



SEPTEMBER 2017

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*East White Oak Bible Church*

# Oak LEAF

East White Oak Bible Church | 11922 E 2000 North Rd. Carlock, IL 61725 | 309.454.3833 | [www.ewo.org](http://www.ewo.org)

Knowing Christ and Making Him Known

## *The Oak is* **EXPECTING A BABY!**

by Pastor Scott Boerckel

*Carol and I are looking forward to our sixth grandchild due to be born this November. What a time of anticipation, prayer, and planning this is! But this is not the baby that I am writing about in this article. The baby that I'm talking about is the birth of our church plant in West Bloomington. In the same way, there is anticipation, prayer, and planning over the birth of this baby too.*



### ★ Why Plant Churches?

There are several reasons why people think that church planting should not be done. "Why plant churches when there are so many existing churches to attend?" "Won't a new church just take away people from other churches and especially from The Oak?" "Why don't we help hurting churches? Why plant a new church when there are so many churches that are struggling to stay alive?" "Why plant a church when our own church could use some revival and energy? Shouldn't we concentrate our energies on our own ministries?" While these seem to be very practical questions, they rest on faulty assumptions. We need to understand why we must plant churches if we are to follow Jesus.

### ★ The New Testament Model: Plant Churches

Jesus' command to make disciples involves baptizing and teaching. This presumes a church where the ordinance of baptism and the teaching of the Word can happen regularly (Matt. 28:18–20; Acts 2:41–47). If the number of churches increases, we know that the number of disciples is increasing also. Many evangelism efforts seek to identify "decisions" for Christ, but as we often see, those "decisions" do not pan out into real disciples. Incorporation into the life of the church, the body of Christ, is the way of assuring that evangelism is really happening.

The Apostle Paul had a definite strategy in his evangelism work. First, he would go to the largest city of the region (Acts 16:9, 12). He would preach at the synagogue (Acts 13:5; 13:14; 14:1; 17:1, 10, 17; 18:4; 18:19; 19:8) and anywhere else that he was invited (16:13; 17:19; 18:7, 11; 19:9–10; 28:23, 30–31). He would entertain questions from

## The Oak is **EXPECTING A BABY!**

people about the Gospel (Acts 17:19, 19:9-10; 28:30-31). Finally, he would plant churches in the city (Acts 14:23; 16:5; Titus 1:5; Romans 15:19, 23). He saw evangelism only in the context of planting churches.

Of course, someone could say, “But that was in pioneering places where the Gospel had not gone before. Why should we plant churches where churches are already planted?” To answer this, we must understand what church planting does.

### ★ **What Church Planting Does —Accomplishing the Heart of Christ**

We plant churches because church planting accomplishes the heart of Christ. Church plants will reach more people for Christ than existing churches. Younger adults are always more attracted to newer congregations. Tim Keller notes that existing congregations have traditions, ways of doing things, that are hard to change. Things like time of worship, length of service, level of emotional responsiveness, leadership style, emotional atmosphere, and many other details reflect the sensitivities of longtime members who by leadership and commitment have large influence in church life. Younger adults are able to become leaders more easily in a new church plant. New socio-economic groups are more easily reached by a new church. There is greater receptivity to racial diversity when a church plant is intentionally multi-ethnic. New churches empower new people more quickly and readily than existing churches do.

In fact, dozens of studies show that the average new church gains 60-80% of its members from people who are not church attenders. In contrast, existing churches gain 80-90% of their new members from people transferring from other churches. As Keller writes, “This means the average new congregation will bring six to eight times more new people into the life of the body of Christ than an older congregation of the same size.”

This does not mean that existing churches are bad! After all every successful church plant becomes an existing church. Existing churches provide stability and member care far more effectively. And some people are only reached for Christ by such a church. However, a church plant, rather than being focused on existing members’ needs, is focused on reaching out to non-members and meeting their needs. New believers have many non-believing friends, and that is the focus of the church plant. A church filled with new Christians will be far more attentive and attractive to non-believing friends.

