



The Church and the Olive Tree

Article by Mary Sadoun

(Note from Pastor Scott: Mary and Abdullah Sadoun are members of The Oak. They own an olive orchard in Jordan. What Mary shares here about the olive tree and what it can teach us about our life in the church is very important. My prayer is that we live together for Christ as this beautiful olive tree.)

The olive tree is a beautiful analogy, which Paul used to describe the functioning of the Church. In what way might the church of Christ resemble an olive tree? First, Paul discusses the process of grafting foreign branches into the olive tree and into the church. (See sidebar, page 3) Grafting is not optional! If you want a powerful olive tree in the dry climate of the Middle-East you MUST begin with the indigenous, root ball and then you MUST graft in about seven foreign branches. It takes a lot of time and effort to plant a good olive tree or a thriving church. My husband's father used the indigenous, patriarchal, root-ball from the trees growing naturally in the harsh, dry environment. This contributed to the trees' durability, resilience, longevity, and its capacity to resist disease. Then he cut out

...continued on page 2



Living Stone Communities Launched April 1, 2018

East White Oak's Church Plant began services on Easter Sunday (page 4).



Pain and Peace

Learning to abide in the peace of God that surpasses all comprehension and understanding. (page 6)

CALENDAR

May 9 JUNIOR HIGH
CROSSTRAINERS WELCOMES
6TH GRADE STUDENTS

May 20 SUMMER CHILDREN'S
MINISTRY VOLUNTEER
TRAINING

June 2 ICE CREAM SOCIAL
WITH STEVE & NATALIE ARN

June 3 "MOVE UP" SUNDAY
FOR ALL GRADES / SUMMER
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
BEGINS

June 7 WOMEN'S SUMMER
BIBLE STUDIES BEGIN



The Church and the Olive Tree

...continued from page 1

the unproductive branches and grafted into the trees foreign ones that originated in the balmy, mild environment of Naples. According to my husband, it is common knowledge that the Romans imported thriving olive trees from Naples to the Holy Land, during the time of Christ. (Of course, the Romans, being familiar with the olive tree, easily understood Paul's analogy.) You see, although the indigenous trees have a powerful and resilient root system, the olives they produce are woody and deliver very little oil. It is the foreign grafts, which generate the many large olives full of oil. Likewise, historically, it has mostly been the church's grafted Gentiles, who through faith, and being filled with the Holy Spirit, dynamically evangelized, producing many new churches throughout the world. We must never be too proud to graft new believers into the church. To have a thriving church and a thriving olive tree, grafting is not optional. No! Grafting is essential. And like the five wise virgins, we should fill our lamps with the oil of the Holy Spirit, and burn brightly

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as we tell others the Good News and wait for the bridegroom to return.

The olive trees in Jordan are considered a national treasure. They are priceless, protected and useful. Likewise, we should love, protect and make use of the church because it is filled with the Holy Spirit. There is common agreement, that olive oil



is a symbol of the Holy Spirit as is water (John 7:37-39) and the wind (John 3:8; Acts 2:1-4). The "Spirit of the LORD" and the oil of anointing are directly linked in many places in the Bible, such as in Luke 4:18, "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor..." Acts 10:38 reveals that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power.

The olive tree seems to pervade every part of Jordanian life in an integral way. Black and green olives are harvested and served for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The black ones are ripened, and the green ones are.... well.... they are green. Both are delightful and strengthen the body. Similarly, mature, old, ripened

bread as it combines with various dips, such as humus, and zatar. Jordanians make little "olive sandwiches" and anoint them with various olive-oil enriched foods. The olives and the oil are incessantly discussed during conversations. They contemplate and converse about the early oil, the virgin oil, the late oil, the texture of the oil, the flavor of the oil, the color of the oil, the price of the oil, the consistency of the oil and the amazingness of the oil. All of this is always discussed or alluded to at every sitting. Young men anoint their hair with a little oil to give it a little shine, and women anoint their skin to soften it. Like the seeming omnipresence and helpfulness of the oil, the Holy Spirit too is omnipresent and even inside those who love him. May the Holy Spirit shine upon our faces and soften our hearts! Like Jesus, we should pray that the Spirit of the Lord our God, might anoint us with power to bring good news to the afflicted and help us to bind up the brokenhearted as we continually discuss and ponder the texture, the consistency, the actions, the characteristics, and the amazingness of our perfect God.

