

PROFILE

of a Mature Disciple

by Pastor Scott Boerckel

Do you know what the destination of maturity in Christ looks like? What does it mean to be a mature disciple?

Many of us have become familiar with the three paths to maturity in Christ here at The Oak. However, fewer of us are familiar with the destinations, which are just as important as the paths to get there.

In this article, I'd like to present in outline form the destination of maturity in Christ as your elders have defined it. Now, of course, maturity in Christ will never be achieved fully until we see Jesus face to face. Still, if we do not make some definitions of that maturity, if we do not make specific our goals to Christlikeness, we will tend to stagnate, and our growth will not be what it ought to be.

...continued on page 2



Meet Justin Waples

Candidate for Associate Pastor of Outreach and Discipleship (page 4)



Living Stone Communities Ministry Update

A summary of recent ministry opportunities in west Bloomington (page 15)

CALENDAR

August 18-19

Pastoral Candidate Weekend

August 26

Exploring Children's Ministry

September 5

AWANA Year Begins!

September 6

Women's Fall Bible Studies Kick-Off

September 9

All Church Picnic at Comlara Park



PROFILE

of a Mature Disciple

...continued from page 1

So, here are the four destinations of maturity in Christ:

1. Growing in Christ
2. The Bible and Prayer
3. Obedience and Christian living
4. Mission and Outreach

Let's look at what each of these look like in outline form. When you get to end of the outline, I will have more to say about how you can properly respond to this challenge to maturity.



If we do not make specific our goals to Christlikeness, we will tend to stagnate, and our growth will not be what it ought to be.

#1

GROWING IN CHRIST

2 Tim. 1:13-14

A. A personal testimony of faith in Jesus

- 1) Repentance
- 2) Faith
- 3) Submission
- 4) A continuing story of personal relationship

B. A love and worship of God

- 1) Loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength
- 2) Seeking to praise Him, not just ask Him for stuff
- 3) Seeing opportunities for praise in all of life

C. A meaningful daily devotional and prayer time with the Lord

- 1) Spending time in God's Word
- 2) Memorizing scripture
- 3) Putting on the full armor of God
- 4) Prayer as Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication

D. An understanding of our identity in Christ and our significance to God

- 1) Our Union with Christ—building/ foundation; husband/wife; living being/food; vine/branches; head/body
- 2) Our identification with Christ—crucified with Him, died with Him, buried with Him, made alive with Him, raised with Him, seated with Him, life hidden with Him, appear with Him in glory
- 3) A comprehension of God's love for us in Christ (Eph. 3:14-17)

#2

THE BIBLE & PRAYER

2 Tim. 2:15; 3:14-17

A. The ability to identify the sequence of major events, persons, and themes in Scripture

B. The ability to clarify Christian beliefs in defense against modern cults and philosophies

C. The ability to explain the way of salvation using Scripture

D. The ability to recall, from memory, key verses of Scripture and explain why those verses are important

Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Romans 5:8; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 1:12; John 3:16; 1 John 1:9; 1 John 5:14-15; Psalm 119:9, 11, John 14:21; Joshua 1:8; Acts 1:8; Matthew 4:19

E. The ability to do an inductive Bible study

F. The ability to use Scripture for guidance through life on issues of parenting, marriage, etc.

Finances, Marriage, Parenting, Life stages, Developing a Christian Worldview

G. The ability to identify key doctrines of the faith

H. A life of corporate prayer

- 1) Praying for rescue—1 Tim. 2:1
- 2) Praying as worship—1 Tim. 2:8
- 3) Praying as mission—1 Tim. 2:4

#3

**OBEDIENCE
& CHRISTIAN
LIVING**

2 Tim. 2:22, 2 Cor. 5:17

A. A life of holiness and integrity that even non-Christians can observe

- 1) Avoiding the “sin lists” (Col. 3:5-10)
- 2) Embracing Christian virtue (Col. 3:12-17)

B. A life of loving fellowship with others

- 1) Avoiding isolation
- 2) Embracing “one anothers”
 - a. Unity
 - b. Love
 - c. Humility

C. A life of maturity in decision-making based on biblical principles**D. A life of sensitivity to the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit****E. A life of submission to Christ’s lordship****F. A life which exhibits the fruit of the Spirit, particularly patience and teachability****G. A life which exhibits grace****H. A life which has a world Christian perspective and a concern for the poor****I. Citizenship in the local church**