### ★ **What I Pray Church Planting Will Do for the Oak**

By now, I hope that at least a few of you are saying, “Wait just a minute! Why can’t we have an existing church that acts like a

church plant, at least as far as outreach goes?” I am glad that you asked! I believe that planting a church could spur us on to better accomplish our mission like church plants do.

The planting of a new church in West Bloomington will bring fresh ideas to us at The Oak. The ability of a church plant to try new things (because there are no traditions!) will help us see some good ideas that deserve our implementation as well. The ability of a church plant to utilize new people (because there aren’t any other kind at a church plant) will help us see how we can more rapidly deploy new people at The Oak into ministry. Where we are timid or might say about something, “That won’t work here,” we might give a second look if we see it succeed in our church plant. Just as we can bring stability to our church plant, our church plant can breathe fresh life and creativity into us.

In fact, I hope that our church plant will draw us into a seeking after the Lord in self-examination. I hope that it will provoke a godly jealousy in us to imitate their creativity, earnestness, commitment, and joy. I hope that we will be reinvigorated in our calling to bring people to maturity in Christ. I hope that our partnership with our church plant will enable both The Oak and the church plant to accomplish for Jesus Christ what neither of us could do alone. I hope that just as we are sending people to our church plant to serve Jesus, that one day our church plant will send people to us to help us in our weak areas.

### ★ **The Glory of God**

Planting a church is not easy. As the mother church, The Oak will experience labor pains. Things will go wrong; resources will be stretched; we will miss some very valued ministry partners. However, in our labor pains, we must remind ourselves of the baby that is coming. A baby church that will bring the glory of God to a neighborhood that desperately needs to see that glory. Please pray earnestly and regularly for your church—that we will grow from our planting a church. Pray earnestly and regularly for the church plant, that the Lord will guide each step of the way. Pray for the glory of God to descend from heaven on our community that people might be saved and brought to maturity in Christ.

*This article is greatly indebted to a much better (but longer) article by Tim Keller on this topic. You can access the Keller article at: [http://download.redeemer.com/pdf/learn/resources/Why\\_Plant\\_Churches-Keller.pdf](http://download.redeemer.com/pdf/learn/resources/Why_Plant_Churches-Keller.pdf)*





# *West Bloomington* **CHURCH PLANT UPDATE**

by Tom Powell

*The name of the church  
plant is official!*

## **LIVING STONE COMMUNITIES**

The inspiration is from I Peter 2:4, "As you come to him, a Living Stone, rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious..." . There were several names in the running. One factor in choosing a name was interviews with local residents which revealed an affinity to Living Stone. The term "communities" emphasizes our biblical identity as families of missionary-servants living in community together.

Grill Nights continue to serve their purpose of building personal connections that form the first steps of making disciples. We have compiled a constantly growing database of about 50 household units who fit into one of three categories in terms of discipleship: CORE—those believers who have the training and maturity to provide leadership; COMMITTED—other believers who have expressed a desire to be fully committed to the church but not yet in leadership; COMMUNITY—a mixture of believers and yet-to-be-believers that have demonstrated interest in connecting more deeply with the church body. The CORE, seven people from The Oak and four others in the neighborhood, are currently meeting on Sunday evenings for training on Christian beliefs, gospel centered leadership, and other practical discipleship topics.

God paved the way for three new families to find a home and move into the neighborhood to live among the people they desire to serve. Caleb and Christy Philips, Michael and Eren Moore, and Dave and Jessica Wolfe are all in the midst of deciding which boxes to unpack and which will sit unopened in the basement or garage for the next few years.

The organizing structure of Living Stone will provide three environments for growth as disciples of Christ – the worship time (GATHER), the Gospel Community (GO), and the Discovery/ Nurture/ Accountability DNA groups (GROW). Currently there is just one large gospel community. The mission focus is Irving Elementary School. Fall activities are ramping up includ-



*Perfect attendance party at Irving , sponsored by The Oak*



*Building relationships with students during the Irving  
School Summer Lunch Program*



*Grill Night at Pastor Larry's home*

## West Bloomington CHURCH PLANT UPDATE, continued



*Treehouse Bible Club kids going to camp!*



*Lunch provided for Irving School teachers by Living Stone Gospel Community*



*Building relationships with students during the Irving School Summer Lunch Program*

ing praying for the teachers and families, PTO involvement, classroom volunteering, event support, and connecting with families through the Tree House Bible Club (at The Hub on Tuesdays and Thursdays). We had a wonderful prayer time at the school Wednesday, August 16, when several of us, including one teacher, met to pray for the staff, students, and families of Irving Elementary.

