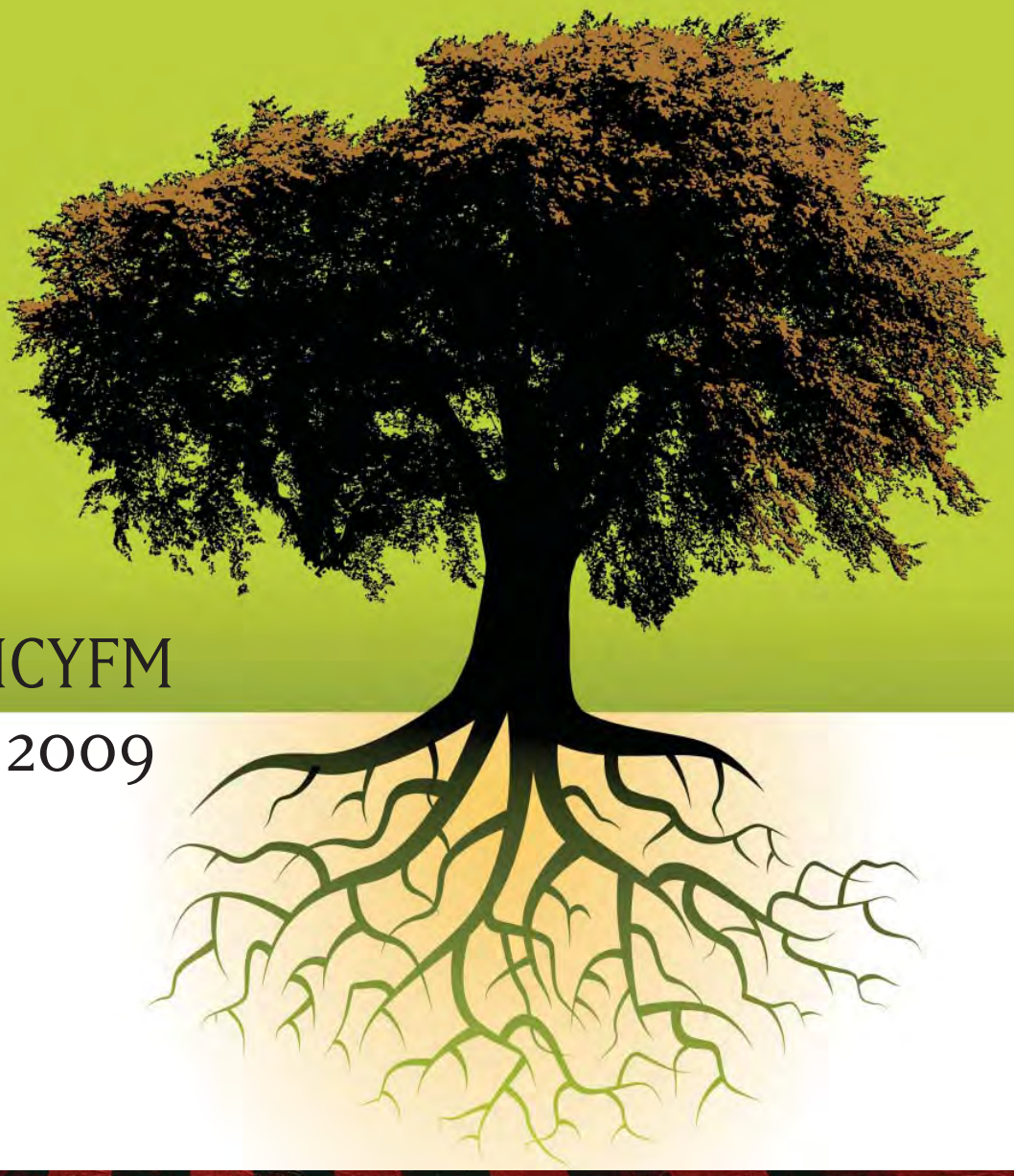
LEGACY of FAITH



ICYFM

2009

you gotta
live it 2 give it!

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WELCOME

to the

Legacy of Faith

International Conference for Youth and Family Ministry 2009

The Youth and Family Service Team and the Chicago Church of Christ are so excited to host you for this life-changing gathering. We know many of you have journeyed from around the globe to be here. We are grateful. We have parents, youth volunteers, and ministry staff from many different countries who are gathered for the sole purpose of passing on a legacy of faith, through the strengthening of our personal and church families.

The tag line of the conference this year is, "you gotta 2 live it to give it." We know that we can't pass on what we do not have, or are not living. We can feel tested in our faith in our own homes as we try to live out our love for God and model it for our kids and to the world around us. We are all here because we want God to be glorified by building strong families and church communities that lay solid foundations that will last for generations to come. We know God is going to work powerfully as we draw close to him as parents and leaders. We also gain strength from our fellowship with each other.

We are pleased to offer a variety of teaching and fellowship styles to meet your needs as you develop your family or church. We will have great times of worship and devotion, as well as classes, workshops and panel discussions. We hope you will take full advantage of being together with this international collection of saints and we pray that you are encouraged.

We know it has taken tremendous sacrifice on every one's part to be here. We are faithful that God will bless this investment in our spiritual lives.

"Thank you" to all who gave their time and energy to make this an incredible event.

Conference Schedule

Thursday April 16, 2009

7:00 PM	Grand Ballroom	**Leadership Workshop** Building a Legacy of Faith

Friday April 17, 2009

7:30 am	Magnolia	**Morning Worship and Devotional (**Optional) *God's All-Time Greatest Miracle*	Steve Saindon
8:00 am	Outside Ballroom	**Coffee and Pastries**	
9:00 am	Grand Ballroom	**ICYFM Opening Session** Dan Rice Tribute *Abraham - Living the Legacy*	Dave Pocta
10:45 am		**Workshops - Session A**	
	Magnolia	Elder/Evangelist	Adrian Hill & John Porter
	Lilac	Youth Ministry Leader	Phil Arsenault
	Grand Ballroom	Parent	John & Karen Louis
	Cypress	Youth Ministry Volunteers	Alex Hernandez & Damon Curtis
12:00 PM		**Lunch Break**	
2:00 PM		**Workshops - Session B**	
	Magnolia	Elder/Evangelist	Adrian Hill & John Porter
	Lilac	Youth Ministry Leader	Phil Arsenault
	Grand Ballroom	Parent	John & Karen Louis
	Cypress	Youth Ministry Volunteers	Alex Hernandez & Damon Curtis
3:45 PM		**Class Session #1**	
	Ballroom G	*Keeping God First in Your Family*	Mike Fix
	Ballroom H	*Winning Families as a Family*	Iurii & Lena Kovtonuk / Ed & Nancy Dawson
	Ballroom I	*Parents Needing Renewed Vision...*	Tomm & Laurie Wilson
	Ballroom J	*How to Study the Bible with Teens*	Marcus Overstreet
	Lilac B/D	*Developing Family Ministry in Your Church*	Tracy & Phyllis Larr
	Cypress	*Doing Ministry and Family Well*	Ron and LauriAnne Conkling
	Magnolia	*Working Together...Youth Ministry & Teen Parents*	Wyndham & Jeanie Shaw / Mike & Kristen Lamb
4:30 PM		**Class Session #2**	
	Ballroom H	*Blended Families*	Jeff Balsom & Dr. Dakesa Pina
	Ballroom I	*How Do I Know When They Are Ready to Be Baptized?*	Damon Curtis & Larry Craig
	Ballroom J	*Instilling Faith in Teens*	Will Archer & John Cleghorn
	Lilac B/D	*Teaching Teens to Reach Teens...Both Inside and Outside the Church*	Curt Ammons & Chimere Stephens
	Cypress	*Evangelistic Parenting Series*	Phil Arsenault
	Magnolia	*Baptism...Just the Beginning*	Kevin Hoecke

Friday April 17, 2009 (continued)

7:00 PM	Grand Ballroom	**Midwest Parenting Evening**	
		Parents Living the Legacy	Ron & Linda Brumley
8:30 PM		**Midwest Parenting Classes**	
	Lilac B/D	*Legacy of Faith: Family Relationships*	John & Nancy Mannel
	Lilac A/C	*Legacy of Faith: Heart Discipling*	Wyndham & Jeannie Shaw
	Cypress	*Legacy of Faith: Restoring Hope*	Bruce & Robyn Williams
	Magnolia	*Legacy of Faith: Spiritual Formation*	Steve & Tricia Staten
9:30 PM		**Panel Discussions**	
	Ballroom G	*How and When to Get Professional Help*	Tom & Carol Nuelle / Christine Brudnicki / Karyn Ness
	Ballroom H	*Getting a Youth Ministry Started*	John & Shannon Cleghorn / Wayne Wright
	Ballroom I	*Middle School Ministry*	Russ & Seri Murdock / Phil & Jill Perez / Anthony & Holly Toguchi
	Lilac B/D	*Teen Dating*	Jim & Virginia Lefler / Clint & Christie Larr / Eric & Megan Testa
	Cypress	*Adopted Children*	Dwight & Barb Decker / John & Mary Freeman /Leon & Susan Johnson / Ionela Testa
	Grand Ballroom	*Urban Youth and Family Ministry*	Will Archer / Anton Ivy / Chimere Stephens
	Magnolia	*How to Choose a College*	Chris & Meegan Zillman / Todd & Cheryl Fink
	Lilac A/C	*HOPE worldwide*	Antonio Boyd / Randy Jordan
	Ballroom J	*Blended Families*	Jeff & Roberta Balsom / Dr. Dakesa Pina

Conference Schedule

Saturday April 18, 2009

7:30 am	Magnolia	**Morning Worship and Devotional (**Optional) *A Prisoner In Praise*	 Steve Saindon
8:00 am	Outside Ballroom	**Coffee and Pastries**	
9:00 am	Grand Ballroom	**Worship & General Session** HOPE Volunteer Corps	 Randy Jordan
10:00 am	Lilac	**Women's Keynote** *Daughters Living the Legacy*	 Barbara Porter
		Men's Classes	
	Ballroom G	*Family to the Fatherless*	Anton Ivy
	Ballroom H	*Building Family with Your Leadership Team*	Pedro Garcia
	Ballroom I	*Reaching Teens from the Pulpit*	AT Arneson
	Cypress	*Passing on a Legacy of Purity*	Tom Nuelle & Dave Weidner
	Magnolia A	*Working with Kids at Different Stages*	Larry Craig & Phil Arsenault
	Magnolia B/C	*Having Your Affairs in Order*	Jeff Jones & Mark Perkins
	Ballroom J	*Spiritual Leadership in the Home*	Steve Staten & Sam Testa
11:00 am	Lilac	**Men's Keynote** *Men Living the Legacy*	 John Mannel & Adrian Hill
		Women's Classes	
	Ballroom G	*Working with Kids with Special Needs*	Kelli Saindon & Julie Breford
	Ballroom H	*Spiritual Moms, Contented, Busy, and Loving It*	Lori Kwasniewski & Marci Arneson
	Ballroom I	*Instilling Confidence in Girls*	Shannon Cleghorn & Kelli Mahomes
	Ballroom J	*Purity*	Virginia Lefler & Beth Pocta
	Magnolia A	*Working with Kids at Different Stages*	Kris Arsenault & Jeannie Shaw
	Cypress	*Working with Teen Girls in Crisis*	Dr. Dakesa Pina
	Magnolia B/C	*Parenting Single*	Pat Parnell & Ann Marie Buhay
11:45 am	Grand Ballroom	**Hot Plated Lunch**	
1:30 PM	Grand Ballroom	**General Session** Conference Survey *Joshua: Living the Legacy* Living the Legacy Stories from Around the World	 John Porter Videos & Sharing
3:30 PM		**Conference Dismissal**	

Sunday April 19, 2009

10:00 am	**Family Worship Service with the Central Region** Timothy Christian School - 188 W. Butterfield Rd., Elmhurst, IL	John Louis

"Legacy of Faith"

lyrics and music by Rick Biordi

Verse 1
Once upon a time, in a place not far from home
You came in to this world, a precious angel of our own
I looked into your eyes and there was love...
Forever you will shine

Verse 2
Once upon a dream, in a land so far from home
He wished upon a star, for a family to call his own
You reached out for his hand and there was love...
Forever he will stand...

Chorus
Legacy of faith, legacy of faith
For our sons and daughters, we'll drink the living waters
Legacy of faith, legacy of faith
For future generations, all across the nations

Verse 3
Once upon a time, in a place not far from home
A story of a man, the greatest story ever told
He looked into our eyes and there was love...
Forever He will shine...forever we will shine...