When it is time for harvesting, the olives should be picked carefully and individually one by one off the tree. But this is an extremely tedious and time-consuming job. So the workers often take sticks and beat on the tree to shake the branches so that the olives will fall to the ground. The owners of the olive trees then loudly curse and swear and wave their arms around.

And they cry out, “YA WALLAH!!!! DO NOT BEAT ON THE OLIVE TREE!!! You are damaging the olive tree!!! They shake their heads and they raise their arms to the heavens and they sigh, “YA Wallah!!” Each olive tree branch and olive should be tenderly harvested, and so too, we should handle each person or branch of the church, tenderly, like a NATIONAL TREASURE. But when the owner is supervising the harvest in one corner of the grove, the workers in a distant corner ignore the rules and beat upon the olive tree. Somehow, however, both the

as we are carved and transformed by the Holy Spirit into His likeness.

Know this: If you want to plant a productive olive tree in the Middle-East, first, you must chop down an indigenous olive tree to a dead stump. Then, there shall come forth from the stump, about 100 living shoots, and a branch from the root will begin to bear fruit. This is the shoot into which the foreign branches are grafted. Always remember that Jesus Christ also was chopped down to a dead stump when He died upon the tree. But like the Shoot of Jesse

**Each olive tree branch
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National Treasure.**

tree and the church survive in spite of the beatings and persecution transpiring in various corners of the grove and world. Somehow, like a miracle, continued harvests are produced from both the beaten branches of the olive tree, and the hurting members of the church.

Every part of the olive tree is precious. Nothing is left unused or squandered. After the oil is extracted, the remaining woody part is turned into olive soap. Because of its interesting grain, the wood that is cut off during pruning is carved into beautiful objects. And because of the hardness of the wood; it burns hot and can also be used for warmth. Likewise, everything in the church is valuable. Each person is a gift and should be appreciated to the utmost. No Christian is worthless, and no talent should be squandered. We should burn hot for the LORD and become increasingly beautiful objects of His glory

coming forth out of the patriarchal stump, so too did Jesus Christ rise up out of the grave to encircle His bride, nourish the branches, shepherd His flock, and head up His church and our families. “The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD” (Isaiah 61:11). Through Jesus, we are blessed with wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, and knowledge. We have been gifted with the fear, love, and trust in our Heavenly Father and our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ, who is one with the Holy Spirit now and forevermore, Amen. How good it is to ponder the depth of the riches permeating the wisdom and knowledge of God’s unsearchable judgments and ways!

Scripture about Olive Trees



Romans 11:16b-24

“If the root is holy, so are the branches. If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, do not consider yourself to be superior to the other branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root but the root supports you. You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in.” Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but tremble. For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either. Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off. And if they do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. After all, if you were cut out of an olive tree that is wild by nature, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree!”

LAUNCHED



by Pastor Larry Van Gundy

Living Stone Communities gathered on Easter Sunday, April 1, as we officially launched our Sunday gatherings at Irving School.



Easter Sunday Launch

It was a great morning of prayer, fellowship, celebration, and worship. There were eighty-three present for the service. Together, we want to show and share Christ and His love to everyone around us. In light of that, my initial sermon series, "Encounters with the King," is designed to make much of Jesus. The core God has brought together is indeed a compelling community of individuals who have a heart to serve and a real love for one another, and the not-yet believers in our neighborhoods.

We have multiplied into three Gospel Communities, which are each meeting weekly in various homes throughout our community for prayer, planning, and sharing. We are hearing one another's stories and getting to know one another in deeper ways. It's a joy to share with one another about open doors and relationships that are developing, and we prayerfully consider who God is calling us to reach out to and how. We want to identify names and faces of individuals in whom we see God working.

Both Hands Project

On Saturday, April 7, there were more than 50 individuals from The Oak and LSC that partnered together with Caleb and Christy Phillips from LSC who are in the process of adopting a sibling group from Ukraine. They are working with Life Song for Orphans and their Both

Hands project. On that Saturday, we served at Western Avenue Community Center, Irving School, two widows' homes and two other families' homes in the community. It was a great day where we were able to bless so many, and funds were raised to help with their adoption.

“(Both Hands is here) to help me organize some after-school girls materials that I have for a group I call “Shine.” It’s wonderful because I’ve had a mess for years, and they’re categorizing everything so I know what I have and don’t have to purchase more. It’s looking wonderful, and I’m so appreciative!”