A desire for multiplication is built into all of our equipping time and prayers – disciples making disciples. The remainder of this year will include regular times of training and foundation building. Then we will be prepared to multiply into one or two more gospel communities (G.C.'s) with 3-5 leaders and 15-20 participants in each. Each new G.C. seeks God's direction to identify their unique mission emphasis. Besides Irving, some possibilities are single moms, the BHS football team, members and staff at the YMCA or YFC.

We will begin gathering twice a month on the first and third Sunday mornings in October at The Hub. This will be primarily with the CORE and COMMITTED, to pray, worship, and seek God's blessing on the neighborhood. As God leads, monthly services will open to the public in the 1st quarter of next year and then weekly services thereafter. Irving School has graciously offered their gym at no cost. Even though worship gatherings are a vital part of the ministry, we like to say that gospel communities are the primary "front door" of the church. This is because it is expected that most people will attend the Sunday service as a result of experiencing Christ in word and deed through interaction with friends and neighbors in a G.C. Larry Van Gundy will gradually transition his time to the new church as pastor and the only paid staff. He is expected to be fully committed to Living Stone by early 2018.

*Each Living Stone update in the Oak Leaf will feature a commonly asked question and answer.*

### THIS MONTH'S QUESTION **What is a gospel community?**

ANSWER: A Gospel Community consists of a committed core of believers (FAMILY) who live out the mission of God together (MISSIONARIES) in a specific area or to a particular people group by demonstrating the gospel in tangible forms (SERVANTS) and declaring the gospel to others—both those who believe it and those who are being exposed to it (LEARNERS).

To clarify, a Gospel Community is not primarily a small group, Bible study, support group, or a community service group, but it does engage in ALL of those activities. Think of the mission focus and close community of a short term mission trip.



Join us for an  
**ALL-CHURCH  
WORSHIP SERVICE**  
under a  
**HUGE TENT!**

**SEPTEMBER 10, 2017**

# All Church Picnic

**COMLARA PARK, GLASENER BEACH**

**WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30 | BAPTISMS 11:45 | LUNCH 12:00**

## LUNCH

CATERED BY JASON'S DELI

Please consider making a donation toward the cost of the meal (suggested \$5 per lunch). Donation baskets will be located in the serving lines.

## AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

BEACH (No Swimming), NINE SQUARE IN THE AIR, INFLATABLES, EWO PHOTO BOOTH, HAYRACK RIDES, CANOES, ROWBOATS, PADDLEBOATS, MOTORBOATS, WOODY WRIGHT CONCERT

*"Woody Wright has it all. He sings. He writes. He's funny. And he'll touch your heart." —Mark Lowry*

Sign Up  
online!  
**ewo.org**

# Awana® clubs

Bible based clubs for kids!

**Cubbies** Preschool Ages 3-4  
**Sparks** Kindergarten-2nd Grade  
**Truth and Training Girls** 3rd-6th Grade  
**Truth and Training Boys** 3rd-6th Grade

**Clubs begin September 6, 2017**  
**Wednesdays • 6:30-8:00 PM**

**REGISTER ONLINE @ ewo.org**



## BIRTHS

**Emerson Jane** (born July 9, 2017)  
daughter of Nick and Sarah Weber

**Lux Adelie** (born August 3, 2017)  
daughter of Clark and Jessica Kaeb

**Mayson Dee** (born August 16, 2017)  
son of Mitch and Precious Hamilton

## DEATHS

**Rose Ulrich** (Sharon Kennell's mother)  
passed away July 30

**Roger Newhart** (Lynda Landes' brother)  
passed away July 31

**Jonathan Bach** (Roger Bach's son)  
passed away August 24



# ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



July 30, 2017 kicked off a season of celebration commemorating East White Oak's 125th Anniversary.