Chorus
Legacy of faith, legacy of faith
For our sons and daughters, we'll drink the living waters
Legacy of faith, legacy of faith
For future generations, all across the nations
Legacy of faith...

Bridge
It's not what you say it's what you live...
It's not what you have it's what you give...
You've gotta live it to give it...gotta live it to give it...

Chorus
Legacy of faith, legacy of faith
For our sons and daughters, He is the Living Waters
Legacy of faith, legacy of faith
For future generations, all across the nations

One Hope... One Love... One Life... Legacy of Faith
One Hope... One Love... One Life... Legacy of Faith

Speakers & Teachers

listed alphabetically by last name



Curt Ammons, Chicago Church of Christ
Teaching Teens to Reach Teens...
Curt Ammons is 38 years old and serves as an evangelist for the Chicago Church of Christ. He has been married to the love of his life Heidi for almost 14 years. He has 3 awesome children Wade 9, Kaileigh 7, and Chase 5. Curt went into the ministry in 1994 in Cincinnati and has been serving in Chicago since 1995. Growing up in a broken home produced in him a great desire to build a strong Godly family for his wife and children. Curt and Heidi currently lead the Youth and Family Ministry in the Westland Region of the Chicago Church of Christ.



William Archer, Philadelphia Church of Christ
Instilling Faith in Teens, Urban Youth and Family Ministry
William Archer has been a disciple for 15 years and was converted in New York City. He has been married to his beautiful wife Latosha for almost 10 years. They have two kids, Mekhi, who is six years old, and Journey, who is 11 months. He has served in the full-time ministry for over 11 years. In that time, he has served in Atlanta, Macon and Philadelphia. He currently leads the youth ministries of the Greater Philadelphia Church of Christ. He also hosts a two-hour Christian talk show on Praise 103.9 FM.



A.T. and Marci Arneson, Chicago Church of Christ
Reaching Teens from the Pulpit, Spiritual Moms, Contented, Busy, and Loving It
A.T. and Marci currently serve as co-lead evangelist and women's ministry leader of the Chicago Church of Christ. They also lead the North Region. They have served in the full-time ministry for 17 years and have two children: Jessica who is 17 and Stephen who is 15. Both of their kids are faithful disciples. A.T. and Marci have been in the Chicago Church for nearly 15 years. They also led the planting to Columbus, Ohio in 1996.



Phil Arsenault, Boston Church of Christ
Youth Ministers Workshop, Evangelistic Parenting, Working with Kids at Different Stages
Phil was born and raised in Massachusetts. He was baptized in college in 1982. He has been married to his wife Kris for 18 years. They have two children: Scott is 13 and Kyra is 11. He has been serving in the Youth Ministry for 22 years. Presently he oversees the Youth Ministry for the Boston Church of Christ.

Kris Arsenault, Boston Church of Christ
Working with Kids at Different Stages
Kris was raised in Michigan and moved to Boston after college. She met Phil while they were volunteering in the teen ministry. They have been married for 18 years and have served in the teen ministry for most of that time. They have two children.

Speakers & Teachers

listed alphabetically by last name



Jeff and Roberta Balsom, Chicago Church of Christ
Blended Families

Jeff is an elder in the Chicago Church and has served in the full time ministry since 1992 with his wife, Roberta. They have served in many different ministries in Chicago since moving to the Chicagoland area in 1988. They became Christians in 1979 and were married in 1980 in Columbus, Ohio as a part of the campus ministry at Ohio State University. They have three children: Paul, who is married to Sara, Susan and Alex. Jeff and Roberta feel a strong calling to help others build strong marriages and families to bring honor and glory to God in our homes.



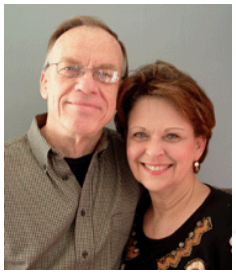
Julie Breford, Chicago Church of Christ
Working with Kids with Special Needs

Julie Breford has been a disciple since 1991. She and her husband, Aaron, were married a few years later in 1994. She served in the full-time ministry in Cincinnati, Chicago, and Bloomington, Illinois. She has served with the campus, teen, singles, and married ministries. Currently, she is helping Aaron lead the disciples in Northwest Indiana (non full-time). Julie is a stay-at-home mom for her two children, Madison (11) and Max (9). Madison is neuro-typical and Max has been diagnosed with ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder).



Christine Brudnicki, Milwaukee Church of Christ
How and When to Get Professional Help

Christine Brudnicki is a Licensed Professional Counselor in the state of Wisconsin. She has more than 15 years of clinical experience counseling individuals and families in a variety of different treatment settings. She most enjoys working with adolescents and their families. Christine and her husband, Tim, have been in the full-time ministry in the Milwaukee Church of Christ for eight years, and have most recently served as the Youth and Family Ministers. They have been married for 11 years and have two sons, ages eight and four.



Ron and Linda Brumley, Seattle Church of Christ
Parents Living the Legacy

Ron Brumley has served as an elder for the past 29 years in the San Diego, Chicago, Denver and Seattle Churches of Christ. He spent 27 years in public education, the last 20 as an elementary school principal. His passion has been to help parents raise their children to love God. Linda Brumley has served as a Women's Ministry Leader in the Seattle Church of Christ for the past 11 years. She has worked beside her husband, Ron, supporting his role as an elder .

Speakers & Teachers

listed alphabetically by last name



Ann Marie Buhay, Chicago Church of Christ
Parenting Single

Ann Marie is from the North Ministry Center of the Chicago Church of Christ. She has been a single mom for 10 years, and praise God, a disciple for nine of those years. Her son Adam is 17 years old, and he became a disciple in July 2007. She also has a 14 year-old daughter, Amanda, who just got baptized this past December.



John and Shannon Cleghorn, Cincinnati Church of Christ
Instilling Faith in Teens, Instilling Confidence in Girls, Getting a Youth Ministry Started

John and Shannon Cleghorn have been married for 12 years and have two incredible children, Hope six and JT three. God has allowed them the privilege to serve in the Youth and Family Ministry for over 13 years. In those 13 years, their love for God, families, teens, and camp has grown!



Ron and LauriAnne Conkling, South Florida Church of Christ
Doing Ministry and Family Well

Ron and LauriAnne have been disciples for over 20 years and married 21 years. They have been serving in the ministry since 1995 in Orlando, West Palm Beach, Tallahassee and Ft. Lauderdale, where they currently lead the North Broward Region. Both graduated from the University of Central Florida with Computer Science Degrees. Ron also has a M.S. in Computer Science and a diploma from the Athens Institute of Ministry. They have two children. Trent is a high school senior bound for FSU and has been a disciple for almost four years. Tessa is high school sophomore and has been a disciple for almost a year.



Larry Craig, New York City Church of Christ
How Do I Know When They Are Ready to Be Baptized?, Working with Kids at Different Stages

Larry Craig serves as an elder for the New York City Church of Christ and is currently serving as region leader for the New Jersey Region. Larry has been in the ministry since 1974 and has served in several congregations in our fellowship of churches. He and Mary Lou have been married 40 years. They have three grown children and seven grandchildren.

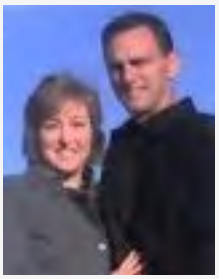


Damon Curtis, New York City Church of Christ
Youth Volunteers Workshop, How Do I Know When They Are Ready to Be Baptized ?

Damon and Michelle currently serve in the New Jersey Region, as well as oversee the teen ministries across the New York City Church. Michelle was baptized as a freshman at Texas Christian University in 1995. Damon became a disciple in the singles ministry in 1998. They have been married for eight years and have two daughters: Ava four Claire 5 months old. The Curtis' have served in the full-time ministry for almost 10 years. They have worked with youth for eight years.

Speakers & Teachers

listed alphabetically by last name



Ed and Nancy Dawson, Chicago Church of Christ
Winning Families as a Family

Ed and Nancy Dawson were married and began serving in the ministry together in 1987. They served the churches in Cincinnati and Dayton, the Baltimore region in Washington D.C., and in Indianapolis. They returned to Chicago in 2007 to work with the Greater Westland Ministry Center and are thoroughly enjoying being back. Through the years, they have worked with teens, campus, singles, and married ministries. Ed and Nancy have two teen daughters: Lindsay, 17, who became a disciple in 2006, and Erica, 14. Ed and Nancy both graduated from Douglas Jacoby's Ministry Training Program; Ed also has a degree in business from Indiana University, and Nancy has a degree in pharmacy from Butler University.



Ruben De Anda, Los Angeles International Church of Christ
Youth Volunteers Workshop

Ruben was baptized when he was 14 years old in the South Florida Church and after high school attended college at UCLA. Together with his wife, Marina, they lead the youth ministry in the West Region of the LA Church and have served there in the youth ministry for nine years.



Dwight and Barb Decker, Chicago Church of Christ
Adopted Children

Dwight and Barb Decker are parents of three daughters, ages 23, 18 and 15, who are all disciples. They adopted their youngest daughter Susie from China when she was two years old. Barb is a pediatric Occupational Therapist. Dwight is a Finance Manager and a deacon in the Chicago Church. They have filled several roles over the last twenty years in Chicago including Bible Talk Leader, Spiritual Recovery, Kingdom Kids Coordinator, and book and tape ministry. They currently coordinate the preteen class for the Metro Region.



Todd and Cheryl Fink, Chicago Church of Christ
How to Choose a College

Todd and Cheryl Fink both came to know God while in college over 30 years ago and never stopped being fans of great campus ministries. Two of their three girls have moved on from the teen ministry to wonderful campus situations and their third is already investigating her choices. Todd and Cheryl believe strongly that a spiritual fit is one of the most important decisions that parents can help their children make at this transitory time. The Finks have been blessed with the gift of a strong emotionally connected family in which they have experienced abundant blessings from God and one another.

Speakers & Teachers

listed alphabetically by last name



Mike Fix, Granite State Church of Christ
Keeping God First in Your Family

Mike became a Christian in 1983 at the Crossroads Church of Christ in Gainesville, Florida. In 1986 he became the Singles and Campus Minister, and he married his wife Laura. In 1988 he and Laura moved to serve on the ministry staff of the Boston Church of Christ. In 2000 Mike and Laura moved to the Granite State Church of Christ (New Hampshire) where he presently serves as both an evangelist and one of three elders. Mike and Laura have two children. Kyle, 19, is attending college in Gainesville, and Alicia, 17, is currently a high school junior. Both were baptized in New Hampshire.



John and Mary Freeman, Chicago Church of Christ
Adopted Children
John and Mary have been married 19 years and have three children: Svetlana (10) and Anna (8) both adopted from Russia, and Jackie (5) adopted from China. John was baptized in 1982 in Columbia, Missouri. He currently works at Exelon as a Nuclear Engineer. Mary was converted in Chicago in 1984. She works part time as a Sr. Network Administrator at Argonne National Laboratory. They are members of the Greater Westland Ministry Center in the Chicago Church.



Peter Garcia, Los Angeles International Church of Christ
Building Family with Your Leadership Team
Peter was baptized at the University of South Florida, Tampa in 1985. He graduated in 1987 and moved to Boston, Massachusetts to serve in the full-time ministry. While in Boston, Peter met his wife, Laura, and were married in 1989. In May of 1990 they left for Sao Paulo, Brazil to train in Portuguese and soon went to plant the church in Rio de Janeiro. From there they planted the church in Bogotá, Columbia and then moved to Mexico City to lead the church for the next eight years. They served in Latin America for 10 years building and planting churches in Mexico and Central America. In 2000, they were asked to move to LA and are currently in LA, overseeing the teen ministry, a Latin Sector and the churches in Mexico and Central America.



Alex Hernandez, Hampton Roads Church of Christ
Youth Volunteers
Alex Hernandez was converted as a teen and has served in the teen ministry for over 12 years. He has worked in the ministry for nine years: five years in Northern Virginia Church of Christ and four years in Hampton Roads where he currently oversees the teen ministry.