Teacher at Irving School

Irving School Ministry

We are continuing to enjoy favor at Irving School. There were two opportunities specifically on Thursday, April 19. Tim Hannig with ProKids Show put on an assembly during the day. That evening was his Family Night presentation. All of this happened in the very gym, or “The Quarry” as we call it, where LSC gathers regularly on Sunday.

On Thursday, April 26, we were invited to “have as much of a presence and influence as we wanted” at the Irving PTO Spring Family Festival. We grilled hot dogs and had games for the kids and their families, gave out New Testaments, gospel bracelets, and literature. What a great chance to connect with families from Irving Elementary School!

We are continuing to see God work in the lives of men and women and boys and girls as we do life on life, life in community, and life on mission. Thanks for partnering with us. We couldn’t do it without you. Thank you for your support and prayers. It’s all for the glory of God, for the exaltation of Christ, for the advancement of the Gospel, the building up of the Church, and the expanding of God’s Kingdom. We love you and miss you already.



PAIN AND PEACE

by Mark Warren

Mark Warren, along with his wife Susie, come as they are able to our first service. Mark was on CRU staff at ISU for several years. For the past 34 years, he has battled the debilitating effects of ALS. He has not walked for over 33 years and cannot breathe on his own. Despite the loss of so much of the working of his body, Mark remains a steadfast believer in the hope found in Christ Jesus. Here, Mark writes about his most recent medical challenge and what the Lord has taught him through it. — Pastor Scott

The last
time I remember
walking was in
1985 ...my legs
have been silent
and dormant
for 33 years.

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.” Colossians 3:15-17

The last time I remember walking (using a walker) was in 1985 up in Minnesota. So the muscles and ligaments and tendons in my legs have been silent and dormant for 33 years. And during those 33 years we have been doing range of motion exercises with my arms and legs to keep my body from becoming stiff and immovable. The exercises have felt good - that is, until about 1:15 PM on March 21st, 2018. After 33 years of being silent, the underside of my left thigh made a startlingly loud snap that echoed throughout the house.

My wonderful caregiver felt my pain and felt horrible, but she absolutely did NOTHING WRONG. Dana didn't raise my leg a millimeter higher than usual. The hamstring tendon snapped due to the internal ALS structure—the motor neurons and muscles and ligaments and tendons in my legs have been silent and dormant for 33 years. Dana knows this, but because she is a compassionate and empathetic and loving friend to me, when she sees my pain it's also her pain.

During the afternoon after my tendon snapped, my physical pain was surprisingly low. Maybe there was nerve numbness; maybe I was comfortably numb; I don't really know. But as the evening emerged, it became evident that whatever wasn't making me uncomfortable wasn't going to stay much longer. At that point, Susie and I didn't really know what had snapped. We made some phone calls to medical



professionals. We went to the Emergency Room.

It was so strange. We were there in the ER waiting area sitting by the door to the cool outside—and I started feeling warm. They were calling out name after name—and not my name. The pain was rising, and I had Susie try raising and lowering my foot and nothing was working - and the whole thing was just getting more frustrating, and I was getting anxious and air-hungry. All this was happening—even though in my heart and mind I was singing “My Jesus I Love Thee,” “Amazing Grace,” and “Come Thou Fount.” It just wasn’t making sense!

God is my refuge and my strength, my only help in troubling times of pain and confusion, like that ER evening. We got there about 6:40 PM and got home just before midnight. I know this refuge and strength truth about God right now, and in my singing heart I knew it that tumult-filled night, but my pain-filled leg was singing off-tune, which distracted and dominated.

But then all of a sudden—due to NO GOOD on my part but purely due to God’s never-ending wisdom and grace, Susie reclined my wheelchair a little, and . . . my leg’s pain-filled off-tune volume started diminishing! It taught me that God doesn’t appear suddenly. He abides with me continually—especially when my whole body may be singing off tune. And Susie stuck with me too! Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound!

The recline of my wheelchair was in a small separate room, in preparation for an X-Ray. Prior to that, when I started feeling warm sitting next to the door of the waiting room, Susie noticed my skin was getting sweaty and clammy. She asked me where my pain level was on a scale of zero to ten, and it was up to a six. And when pain and anxiety goes up, I get air-hungry, so she raised my ventilator breath rate. At that point, Susie rushed to a nurse and told her what was happening in the ER was an emergency. Then while

she wheeled me into a little side-room to take my blood pressure, the pain went up to a seven. And in the side-room, more air-hungry, and breathing rate up to nineteen. Then they led us to the room where I would get the X-Ray, then the recline—and some relief! (The X-Ray revealed no broken femur.)