We praise God for the work He has done on our little corner for the past 125 years!

## All Church Family Photo



This "Family Photo" was taken on July 30, at our Anniversary Kick-Off Celebration. Copies are available at the Welcome Center. One photo per family please.



## OakWear

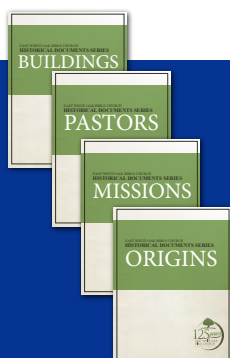
Some Styles are Still Available!

➤ **Short Sleeve T-Shirt** (\$10)  
*Green shirt with white screenprint*

➤ **Long Sleeve T-Shirt** (\$15)  
*Green shirt with white screenprint*

➤ **Hoodie** (\$25)  
*Green hoodie with white screenprint*

Order online at [ewo.org](http://ewo.org) // 125th Anniversary



## Historical Document Series

In celebration of our 125th Anniversary, we have published a series of historical documents. Learn more about how the church began, the history of our facility, our senior pastors, and our mission work throughout the years. Copies are available at the Welcome Center, or online at [ewo.org](http://ewo.org).



East White Oak Bible Church was founded during the summer of 1892.

# WHAT ELSE WAS HAPPENING IN 1892?

44 stars on  
American  
Flag  
44 states in  
the Union

38% of McLean County population live in Bloomington/  
Normal; 62% live on farms and in rural villages

**Population of McLean County  
is 63,063 (1890)**

**Population of Bloomington is 20,484;  
Normal, 3,459 (1890)**

Illinois State University is 35 years old with 680  
students and 22 faculty members

## IMPORTANT DATES IN 1892

- 01/15** Ellis Island opens as reception center for immigrants
- 01/15** James Naismith's rules for basketball are published in an article titled *A New Game*
- 01/29** Coca-Cola Company is incorporated in Atlanta, Georgia
- 04/15** The General Electric Company is incorporated in New York
- 05/22** Collapsible metal toothpaste tube is invented by Dr. Washington Sheffield
- 06/06** Chicago Elevated "L" railroad opens first 3.6 miles
- 07/18** Waldemar Haffkine demonstrates first anti-cholera vaccine
- 08/09** Thomas Edison receives patent for two-way telegraph
- 09/08** Pledge of Allegiance first appears
- 10/01** The University of Chicago holds its first classes
- 10/18** First long distance telephone line between Chicago and New York City
- 11/08** Grover Cleveland elected, his running mate is Adlai E. Stevenson of Bloomington
- 12/06** The Nutcracker ballet by Tchaikovsky premiers in St. Petersburg, Russia

## OTHER EVENTS IN 1892:

- Beaufort Street is first paved street in Normal
- Electric power is introduced to Normal
- Eugene D. Funk plants his first bushel of hybrid corn (Funks 90-Day Variety)
- Corn is picked by hand using metal hooks while walking beside horse-drawn wagons
- National League, sole major league in baseball, establishes standard 50-cent admission fee
- Frank Lloyd Wright establishes his own practice

### BORN IN 1892

**J. R. R. Tolkien** (author *The Lord of the Rings*) **Oliver Hardy** (comedian and actor)  
**Eddie Cantor** (actor and singer) **Grant Wood** (painter *American Gothic*) **Edna St. Vincent Millay** (poet and playwright) **Corrie ten Boom** (Dutch Christian writer)

### DIED IN 1892

**Charles Spurgeon** (preacher and author) **Walt Whitman** (poet) **John Greenleaf Whittier** (poet and abolitionist) **Alfred Lord Tennyson** (British poet)