Speakers & Teachers

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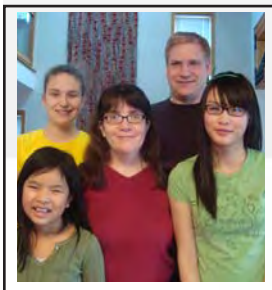
Adrian Hill, London Church of Christ
Men's Keynote, Elder/Evangelist Workshop
Adrian serves as the Youth and Family Minister for London. He and his wife Maureen moved to be part of the London Church of Christ in 1995. Together they have raised all of their six children to be faithful disciples. Their oldest sons, Ben (29) and Tom (23), are both married and involved in London ministries. Their youngest four children, Naomi, Kate, Charlotte and Alex, are 19 and a set of quadruplets. They are all working with the university campus ministries in London, Birmingham and Belfast.



Kevin Hoecke, Toronto Church of Christ
Baptism...Just the Beginning
Having become a disciple as a freshman in high school, Kevin has always had a heart for Youth Ministry. He has served in the ministry for 10 years throughout the Midwest and Canada. Kevin currently serves as the Youth and Family Minister for the church in Toronto, where he resides with his wife Clarissa, and children Gabrielle and Carson.



Anton Ivy, Chicago Church of Christ
Urban Youth and Family Ministry, Family to the Fatherless
Anton has been in the ministry since 1986. Anton has a bachelors degree from the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana were he also served as a Campus Minister before moving to Chicago in 1988. Anton serves a an Evangelist and Ministry Center Leader for the Chicago Ministry Center. Anton also served as an Evangelist/ Elder for the Los Angeles Church of Christ for 12 years. Anton and his wife Sharon have been married for 19 years and have four daughters and three grandchildren.



Leon and Susan Johnson, Minneapolis/St. Paul Church of Christ
Adopted Children
Leon and Susan Johnson live in Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota. They have been disciples in the Minneapolis/St. Paul Church of Christ for over 25 years. They have three children: Mackenzie, 17, Quinn, 13 and Ren, 9. Quinn is from Hubei province in China and was adopted at seven months, Ren is from Guangdong province and was adopted at 16 months.



Jeff Jones, Chicago Church of Christ
Having Your Affairs in Order
Jeff has been a faithful disciple since his baptism in 1990. He is a former member of the Chicago Church of Christ Board of Directors and is currently a member of the Board of HOPE Worldwide and HOPE Worldwide Illinois. He has been married to his wife, Janet, for 26 years and has three children, Jackie, Steven and Kristin. Jeff is an attorney and has been practicing in estate planning, probate, banking and real estate for the last 30 years.

Speakers & Teachers

listed alphabetically by last name



Iurii and Lena Kovtonuk, Kiev Church of Christ
Winning Families as a Family

Iurii and Lena were baptized in 1992 and got married in 1994. They were the fourth couple from the church in Kiev to get married. From 1994 they worked part time for the church and from 1997 they have been serving full time in the ministry. They led the Kiev AMS ministry for three years until 2002, and then moved to Odessa in Southern Ukraine to lead the church there. In 2003 they returned to Kiev to lead the North region of the church and the youth and family ministry, and are there currently.



Lori Kwasniewski, Indianapolis Church of Christ
Spiritual Moms, Contented, Busy, and Loving It

Lori and her husband Mike currently lead the Indianapolis Church of Christ. They have two children: Tyler 14 and Andrea 11. She has served in the full-time ministry for 19 years. Sixteen years were spent serving in Chicago. In 1995 she was able to help start the Des Moines Church of Christ.



Mike and Kristen Lamb, Boston Church of Christ
Working Together...Youth Ministry/Teen Parent Relationships

Michael became a disciple in 1989 in the Boston Teen Ministry at the age of 14. Kristen became a disciple at the age of 17 as a freshman at UCLA. Michael and Kristen served as volunteer teen leaders for several years before becoming full-time Youth Ministers in 2001. They have served as Youth Ministers in Los Angeles, Madison, Wisconsin, and are currently on staff with the Boston Church of Christ. Michael and Kristen have been married for nine years and have three children: Kaili five, Drew three, Kalea two months.



Clint and Christie Larr, Chicago Church of Christ
Teen Dating

Clint and Christie both grew up in the church and were converted in their teen ministries. They met on HOPE Youth Corps and were married four years ago. They served full-time in Campus Ministry for the University of Houston for eighteen months and moved to Chicago about a year ago to work with Youth and Family Ministry. They currently are a part of the North Region.



Tracy and Phyllis Larr, Champaign Church of Christ
Developing Family Ministry in Your Church

Tracy and Phyllis Larr have been married for 27 years and have been blessed with three wonderful children who love the Lord and each other as well as one beautiful daughter-in-law. They have served, in one form or another, in the ministry since they were 18 years old. They spent 18 years in the Boston Church serving as sector leaders and as an evangelist and women's ministry leader. Tracy also served as an elder in Boston for seven years. Currently they lead the church in Champaign, Illinois.

Speakers & Teachers

listed alphabetically by last name



Jim and Virginia Lefler, Chicago Church of Christ
Teen Dating, Purity
Jim and Virginia Lefler were married in 1972 and have two married sons. Jim, an elder since 1996, has devoted many years to the study and application of God's grace, and recently released his new book, The Complete Guide to Grace. Virginia Lefler, author of A Gentle & Quiet Spirit and Pursuing Purity, devotes her time and energies to teaching, writing and publishing Christian women studies. They live and work in the Chicago area.



John and Karen Louis, Central Christian Church of Singapore
Leadership Workshop, Parents Workshop
John Louis became a Christian while pursuing his Honours Degree from the City University, London. Upon his graduation in 1985, he entered full-time ministry in the London Church of Christ. There he met Karen, and they were married in London in 1987. Shortly after they married, John and Karen moved to Singapore and officially began the Central Christian Church of Singapore in 1988. Today, John and Karen, together with their Core Group, lead the SEAchurches (South-East Asia Region of churches) comprising 20 churches with over 4,300 members. Both John and Karen have completed their masters degrees in counseling and are professional counselors registered in Singapore.



Kelli Mahomes, Chicago Church of Christ
Instilling Confidence in Girls

Kelly served on the Chicago Ministry Staff for 10 years. She and her husband Fabian have worked with both the adult and youth and family ministries. She is passionately devoted to inspiring teens to hope in the Lord Jesus Christ. They currently reside in Chicago with three sons: Julian eight, Jonathan five and Jayden one.



John and Nancy Mannel, Los Angeles International Church of Christ
Legacy of Faith: Family Relationships, Men's Keynote
John and Nancy were baptized in Charleston IL in March of 1978. After moving to Chicago John left his position as Vice President of Human Resources at a Chicago area hospital and Nancy her position as a pediatric nurse to enter the full-time ministry. In 1988 John was appointed an elder and Nancy a women's ministry leader in the Chicago Church of Christ where they continued to serve until their move to LA in February of 2000. John serves as an elder and Nancy as a women's counselor in the Los Angeles Church of Christ.



Russ and Seri Murdock, New York City Church of Christ
Middle School Ministry

Speakers & Teachers

listed alphabetically by last name



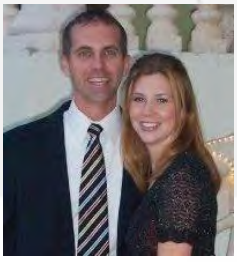
Karyn Ness, Chicago Church of Christ
How and When to Get Professional Help

Karyn R. Ness, M.S., M.A., LPC has worked in the field of mental health for 13 years, first as an audiologist at a public psychiatric hospital in Chicago, and more recently as a therapist. Karyn earned an M.S. in Audiology from Rush University Medical Center and a M.A. in Professional Counseling from the Illinois School of Professional Psychology in 2008. Karyn holds licenses in the State of Illinois in Audiology and in Professional Counseling. Currently Karyn is an early intervention provider of developmental therapy for infants and of mental health services to children and their families. She is also in private practice as a counselor with "Associates in Clinical Psychology" in Park Ridge, Illinois. Her areas of focus include: grief counseling, child and adolescent therapy, adoption issues and deafness and mental health. Karyn lives in Park Ridge, Illinois with her husband, Greg, and their three daughters, Kathryn, Jillian and Anna.



Tom and Carol Nuelle, Chicago Church of Christ
Passing on a Legacy of Purity, Adopted Children

Tom and Carol Nuelle have been in the ministry since 1996 when they left their professions of software development (Tom) and full-time concierge and professional event planner (Carol). Tom is an evangelist in the Metro Ministry Center and along with Carol they oversee the addiction ministries for the congregation of the Chicago Church of Christ. Carol not only serves as one of the women's ministry leaders of the Metro Ministry Center, but also organizes a church wide women's retreat every year in September. Together they have two children, Joy and Luke, ages 10 and 6.



Marcus Overstreet, Ft. Lauderdale Church of Christ
How to Study the Bible with Teens

Marcus is married to his beautiful wife Amy and they have two young children, Nate and Ella. He became a Christian nine years ago as a graduate student at the University of Florida. He is serving as a Youth and Family Minister in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida for the past two years and has worked in youth ministry for six years in Ft. Lauderdale and Jacksonville. He also served as a Campus Minister in Gainesville and Jacksonville for two years.



Pat Parnell, South Florida Church of Christ
Parenting Single

Pat Parnell was converted in the South Florida Church and has been a disciple for 22 years. She later moved to Kingston, Jamaica where she served in the ministry for seven years. In 1999, Pat, along with her family, moved back to South Florida where they now reside. She has two children: Paige, 19, is a disciple in the Gainesville church and Jordan, 14, is a disciple in the South Florida Church. Pat currently serves as a Youth Shepherd in the South Broward Ministry.

Speakers & Teachers

listed alphabetically by last name



Phil and Jill Perez, Chicago Church of Christ
Middle School Ministry

Phil and Jill Perez currently lead the young teen ministry group in the Westland Region of the Chicago Church of Christ. They have a total of five years working with the 13-14 year age group. They have been in the church 15 years and have served in a variety of staff and non-staff positions within the church. They have been married 15 years and have an eleven year old son Mitchell, and a one year old daughter, Miranda.



Mark Perkins, Chicago Church of Christ
Having Your Affairs in Order

Mark has been a faithful disciple since his baptism in 1988 and serves as a Deacon in the Westland Region of the Chicago Church and serves on the Chicago Church Board. He has been married to his wife, Troy, for 16 years and has three boys, Kyle, Cole and Beau. Mark is an attorney and has been practicing in estate planning for the last 18 years. He is a principle of the law firm Perkins & Zayed, PC.



Dakesa Pina, Lubbock International Church of Christ
Blended Families, Working with Teen Girls in Crisis

Dr. Dakesa Piña is an adjunct faculty member at Lubbock Christian University. Dakesa has been a Christian for eight years and in that time has served as a HOPE Worldwide Coordinator, Children's Ministry Leader, board member for the Lubbock International Church of Christ, and an Advisory Board Member for Disciples Today Heart and Soul. As a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Dakesa has counseled many individuals and families with a diverse number of concerns. Her expertise is in primary and secondary trauma as well as working with children ages 0-17 years.



Dave and Beth Pocta, Chicago Church of Christ
Abraham: Living the Legacy, Purity

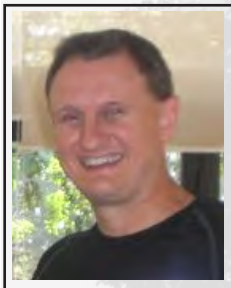
Dave and Beth Pocta live with their daughters Hannah,13, and Maddy, 11, in Mt. Prospect, IL. They have served in the full-time ministry for 18 years, the last ten of which have been in Youth and Family Ministry. Dave just recently completed his M.S. in Bible and Ministry from LCU.

Speakers & Teachers

listed alphabetically by last name



Barbara Porter, South Florida Church of Christ
Daughters Living the Legacy
Barbara Porter and her husband, John, have spent almost 25 years serving in the full-time ministry. She and her husband have led churches in Florida and in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Currently, they serve as congregational leaders of the South Florida Church of Christ and provide leadership and direction for the recently established School of Missions. John and Barbara have a son, Joseph, who is a freshman in college and a daughter, Jacqueline, in the 10th grade. Barbara loves ministering to young people, especially because she herself was baptized as a student at Harvard Law School.



John Porter, South Florida Church of Christ
Elder/Evangelist, Joshua: Living the Legacy
John Porter was baptized on the campus of Clemson University in 1982. His desire to serve as a missionary was fulfilled as he and his wife, Barbara, helped plant the church in Mexico City and then led the church in Sao Paulo, Brazil. John, Barbara, his 18 year-old son, Joseph, and 16 year-old daughter, Jacqueline, currently live in South Florida where John serves as congregational evangelist. In addition, John serves as the leader of the Youth & Family Ministry Service Committee and is providing valuable leadership for the South Florida School of Missions.