*“Come Thou Fount of every blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace.”*

I really need my heart to be singing in tune right now, and singing in peaceful grace, because right now (and for a while longer) my leg is trying to sing in unison. But, when even a hint of that pain has resurfaced, even a 0.5 level of that pain is singing a little flat. We learned the diagnosis—snapped hamstring tendon—a few days later at an orthopedic center. There is no need for surgery because I don’t walk—I have no leg muscles. Recovery is four to six weeks from March 21st.

Physical pain is so distracting for me because in 34 years I have basically had none. It affects my stomach and brings a little nausea. Maybe some days it will go back to zero, like it has occasionally since the 21st. But however long pain lasts at whatever level, Jesus will always be with me, comforting me, singing with me, giving me peace, and joy, and *hopeforafool* that will never depart as I turn my eyes on Him! My purpose for still living is to keep proclaiming the eternal hope I have in Jesus!

*“Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.”*

The love, joy, and peace we have in Christ Jesus transcends understanding. Moments of frustration are quickly overcome by the knowledge that in this world we face tribulations, but Jesus has overcome the world. When things in

*My purpose for still
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this tribulation-filled world don’t make sense, we place our faith in Jesus, and He is giving us peace that surpasses all comprehension.

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:4-7)

The anchoring stability of our life is that “which surpasses all comprehension”—the “peace of God” which guards, strengthens, protects, and comforts when we come to Him in anxiety, pouring our hearts out to our Lord and Savior, the One who gives us rest. Because we know Jesus suffered for us on Good Friday and then conquered death to give us never-ending life with Him, we can rejoice in every anxious circumstance when we can’t comprehend or figure anything out. The Lord is near, and He will never leave us. This love gives us peace which surpasses all comprehension and understanding.

This is the peace of Christ that rules within our hearts—and even in outer decaying bodies and snapped tendons—“with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

CEDINE MINISTRIES

MISSION TRIP REPORT

East White Oak has been a long-time supporter of Cedine Ministries, (cedine.org), at Cedine Bible Camp in rural Spring City, TN.

Phyllis Zimmerman is a daughter of former EWO Pastor R.J. Zehr who led the church from 1928 till he went to be with the Lord in 1971. Dwight & Phyllis Zimmerman continue to serve faithfully at Cedine, performing just about any role that's needed. It's quite motivating to walk and talk with them and to experience their continued zeal for the work of Christ.

Mission teams travel down to the Bible Camp annually during Spring Break to help with maintaining the property and adding improvements. Located on hilly property overlooking picturesque Watts Barr Lake, the MANY trees alone provide plenty of opportunity for tree-trimming & clearing piles of leaves. Cedine relies upon the work of volunteers to keep going.

A unique feature of these annual trips is the diverse makeup of the teams. Led by Wes and Pat Hill, a number of team members go year after year, always finding new projects. Energetic young families with kids and teens join retirees with seasoned experience to work side by side. This cross-section of members provides the opportunity to meet and get to know others they may not encounter at church. The team is very open to new participants. This year, 18 of the 37 members were "first timers." It's not an exaggeration to say that Cedine Teams look upon themselves as "extended family." The variety of available work for any skill/energy level and the friendliness of the team make this a great way to participate in a most God-glorifying mission trip.

In addition to working on various tasks through the week, meals and member-led evening devotions are shared. Each year a few ladies become part of the "kitchen team," preparing lunch and dinner for the

mission team and any Cedine staffer that would like to join. In spite of the genuine hard work that gets accomplished, it's not unusual to gain a pound or two because of the good food!

This year's tasks included: cooking, cleaning (including laundry), preparing mailings for the post office, clearing leaves and branches, scraping & painting cabin siding, power washing benches, installing a water line (trench work), installing footing drainage tile, conduit for electric line, surface inlet with 15" drain line, roof tear-off and installation of roofing felt, spreading gravel in several parking areas, and constructing a staircase in Boys' Camp.

God faithfully overruled the weather forecast that predicted rain every day for the entire week. Despite departing Bloomington/Normal in a snowstorm and a steady down-pour the whole way down, weather remained dry permitting all outdoor work to be completed.