- 1) Main doorway is coming to worship service
- 2) Newcomer Orientation
- 3) Participation in Celebration, Community, and Cell
- 4) Baptism
- 5) Membership
- 6) Giving of financial resources
- 7) Readiness to serve
- 8) Loyalty to leaders
- 9) Godly example to the community
- 10) Use of talents and spiritual gifts
- 11) Praying for our church

#4

**MISSION &
OUTREACH**

2 Tim. 1:8, 2:2; 4:5

A. Ability to share their testimony succinctly

- 1) Life before salvation, how one became a believer, life now
- 2) Emphasis on what Christ means to me now

B. Ability to use some tool to share the Gospel (examples include: EvanTell; Mark Cahill; Greg Koukl; Relational Prayer witnessing; Spread Truth)**C. Have a teachable spirit****D. Have a network of prayer supporters****E. Ability to mentor and be mentored in evangelism and discipleship****F. Ability to discern in whom to invest your life—Faithful, Available, Teachable people****G. Deliberate and purposeful relationships with non-Christians—including a list of people regularly prayed for****H. Purposeful prayer, giving, and going to make Jesus known in distant places**

First of all, congratulations if you’ve made it this far in the article. It’s not easy to read an outline! What was your reaction as you read through these? Did you think, “Wow, that looks impossible!” or perhaps, “That’s a lot of stuff; how can I grow to that extent?” Perhaps you could think, “Hey, I’ve got most of this down. What’s my next step?” Remember that these matters are the work of a lifetime. You will never get to the point where you have “arrived,” because maturity in Christ is an ever growing endeavor. We get to do this together, and what a joy it is!

Remember that these matters are the work of a lifetime. You will never get to the point where you have “arrived,” because maturity in Christ is an ever growing endeavor.

Second, no matter where you are in this process of maturity, there are others who need you to mentor and help them AND you need others to mentor and help you. Who are the people who will help you? Well, those who lead worship and preach the Word, those who lead and teach our ABFs, and those who lead your small group all are people who are mentoring you to this maturity in Christ. Who are the people that you are mentoring and helping? Hopefully, this is happening in your family. And every time that you volunteer to serve, your elders’ passion is that you will see that as a opportunity to help others somewhere in this outline to greater maturity.

I am looking forward to great days ahead here at The Oak. We will be drawing more attention to this destination of maturity in Christ. Be on the look-out for how you can take parts of this outline and grow in Christ and help others grow in Christ.

*Until we all are mature in Christ,
Pastor Scott*

meet JUSTIN WAPLES

CANDIDATE FOR ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF
OUTREACH AND DISCIPLESHIP



*Pastor Justin, Abigail, and
daughter Karoline*

About Justin

Justin grew up in Lake George, New York, where he enjoyed snowmobiling, camping, and hiking the millions of acres in the Adirondack Mountains. He and his wife, Abigail, have been married for six years and have one daughter, Karoline Eliza. They have both served in lay ministry while Justin completed his Masters of Divinity from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary. Justin's first call was as Associate Pastor of Youth and Children at Thaxton Baptist Church in Thaxton, Virginia. His role expanded last year to his current ministry as Associate Pastor of Outreach and Families.

The Search Committee is drawn to Justin for several reasons. Though early in his ministry, Justin has relatively deep Biblical and ministry training through his education, lay ministry and full-time ministry at solid Bible churches. Both Justin and Abigail demonstrate warm Christian character and solid theology that is in agreement with ours. Justin is very intentional to meet and get to know each person that he encounters, a practice that is essential to both the outreach and assimilation aspects of this position. Abigail is also a very pleasant conversationalist. Justin has a pastoral presence that seems to fit the larger East White Oak congregation and other ministry leaders well. Finally, Justin and Abigail both demonstrated formally and informally a great enthusiasm for East White Oak and zeal for the outreach and discipleship ministry as a calling perfectly suited to the Waples family.

An Overview of the Process

The Pastor Search Committee began meeting in December 2017 and has met about nine times as a full committee. As a pattern throughout the process, the team opened and closed meetings in prayer, taking extended times to express dependence on the Lord, asking for His guidance and for sensitivity to His leading.