Kelli Saindon, Minneapolis/St. Paul Church of Christ
Working with Kids with Special Needs
Kelli Saindon has been a disciple since 1983 and went into the ministry in 1985, the same year she married her husband Steve. After serving in churches in Chicago, Minneapolis/St. Paul, St. Louis, Toronto, Vancouver, Detroit, and Los Angeles, they finally moved back to Minneapolis/St. Paul where Steve has been the evangelist for the past five years. Kelli, who serves in the ministry, has a degree in education but has a very special interest in special education and spends time volunteering and subbing in her local school with special needs children.



Steve Saindon, Minneapolis/St. Paul Church of Christ
Morning Worship Devotionals

Steve Saindon has been a Christian since December 8, 1978, and made the decision to enter the ministry a few years later. He married his wife, Kelli, in 1985. Since that time, Steve and Kelli have served in churches in Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Louis, Toronto, Detroit and Los Angeles. They helped plant the Minneapolis/St. Paul Church of Christ and the Vancouver Church of Christ. Five years ago, the Saindons returned to lead the Minneapolis / St. Paul Church of Christ. Steve and Kelli have three children: Stevi (20), Kaleb (19) and Sadie-Ann (16).

Speakers & Teachers

listed alphabetically by last name



Wyndham and Jeanie Shaw, Boston Church of Christ
Working with Kids at Different Stages, Working Together...Youth Ministry/Teen Parent Relationships, Legacy of Faith: Heart Discipling

Wyndham is an elder and evangelist in the Boston Church. He was baptized as a college student at the University of Florida, and then received a graduate degree in ministry from Abilene University. Jeanie is an elder's wife and women's ministry leader. She was baptized as a teenager in Gainesville, Florida and also graduated from University of Florida. They began their ministry experience in campus ministry in 1974 in North Carolina and served in various churches before moving to Boston in 1987. They have four grown children, (three of whom are married and work with campus and teens within the Boston church). Their youngest joined the family as a young teen 10 years ago. They have three grandchildren.



Steve and Tricia Staten, Chicago Church of Christ
Spiritual Leadership in the Home, Legacy of Faith: Spiritual Formation

Steve and Tricia Staten have been in the ministry since 1988 when they left their professions in Computer Engineering (Steve) and Art Education (Tricia). Steve is an Evangelist for the Chicago Ministry Center and oversees staff education, having received his Master of Arts in Theology from Wheaton College, and Tricia serves as a Women's Ministry Leader. Together they have raised three daughters: Tamera, who graduated from Pepperdine University in Malibu and the University of Reading and now lives in Chicago; Talia, who graduated from Wheaton College and teaches in New Jersey; and Taylor, who attends Elmhurst College. All three are faithful disciples.



Chimere and Ayanna Stephens, New York City Church of Christ
Teaching Teens to Reach Teens..., Urban Youth and Family Ministry
Chimere and Ayanna were both baptized as teenagers in the New York City Church of Christ. They began interning for the church as seniors in high school, working specifically with the youth. In 2001 Chimere and Ayanna were appointed Regional Teen Leaders for the Bronx Teen Ministry. Chimere holds a bachelors in English literature from Fordham University (NY) and Ayanna a B.S. in Social Work from Lehman College (NY). They were married in May of 2006. They have served in the youth ministry for 10 years, working in particular with inner-city teens and their families. Currently they serve in the Harlem Teen Ministry.



Eric and Megan Testa, Indianapolis Church of Christ
Teen Dating

Eric and Megan both grew up in the Chicago Church. They were baptized as freshmen in high school. They then both attended Northern Illinois University and were married after graduation in 2005. Recently their son Logan was born. They have been campus interns and led teen ministries in Chicago. They now lead the Indianapolis Church's Youth and Family Ministry.

Speakers & Teachers

listed alphabetically by last name



Ionela Testa, Chicago Church of Christ
Adopted Children

Ionela Testa was born and raised in Balotesti, Romania by her single mother until the age of 14, when her mother left her, her sister and brother. Eight months after her mother left, Ionela, along with her siblings, were placed into the group home that Hope worldwide funded. Ionela lived there with her siblings and 14 other children for two and a half years. At the age of 17, by God's power and grace, Ionela and her siblings were adopted by a Christian family from New Hampshire. Today, Ionela is happily married to her husband Anthony, and together they lead one of the ministry centers in the Chicago Church of Christ.



Sam Testa, Chicago Church of Christ
Spiritual Leadership in the Home

Sam Testa has served in various ministries of the Chicago Church of Christ since 1990, with the help of his wife Michelle. Sam and Michelle currently serve as House Church Leaders and in the Youth and Family Ministry, counseling parents. Sam and Michelle have raised two sons and one daughter: Eric and Anthony both graduated from Northern Illinois University, and Samantha will be graduating from Downers Grove North High School this May. Eric and Anthony both serve as full-time ministers, and it is Samantha's desire to serve God full-time as well.



Anthony and Holly Toguchi, New York Church of Christ
Middle School Ministry

Anthony and Holly Toguchi were both converted as teens. Holly was a "kingdom kid" and was baptized in eighth grade at 14. Anthony was converted "out of the world" at 17. They have worked with teens for over 10 years, both in the full-time ministry and as volunteers. The last few years their primary focus has been the middle school ministry. They live in Parsippany, New Jersey with their kids Hana, 3 and Boone, 1.



Dave Weidner, Chicago Church of Christ
Passing on a Legacy of Purity

David Weidner is passionate about helping disciples break free from the bondage of sexual sin. He helped establish the Sexual Integrity ministry in the Chicago church and continues to serve as a group leader. He is the author of the CD series "Pure in Heart: Biblical Principles for Restoring Purity", and has conducted seminars in the U.S. and abroad. Dave spent the first seven years of his career as a youth minister serving in Chicago and New Mexico. David and Robin have been married for 28 years and have three adult children. David has a bachelors in Biblical Languages and is currently pursuing a master's degree in psychology.

Speakers & Teachers

listed alphabetically by last name



Bruce and Robyn Williams, Los Angeles International Church of Christ
Legacy of Faith: Restoring Hope

Bruce and Robyn were married June 16, 1972. Bruce has his B.A. in Psychology from the University of Florida and his M.S. in Ministry & Evangelism, Abilene Christian University. Robyn has her B.A. in Elementary Education from the University of Florida. Bruce and Robyn have led churches in South Florida, San Diego, and Chicago before moving to Los Angeles in 1991. They have spoken in marriage seminars around the world the last 30 years. Bruce is the Congregational Evangelist and Robyn the Women's Ministry Leader for the Los Angeles Church of Christ. They have three children and three grandchildren. Bruce has written two books: Power & Fruit of the Holy Spirit and Ambassadors for Christ.



Tomm and Laurie Wilson, Milwaukee Church of Christ
Parents Needing Renewed Vision...A Child Has Left the Faith

Tomm and Laurie have been serving as leaders in the Milwaukee Church since March of 2006. They became disciples in 1982 while living in Tampa, Florida. The Wilson's bring with them 23 years of ministry experience. They have led churches in Michigan, Illinois and Ohio. They came to us from the Chicago Church of Christ where they served in many capacities over the previous nine years. Tomm and Laurie were married in 1979 and have two adult children: Martin who lives in Illinois and Kelly who now lives in Florida. The Wilsons are honored to serve the Milwaukee Church and gladly call it home.



Wayne Wright, Detroit Church of Christ
Getting a Youth Ministry Started in a Small Church

In 2000 Wayne was given the opportunity to serve as leader of the singles ministry in Detroit. In 2004 his girlfriend April moved to Detroit from Indianapolis and they led the singles ministry and Wayne State Campus ministry. April and Wayne were married January 22, 2005. On September 1, 2006 they were appointed as full-time ministers of the teen ministry. Their teen ministry has grown from 15 teens to 30 total teens and 15 disciples, all to God's glory.



Chris and Meegan Zillman, Chicago Church of Christ
How to Choose and College

Chris and Meegan Zillman have served as Evangelist and Women's Ministry Leader in the Chicago Church of Christ since 2005. Both became Christians in 1995 as college students, Chris at Indiana University and Meegan at Smith College (MA). They have been working with various campus ministries from Boston on the East Coast to Northern Illinois in the Midwest ever since. Chris presently serves on the ICOC Service Team for campus ministry. The Zillmans have three boys: Isaiah, Justus and Augustus.

Class Descriptions

listed according to program schedule

Morning Devotionals

These devotionals are designed to help you more deeply worship and appreciate our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. We will be exploring God's work in and through Jesus Christ. There will be special emphasis on answering the question "How did Paul the Apostle remain so inspired, devoted and motivated through his many intense difficulties?"

Friday - 3:45 PM Class Session #1

Keeping God First in Your Family

This class is designed to present the importance of and practical ways to keep God first in your home and family. The class will include personal examples and a survey of ideas on how it's been done by others.

Winning Families as a Family

It is very exciting to see the fruit that can be born when a family has a mission mind-set. It influences our children when they see that in everything we do we want to see people come to know God. Be inspired by personal sharing and leave with a renewed vision to influence your community as a family.

Parents Needing Renewed Vision...A Child has Left the Faith

All parents need faith, encouragement and perspective when dealing with the ups and downs of their children's journey through life. These times can be challenging to our faith and we need to draw closer to God and draw strength from those who have gone before us.

How to Study the Bible with Teens

How do I study the Bible with a teenager? This is one of the most important questions we face in order to win the next generation for Christ. Is using a basic "study series" enough? How do we connect "post-modern thinking teens" with the truth of the Gospel? How do we help the "Rich Young Rulers" in our teen ministries? We'll try to tackle some of these topics in this class.

Developing Family Ministry in Your Church

This class will strive to challenge us as church leaders to think about new and innovative ways we can integrate the concept of Family Ministry into every aspect of our church ministry plans. Our goal is to help us grow from being churches with a Families Ministry, to being churches that are Family Ministries.

Doing Ministry and Family Well

This class is designed to help balance the pressures of both moving a ministry and helping your family to do well spiritually. We will focus on time management, establishing of principles and priorities and the organization of our lives necessary to accomplish both well.

Working Together...Youth Ministry/Teen Parent Relationships

One of the keys to a strong Youth and Family Ministry is the relationship between the parents of teens and the teen leaders. We will discuss important aspects of this vital relationship including having a shared vision, clear communication, and mutual respect and humility.

Class Descriptions

listed according to program schedule

Friday - 4:30 PM Class Session #2

Blended Families

Blended families are unique with special obstacles and stressors. This class will focus on the spiritual and practical applications to having a successful blended family.

How do I Know When They are Ready to Be Baptized?

This is a question that many parents as well as youth helpers have. What are the key things that should be in place for a teenager to make an educated AND faith based decision to follow Jesus for the rest of their lives?

Instilling Faith in Teens

This class offers both biblical and practical input on instilling faith in the next generation. The diversity of experiences that John and Will bring are reinforcement by the unity of their conviction about instilling faith. The class will include direct quotes from teens and clear guidance on practical implementation of the principles discussed. It is our prayer that this class will inspire you and equip you as you seek to build a lasting faith in the teens you serve.

Teaching Teens to Reach Teens...Both Inside and Outside the Church

Every disciple needs training on how to love the lost world around them. Teens are no different. They have a unique challenge in that a lot of their peers they have grown up with are the "lost." It is also difficult to navigate through imitating Jesus' heart as a friend of sinners and not be swayed to live as they do.

Evangelistic Parenting Series

Mark Devries writes " I've never seen parents more hungry for help than they are now". I believe we have a great opportunity to share with parents the gospel of Jesus. This class will talk about how churches can start up an evangelistic parenting series and invite neighbors, family and friends.

Baptism...Just the Beginning

While there is nothing more exciting then seeing our teenagers decide to follow Jesus, we acknowledge that their baptism marks the beginning of a spiritual battle that will last the duration of their lives. The focus of our time will be on the need to equip our teens with the right tools that will help them to remain faithful to Jesus as they continue through the various stages of life.

Friday - 8:30 PM Midwest Parenting Classes

Legacy of Faith: Family Relationships

Parenting begins and ends with the relationship. Be inspired to prioritize relationships at all costs.

Legacy of Faith: Heart Discipling

Parenting is about transforming the heart, not just the behavior. Be inspired to go beyond actions and learn to connect with the heart of your child.

Legacy of Faith: Restoring Hope

God's love and faithfulness never waivers. Find a restored hope that God can help overcome any parenting challenge.

Legacy of Faith: Spiritual Formation

Noble parents make noble plans and by noble deeds they stand. Learn how to intentionally form Christ in your children.