Team Members:

Wes & Pat Hill; Tom & Mary Kerfoot; Wendell & Lynn Springston; Harlan & Diane Fels; Christine, Mya, & Nate Day; Jim & Jeannie Dunlap; Mark, Jennifer, & Rylie Gerber; Scott, Peggy, Lydia, Josiah, & Naomi Meade; Steve & Kathy Allison; Dave, Jill, Bo, Gracie, & Blake Stutzman; Judy Barrier; Lance, Heidi, Brady, & Harper McGowan; Gretchen & Ben Bogner; Bill & Diane Fahrenkrug.





A NOTE FROM PHYLLIS ZIMMERMAN

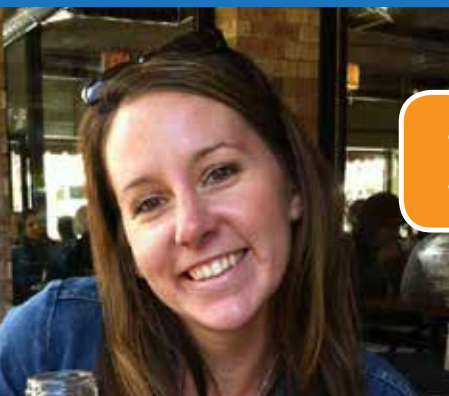
"Vacation time for some means travel or a relaxing time at the beach or a resort. Then there are those special people who spend a week of 'vacation' with us here at Cedine."

"March 19-22 a group of 38 from The Oak ministered at Cedine laboring on reroofing a building, extensive underground electric and water lines, working on promotional mailings, helping in food service prep and clean up, painting walls, raking mounds of leaves, or doing any other tasks needing to be done. Much was accomplished!! Although often dirty, sometimes sweaty and tired, they did it cheerfully with smiles on their faces and in their hearts. No task was too large or too small as they unselfishly went the extra mile."

"However, a workweek at Cedine is not all work. Evenings were spent playing games, riding horses, etc. Each evening they also gathered to have a time of devotions together around God's Word. Rain was predicted for every day the group was here. However, though some days were cool the rain did not come until about 5:00 P.M. of the last day of work. We certainly thank the Lord for this answer to prayer!"

"It was a joy for us not only to work with some of the neatest people during the day but also have sweet fellowship during meal times as well as several evenings. A special thanks to all who gave of their time and effort. We greatly appreciate each one...partners in ministry."





Meet Cara Johnson

Toddler Sunday School Teacher

"Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord." Psalm 34:11

Upon first thought, many of us may assume that not much of spiritual significance happens in a toddler (2-3 year-old children) Sunday School classroom.

We might conclude that there is most likely lots of crying, groups of children playing (and maybe arguing), endless trips to the "potty," and more an atmosphere of child-care than teaching. But if you were to ask Cara Johnson, one of The Oak's team of toddler teachers, she would tell you that God is actively at work in these little lives, teaching, growing and nurturing them on Sunday mornings!

Cara's love for Jesus and children emanate from her! At the age of 10, Cara trusted Jesus as her Lord and Savior. Growing up in a Christian family, she was blessed to have many people who encouraged her, prayed for her and provided wise counsel in the Lord throughout her life. Her love for Jesus was nurtured early and often! A daughter of Jeff and Rhonda Johnson, Cara currently teaches third-grade at Ridgeview Elementary in Colfax, IL. She also volunteers as a host family with the Safe Families for Children organization.

Loving Jesus and desiring children to love Him as well, Cara has volunteered in children's ministry at The Oak. She has served in the 4 and 5 year old preschool class in the past and currently volunteers in the Toddler Sunday School class at 10:30 AM, sharing the team teaching ministry with Katie White (her teaching partner) and Kevin

and Katie Wills. Cara says, "So far, this is my favorite age to work with. They are such an energetic group and get so excited about the smallest things!"

Just a few weeks ago, one of Cara's favorite parts about sharing Jesus with "littles" occurred. "We were talking about Jesus rising from the dead. I used an empty Easter egg to represent the empty tomb. I told the kids that inside the egg was the greatest thing ever. I had the kids listen as I shook the egg, try to look through the egg, and even try to smell the egg. Finally, one of the little guys became impatient and took the egg, opened it, and with a slightly sad look said, 'It's empty.' I smiled and said, 'Yes, just like the tomb was empty. There is nothing in this egg and there was nothing in the tomb, because Jesus is alive! Isn't that wonderful?' It took him a moment, but soon that little guy was smiling and shouting, 'Yay! Jesus is alive! Best thing ever!'"