\* Special thanks to Joan Rich for her research



**Benjamin Harrison**,  
Republican from Indiana,  
is U. S. President



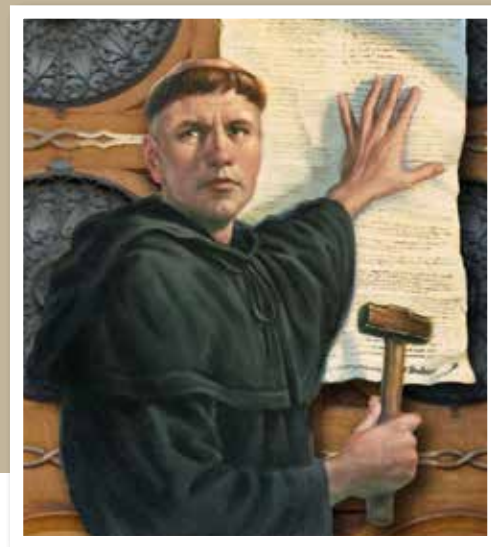
**Queen Victoria** is  
Queen of United  
Kingdom [reigns for  
63 years]



**D.L. Moody** is  
President of Chicago  
Evangelism Society  
founded 6 years ago  
[renamed Moody Bible  
Institute after Moody's  
death]

DID YOU KNOW?

# 2017 Marks the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation



*In 1517 Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses, calling the church to reform. His fight to reclaim the gospel is still relevant today.*

Born in the small German town of Eisleben in 1483, Luther was raised in the Roman Catholic Church, the official religion of Germany. While studying law as a young adult in 1505, he was caught in a massive thunderstorm, and fearing death and facing God, he promised to become a monk. He kept his promise and entered one of the strictest monastic orders in Germany. There he studied the Bible earnestly, seeking God's forgiveness and approval but never having peace. In 1511 his superior assigned him to further his studies and teach the Bible at the university in Wittenberg, Germany, where he became a doctor of theology in 1512.

During this time, Pope Leo X authorized selling indulgences to raise money for the Roman Catholic Church. An indulgence was declared by the church to shorten temporal punishment for sin in purgatory and could be purchased for oneself or a loved one. Questioning this practice, Luther posted ninety-five theses on indulgences, sin and repentance on the door of the church in Wittenberg on October 31, 1517. He also included the theses in a respectful letter to the archbishop who had ordered the sale of indulgences. The theses were written in Latin but someone translated them into German, and they went viral fueling the Reformation.

Luther continued to study and write. He especially wanted to understand "the righteousness of God" in Romans 1:17. He came to realize that righteousness is not earned but given by God through faith in Jesus Christ alone. His beliefs resulted in a papal notice of excommunication from the Roman Catholic Church in 1520. Convinced that his beliefs were God's Word, he burned the papal notice publicly by the city gates in Wittenberg.

Following this, Luther was questioned at an imperial meeting in Worms where he was asked to retract all his writings and beliefs. He refused, stating that he was "bound by the Scriptures."

The emperor condemned him as a heretic and outlaw. Fearing for Luther's life, his friend Prince Frederick the Wise "kidnapped" Luther and hid him at Wartburg Castle in an isolated forest area of Germany. During this time Luther disguised himself as a knight, using the name Junker Jorg (young Lord George). While at Wartburg, he translated the New Testament from Greek into German making it accessible to the common man. Three thousand copies sold within a few days!

In the meantime, the church reformation in Wittenberg led to much violence. The city council begged Luther to return to the city to preach and help restore order. He did so, but the violence escalated into war between the peasants and the lords with the rulers' armies killing about 100,000 peasants. Roman Catholics blamed Luther for the killing, and many peasants became disappointed in him.

In 1525 Luther married Katherine von Bora. As they devoted themselves to helping others during the plague of 1527, Luther encouraged leaders to put their trust in the Lord and not forsake their neighbor. It was probably during this time that he wrote the hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" based on Psalm 46.

In addition to their own five children, Martin and Katherine raised his sister's six children when his sister died in 1529. Luther said that raising a family taught him more about love, self-discipline and trust than living as a monk in a monastery. Interestingly, they raised this large family in an old monastery free of charge.

During his married years, Luther continued to teach and write. His many writings are collected in about one hundred volumes. He published a catechism as a teaching tool for pastors and parents which included instructions to fathers on how to hold daily family prayers. He replaced the church's short biographies about saints with psalters, books of the Psalms set to music. His daily talks



around the family table were compiled as Table Talk and can still be found in bookstores and libraries.