The application and reference materials were posted to the church's website and two church staffing websites. Over the next few months, we received 21 applications. After thorough interviews with several of the applicants, we conducted second interviews by FaceTime with Justin Waples and one other applicant, listened to teaching samples available on the websites of their current churches, interviewed four references per prospect, and then hosted each applicant with his family for

face-to-face interviews that involved the pastors and elders in addition to the search team. The Search Committee expressed considerable love and appreciation for both men and their families but recommended to the elders to invite Justin Waples to candidate as our Associate Pastor of Outreach and Discipleship, and the elders unanimously approved the recommendation.

A candidating weekend is an important exploratory step because a call from the congregation is required to install Justin in this pastoral role. To extend a call, both the Search Team and our elders must confirm the recommendation to the congregation, and the call would be formally extended following a 2/3 positive vote of the membership. The vote to extend the call is scheduled to occur at a special meeting, August 26 following the 10:30 service.

Please join us!
SUNDAY, AUGUST 19

Justin and Abigail will join combined ABFs in both the 9:00 and 10:30 hours on August 19. A member of the Search Committee will introduce them and our process up to this point. Justin will share about his background and calling and how he and Abigail have been led to The Oak. Finally, they will answer questions you might have for them. Justin and Abigail will also be meeting with the pastors, elders, deacons, Care Team, and other church leaders throughout the Candidating Weekend.

east+white oak
youth+ministries

SUMMER IN PICTURES!



Pictures from Jr. High *Mission 2 Michigan* **July 2018**
and Senior High *Wayumi* Tribal Mission Experience **June 2018**

Join the fun!!
ewoyouth.org

WOMEN'S FALL BIBLE STUDIES



Schedule

THURSDAY MORNINGS

Precept Upon Precept Ezekiel Bible Study

9:30-11:30am, Room 173

Becoming a Woman of Prayer by Cynthia Heald

9:30-11:30am, Room 172

*Join us as we launch a new
ministry called "Thrive!"
Thursday Evenings This Fall*

THURSDAY EVENINGS: THRIVE!

Thrive Large Group Opening 6:15pm, Banquet Room

Track One: Dig in to the Bible! Precept Upon Precept Ezekiel Bible Study, 6:30-8:30pm, Room 173

Track Two: Challenge from God's Word (6:30-7:15pm), followed by your choice of Bible Study (7:15-8:30). This fall we are offering "Becoming a Woman of Prayer" by Cynthia Heald or an Inductive Study of 1 John (No homework, no book needed).

Thrive Coffee House 8:30-9:00pm, Connections Room

THRIVE *Connect, Grow, Flourish Together*

Register online

ewo.org/connect/adults/women

Study Descriptions

Ezekiel Part 1

Precept Upon Precept

Thursday mornings (9:30am) and evenings (6:30pm)

God appointed Ezekiel as a watchman to warn his people of coming judgment. Seeing visions and performing signs, he called individuals to turn from wickedness to righteousness because God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked. How does this message of Ezekiel apply to you? Are you grieved about the sin everywhere you look? Do you long for justice? Starts Thursday, September 6 at 9:30-11:30am or 6:30-8:30pm. Workbook \$22.50. Precept Bible Studies are an in-depth Inductive Bible Study with an easy-to-follow daily homework format. About 5 hours of homework per week—an amazing investment in learning God's Word! Questions? Contact Lynny Wegman (ljwegman@yahoo.com).

Becoming a Woman of Prayer

by Cynthia Heald

Thursday mornings (9:30am) and evenings (6:30pm)

So often we think of prayer as something we do to break through to God—to get His attention and to get Him to listen to us. But intimacy with God is His idea. He has taken the initiative, and prayer is His gift to us. It is an opportunity for us to respond to His invitation to intimacy by calling, crying, and singing to Him. Prayer is our response to the One who has called out to us and desires to be in a relationship with us. Starts Thursday, September 6 at 9:30-11:30am or 6:30-8:30pm. Workbook \$7. Simple homework can be completed in one sitting. Questions? Contact Emily Henard (emily@ewo.org)

1 John Inductive Bible Study

No Book, No Homework

Thursday evenings (6:30pm)

Learn the basics of an inductive Bible study in this no-homework format. We'll read the Bible together: asking questions about the text, defining words, and drawing application to our own lives. See the book of 1 John come alive in a new way as we dig deep into God's Word! No book needed... just come and join us! Questions? Contact Kelli Goodyear (illek_89@yahoo.com)

**FALL BIBLE
STUDIES BEGIN**
September 6
Come join us!



Apples of Gold is a mentoring program where older married women in the church mentor younger married women

"A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver." Proverbs 25:11



The fall session will begin Tuesday, September 11 at 6:30 and continues each Tuesday evening until October 23, each at a different mentor's home. The celebration dinner will be on Friday, October 26 in the East White Oak Banquet Room.