Another favorite Toddler Sunday School time for Cara is one in which she has seen God working in the children. Cara shares, "Prayer time has become a more serious and quiet time. When we first started having prayer time, there was a lot of wiggling and giggling (as you would expect with 2's and 3's!). Now, they lay quietly on their rugs with minimal wiggles and giggles. Sometimes when giving the prayer prompts, I can hear the soft whispers of the children praying. Words can't express what a special and blessed time this is."

One challenging aspect of working with the toddlers, Cara says, is answering questions. She seeks God's guidance to give answers to these faith questions in an age appropriate manner. With laughter, she says, "No matter how good of an answer you give a 2 year old, there is always another (or 10 more) "why" questions that follow!"

Cara would love your prayers! Would you please pray that she would finish up the school year with endurance and patience? She would also appreciate prayers for her work with the Safe Family mommas, children and fellow volunteers. Finally, would you pray that the toddlers continue to have an eager spirit as they hear and learn about Jesus?

"The toddlers have been such a blessing these last few months," Cara says. And Cara has been a true blessing to the toddlers, their families and to the Lord Jesus as she has served Him in Sunday School!



BIBLE QUESTION OF THE MONTH!

win
cool
prizes!

Looking for ways to dig into God's Word as a family? The Bible Question of the Month will help you do just that!

Each month, beginning in May, a scripture and question about that scripture will be posted on the small bulletin board at the top of the Children's Ministries stairs. Pick up an answer slip on the table under this bulletin board, discuss and answer with your kids. Return the slip to the container on the table under the bulletin board. All slips turned in by the end of the month will be entered into a drawing for prizes!



May Scripture:

John 10:14 "I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me."

Bible Question of the Month:

In what way is Jesus your good shepherd?

BIBLE
SUPER
HEROS

SUMMER 2018

First-Sixth Grade
Sunday School

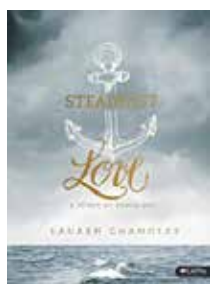
9:00am

Don't miss this exciting
summer program!

June 3 - September 2

WOMEN'S Summer BIBLE STUDIES

*Beginning
Thursday, June 7!*



STEADFAST LOVE: A STUDY OF PSALM 107

A Study of Psalm 107 by Lauren Chandler

There are times when worship overflows effortlessly from a heart full of gratitude and praise. And there are times when God seems far and we feel we have nothing to offer. Throughout it all, God shows us His steadfast love. In this study, learn to face both storms and deserts with courage and trust in Jesus. 7 session study beginning June 7. Sign up at ewo.org.

MORNINGS

*Thursdays, 9:30-11:30 AM, Room 172
Led by Judith Birkey & Cathy Deckard
Childcare available \$2/child/wk.*

EVENINGS

*Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 PM, Room 172
Led by Emily Henard & Megan White
No childcare*



SIGNS OF THE SECOND COMING

Study Guide and Messages by Dr. David Jeremiah

Matthew 24-25: The Olivet Discourse is our Savior's teaching on what leads up to His second coming and how believers should live in anticipation of this amazing event! 7 session study beginning June 7. Sign up at ewo.org.

MORNINGS

*Thursdays, 9:30-11:30 AM, Banquet Room
Led by Nancy Gingrich.
Childcare available \$2/child/wk.*

GENESIS PART ONE: THE CREATION

Precept Upon Precept Inductive Study

When you immerse yourself in the Biblical account of Creation, you will be led to know your Creator in deeper ways, increasing your awe of Him. You will also gain insight into who you are in relationship to your Maker and will gain a more complete understanding of your own purpose and how to live. 5 session study beginning June 7. Sign up at ewo.org.



MORNINGS

*Thursdays, 9:30-11:30 AM, Room 173
Led by Lynny Wegman
Childcare available \$2/child/wk.*

EVENINGS

*Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 PM, Room 173
Led by Lynny Wegman
No childcare*

RETURN TO TANZANIA

2018 TANZANIA TEACHING AND COUNSELING SHORT-TERM TRIP

JUNE 23 - JULY 8, 2018

*Why has
God called us back
to Tanzania to
train teachers
again?*

*It is an honor to serve
the Lord and to join
Him in the work He
continues to do in
Tanzania. We seek to
serve Him with humble
and teachable hearts
and wait expectantly to
see and experience all
that God has planned.
We appreciate any way
that you can help.*

*In Christ—
Your Tanzania Team*

What's the same?