Luther died in 1546 at age 63 from a series of heart attacks while traveling to restore peace between two rulers in his native town of Eisleben. As he lay dying, one of his aides asked him, "Are you ready to die trusting in your Lord Jesus Christ and to confess the doctrine which you have taught in His name?" Luther replied, "Yes." That was his final word.

The man who had feared death in a thunderstorm as a young man no longer feared facing God!

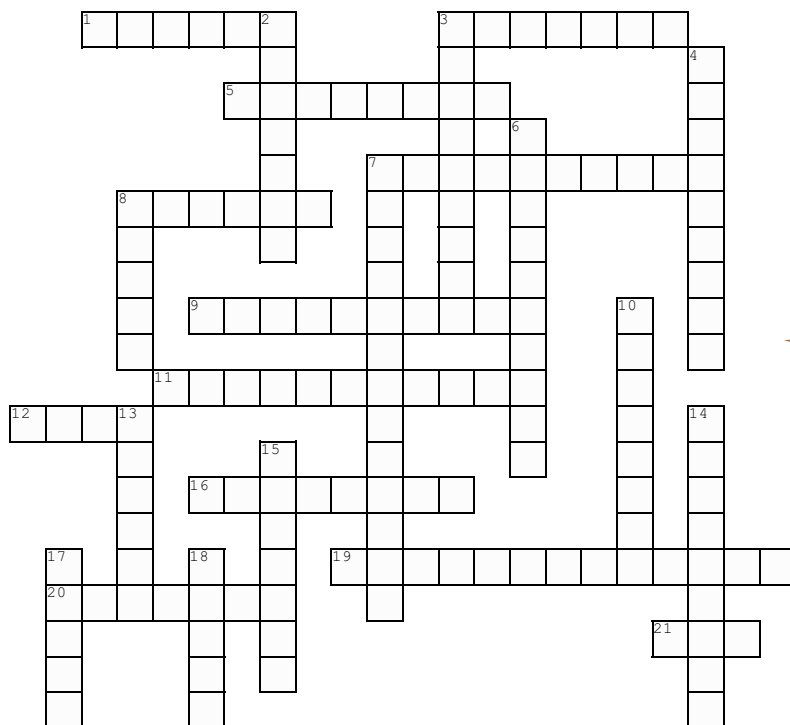
### Bibliography

*This synopsis and the accompanying crossword puzzle were compiled using the book Martin Luther by Simonetta Carr, Reformation Heritage Books, 2016.*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: ☐ UNDER 12 ☐ 13+

## Martin Luther

Use the accompanying article for help with the answers.



Created with TheTeachersCorner.net [Crossword Puzzle Generator](http://www.TheTeachersCorner.net/Crossword-Puzzle-Generator)

### Across

1. Carry off by force
3. One who is taught
5. Castle where Luther was secluded
7. Deep sorrow and turning from sin
8. Questions; proposals
9. German city where Reformation started
11. Religious movement begun by Martin Luther
12. Member of a monastery
16. Study of religious truths
19. Received by God through faith in Jesus Christ
20. Renounce; nullify
21. Legal system

### Down

2. Book with Psalms set to music
3. Old and New Testament writings; God's Word
4. Instructional book of religious beliefs, in question and answer format
6. Shorten temporal punishment of sin (Roman Catholic)
7. The religion whose practices Luther questioned (2 words)
8. Confidence; unquestioning belief
10. Luther wrote the hymn A Mighty \_\_\_\_\_ Is Our God
13. Luther's disguise while in seclusion
14. Collection of Luther's daily talks (2 words)
15. One who rejects established doctrine
17. Original New Testament language
18. The 95 theses were written in this language

\* Crossword Key will be posted in the East White Oak Library.

# LIBRARY BOOKS on the REFORMATION

## For Children

- Reformation ABCs –Stephen Nichols
- The Life of Martin Luther –Agostino Traini
- Martin Luther: A Man Who Changed the World –Paul Meier
- Katie Luther: Mother of the Reformation –Susan Leigh
- What Should I Do? (Little Lights series) –Catherine Mackenzie
- Martin Luther Story (DVD) (Torchlighters Heroes of the Faith)

## For Adults

- Here I Stand –Roland Bainton
- Scenes From Church History –Mark Sidwell
- Martin Luther (coming soon) –Eric Metaxas
- Martin Luther's Table Talk
- Luther (DVD)

## LIBRARY CROSSWORD CONTEST!

Complete the crossword puzzle and drop it off in the church library to enter our drawing!

