Lord. *Blessed Assurance* would fall into the category of *Gospel Song*.

Psalms are fairly easy to identify, because they are simply the Psalms from the Holy Bible set to music. Psalms can become blurred when little snippets of the Psalm are added on to a popular song, or when the Psalm is modified with modern vernacular, thus blurring the distinction between Holy Writ and man’s additions. A spiritual song is a believer’s expression of joy or thankfulness for the acts and attributes of God as well as God’s grace and mercy on their behalf. A spiritual song can also

be a prayer based on Biblical truths. A good example of a spiritual song would be *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*. The subject is Jesus; it expresses Biblical truths, and it conveys gratitude and admonishments for prayer for believers.

Finally, let’s think about popular Christian songs. By their very definition, popular songs, no matter what genre, tend to become “unpopular” or fall into disuse simply because they are no longer “popular.” An example that comes to mind is the song “El-Shaddai.” It was extremely popular when it was written, but it is infrequently sung today. However, there are many wonderful Christian songs that have been written in recent times and are “popular” that are rich textually, and could even be considered a hymn, and so cross over the “popular/hymn” categories. Certainly we all have styles of music that we enjoy and even prefer, and that is to be expected. However, let us be careful not to refrain from participation in congregational song when the songs and hymns are not in our list of favorites.

I hope that these thoughts will help you to analyze what is sung in church, and consider what you are singing on a deeper level. May God be glorified in all that we sing! ■



## WHY CHURCH IS NOT SCHOOL: PART IV

**From Shane Miller**

For the last three months the topic of my Diligent articles have been contrasting what the students do in Church versus what they do in school. While the activities that our young people participate in during Youth Group on a Wednesday night might highly resemble what goes on in a classroom setting, from a Biblical perspective we have to recognize that there are deeper things at work when the Word of God is taught and when the people of God meet. A textbook might bore us to death. God's Word, on the other hand, has the power to put our old selves to death, powerfully changing us through the gospel of Jesus Christ. While the students meet with other students on a daily basis at school, they meet with their family, brothers and sisters in Christ, on a Wednesday night or Sunday morning. The purpose of a Wednesday night is not academic instruction to the end that our students might obtain impressive Biblical knowledge that reflects well upon us adults. Our desire for our students is that, through instruction in the Word of God, our students might come to know and love Jesus Christ, their Savior.

Now, I know this might sound counterintuitive, but for this last article I would like to compare school and Youth Ministry. For a moment, I would like you, as a parent, to reflect upon how you approach school when it comes to your child. How important is it to you, as a parent, that your child be taught at a quality school? How important is it to you that your child receive good grades? How crucial is it for you that your child excel in their academic subjects, maybe even moving on to advanced classes? Is it a desire of yours that your child be academically challenged in the school that they attend? Is it a big deal for you if your child misses a certain number of days at school? Are you concerned about what a successful school career might mean for the future of your child and the prospective opportunities a good education might open up for them? How would you react if your child was not receiving good marks in their subject, or if they were struggling in their classes? What would some of the consequences be?

Next, I would like to ask you how you approach your faith. Do you believe that God is a fact rather than a belief or opinion? Is it your desire that you and your family love and serve God whole-heartedly? Do you believe that the Bible is the Word of God? Do you affirm that the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus is a fact of history? Do you believe that your personal affirmation and trust towards Jesus, your Savior and Lord, is a weighty matter upon which your eternal destiny is decided?

Humor me one last time. Take the above questions regarding your child's education and apply them to how you approach your child's faith in Christ. Are there similarities or differences when it comes to how you approach your child's education versus how you approach their faith? On a practical level, on a day to day basis, what receives precedence in the lives of our children? For instance, how important is it for you that your child to be disciplined in quality, Scripture-saturated teaching? Is it crucial that your child is growing in the knowledge of the things of God? Is it a big deal to you if your child misses Church or Youth Group? Are you concerned about how your child's knowledge and trust towards Jesus might affect their future? How would we react if we knew our children weren't growing in their knowledge and passion towards these things? If, let's say, personal prayer and Bible study were not a part of their daily routine?

As parents, we do everything in our power to make sure our children are exceeding in academics. Do we approach their faith in the same way? If not, why? Again, when we personally confess the truths of the gospel, we are not simply stating opinion or belief. We are affirming facts of eternal weight that hold bearing upon our entire lives. If this is true, (which it is) should our family disciplinary practices and commitment towards school supersede those of the gospel?

At FPCLW Youth Ministry, we have a desire to not leave our parents hanging when it comes to assisting them in disciplining their kids. Oftentimes, this task can feel overwhelming as we might not know where to start. Well, FPCLW

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Youth Ministry has awesome opportunities for you to help you encourage your child to grow in the love and knowledge of Jesus Christ. This quarter, the students will be going through a 'basics' series which outlines the key truths about God and what those truths mean for our lives. The recorded podcasts of this series are provided where ever you can download a podcast. Use these podcasts as a basis for discussion for your child!