We want to invest in your life, marriage, and family

Apples of Gold begins Tuesday, September 11

Apples of Gold is an eight-week group mentoring program based on the teaching of Titus 2:3-5, where older married women in the church mentor younger married women. This session includes a cookie exchange, six dinners hosted by the mentors, and one celebration dinner with spouses, as the culmination of the eight weeks. Weeks two through seven include demos (cooking and other), dining together, (mixed with plenty of laughter), and studying truths from Titus 2:3-5, taught by the mentors. Lessons include Kindness, Loving Your Husband, Loving Your Children, Submission, Purity, and Hospitality. *This opportunity is sponsored by the East White Oak Women's Ministry and is free of charge to all participants.*

Limited Space

Want to be a mentee? Sign up at ewo.org!

moms offering moms support
m.o.m.s.

CALLING MOMS OF ALL AGES:

*Meet new friends,
Draw closer to God,
Relax with a yummy breakfast...
Your kids are in good hands!*

m.o.m.s. Kick-Off September 7

M.O.M.S. (Moms Offering Moms Support) meets the first and third Fridays of the month (September - April) from 9:30-11:30am in Room 172. Moms of all ages and stages, come be recharged and encouraged! Childcare is \$2/per child (max of \$8/per family). Contact Amberly for more information: ahmama06070913@gmail.com.

Be free

by Julie Horton

I hear Jackson saying these words to me whenever he is encouraging me to be courageous for the Lord. He says, “Be free, mom, be free.”

Be free. Be open. Be available. Be willing to participate in the adventure of life that God has prepared for me.

We are created in God’s image and He has a plan and purpose for us all. (Genesis 1:27, Psalm 139: 13-14; Jeremiah 29:11) What has He planned for me? January 2017, I was sitting in our Sunday church service, when I was prompted by the Holy Spirit to hear what Pastor Scott was telling the congregation about upcoming short-term mission opportunities. I thought, “A teacher conference? No Spanish, but they need ESL and those with education degrees. Hmm.... sounds like something I’d like to do. Wait, what, it’s where? Africa?! Oh no.” The details bounced around in my head like a game of ping pong. A minute or two later, one thing became very clear to me, God was preparing me for this trip. But why? That was my initial question. Pastor Scott promptly answered, “We are all called to go and make disciples of all the nations.” (Matthew 28:19) Why Africa? I don’t speak Swahili. I speak Spanish.

When I look back on it, God had been preparing me for this trip for years without me knowing it. So often, we hesitate to do things because they don’t make sense or don’t fit into the plans and dreams we have for our lives. However, about a year prior to this trip, I started saying “yes” to God and the seemingly unrelated ‘tasks’ He was laying on my heart to do. It began with the children’s ministry prayer circle. I teach Children’s Church and I felt a strong burden to pray for the kids I teach. So, I started attending and praying.

That same year, God whispered to me about joining the choir. This was something I abandoned a long time ago when singing became too much about me instead of glorifying God. Fast forward 20 years...and I was skeptical, hesitant. Would God really want me to sing again? I prayed for several weeks. As I did, random people from the congregation would comment to me about how I should join the choir. This happened three weeks in a row. That final week, Pastor Scott spoke for 5-10 minutes about the importance of choir and why it would be good to get involved. So, I joined the choir.

I was curious as to why God would want me to participate in these activities, but I never let the not knowing stop me from doing. I trust Him. If He wants me to do something, I will do it. I will obey. Obedience sounds like a harsh word, but really, when we are obeying God and are in the center of His will, immense blessing results from our obedience to Him. There have been times when I have said “no” to God and those were some of the darkest, painful times of my life. Not being in the center of His will is far more dangerous and detrimental.

I found myself in the pew at church, January 2017, wondering why God would want me to go to Africa. I was nervous, but then, I remembered how the Holy Spirit whispered to me about joining the prayer circle and the choir. I love God. I trust Him. I will obey.