Class Descriptions

listed according to program schedule

Saturday - 10:00 am Men's Classes

Family to the Fatherless

God's perspective of the fatherless is that He defends them and takes special note of their needs and condition. The class will present statistic on the fatherless in our nation and the ramifications single parent homes. It will provide concepts on how we can meet the needs of children who do not have fathers both in our churches and in the community.

Building Family with Your Leadership Team

This class will focus on how to build family in your leadership team. Also, why it is so crucial to being an effective and fruitful ministry that will glorify God. As well as practical ways to overcome the obstacles that can cause disunity and hinder building a great team.

Reaching Teens from the Pulpit

Have you ever come down from preaching of teaching a class and asked a number of the youth in your congregation, "what did you get out of the message today?" And they answer you, "I liked when we sang Blue Skies and Rainbows." This might alert you that there is a problem. Come and learn inspire teens from the pulpit.

Passing on a Legacy of Purity

God has always desired a sexually pure people. As fathers we can have a profound effect on the future of our children's purity through living out God's principles for purity and strategically passing them on to our children. The "Passing on a Legacy of Purity" class will discuss both how to live sexually pure lives as well as how to pass on this lifestyle to the next generation.

Working with Kids at Different Stages

Just when you think you have a system down that works and that you are connecting with your child, they go and grow! Leading and parenting children requires regular evaluation of what is working, learning what is normal for different ages and great patience.

Having Your Affairs in Order

If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. 1 Tim 5:8 Taking care of your family is something God expects from us all. How do we figure out if we are on the right track? Where do we start? If these are questions you have then this is the class for you. We will give you answers on where you are, where you should be and how to get there. You will have a better understanding of financial planning, retirement planning, estate planning, and how to avoid financial disaster.

Spiritual Leadership in the Home

Leadership in the home begins with a parent's relationship with God. In a two-parent Christian home the most significant things that our children will learn about God will come directly from the example of their fathers. Parents should lead in much the way that God leads. Finally, the tools for navigating life's toughest challenges are learned before they home.

Class Descriptions

listed according to program schedule

Saturday - 11:00 am Women's Classes

Working with Special Needs Children

Who are our "special needs" children? It almost seems like this is a term that we are hearing more and more each day, and understanding less and less. This class will help us to understand what needs our children and their care givers have and give some helpful thoughts on how to meet those needs. Prayerfully this class will help us understand that behind this "label" are beautiful and unique children, who often can teach us more than we can even imagine.

Spiritual Moms, Contented, Busy, and Loving It

Christian women are some of the busiest on the planet. How do live our lives to full and not be overwhelmed. Learn to live surrendered, peace filled life trusting in Him who gives us great strength.

Instilling Confidence in Girls

It's a known fact that self-esteem plummets during a girl's adolescent and teen years. Being a teen is hard, and it's all too easy for teens to be too hard on themselves. Become a voice of inspiration! Learn creative ways to help teen girls build confidence and ultimately reach their goal of being their personal best.

Purity

God is pure. He calls us to think, feel and act in a way that honors HIS standard of purity. Do we know what it means to pursue purity? Do we live in such a way that says we view it as a privilege that gives us power? God desires for us to educate and model this understanding of purity for our children.

Working with Kids at Different Stages

This class is designed for both teen leaders and parents to help maximize the effectiveness of conversations, classes and studies we have with our children and teens. Meeting kids/teens at their level in a way they can understand, and feel understood, greatly increases the impact we have on them. Our understanding of the stages of development greatly increases the likelihood of their interest, desire and ownership of faith. We will discuss the stages through which they pass as well as spiritual concepts and Godly characteristics well suited for each stage.

Working with Teen Girls in Crisis

The pressure for teenage girls to be intelligent, feminine, athletic, thin and popular has created a generation of teenage girls who are in crisis. This class will focus on understanding the issues that teenage girls are facing in today's society as well as how to effectively help teenagers dealing with issues such as: anger, stealing, running away, cutting, addictions and eating disorders.

Parenting Single

"I know that you sincerely trust the Lord, for you have the faith of your mother Eunice and your grandmother Lois." (2 Tim1:5, NLT) Faith that is lived out stands the test of time and provides a foundation on which the children of single moms can build their own sincere walk with God. We will discuss the importance of our faith and practical ways we can put faith into practice day to day.



Class Handouts & Recordings

The following pages were submitted by the speakers to accompany their classes.

We are aware that you will not be able to attend all of the classes that you may want to.

Every class will be recorded.

They will be available after the conference at www.liveit2giveit.org at no charge.

Ancient Near East Covenants

The Covenant with Abram

The Covenant with Abraham's Descendents

God's Generational Intent

The Suzerain-Vassal Covenant

Dave Pocta

Suzerain - a sovereign exercising political control over a dependent state
Vassal - a person granted the use of land, in return for rendering homage, fealty, and usually military service
Covenant - beyond a contract, a covenant bound the two parties together

Common covenant ingredients:
- Father/Son language
- The vassal's name changed
- Legal but very personal
- Honor at stake
- Each intended to give heart and soul to the relationship

Seven Parts of the Treaty:

The Introduction

The identification of the suzerain by name and title

The Relationship
The status or history of the suzerain/vassal relationship

The Rules
The vassal requirements in great detail
Usually moral terms, such as "to love" and "to walk before with the whole heart"
Total loyalty demanded

The Temple
The covenant was sworn before the gods and kept in the temple
It was re-read to remember the covenant

The Witnesses
A list of the witnesses were included
This was usually a list of their gods

The Blessings and Curses
The vassal agreed to being blessed if he upheld the rules and accepted curses if he did not
Specific blessings and curses were outlined in detail

The Covenant Oath
An animal was killed and the cut in half
The blood was touched by both parties symbolizing they were now of one blood and shared one life
The two parties would walk between the split animal
"If I do not uphold this covenant, may what happened to this animal happen to me."

Bless Me Too, My Father

Throughout scriptures, man has always sought after some kind of blessing from God. While God longs to bless each of us spiritually (Jeremiah 29:11-13), he often works through others to help us feel his blessing. However, the personal blessings given in Genesis meant more than just a physical bending of the knee – they also carried the weight of bestowing a great honor, of recognition and value. In biblical times, receiving a blessing was arguably one of the most special points in a person's life. In most cases, the blessing was mandated by God and was prophetic – in other words, when a patriarch uttered a blessing about his son, it would come true!

These special blessings encouraged the children who received them, made them feel valued and accepted, and conveyed protection from God that their future would turn out well. Since this was evidently a part of their culture, the children growing up in that region would have naturally looked forward to this deciding point of their lives with great anticipation, hoping to hear positive, heart-felt words from their parents. A book called The Blessing by Gary Smalley and John Trent (1986) talks about this in greater detail.

Take Esau as an example – upon realizing that he had been outwitted from inheriting the blessing of the firstborn, he wept aloud (Genesis 27: 34-35)

34When Esau heard his father's words, he burst out with a loud and bitter cry and said to his father, "Bless me—me too, my father!" 35 But he said, "Your brother came deceitfully and took your blessing."

He pleaded and asked his father to bless him as well. Later Esau continued a highly emotionally charged dialogue with his father, in Genesis 27: 38,

38Esau said to his father, "Do you have only one blessing, my father? Bless me too, my father!" Then Esau wept aloud.

Esau was desperate to be blessed. He pleaded and begged with tears for his father to also bless him, but to no avail. The words from Esau, "Bless me too, my father" must have haunted Isaac for the rest of his life. Esau wanted to be blessed, but his father could not deliver it. Esau had not lost something physical, or even theological, but rather, something very emotional and personal. And it was from his dad. This left a deep emotional wound on him. Both of them were seekers of the blessing, and in a real way, both did not receive the blessings they so desired in the measure that they had wanted.

This is no less true today. We all wish to be blessed by our parents. Modern researchers refer to our "core needs", and in many ways, being "blessed" means having our core needs met. These needs must be met if we are to grow up healthy, failing which we will develop a distorted view of ourselves and or others. When this happens, we end up getting stuck in the same old behaviors that negatively affect our lives, known as schemas or lifetraps (Young 1993). If our lifetraps dictate our behavior, it causes harm to ourselves, in our relationships with those closest to us, and even in our relationship with God.

The basic core needs:

1. Basic Safety
2. Stable Base & Predictability
3. Guidance & Protection
4. Love, Nurturing & Attention
5. Empathy
6. Validation of Feelings
7. Acceptance & Praise
8. Spirituality

In short, people who develop strong life traps are those who leave home without being blessed. They then go to far away places, both emotionally and spiritually, to get these needs met because these needs cannot be suppressed indefinitely. The end result is usually a combination of negative, unhealthy compulsive "quick fixes" or coping mechanisms, for example, use of drugs, heavy use of alcohol, sexual relationships outside marriage, computer addiction, overeating, and yes, even overworking.

In looking at Esau and Jacob's lives, because of the lack of blessing or needs being adequately met, they resorted to unhealthy behaviors, which were destructive to themselves and to other members of their family.

Parent Workshop

John & Karen Louis

Friday 10:45 AM & 2:00 PM – Grand Ballroom

Dysfunction is the Gift that keeps on Giving

In the life of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, patterns of dysfunction were passed down, from one generation to another. We shall consider some.

Favoritism and Rivalry

Abraham's first born was Ishmael, through their servant Hagar. In time, Sarah could not stand being around Hagar because of her jealousy and impatience, and the result was Isaac was favored over Ishmael (Gen 16: 3-5). This pattern of dysfunction was repeated in the generations that followed. Isaac himself favored Esau over Jacob (Gen 25: 27-28). Rachel, in turn, favored Jacob. Jacob, when he married, also favored Rachel over Leah (Gen 29: 30). Later, when he had his twelve sons, he favored Joseph and Benjamin (Gen 37: 3).

Giving into Fear

Abraham instructed his wife Sarah to pretend to be his sister (Gen 20: 2). The same scenario was repeated with Isaac and Rebekah (Gen 26: 9). Jacob, out of fear of being left out from the blessing, lied to his father, Isaac (Gen 27: 1-29).

Handling of Conflict

As a result of jealousy and resentment, the families never learned to talk about their conflict or sort things out amicably. Rather, when the tension got severely strained, both physical and emotional separation took place. Although it was Sarah's idea for Hagar to become pregnant by Abraham, Sarah eventually harbored bitterness and jealousy. It got to a point that Abraham had to send Hagar and Ishmael physically away (Gen 21: 8-14). Similarly, with Isaac. When Esau was tricked out of his birthright, he begrudged Jacob. Tension between them grew and finally Jacob had to be sent away physically by Rebekah (Gen 27: 42-45). Likewise, with Jacob, he himself left Laban when they were not able to sort matters between themselves (Gen 31: 1-3). This carried on with his sons – Joseph was sent away by his own brothers as a result of their jealousy towards Joseph (Gen 37: 25-28).

Breaking the Unhealthy Cycle

Why do we repeat dysfunctional patterns?

Are dysfunctional patterns being carried from your relationship with your parents into the relationship you have with your children? We learn through imitation. Sometimes, we subconsciously imitate areas that we ourselves despise. Look for example in Mark 10: 35-45. Here the disciples of Jesus looked at the Gentile rulers as examples and role models of how leadership should be exercised. On the one hand, these were the very people they despised, the Romans in particular. However, the disciples were still drawn to their leadership patterns, rather than to Jesus', which was a servant-based leadership. We imitate even what we don't like in others, especially from our parents. We learn much more from imitation than from education. We need to all learn to break this unhealthy cycle of repeating the dysfunction.

Notes

Part One: The "YOU"th Worker - Damon Curtis

First Section: Personal Relationship with God.
"Successful people make a habit doing what unsuccessful people don't like to do."

Invisible Property Lines and Responsibility:

IT'S UP TO ME

Take Responsibility

Live Within Yourself

TO AND FOR

Boulders

Back Packs

GOD'S EXAMPLE

Youth Volunteer Workshop

Damon Curtis & Alex Hernandez

Friday 10:45 AM & 2:00 PM – Cypress

The role of a teen leader/worker really benefits a teen's faith. Though we understand that God calls parents to instill the faith into their teens we also know that having strong older brothers and sisters really does make a difference in a teen's life.

As we serve in the teen ministry there are few things to remember.

I. It's An Investment

Just like us a teen is a work in progress. The biggest danger that will keep a teen leader from being ineffective, apart from their own spiritual well being, is forgetting that our role involves a long-term investment.