### Two Prize Drawings:

- \* Children under 12
- \* Teen/Adult

Please submit your crossword puzzle by September 24. Winners will be announced October 1.



## Dave & Barb Halteman

### Children's Ministry Volunteers 3rd Grade Sunday School

*"...we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done." Psalm 78:4*

In just a few weeks, Sunday School begins a new year! Upstairs, in the Children's Ministry wing, you will find Dave and Barb Halteman, showing Jesus to the boys and girls in 3rd grade.

Meet the Haltemans, one of God's abundant gifts to the children and families of The Oak!

Dave and Barb have been happily married for 38 years and have been blessed with 3 wonderful children now grown and living with their spouses in San Francisco, San Diego, and Chicago. Barb and Dave were both born in Kankakee, Illinois. They have lived and worked in Virginia, Indiana, and Missouri. Barb is currently retired from her house cleaning business. Dave is an engineer with Caterpillar. Barb's favorite past times include growing flowers, spending time with her kids, grandson, and friends. Dave likes taking fishing trips to Canada, gardening, and home projects.

Dave and Barb realize the significance of sharing Jesus with boys and girls. When Dave was 10 years old he trusted Jesus as his Savior at a summer church camp. Barb grew up in a wonderful Christian home. She became a Christian while she and Dave were dating. After Dave returned from a David Wilkerson crusade, Barb desired to put her faith in Christ. Dave led her in doing that at the age of 18.

From their first year of marriage Dave and Barb have been either teaching Sunday School classes, AWANA, serving in the nursery or some other children's ministry whenever the opportunity existed. What keeps them coming back is knowing that God is using them to teach His precious children the truth of who God is and the great love He has for each of them.

In their third grade class, Dave and Barb strive to create an atmosphere of learning and relationship each Sunday. They use class time to make sure each child is welcomed and quickly engaged in learning activities. God's word is read and memorized and prayer is emphasized each week. They ask for prayer requests and volunteers

to pray aloud for one another. Individual and group projects, skits, and Bible related games are often used to make the lessons more meaningful and permanent in the children's minds. One favorite is the "Super Bowl Bible Quiz Game" that Dave and Barb designed for Super Bowl Sunday.

Some of Dave and Barb's greatest joys in teaching occur when they are doing what the kids like best: acting out Bible stories with skits and playing Bible related games where the kids have fun and learn more about the Bible. Barb loves to spend time getting to know the children—she cares about what is going on in their lives. She loves to give hugs and is blessed when she is greeted with open arms by the children.

Dave and Barb have seen God put a passion in their hearts to clearly and lovingly share with children how important it is to know and love the Lord. They find it extremely rewarding to see the children continue to attend EWOCB youth ministries, building a foundation of faith to know and serve the Lord. God is good!

Please pray for Dave and Barb. Pray that God will give them new insight into His Word. Pray that God sends someone gifted in music to help them start class with song. Pray that God would lead special guests to volunteer to share life experiences with their class (this has been a powerful tool in the past). Most of all pray that every child, at some point in his or her life, believes on and trusts in the Lord Jesus Christ as his/her personal Savior.

Please thank God for all He has done through Dave and Barb and their faithful service to the children. Feel free to share your thanks with them as well the next time you see them at The Oak!







# Deeper Still.

God is always calling His people to go deeper with Him.

*In 2014, Living Alternatives Pregnancy Resource Center launched a new program to reach out to our post abortive clients but also to reach out to those in our churches and in our communities who have an abortion in their past.*

Whether or not it's acknowledged by our society at large, abortion not only takes the life of a human being, it also wounds the hearts of women and men who make this choice.

Abortion is a huge global issue but the affliction is kept hidden.