God began to fashion a team and we prepared our conference. We were advised to be flexible and ready for



the day-to-day unexpected challenges that awaited us. And yet, when we experienced these challenges, we learned from them, we adapted, and our teachable hearts remained open to the work that God had prepared for us to do.

What a blessing to teach the teachers and present our conference, but God was up to so much more than that. God is in the business of loving people and saving souls. He prepared us to teach, but also to love and minister to all of the people we encountered each day; what a delight to get to know adults and children alike.

Not long into the trip, the Holy Spirit whispered again, and said, “Jackson is missing a mother’s love. Be his mom and have your family be his family.” Jackson, a university seminary student, was interning at the children’s home for the summer. He grew up there and now he was mentoring and caring for the boys of the home. My first interaction with anyone at the children’s home was with him. There was a group of us talking under the mango tree that afternoon. I was asking him a lot of questions and was extremely curious to find out about his life. There was something so special about him. He was so passionate for the Lord and his desire to serve Him was so strong. The light of Christ radiated from him and his eyes were fixed on Jesus.

When the Holy Spirit whispered, it was the same recognizable sound as before. Was God really asking me to do this? So, I listened. I prayed. God confirmed. And, just like before, I said yes to God. “I trust you, Lord. I will obey.”

A good friend reminded me the other day that God equips those He calls to do His work. He certainly does. There are so many reasons why it would make sense for me to not be his mom or for my family to not be his family. But, none of these reasons are God’s reasons. Instead, God placed in my heart an inexplicable maternal love that I have only known for my two biological children. I didn’t choose Jackson, God did. I trust God to equip me and my family because He loves Jackson much more than I can ever love him...and I love him a lot. And so, these are the three children that the Lord has blessed me with. I pray for them and ask God how we are to best care for them and love them each day.

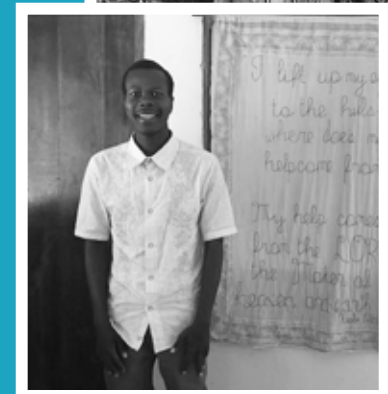
And, I’m listening. I’m trusting God. I’m rejoicing. I’ve been an adult for over 20 years and I never imagined my life looking the way that it does now. I am humbled by God’s goodness, by His mercy, His grace. It’s an honor and privilege to serve Him.

Psalm 103:1-4

“Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits -who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion.”

Jackson Ngussa grew up at the Tanzania Children’s Rescue Center orphanage in Mwanza and will be graduating this month from Nassa Theological College.

The AICT church has placed him in Geita, Tanzania where he will be serving as a pastor for the next two years. God brought Jackson into Julie’s life last year when she traveled to Tanzania for a teaching conference. Since then, he has become part of the Horton family. Brad and Julie mentor Jackson and talk and pray with him each week via Google Hangouts. Ashleigh and Lexi also enjoy chatting with him, sending him cards, videos, and lots of emojis. These pictures are from Julie’s return visit to NTC, July 2018.



FUN IN THE SUN!

SUMMER CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come. 2 Corinthians 5:17

Each summer, the boys and girls in Children's Ministries at The Oak, experience Sunday morning programs in a little different way.

All of them have new teachers. This gives the "school year" teachers a time of rest. Children in Kindergarten – 2nd grade don't attend Children's Church at 10:30, but instead go to "big church" with their families. This gives them an opportunity to experience their larger church family as we all join together in worship. And children in grades 1-6 learn in Sunday School classes designed around a 14-week, themed program with a Vacation Bible School type of vibe.

There are many ways that Sunday morning children's programming is different, but in many ways it is the same! The children gather around God's word each week. They learn by opening the Bible, hearing or reading its lessons and doing activities that help reinforce what they are studying. And the children are taught, loved, and given opportunities to see Jesus by a wonderful team of volunteers!

Of all the great resources we have to show Jesus to children, the adults who love Jesus and have committed their lives to Him and who desire to share their Jesus with children are the most valuable. Some of the volunteers were asked to share a little about their experiences in



serving in Summer Children's Ministries and this is what they said!

What drew you to serve in Children's Ministries for the summer?