A. Investing In The Teen

Sometimes as teen leaders we can be filled with an overwhelming feeling of frustration or discouragement because our teen is not growing in the faith they way we would like them to. Now it is good and healthy that we would like our teens to grow in the faith but we need to keep the long-term perspective. This means we need to invest our time with our teen knowing that it may take a while before we see any progress.

B. Investing In The Family

Building A Bond With Parents Who Are Disciples

Though in ideal situation the parents, who are disciples, will pull you in and make you a part of the family by inviting you over for dinner, joining them to watch their teen's athletic game, etc. How great would it be that every parent would joyfully do this (which strong disciples parents will generally do this)?

If the parent does not initiate this we, knowing how important this partnership is, invest trying to build a relationship with parents.

The more we spend time with the parents or parent the quicker we able to get help for them if they need it. If you come across spiritual concerns you can find an older mature couple in the fellowship that will address these issues. We in Hampton Roads have several couples that have been given this charge by our church's leadership, which has, help us tremendously.

The stronger the family the stronger the teen.

Building A Bond With Non-Disciples As Parents

On the other hand, you have teens who haven been invited out have non-disciples as parents. It is equally important to invest in getting to know these parents. This relationship will be important as the teen approaches his/her decision to make Jesus Lord.

II. Teach Spiritual Principles
From the minute Jesus started his ministry he knew his time with limited. As we read Mark 1:16 we generally think of it as day one in Jesus' ministry. But think of it as if you were Jesus and on the screen of your watch instead of day one you had 1095 days (365 days x 3) left and your watch counted down. With this in mind Jesus knew that he needed to really make the most of his limited time. So the question is what did he focus on? We know Jesus repeated some of his teachings, though mostly because of his disciples' hard headedness, but still why did he choose to reemphasize?

These questions are helpful to think about. (Which does take some reflection)

So the question we should ask ourselves is, knowing we only have a window of opportunity what are the key spiritual principles I should focus on?

What is Not Good
Fireman (or Fire-Woman) Teen Leader

Instead of teaching a teen spiritual foundational principles we find ourselves putting out fires. This can also lead to the teen leader only opening the bible when issues arise which make the Bible looks like a disciplinary tool which is not good.

What is Good
The Spiritual Trainer Teen Leader

The teen will one day be a campus student, a single, and an adult. For the teen to be strong what are some key things we should try to teach them now?

III. Take Them Along
Paul relationship with Timothy is something to admire, look at and worthy of imitation. We know that Paul first picks up Timothy in Lystra in Acts 16. We know that Timothy went along with Paul on some of his missionary journeys and coauthored some of Paul's epistles.

Taking your teen to run errands really makes an impact. This interaction is extremely powerful. Why?
A. For one, they get to see how disciples, apart from their parents, live in everyday life.
B. They learn from our interactions with the world.
C. This also creates bond with you.

Conclusion
If we really want to make an impact with our teens we really have to invest our time with them. Its important that they see our lives as we try to grow in our walk while at the same time we need to do our part to instill spiritual principles into them that will benefit their walk for years to come.

Notes

Components of a Successful Youth Ministry

Luke 2:41-52 – The Boy Jesus at the temple

1. **Parents Devoted to God**

   -Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for Passover

   -Mary kept calm in spite of "losing" Jesus

   **Our children almost always become what we are

2. **A Close Community**

   -Jesus' parents were not worried because they thought he was in the company of friends and relatives

   **Studies show that the #1 indicator for long-term faithfulness of children is having meaningful adult relationships

3. **High Expectations for young adults**

   -At 12 years of age, Jesus was listening to and asking questions of the teachers

   -Everyone who heard was amazed at his understanding his answers

   -Even the Son of God was obedient to his parents

   -Society has extended "adolescence" beyond what is necessary

   -The book Do Hard Things by Alex and Brett Harris demonstrates that teenagers are capable of much more mature behavior than we expect from them.

Notes

Youth Ministry Roles and Responsibilities

Parents:
- Find a mentor for your child
- Monitor your child's behavior in church activities
- Help your child with his/her daily personal relationship with God through prayer and Bible study
- Have family devotionals regularly
- Set a Godly example
- Provide rides and money for activities
- Oversee and encourage the relationship between your child and his/her mentor
- Regularly communicate with Youth Shepherds
- Don't over-schedule your child (don't require your child to baby-sit younger children during important activities etc., and help your child make time for weekly meetings with his/her mentor)

Youth Workers:
- Give input and help run middle and high school activities
- Have a discipling relationship with at least one child
- Have Bible Studies with middle and high school students
- Attend meetings related to youth ministry
- Occasionally teach classes

Youth Shepherds
- Aid parents in accomplishing their responsibilities
- Plan/execute/oversee/chaperone youth activities
- Work together with youth workers and provide support
- Help with Bible Studies

Mentors:
- Have a discipling relationship with at least one child
- Meet on a weekly basis with the child
- Provide friendship, spiritual guidance, and someone to talk to for the child
- Occasionally asked to chaperone special events, like retreats & monthly devotionals, especially when the child they are mentoring is attending

Youth:
- Obey their parents
- Respect authority
- Live as disciples

Notes

Youth Minister Workshop

Phil Arsenault

Friday 10:45 AM & 2:00 PM - Lilac

Introduction of Workshop

Session I Families

Helping to build strong spiritual families

Session II Leadership of Youth Ministry

Unity of leaders, strategy of Youth Ministry and implementation of plans

Session III Teenage Relationships

Building strong spiritual relationships

Session IV Teenagers Relationship with Jesus

Before conversion, conversion, discipleship and teaching classes

Notes

Keeping God First in Your Family

Mike Fix

Friday 3:45 PM – Ballroom G

Matthew 6:33
This is a principle that Jesus taught in one of his first sermons – it was true then and it's true now
Today many face the challenge of keeping God first in their families

We see the destruction of families when they're built on the changing sands of moral values (Matthew 7:24-27)
We're faced with more and more attempts to hijack our priorities and values as Christians

We're constantly bombarded with the temptation to succumb to the world as our standard, yet we are called to have as our primary quest God's righteousness and His kingdom
With all the distractions he faced how did Jesus keep God first in his life?

Not of This World
A. John 18:28-37

If ever there was a time for Jesus to be tempted to back down it was when he faced death
Yet he stands firm – why? Because he knew he was not of this world

B. Sometimes we can get caught up into believing and living like this world is it
C. We can find ourselves making decisions that are limited in scope to the here and now without concern for the future
D. Jesus was aware of the future and therefore was willing to go to the extreme to suffer and die rather than compromise the truth
E. This wasn't easy for him nor is it any easier for us today

Twenty-Four / Seven
A. Mark 12:28-34
Jesus pointed out that the greatest command is to love God with your whole being – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
B. This is more than simply devoting a few minutes of your day to reading your bible and praying – but living as a disciple of Jesus all the time
C. Jesus came to model this for us (John 1:14, Hebrews 1:1-3)
D. I believe as a husband and parent I'm called to model this for my wife and family
E. The next generation learns from the lives of the generation before them
F. When God is the priority of your life your children will be influenced

Closing:
Survey in the church in New Hampshire asking the question: "How do you keep God first in your home?"

Below are some of their answers.

I recommend you read them over for inspiration and ideas of some practical things disciples have done to make sure He is the priority in their home

Keeping God First in Your Family

Mike Fix

Friday 3:45 PM – Ballroom G

"As parents we tried to focus on spiritual principles and not just commands."
"When our kids were younger – sang as a family."
"We took prayer walks with the kids."
"We always pray together when a really challenging time comes."
"We use scriptures when specific situations arise."
"We share our faith when my kids are with me."
"We read scriptures out loud to our children."
"Have dinner together every night."
"Pray before our family meals (including in restaurants)."
"Help our children be able to distinguish between "pretend world" and God. We're careful to not present Santa Claus, the Tooth Fairy, and the Easter Bunny as real. Want God to be real to them."
"Parents make it a goal to fulfill any promises made to their children."
"When we go on walks with the kids we point out that God is responsible for all we see."
"My wife and I pray together every night for our children."
"We read bible stories as a family."
"Rarely let outside activities come before God and his church."
"Made sure that when we punished our children they knew they were loved."
"Pray with my son when I drop him off at school."
"We talk about God regularly in everyday conversation, referring to scriptures on how God feels about things."
"Dinner discussion includes 'Find God in Today'."
"Weekly times with parents and children individually."
"Put bible verses on the refrigerator."
"Let my kids see me reading my bible."
"Invite my kids to join me for my personal bible study."
"Get together as a family and read the bible and pray daily."
"Encourage the kids to develop their own personal relationship with God."
"Live in such a way that I can be an example and inspiration to my kids."
"Share with my kids things I'm learning in my discipleship times with other brothers."
"Take my kids with me when I volunteer as a soup kitchen."
"Ask my children to join me in praying for people I've been reaching out to or studying the bible with."
"Being the first one to humbly say; "I'm sorry" when I sinned against another family member."
"Get our kids to teen activities no matter the cost – including driving 60 – 90 minutes one way to a teen discipleship group."
"When we talk through personal or family issues we put them in spiritual context."
"We had consistent family devotionals."
"We had consistent family dinners. Great place to talk about our day."
"We committed to having weekly discipleship times with each of our two children."
"My wife and I committed ourselves to model Christianity for our children."
"We surrounded our family with other Godly people."
"We have a family breakfast each morning before we all leave for school or work."
"Make church attendance a habit from the time they're born."
"We worked on teaching our children the principles of conflict resolution and called them to put the principles into practice."
"As a family we share when our prayers were answered."

Doing Ministry & Family Well

Ron & LauriAnne Conkling

Friday 3:45 PM - Cypress

We want to talk about the principles we have used and a few of the challenges we have had to overcome

Principles

Matthew 22: 36 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" 37 Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

- We have to keep this in perspective

Proverbs 22: 6 Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

- This is not a promise, but a powerful principle

Based on these two scriptures what are our goals

- Love God – My personal walk
- Love Others –
  - Ministry – Saved & Lost
  - My Family
- Train our children it is not magic

Personal Principle

- Our lives need to be respectable by people not in the ministry
- 40-50 hour work week – Moving the Ministry

Ministry

Organization
Focus on a Few
Entrust to Reliable Men

Family

Time
Start Tight, Slowly Release
Constantly Talking about Spiritual Principles

Bringing it Together

Hebrews 13: 7 Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

Planning time with your Spouse
Youth and Family Ministry Vertical Bible Talk

Conclusion

1 Thessalonians 5:6 So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled.

Books:

Boundaries – Decision making
Parenting with Love & Logic – Maintaining Spiritual Control
Raising Awesome Kids – All purpose raising kids
Getting Things Done – Getting all of it done

Introducing the covenant between God and Israel;

God's part -

Israel's responsibility -

Luke 10:27
Our role is to love God with all our minds, strength and heart.

Judges 1:19-21
Our mind, Looking at what we have and not at what we don't have.

Judges 2:1-3
Our strength, God will not do our job. (He will not fulfill the duties and responsibilities that He has given us.) The idea that we either convert the world around us or the world around us converts us!

Judges 2:10-11
Our hearts, If we are half-hearted about obeying God now, we will pay for these mistakes in the future, this relates to us as parents being the examples for our children. It doesn't matter how much we do for God, if our children don't learn from us how to follow God too! The goal is for our whole family to be in heaven together.

Conclusion:
Making good Godly decisions now will directly influence the future of our families.

Developing Family Ministry in Your Church

Tracy & Phyllis Larr

Friday 3:45 PM – Lilac B/D

Here today at the ICYFM conference primarily to discuss Family ministries as it relates to Teens and their parents, and to talk about totally re-thinking the way we as church leaders look at ministry and challenge the way we think about building a church

1 Corinthians 3:9-15 "... be careful how he builds" - Think of this as to how it relates to Families.

The Family has always been primary to God's thinking.

Gen. 1:28

Gen. 18:18,19

Eph 6:4

1 Tim. 5:8-10

Eph. 4:11-13 - Our responsibility as church leaders

Early Days in Boston:

Taught basics of parenting
Taught how to ...
Teaching was consistent

Today:

Families Ministry MUST go beyond teens and their parents
Must go deeper into the family tree ... all the way back to training & equip parents of infants how to train their children.
Imagine your teen ministry, if ....

Champaign:

Do not have all the answers or the "plan"
Share this to illustrate how we are "thinking".
Everything we do goes through the filter of "how can we involve families in this"?

Home Improvement:

Weekly
Teens and Parents Together
Involves lessons, together and separate.
Involves discussions as families
Homework.