Mark Campbell from Care Net says this:  
*Silence speaks. Silence on the issue of abortion communicates that this is an issue not to be discussed because it's either too shameful or too difficult to address.*

Abortion is deadly to the soul and spirit of our nation. People may feel like they cannot come forward for help and healing because of their shame, guilt, regret and even judgment from the church. And so they suffer in silence.

Many people who have had a past abortion are in denial about how it's affected them. They may have anxiety, guilt, grief, shame, fear, depression, relationship issues, and self punishing behaviors and have never attributed these symptoms to their past abortion.

Even though a woman or man with a past abortion may have professed faith in Christ, they may still struggle to forgive themselves. There can be quite a journey between having our debts cancelled by the atonement of Jesus Christ and then walking completely free from all the shame, grief, and guilt of a past abortion.

*And that's where Deeper Still comes in.*

Deeper Still retreats exist to bring lasting healing, freedom and hope to women and men who have been wounded by an abortion decision.

The weekend retreats are offered free of charge and provide a safe, confidential setting with trained team members. God's Word is the primary teaching tool, and the team members facilitate encounters with Jesus to bring deep, transformational work to participants' hearts. The retreat is based upon the foundation that there is no healing and lasting freedom outside of the all sufficient blood and sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross.

Deeper Still believes the effects of abortion are systemic and can actually redefine the core identity of those scarred by it.

A primary goal for the weekend is to redefine the participant's identity in Christ and then to equip her or him to walk out that identity and freedom as they re-enter their individual worlds.

*Here are a few comments from past participants:*



*"I feel so whole, no condemnation, no fear of rejection, no shame. Just absolute resolve that I have been redeemed and liberated to fulfill my purpose and destiny!"*

*"For the first time in 2 years, I felt that I was surrounded by people who actually understood my brokenness, and fought for my healing."*

*"This retreat enabled me to believe that I can love myself. I am worthy of love. I am totally forgiven for my abortions. My children did exist and I no longer need to deny their existence!! I no longer feel the shame that I have felt for 29 years. I can speak of them with love now. Jesus paid it all for me."*

*The next retreat is October 6-8th, 2017. Retreats are free and confidential but registration is required.*

To download a registration packet, visit [GoDeeperStill.org](http://GoDeeperStill.org) and click on the retreat tab and scroll down to Central IL. Or visit [hopeforafuture.com/deeperstill](http://hopeforafuture.com/deeperstill)

You may also email [laurie@hopeforafuture.com](mailto:laurie@hopeforafuture.com) for more information or call 309-212-1442

# WOMEN'S MINISTRY



## Connect with Women's Ministry this fall!

- 1 **Invite your small group or other friends to a FREE Two Day event.** All the benefits of a weekend retreat without the travel and expense. See information about Revive '17 (right).
- 2 **Connect with a Bible Study or Small Group**  
Visit our Women's Ministry page ([ewo.org](http://ewo.org) // Connect // Adults // Women) to see all the ways you can connect with a smaller group—Highquest Discipleship Groups, M.O.M.S. group, or Ladies' Bible studies—take time to connect!
- 3 **"Like" our Women's Ministry Facebook Page**  
Keep up with what's happening in Women's Ministry! Search "EWO Women's Ministry".



## Ladies' Fall Bible Studies

### Studies begin soon!

*Precept Upon Precept Jeremiah, Part 1* (Thursday mornings and evenings) begins September 7 and *1 Peter: A Living Hope in Christ* (Thursday mornings) begins September 14. Sign up at the Women's Ministry table. More info online at [ewo.org](http://ewo.org) // Connect // Adults // Women.



**September 29-30**

**LIVE SIMULCAST**

East White Oak  
Bible Church

**REVIVE '17**

ADORNED: WOMEN  
MENTORING WOMEN  
THE TITUS 2 WAY

*from the creators of the True Woman conferences*

**Get a few friends  
together for a weekend  
retreat—without the  
travel and expense.**

What does it look like for women to mentor other women? Join women across the country LIVE to hear speakers including Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth, Dannah Gresh, Mary Kassien, and others.

Revive '17 is all about mentoring, discipling, and living in community with other women.

**This is a  
FREE event.**

*register online*

**[ewo.org](http://ewo.org)**

Box lunches are available for purchase (\$5) through online registration.