1. Our Ministry Locations: Tanzania Children's Rescue Center (TCRC), Yordan School, Mavuno Village, and Nassa Theological College

2. Our Focus: We will be serving EWO supported missionaries: Micah and Happiness Ngussa (TCRC) & training and interacting with many teachers, staff, families, and children that we met last year.

3. Our Vision: Making a difference in teachers' lives involves coaching, training, and discipling them.

4. Our Goal: To help teachers enhance what they are already doing in their classroom and to encourage them to take their instruction a step further, all from a Christian perspective.

What's different?

1. Our New Friends: Robert and Gertrude Gwabo, (headmasters of TCRC secondary and primary schools) asked us to train about these topics: Lesson planning, reading, positive classroom environment.

2. Our Approach: We will engage teachers in an application-based workshop where they will participate in creating lessons and developing new strategies for their first week of school in July. Also, we will model how to develop a Christ-centered classroom and Gospel driven relationships.

3. Our Talents: God has gifted our team with: (1) A counselor who is ready to meet with teachers and staff. (2) A nurse who is also musically talented to help lead worship. (3) Four teachers skilled as either primary or secondary level educators.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SUPPORT THE TEAM?

THE TEAM

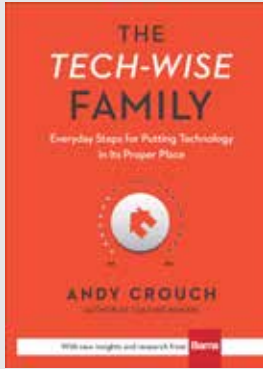


Back row: (L-R) Keith Studnicki, Susan Vance, Matt Hughes
Front row: (L-R) Emily Jenkins, Julie Horton, Sue Powell
Not pictured: Elly Zieger and Parker Yust

First, we ask for your prayers. The strength we receive from them is vital and such an encouragement. Second, we ask for financial support. The cost of the trip is \$2900 per person. If you would like to make a financial contribution, please make your check payable to "East White Oak Bible Church." For IRS purposes please do not put any names on the check. Please give your envelope to a team member or put them in Julie Horton's church mailbox. If you'd like to designate support for a specific team member, please attach a note with his/her name.



NEW LIBRARY RESOURCES AT THE OAK



FEATURED RESOURCE

THE TECH-WISE FAMILY by Andy Crouch

Making conscientious choices about technology in our families is more than just using internet filters and determining screen time limits for our children. It's about developing wisdom, character, and courage in the way we use digital media rather than accepting technology's promises of ease, instant gratification, and the world's knowledge at our fingertips. And it's definitely not just about the kids. Drawing on in-depth original research from the Barna Group, Andy Crouch shows readers that the choices we make about technology have consequences we may never have considered. Anyone who has felt their family relationships suffer or their time slip away amid technology's distractions will find in this book a path forward to reclaiming their real life in a world of devices.

OTHER RECENT ADDITIONS

No Graven Image

Elisabeth Elliot's only fiction book (referred to in a recent sermon by Pastor Scott) This story grapples with the danger of fixing our gaze on the results of our work, rather than on the God who called us to the work, and Whose responsibility it really is to produce results.

This Changes Everything

by Jaquelle Crowe (written by a teenager for teenagers) Jesus has no half-hearted followers...see how the truth about God changes everything – our relationships, our time, our sin, our habits, and more - Freeing us to live joyful, obedient, and Christ-exalting lives, even while we're young.

Jonathan Edwards (Christian Biographies for Young Readers series) *Check out the beautiful illustrations in these books by Simonetta Carr!*

The Masterpiece

Latest novel by Francine Rivers

How to Lead When You're Not in Charge

by Clay Scroggins

Making Sense of God

by Timothy Keller

Jesus Among Secular Gods

by Ravi Zacharias and Vince Vitale

(DVD) **The Resurrection of Gavin Stone**

(DVD) **The Adoniram and Ann Judson Story** (Torchbearers)

Check out the full series!

Foyer
REMODEL

*Thank you
for your
feedback!*

LEADERSHIP UPDATE

A remodeling concept was presented at the annual meeting.