The children and the parents drew me. The hearts of the children are precious...

Judy Owens, 3rd grade shepherd

...the desire to serve God, the positive experiences serving similarly the past couple of summers, and the opportunity to spend time with one of my own kids and his friends in a setting where the purpose is to teach them the things of the Lord.

Eric Herbst, 5/6 grade boys shepherd

Growing up, I don't recall anyone taking dedicated time to share the Bible with me, at home or church. Over the past several years I have come to understand and see the absolute value

and necessity of sharing the gospel and God's Word with young children. One might wonder why I'm doing this—if I don't have "better" things to do. The answer is absolutely not!

Maura Crittenden, 1-6 grade teacher

Share about a favorite time you have experienced while serving children.

At the end of each lesson we ask the kids, "Who is our king?" Every time the kids answer, "Jesus is our King forever!" And every time they answer it is always with a shout; they cry it out! I pray that this answer has changed them as much as it has changed me.

Sarah Telling, Preschool team



My favorite time in any of my classes is sharing God's Word. It gets to the heart of why we are there. It is during story time that we discuss the message and share personal stories. The kids have a strong ability to read and comprehend some fairly tough concepts and then are able to apply it to their own behavior. It is beautiful to watch. And it is true, kids share lots of funny things! We laugh and are silly and I think that is important too!

Maura Crittenden, 1-6 grade teacher

A favorite time for me is watching the little ones "looking up" our stories in their Toddler Bibles as they look for story stickers!

Jeannie Morgan, Toddler Church Team

How have you seen God at work while serving the children this summer?

Every Sunday the lessons and the teachers have taught me to see and believe the Scriptures. The presentation of God's Word

and the different illustrations have caused a pure love, understanding and acceptance of this truth and the application of it to my daily life. I see the same thing happening for the children.

Judy Owens, 3rd grade shepherd

I wonder if I am learning more from all of the children than they could ever learn from me. The way they can retain information and get excited about the Bible story each week gives me a desire to have a childlike faith. Or when someone is not as "agreeable" to participate, I picture the ways God has had to deal with me when I say no and choose my own way. God has been revealing His character through the interactions I have with the children.

Sarah Telling, Preschool Team

God has ministered to me personally through the teaching—more than once the particular lesson has "just so happened" to be one that was exactly what the Lord knew I needed to hear at that time!

Eric Herbst, 5/6 grade boys shepherd

Please thank God for His generous and most excellent provision of Summer Children's Ministries volunteers at The Oak! We COULD NOT show Jesus to children without them!



SECURITY

Electronic Child Check-In **Coming Soon**

We care about the safety of your children.

It is routine for the children's ministry staff to practice our responses to severe weather and fire. That's because the safety of the children entrusted into our care is profoundly important to us. But, it doesn't stop there. We are involved in an ongoing assessment of our facility, policy, and procedures in an effort to identify ways of improving the safety of every child.

WATCH FOR UPGRADES THIS FALL!

Digital Check-In

- For your Infant-2nd Grader, you'll check-in at a kiosk to print a nametag and a (required) receipt to pick up your child.

Security Cameras

- Continuously recording security cameras will be located at exits to the church.
- Restricted access to classrooms
- Two of the three current access points to the Children's Ministry area will become emergency exits only, providing limited access to Children's Ministry areas.



Thanks for your cooperation as we improve our security at The Oak!

Bible Question

OF THE MONTH

Since May 2018, the boys and girls of The Oak have been challenged with a Bible question of the month. Each month, a scripture is shared. The boys and girls consider the scripture and then answer a question. At the end of the month, all responses with a good answer are entered into a drawing for a prize.



Prizes have included squirt guns and bubbles (fun for the sun) and Bible sticker books and a Bible (food for the soul). The May winner was Leah Goodyear, the June winner was Aidan McCree, and the July winner was Amelia Masters.

It has been a great encouragement to see the responses of the young ACORNS here at The Oak! They are surely receiving some wonderful training and encouragement in the Lord!



Here are a few responses from the children:

May

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

Question: In what ways is Jesus a good shepherd to His followers?

Responses:

He gives me food and water.

He gives me a mommy and daddy to take care of me.

Jesus leads me to know Him and live like Him.

June

Verse: 1 John 4:19 "We love because He first loved us."

Question: Name 3 ways God shows you He loves you.