Bringing Faith Home:

- Workshops for parents of children 1 - 8th grade scheduled every 3 months for next several years
- Give practical input and training as to how to spiritually raise your children.
- One concept per workshop.
  - more detail
  - Gives time to absorb & implement
- Activities as a group
- Ongoing support and help provided
  - one on one help
  - web site being developed *www.bringingfaithhome.org*

Kingdom Kids:

- Changed our Curriculum
- Integrate the Sunday Bible Classes with weekly Family Devotional time at home.
- Bible Classes supplement what happens at home, not the other way around.

Serving:

- **All** community Service projects we do as a church *must* be family friendly.
- Involve families working together to meet needs within the body (serving seniors and physically disabled)

Budget:

- Does your budget reflect your commitment to Families Ministries?
- Home Improvement has it's own budget
- Bringing Faith Home has it's own budget
- Bible Classes have their own budget (increased this year by 1000%)

How does this fit in your church?

- Get lots of input
- Get lots of ideas
  - don't be afraid of non ICOC conferences and ideas
- Expand your thinking

Ask yourself, how will what you build with parents/families be revealed when tested by the fire of the teen years ...

- ...in 5 years?
- ...in 10 years?
- ...in 15 years?

How to Study the Bible with Teens

Marcus overstreet

Friday 3:45 PM – Ballroom J

1. Rich Young Ruler Syndrome

Mark 10:17-31: The interaction of Jesus with a "Kingdom Kid": we can learn a lot from this very famous conversation!

a) The standard is the same for teens and adults; "Jesus is Lord" is an adult decision
- Jesus loved him, but challenged him to the core.
- Key Point: "He went away sad": This does NOT mean Jesus was ineffective. Jesus expected true disciple ship from this teenager and the teenager was not ready for it.

b) Dig deep, find the sin(s), and help see their need for Jesus/forgiveness.
- Rich Young Ruler did not see his sin (Do you think his parents thought too highly of him, too? Maybe.)
- Character sins & "sins of omission" (James 4:17)
- As lost as your immoral friends at school; "no one is good"
- Mind change is true repentance (Romans 12:1)
- Explain progression of sin
- Find the thing most challenging for the teen and emphasize repentance in that area. They may be already reading the Bible, taking notes, or sharing their faith... but there must be something lacking since they are NOT a Christian yet.
- Use Sermon on the Mount in Matt 5-7: The teen may be doing the bare minimum to look good (like the Rich Young Ruler), but be guilty of the sins described in these chapters.

c) Discipleship vs. church culture
- Obsessed with "rules of the church"; rules are shortcuts
- Example: Kingdom Kids often say: "I cannot date or marry people they are not in my church."
- While true, this statement may indicate that solid teaching and conviction are missing.
- This statement could be a sign of a short cut or rule.

2. Emphasize Understanding of the Gospel

a) Study Series
- Baptism is not a graduation from a set number of studies
- A tool, not the blueprint to fix everything.
- Isolated scriptures do not always tell the whole story or may not meet the need
- Do not be afraid to "veer off the path".

b) What is the gospel or good news? We must be able to explain from the Scriptures and its own meaning in our lives.

c) Challenging Questions à Deep Thinking à Conviction
- If we ask the right questions and the teens come up with their own answers (instead of us commanding them), convictions will be built.
- Like Jesus, we must ask questions that will go beyond the "rehearsed" and "pat" answers that are on the surface.

  Example: 1 Co 1:18 – Explore "the message" of the cross. Do they know what "the message" means for Christians? For those who are lost? For them personally?
  Sample Question: Why did God have Jesus tortured and killed the way he did? Why not a quick death (like cutting off his head or stoning)?

*When the teen begins understanding, even a little bit, why God allowed Jesus to experience everything he did, it will be the power of God in their lives and the "lights will (probably) come on".

3. The Postmodernism Factor
   a. Very important to understand how most kids (and much of society thinks today)
   b. Brief overview of post-modern thinking (see handout)
      - Definition
      - Strengths and weaknesses
   c. Stories and illustrations very important; make it stick!
   d. Do not assume that teenagers believe that Jesus is the only way (John 14:6).
      - By nature, teens think anything that claims to be absolute (like true Christianity) is unfair and insensitive.
      - Very important for both "unchurched" teens and "Kingdom Kids"
   e. Teenagers want to know if Christianity WORKS (versus other ways to live). We need to be ready to prove this to them.

4. Practical Ideas
   a. Find stories or illustrations (modern or from Bible) for Bible Studies and conversations. Jesus often taught in parables, not always isolated commands. Stories help make the important lessons stick!
   b. Apologetics Studies: You do not have to be an expert, but it is extremely helpful to be able to explain and discuss this. (Example: Jesus: Legend, Liar, Lunatic, or Lord? – See handout)
   c. Jesus asked lots of questions to draw out the hearts of men. Pray and spend time thinking about questions you will ask in the study. Silence in a study is okay – do not feel like you have to fill all the gaps.
   d. Keep Bible studies short (1 hour); leave them wanting more; it is hard work to be succinct (I get the impression Jesus was not long-winded.)
   e. Friendship/Partnership with parents
      - "Unchurched": You must build trust in this area. Families winning families is the goal.
      - "Kingdom Kids": It is highly valuable that you are unified with the parents; be careful not to come across as a "tattle-tale"; need to do this without betraying the trust of the teenager
   f. You gotta live it 2 give it! (Show me sacrifice, evangelism, and love with JOYFUL SPIRIT – do not simply teach it.)
   g. Continue learning; ask someone else more experienced to join you and to lead a study. Then take notes for yourself, not just the non-Christian.
   h. Commit to becoming an "expert teacher of the Bible"—especially as it relates to converting teens.
   i. Be well prepared! Know the purpose of each study and what you are trying to accomplish in each one.
   j. Don't try to "finish" all of the scriptures so you can say you have completed a study. It is more important to move a heart than finish a study. A time line for a younger teen may to do each study in 2-4 parts as you talk it through and mold their heart. This is very different from campus and adult ministry.

How to Study the Bible with Teens

Marcus overstreet

Friday 3:45 PM – Ballroom J

Jesus: Legend, Liar, Lunatic, or LORD?
Sources: Douglas Jacoby, Apologetics Conference (June 2007)
Why We Can Trust the Bible, Mike Taliaferro
For more info see www.douglasjacoby.com & www.jacobypremium.com

Matthew 16:13 – Who do you personally say Jesus is?
- Is Jesus simply a good teacher?
- Is being disciple of Jesus simply a good option to have a good, moral life?

Jesus' Claims About Himself:
- John 5:39 – I fulfill all prophesy.
- John 6:35 – I am the bread of life.
- John 8:12; 9:5 – I am the light of the world.
- John 11:25 – I am the resurrection and the life.
- Matt 28:18 – I have all authority on earth & heaven.
- John 8:46 – I have not sinned.
- John 10:30 – I and the Father are one.
- John 8:58 – I am God.
- Luke 10:16 – If you reject me, you reject God.
- John 14:6 – I am the only way to God.

Based on these claims, can we simply call Jesus, "a good teacher"?

***ONLY FOUR CONCLUSIONS ABOUT JESUS: LEGEND, LIAR, LUNATIC, OR LORD!

Is Jesus only a legend (myth)?
- The apostles certainly did not believe Jesus was "an imaginary friend".
  - 2 Peter 1:16 – Peter: this stuff is not made up
  - 1 John 1:1-3 – John: eyewitness to Jesus
  - 1 Co 15:14-19 – Paul: If we are following a myth, we are saddest people on earth.

In fact, it is hard to find any scholar today who seriously proposes that Jesus was not a true historical figure.
- 27 books of the New Testament – all document the existence of Jesus
- The Writings of the Church Fathers
  - Polycarp (AD 70-156) disciple of the apostle John who wrote about Jesus
  - Ignatius (AD 70-110) wrote about Jesus in seven letters that contain quotations from 15 NT books
  - Origen (died AD 258) 18,000 NT quotes in his writings about Jesus
  - There are thousands of references to Jesus by Christian writers!!!
  - **FACT**: Suppose every copy of the New Testament had been destroyed by the end of the third century. You could still put together the entire New Testament from other books from the first few centuries. (More on this in a future class)

Non-biblical Sources for the History of Jesus (this is why atheist scholars acknowledge that a man named Jesus existed) – One of many examples shared in class…Thallus:
- Thallus: Samaritan & non-Christian historian – wrote in 52 AD about Jesus (about 20 years after Christ's death & resurrection)
  - Comparable to us writing about things that happened in the mid to late 1980's
- If it was lie, there were people around who would throw it out
- Thallus wrote about the darkness that occurred on the day of Christ's crucifixion; called the darkness an eclipse and a coincidence; backs up Bible's claim that darkness came over the land (Matt 27:45)

How to Study the Bible with Teens

Marcus overstreet

Friday 3:45 PM – Ballroom J

Is Jesus a Liar?

Opponents of Jesus sometimes called him a liar. (John 7:12, 47-48)
Did Jesus have any motivation to lie and deceive?
Motivations for people to lie
Power, fame, revenge, riches (2 Pt 2:1-3), coercion, cruelty
None of the above applies to Jesus; he had no reason to lie.
The words he spoke eventually led to his gruesome death; sane people do NOT lie to get themselves in more trouble/endanger their lives.

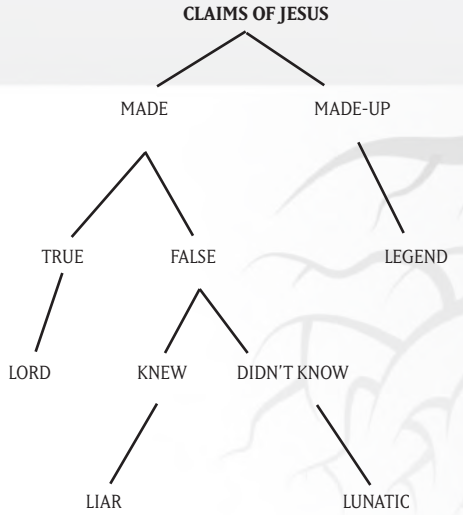
During the time he spent on earth, Jesus was all about TRUTH.

John 1:14 "full of grace and truth."
John 8:31-32 hold to my teaching and "you will know the truth".
John 14:6 "I am the way, the truth, and the life."
John 18:37 "...I came into the world, to testify to the truth."

Is Jesus a Lunatic?

John 10:19-21 Opponents of Jesus also accused him of insanity.
Signs of Instability in People
Neurosis, paranoia, psychosis or sociopathy, irresoluble inconsistencies in his position, mood swings, depression, etc.
The Sanity & Complete Balance of Jesus
Tender & loving, yet zealous & fearless
Wise & cautious
Not worldly, but not antisocial
Confident, but not arrogant
Self-sacrificing, but still joyful
Urgent & responsible, but peaceful & unhurried
Often under attack, but never rattled
Strong & uncompromising, never harsh
Powerful leader, yet a man of prayer & a servant

If Jesus is Lord, he is not a convenient Christ. We have decisions to make.



Matthew 16:13-17 – Peter figured it out.
Matthew 16:24-26 – After Peter's confession, Jesus sets the standard for those who wish to follow the "Lord".
The reality: "Jesus is Lord" & you're not.
Jesus never preached comfortable religion.
John 7:17 – Jesus calls us to follow the truth wherever it goes. We cannot start scrambling with the commands – picking only the parts we desire to obey.
Luke 6:46 – "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord' and do not do what I say?" This where the "rubber meets the road".
Christ did not preach a gospel of convenience or democracy. The Lord fully expects obedience from his followers.
Luke 13:1-5 – Repent or perish, Jesus warns.
Matthew 11:28-30 – The Lord gives us what we need to make it!
John 3:1-7 – The Lord requires new birth to enter His kingdom.
Mark 1:16-17 – The Lord gives us a focus as we follow Him.
Luke 9:62 – If we look back to the world, we are not fit for the Lord's Kingdom.

Postmodernism
Sources: Beyond Belief to Convictions, Josh McDowell
Doug Jacoby, Apologetics Conference (June 2007)
For more info see www.douglasjacoby.com & www.jacobypremium.com

John 18:37b-38
In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."
"What is truth?" Pilate asked.