The goals were to increase common space in the foyer, improve the main restrooms including ADA compliance, and consolidate staff offices...accomplishing it all without indebtedness. Thanks to everyone who provided feedback during the comment period. The church's board will take everything into consideration and look forward to presenting "next steps" to the congregation soon. Any potential construction would not take place before 2019.



east white oak youth+ministries

SUMMER MOVE-UP DATES

6TH-8TH GRADE CROSSTRAINERS TOGETHER
Wednesdays, May 9 – May 30

8TH GRADE “FRESHMAN WELCOME NIGHT”
Sunday, June 3

SUNDAY SCHOOL “MOVE-UP” DAY FOR EVERYONE
Sunday, June 3



SENIORS

Graduating seniors are welcome to check out the IGNITE ministry anytime during the spring or summer!



ewoyouth.org

ELDER / DEACON NOTES

- The Deacons continue to improve upon our plan for safety and security at The Oak. A video surveillance policy has been adopted, and video cameras will be located near a couple entrances. Efforts also continue with updating A/V equipment, and older TV's have been replaced with flat screen TV's.
- The Deacons also recently completed a project in the Nursery area to supply the nursing room in Nursery 1 with a video feed of the service. New changing stations were installed in Nursery 2.
- Efforts are underway to provide more privacy in the participant changing area for baptismal candidates.
- We appreciate the feedback that has been provided on the potential renovation to the building. The Elders and Deacons continue to review that feedback and discuss potential next steps, and we covet your prayers for wisdom.
- Please also continue to pray for the pastoral search committee as that group continues its efforts to identify a pastoral candidate to replace Pastor Larry.

BIRTHS

Fritz Arthur Noe (born January 26)
Son of Adam & Jenna Noe

Wyatt Isaac (born March 4)
Son of Caleb and Jordan Miller

DEATHS

Dottie Kermicle
(Laura Spychalla's mother)
Passed away January 29

Patricia Duncan
(Dan Howerton's mother)
Passed away January 30

Carol Thomas
(Tom Kerfoot's sister)
Passed away February 3

Carlene Fillmore
Passed away February 3

Mary O'Brien
(Jane Rich's mother)
Passed away February 3

James Sire
(Richard Sire's father)
Passed away February 6

JoAnn Johnson
(Mark Johnson's mother)
Passed away February 17

Mark Warren's mother
Passed away February 21

Ramona Blystone
(Chuck Blystone's mother)
Passed away February 27

Jean Gladstone
(Karen VanGoethem's mother)
Passed away March 18

Richard James
(Brad James' father)
Passed away March 25

Paula Hafner
Passed away April 4

Gary Wills
(Kevin Wills' father)
Passed away April 4

Ruth Ann Marseilles
(Chuck Marseilles's wife)
Passed away April 19

Jim Birky
Passed away April 22

Amon Gentry
(Gary Gentry's father)
Passed away April 23

Chester Henry
(LaWanda Matson's father)
Passed away April 28

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

CONNECT WITH

STEVE AND NATALIE ARN

Saturday, June 2, 6:00pm // East White Oak Banquet Room

"We are ecstatic over what our Great God is doing in Menya! Thank you for praying for these precious people. Many of you have participated in this ministry through prayer since day one when we moved there in 2008! The Lord is making Himself known and bringing glory to Himself in the remote places of the earth! Praise Him!" – Natalie Arn

In 2008, Steve and Natalie Arn moved into the Menya tribe of Papua New Guinea with two other missionary families. Their goal was to learn the Menya language and culture and ultimately share the Gospel of Jesus. It often takes many years to accomplish this goal, and the Menya language was difficult. The Arns began to build relationships with the Menya people and learn the language. Before the work was complete, the Arns were forced to return to the States due to Natalie's health. Their missionary partners carried on the work as the Arns continued to pray. In April 2018, the missionaries reached their goal. They taught the Menya people chronologically through the Bible, culminating in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. The Menya people responded immediately. Many placed their faith in Jesus as their Savior!

Steve and Natalie were able to rejoice from a distance, but we want them to be able to experience God's work first-hand. Through the generous giving of our congregation, we are able to send the Arns back to Papua New Guinea this month to visit the Menya tribe and their missionary co-workers. On June 2, the Arns will return to give a report. Please join us to hear more about what God is doing in Menya!



Missionary Wes Chapel presenting the Gospel message in Menya



Menya people listening to Chronological Bible Teaching



Responding to the teaching



Ethnos 360 Missionaries Steve & Natalie Arn with their children