Responses:

He died on the cross for my sins (lots of children gave this answer!)

He forgives me even though I don't deserve it.

God helps me-like in storms.

God teaches us how to defend ourselves from Satan in the Scriptures.

He gave me my family (even annoying sisters).

July

Verse: Psalm 119:105 "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."

Question: What Bible verse helps or encourages you?

Responses:

John 3:16 because it helps me remember God loves us and died for us.

Psalm 34:4 "I sought the Lord and He delivered me from all my fears." It helps me during storms!

2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness, but is long suffering to us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

One child wrote out the entire 23rd Psalm!

What an encouragement to see the children of The Oak taking Scripture and applying it to their lives, using it to identify God's love toward them and to help and encourage them through life!

RETURN TO TANZANIA

2018 TANZANIA TEACHING AND COUNSELING SHORT-TERM TRIP

MISSION TEAM REPORT

Our team has officially returned from Tanzania and we have begun readjusting to everyday life back here at home.

We can testify that God is SO good. As a team, we saw His hand in every decision and interaction. Our hearts are full and we are amazed by Him.

As I, Julie, begin to reflect on my time over there, I am reminded of Nehemiah. Days before I left for Tanzania, God impressed it on my heart to read this book of the Bible. As I read, something very specific caught my attention, Nehemiah 2:4-5. "The king said to me, 'What is it you want?' Then I prayed to the God of heaven, and I answered the king..." Nehemiah prayed before answering the king. Instead of responding in his own strength, Nehemiah prayed, and THEN, he spoke. Nehemiah's example is what I followed as I helped to co-lead the trip. At every turn, the need to be flexible with our ever-changing schedule, spontaneous opportunities to pray or provide encouragement or teaching were not met with fear, but rather, with turning our eyes to the God of heaven in prayer first, and then, proceeding. Wow, I can testify that God equipped us so perfectly in every circumstance.

Here are a few details related to the conference and other ministry opportunities we had while we were there.

June 25-29: TCRC hosted our teaching conference this year. Our theme of extending grace in the classroom and being connected to Christ, to each other, and to our students was our primary focus and very well-received by the Tanzanian teachers. We enjoyed the interactions and deeper relationships that were built between the Tanzanian teachers and with our team.

June 30- July 4: We traveled to Nassa Theological College where we were warmly greeted by the faculty and staff. Every evening they welcomed us into their homes for dinner. This was a highlight for us each night as we also enjoyed times of fellowship, prayer, singing hymns, and a devotional/teaching time along with the meal.

When we were not on campus, we traveled to the nearby village of Shigala to check in with the teachers of the Yordan English Medium Primary School, who attended our conference. We conducted our first school audit while we were there. We began with presenting a suitcase full of resources, reviewed each item, and answered questions about how to incorporate them into their classes. Next, we observed classes and got to see how teachers were incorpo-

rating the new instructional strategies learned from the conference. We also did read alouds, sang songs, and assisted teachers in whatever way they wanted. Finally, we interviewed teachers and staff who attended the conference. They gave us valuable feedback and we continued to answer their questions.

July 5- 6: We returned to Mwanza and followed up with TCRC teachers in the same way we had with the Yordan School teachers. In addition, we visited Pastor Micah Ngussa in the hospital as his physical condition worsened over the two weeks while we were there. We prayed with him and his family as we listened to them and helped process next steps for him and his treatment. Also, it just so happened that God provided a counselor (Keith) and a nurse (Elly) on this trip! Sadly, as you may know, Ngussa lost his foot in order to free him from the infection that had been ailing his body. Continued prayers for him and his family and they begin to navigate this loss.

THANK YOU, our prayer warriors at The Oak. Thank you for your love and support. We felt covered in prayer the entire time. As I review the list of team prayer needs we gave you, I rejoice, as I see God's goodness in answering these prayers. We are so thankful for the body of Christ.

*In His Glorious Name,
Your 2018 Tanzania Team*



**EAST WHITE OAK BIBLE CHURCH
SENIOR SAINTS
PRESENTS**



A Day of
HISTORY
IN ATLANTA, ILLINOIS

TUESDAY, AUGUST 28

Travel

Buses will leave The Oak at 10:00am,
and return at approximately 3:00pm.

Lunch (\$8)

We will eat at the historic Palms Grill Cafe,
a Route 66 Landmark.