Additionally, to go along with this series, your children are memorizing the gospel in catechism form. (The catechism, written by Cameron Cole, can be seen beside this article.) These questions are short and take minutes to memorize. Try quizzing your kid on them every night. As I expressed to the students on Wednesday night, they memorize a lot of things in school, but the things they will memorize in Youth Group are of eternal weight and will never lose their value! We pray that through these means God might empower you to make the gospel of primary importance in your children's lives. ■

## CATECHISM

**What does Gospel mean?**

*Good news*

**What is the good news?**

*Junior High Answer:*

*God loves sinners through Christ.*

*Senior High Answer:*

*God loves sinners through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.*

**What is the Gospel in big picture terms?**

*Christ is King.*

**Is Christianity more about what God has done in Jesus or more about what we do for Jesus?**

*More about what God has done for us in Jesus.*

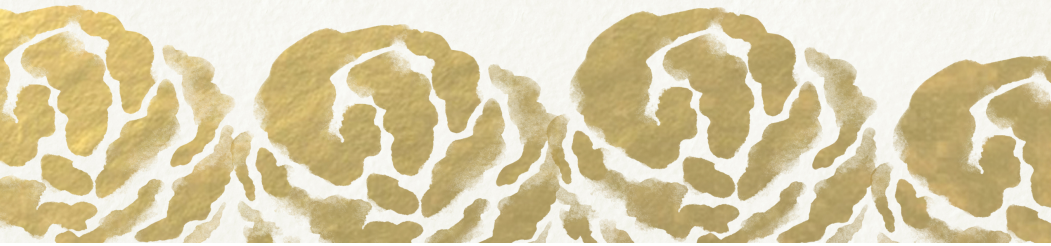
By Cameron Cole, [https://](https://www.rootedministry.com/blog/making-sure-kids-know-gospel-gospel-catechism-teenagers/)

[www.rootedministry.com/blog/making-sure-kids-know-gospel-gospel-catechism-teenagers/](https://www.rootedministry.com/blog/making-sure-kids-know-gospel-gospel-catechism-teenagers/)

## PRAY FOR US

- **Pray for our students, that the basics of the gospel take root in their mind and heart.**
- **Pray for our volunteers, that God might equip them this quarter to effectively disciple our young people in the gospel.**
- **Pray that our passions and priorities towards our young people as a Church body might reflect God's passions and priorities towards our young people.**

# THANK YOU



I continue to be humbled and grateful for the many ways you humanly shared Christ's love for me after my fall. The kindnesses each of you gifted to me through your prayers, visits, cards, calls, texts and meals encouraged me immensely and allowed to remain in my home during my extended convalescence. I'm forever grateful.  
Cindy Turner

# Church Family



## CHURCH OFFICERS

### ELDERS

#### 2019

Andy Hunt  
Daniel Hunt  
David Nelson  
Jimmy Seay

#### 2020

John Dubois  
Stewart Hurst  
Ed Lamb  
Fox Rawlings

#### 2021

Mike Berkau  
Paul Benner

#### 2022

Frank Hunt III  
John Matteson  
Vince Treadway

### DEACONS

#### 2019

Jake Cockrell  
Troy Hershberger  
Kevin Kohl  
Michael Matteson  
Wendy Moore

#### 2020

David Bass  
Lynne Hulen  
Rob McCollum  
David Kennedy Nelson

#### 2021

David Caldwell  
Michael Kahler  
Carl McCollum  
Tony Thomas

**Moderator:** Rev. Chad Reynolds  
**Vice Moderator:** Rev. Mackay Smith  
**Clerk of Session:** David Nelson  
**Chairman of Deacons:** Jake Cockrell  
**Deacon Secretary:** David Kennedy Nelson  
**Chm. of the Congregation:** Monty Harrington  
**Treasurer:** Michelle Hurst (2018-2019)  
**Asst. Treasurer:** Daniel Hunt (2018-2019)

## MILESTONE CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS

Feb 1, David Noriega  
Feb 2, Lee Turnquist  
Feb 3, Micah Sebring  
Feb 4, Laureen Beck  
Feb 4, Katy-Grace Hixenbaugh  
Feb 5, Kelly Harrington  
Feb 6, Mickey Miller  
Feb 6, Ethan Sebring  
Feb 6, Mason Sealey  
Feb 9, Max Keen  
Feb 10, Randy Portwood  
Feb 10, Phyllis Aemisegger  
Feb 11, Lori Loveless  
Feb 12, Julia Friend  
Feb 12, Adele Black  
Feb 12, Janet Thullbery  
Feb 13, Roger Campbell  
Feb 14, Grace Sealey  
Feb 15, Albie Stuart  
Feb 15, Cal DenBesten  
Feb 15, Maddie Lippert  
Feb 17, Vince Treadway  
Feb 17, Ansel Buhrman  
Feb 18, Stuart Whidden  
Feb 20, Sophia Lewis  
Feb 20, Jim Smith  
Feb 21, Susan Alexander  
Feb 23, Faith Jackson

### ANNIVERSARIES

Feb 6, Monty & Kelly Harrington  
Feb 15, Joe & Caroline Swanson



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