Afternoon Activities

Explore the historic sites in the area
(all within walking distance of the cafe).

- Artisan Shops
- Route 66 Museum
- JH Hawes Grain Elevator Museum



RSVP by August 24 to the church office.

Are you wondering if you are a Senior Saint? This ministry is open to all adults who are available to meet with us for lunch. Ages vary from 55 - 95+. We usually meet the 4th Tuesday of each month at 11:30 AM. We enjoy fellowship, food and a program at various locations around the Bloomington - Normal area. We invite you to join us! For more information, contact Kim Smith (309-750-1438).

Living Stone Communities desires to do life on mission. There have been a number of opportunities over the last few months that have allowed us to live out our identity as a family of missionary servants. Here are some intentional ways we have been able to do that:

IRVING STAFF

On Thursday, May 24, for the third year in a row, we grilled out for the Irving teachers and staff on their last day of school. We continue to prayerfully seek to develop better relationships with the staff and look forward to greater opportunities of service in the coming year. We are grateful for the Lord's provision of the incoming principal, Messina Lambert. Join us in praying for her as she assumes the helm at Irving School.

SENSORY GARDEN

Much like the power of the Gospel to transform a life, we had the opportunity to see some space transformed at Irving Elementary School. There was some unused and barren space outside the school, and for quite a while it had been the dream to turn that space into a sensory garden. After much planning and prayer, and with significant help financially and personally from Eastview Church, on June 9 this space was brought to life. We also were able to fix up the playground, adding mulch and strengthening the frame of the main playhouse.

BREAK DANCING

The week of June 24, BreakFree Ministries was in town for a full week of outreach. They held classes at Western Avenue Community Center from 1-3 Mon-



day – Thursday. They averaged about 30 boys and girls. They performed at the Summer Feeding Program at Irving on Wednesday afternoon. On Monday night they ministered at a combined Youth For Christ night, with kids from both Peoria and Bloomington. We were scheduled to be at O'Neil Park on Tuesday night; however, with the forecast of bad weather that night, we changed locations. It just so happened that God was working, even though only a few people showed up at the small park across from WACC. There were some folks standing on the corner of Western and Locust with a sign that mentioned that breakdancing was happening in the park. A grandmother, whose grandchildren Tom and Sue Powell took to AWANA at The Oak years ago, happened to be driving by. She inquired about what was happening and stopped by. She informed her son and his family about the upcoming opportunities

on Wednesday and Thursday nights. They came both nights, and we had the chance to pray with Kara (and also discovered that her husband Jon is a big Patriots fan). It was a great week of making new connections and strengthening older ones, with seeds being sown, and others watered. May God give the increase.

GRILL NIGHTS

We began our fifth season of Neighborhood Grill Nights on May 24. We will be having grill nights on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month this year. One exciting feature is that we are going mobile. There will be seven different locations for Grill Nights this summer. On June 14, Dave and Jessica Wolfe and Seth and Nina Gorden hosted grill nights. It was so encouraging to see between 50 – 60 individuals at each of the locations. Of course the evening is way more than hamburgers and hot dogs and brats. We are on mission and a family of servants. We all try to serve others, listen to their stories, and identify ways we can bless those that join us.

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9



Join us at Comlara Park (Glasener Beach) for an All-Church worship service (10:30 am) followed by baptism (11:45 am), lunch (noon), and activities.

Lunch will be catered by Jason's Deli
Please consider making a donation toward the cost of the meal (suggested \$5 per lunch). Make reservations at ewo.org

Afternoon Activities: Beach (No Swimming), Nine Square in the Air, Inflatables, Hayrack Rides, Canoes, Rowboats, Paddleboats, & Motorboats



Preschoolers Age 3-4



Kindergarten-2nd Grade



3rd-6th Grade (Separate clubs for Boys and Girls)

Game Time Scripture Memory
Instruction from God's Word **Other Activities**

Wednesdays • 6:30-8:00 PM

REGISTER ONLINE @ ewo.org

**Clubs begin
September 5, 2018**

East White Oak Bible Church

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CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

At East White Oak Bible Church
we believe **SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAMS**
are a **VITAL PART**
of your child's **FAITH JOURNEY.**

Our Sunday School teachers are looking forward to meeting your child. Help us put our class lists together, and allow our teachers to connect with you!

**REGISTER FOR 2018-2019
SUNDAY SCHOOL!**

ewo.org