John 14:6
Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 8:31-32
To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Absolute Truth: There is a truth that exists outside ourselves (Jesus/God) that is true for all people, all times, and all places. Many historians divide the Western World into three major time periods:

1. Pre-Modern World: supernatural forces explained all life; community; power of religious leaders

2. Modern World: shift from spiritual to physical; optimism & progress; less God, more individual; science and discovery will lead to absolute truth; trust in systems

3. Post-modern World (characteristics)

- This is reaction to many of the impulses of the Modern World.
- We are less confident in reason, but more inclined toward experience.
- We are less interested in the head, more interested in the heart.
- We are less optimistic and more suspicious; we can smell a hypocrite from a mile away (b/c of suspicious tendencies)
- We are intolerant of intolerance.
- Many people are less likely to believe something because "they've always believed it".
- Truth does not exist in any objective sense.
- Instead of "discovering" truth in a "metanarrative" (a story like the Bible), postmodernism rejects any over arching explanation of what constitutes truth and reality.
- Truth is created by a specific culture or community and is "true" only in and for that culture.
- Individual persons are the product of their cultures; we are not unique individuals created in the image of God but our identities are defined by our culture.
- Everything we may regard as "truth" are only beliefs we have been conditioned to accept by our society.

Any system or statement that claims to be absolute truth is only a power play to dominate other cultures and people.

Questions: Why is it important for us to understand post-modern thinking? How is the message of the cross affected by post-modern thinking? How about the concept of sin & need for forgiveness? What positives do you see from postmodernism? How does post-modern thinking affect the way we study the Bible with people?

Youth Ministry Perspective: Working With Parents

Pillar One: Communicate

One – Keep Parents Updated

Two – Share Your Vision

Three – Display Your Passion

Four – Provide An Open Forum

Pillar Two: Encourage and Equip

One – Encouraging

Two – Equipping

Pillar Three: Involve

One – Invite

Two – Include

Pillar Four: Reach Out

10 Ways to Validate Parents

1. Learn parents' names and who their children are.
2. While attending students' events (recitals, games), visit with parents.
3. Compliment parents on their parenting. Recognize the strengths in their children and give parents the credit.
4. Send parents a note/e-mail following a conversation with them ("It was great seeing you at Chris' game yesterday. I appreciate your family").
5. Listen to parents. Consider their input regarding the youth ministry. You don't have to respond to every suggestion, but assure them that you care about their ideas.
6. Express your feelings about the importance of the family. Let parents know you value their family and respect them. Make your calendar family-friendly.
7. Acknowledge that parents love, care for, and do more for their children than you will ever do. Your role in their lives may be significant, but you'll never take the place of a parent.
8. Organize a parent appreciation night once a year.
9. Encourage kids to sit with their parents during Church often.
10. Respect parent's time. Return from your events by the time you promised. (We expect parents to be on time to pick up their kids, right?)

Parents Partnership with Youth and Family Ministry

Phil 1:3-11

A Partnership from the First day until Completion

Thinking together with each other
Genuine Affection for each other
Discerning what is Best with each other

A shared vision for Family Ministry

Convictions in the home
Practice in the home
Reinforced by parents and ministry leaders

Vital Three way Communication Triangle

Feedback from Kids
Feedback from Ministry leaders
Feedback from Parents

Learner's Spirit toward Parenting Teens

Pooling Ignorance or Gathering Treasures
Three Way Respect
Drawing from Godly Experience

Faithful Disposition toward Past, Present and Future

Grace and Truth over Time
Keeping the Faith fires burning
It ain't Over til it's Over

Working Together: Youth Ministry & Teen Parent Relationships

Mike & Kristen Lamb / Wyndham & Jeanie Shaw

Friday 3:45 PM – Magnolia

Sample welcome letter for parents of 7th graders...

Welcome to the
Northwest (Boston) Teen Ministry

We are very excited to welcome your 7th grader into the Northwest Teen Ministry! This is a very important time in your child's life and we are humbled to work with your family. The transition from the Preteen to the Teen Ministry can be difficult for some, so we would like to explain a bit about the Teen Ministry.

Schedule
Teens thrive spiritually when they have consistency and community; therefore we have set-up our schedule to facilitate this opportunity for growth.
Midweeks – We meet regularly on Wednesday nights for an age appropriate lesson and then break-up into small groups to discuss the lesson.
U-Nite! – Several times a month we have a "U-Nite!" (Short for Unity Night). These Friday nights are designed for fun, fellowship, and outreach. These nights include game nights, scavenger hunts, capture the flag, movie nights....The majority of our events do not cost money, we will let you know in advance if money is needed.
Teen Leadership Group – One Saturday a month we have a lesson about spiritual leadership and serving, then we brainstorm and plan for coming teen events. Any teen is welcome to participate in this group.
Family Devotionals – These nights are designed to give families with teens the opportunity to have spiritual interaction within their family and with other families in the region. We encourage all teens and parents to attend whether or not everyone from their family can attend.
Congregational Teen Events – Once a month we meet with other regions from the BCC. We will communicate about these events as each one approaches. The events alternate between Devotionals and Special Activities. Some of these special activities (Six Flags, Snow Tubing, Lock-In...) will cost money, we will let you know in advance if money is needed.

Communication
We make a strong effort to stay in communication with the families of the region by distributing calendars and weekly e-mail reminders. If you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us. Please join our northwest teen yahoo group: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NWR_TM_Info

Transportation
We encourage you to carpool with others from your area. Let us know if we can help you find someone who lives close to you.

Mentoring
All teens can strongly benefit from deep, stable relationships with spiritual adults. We encourage you as parents to be considering possible mentors for your teen. We would love to discuss with you how to find and support such mentoring.

We want you to know that we are very concerned about getting your son/daughter involved in our ministry and want to help in whatever way we can. Please let us know if we can do anything to answer questions and support your family.

Thank you for your support of the teen ministry!
Michael and Kristen Lamb
mike_lamb@icoc.org
978-362-2378

The NW Teen Leaders are: David & Kristin Koha, Gus & Kristen Gonet, Jonathan Clark, Vanessa Embling, Jason & Kelli Reinhardt, & Guy Theodore
Deacon for the Youth Ministry: Bruce Radl

Avoid All Extremes

Hand Off

Badgering

God's Directive's

Love

Example

Teaching/Training

Surrendered Heart

Q: What does it look like?

An actual series

Invitations

Invite neighbors, family & friends

Response cards

Build a list for continual classes

Brainstorming different ideas to have one in your church

Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man came to seek and save what was lost.

<u>Psalm 16:7-8</u> God Is Always Before Me

Important for us to see God personally

Don't forget Mom and Dad

How we see God and talk about God is extremely important

Don't hide here!

<u>2 Timothy 4:2</u> Preach The Word!!!!

Romans 10:17 Faith comes from hearing the message

Just Say No To Lollipops: They are for eating not preaching

<u>1 Corinthians 3:10-15</u> Build wisely

Expect Biblical Repentance

Convert Disciples

<u>Judges 6:7-12</u> Have Faith In Me: "I will believe you." Direct quotes from teens

Always Raise The Bar: "I will always rise to the occasion."

Go Hard: "I like it when you disciple me."

Faker, Faker: "I am a great perceiver and I can tell if you are faking."

I Got This: "I am not a little kid anymore and I hate being treated like one."

We Can Change The World: "If you believe in me prove it."

Instilling Faith in Teenagers

John Cleghorn & Will Archer

Friday 4:30 PM – Ballroom J

<u>1 Samuel 30:1-6</u> Instilling a Faith that is Concrete

Teens need a tough and determined faith to survive the spiritual Jungle of the High school and College years.

Deep roots in Godly Relationships (1 Samuel 23:15-16 & 2 Sam 12:7)

Deep knowledge: A faith deeply rooted in God's Word (Psalm 119:11)
The power of deep bible study cannot be over stated

Example: Disciple only classes like Hazaq Teens

If we want to build concrete faith that lasts a lifetime, they need depth and high expectations.

<u>Mark 8:1-3</u> Instilling a Faith that is Compassionate

Loving the poor is a center indicator of developing the Heart of Jesus
(Psalm 82:3-4, Proverbs 19:17, Proverbs 14:31 & Matt 25:31-46)

God honors consistent service to the Poor (Acts 10:1-4)

Example: Saturday Academy, Youth Corps, Camp Miracles and serving other disciples that are less fortunate

If we want teens with clean hearts, they need dirty hands

<u>2 Corinthians 5:14</u> Instilling a Faith that is Compelling

Faith Compels Disciples to make Disciples (Luke 19:10)

Gratitude for God's Grace motivates (John 4:39-42)

Grace teaches teens to say No to the World and Yes to seeking First the Kingdom (Titus 2:11-12)

Righteousness and saving souls demonstrate wisdom
(Proverbs 11:30, Daniel 12:3)

Example: Columbia High School fruit tree

If we want to instill biblical faith in teens, we need to develop concrete, compassionate and compelled con victions through God's word and practical implementation.

Baptism, Just the Beginning

Kevin Hoecke

Friday 4:30 PM – Magnolia

"Of Greater Worth Than Gold" (building authentic faith)

the "jacob principle"

an evolving relationship with God

"Do Not Conform Any Longer" (exposing the pattern of this world)

the greatest facade

offering an "attractive alternative"

"One Person Sharpens Another" (valuing spiritual relationships)

finding a lost art

TRANSCENDENT relationships

Living the Legacy: Restoring Hope

Bruce & Robyn Williams

Friday 8:30 PM - Cypress

1. God Never Gives Up

2. Love Never Fails

3. Dig Deep

4. Open Wide

5. SAV

Legacy of Faith: Spiritual Formation

Steve & Tricia Staten

Friday 8:30 PM – Magnolia

Raising faithful children who believe is more than merely inspiring faith. If our children are not prepared to resist temptation, make tough choices, discern quality friends and respond righteously to wrongs then they could lose their faith over one tragic episode. This much more than Do's and Don'ts, it is about learning principles. This class will cover ideas, disciplines and scenarios that can be used to form your children to live spiritually.

Introduction

The Disciplines of a relationship with God will vary between your children. ***They learn from God and connect to Him subjectively*** (or uniquely and personally).

Some of our children learn through rigorous Bible study and prayer disciplines. Our others children may experience God creatively, through imagination in Bible-related allegory. Others may need to connect kinesthetically, learning through carrying out a physical activity such as skits scribbling, doing crafts or writing poems. And still others learn best and connect to God through other listening to the Word of God in groups.

Our goal is not to force one means of connecting to God. Whatever means one has for God to be real, the measurement of successful formation will be seen more objectively (tangible and measurable).

Making Tough Choices
Responding Righteously to Wrongs
Discerning Quality Friends
Resisting Temptations

Making Tough Choices

It should be our goal for our children to live positive Proverbial lives—exemplary lives built on principles. This does not happen through do's and don'ts. It happens through gaining wisdom.

"A simple man believes anything, but a prudent man gives thought to his steps." Proverbs 14:15, NIV
"A mocker resents correction; he will not consult the wise." Proverbs 15:12, NIV
"There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death." Proverbs 16:25, NIV
"Stern discipline awaits him who leaves the path; he who hates correction will die." Proverbs 15:10, NIV
"The path of life leads upward for the wise to keep him from going down to the grave." Proverbs 15:24, NIV
""Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'" Luke 14:28-30, NIV
"Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith." Hebrews 13:7, NIV

Tough decisions: Moving, Dating, Marrying, Finances, Roommates, etc
One way may seem right
Young people have not been burned yet .. they lack experience or wisdom,
Sometimes the logical choice is the wrong choice because hidden parts of the equation
Only acquiring wisdom will help them avoid a lifelong regret.
Teach them how to think (powers of observation) is better than what to think (just do this right now).

Our children will make enough mistakes even when they have sought tons of advice. However, fewer tragedies will occur if they pursue a Proverbial life.

Respond Righteously to Wrongs

Teach them to Trust God

> "Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:14-21, NIV)

Teach Them a Longer Perspective

> "But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them." Genesis 50:19-21, NIV

This quote in Genesis comes at the end of a long drama—it changes the meaning of all previous wrongs
The goal is to help our children see their life from the long term possibilities, sort of like a bird's eye
Our children will model the response developed in our home.

Discerning Quality Friends

Friendships are potentially the most destructive and most meaningful parts of a child's development—no matter what age. It is also one of the most emotive topics. Navigating their selection at older ages involves greater observation and sensitivity.

"A righteous man is cautious in friendship, but the way of the wicked leads them astray." Proverbs 12:26, NIV
"Better to meet a bear robbed of her cubs than a fool in his folly." Proverbs 17:12, NIV
"You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God." James 4:4, NIV
"For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and "sinners." ' But wisdom is proved right by all her children."" Luke 7:33-35, NIV

Friendships involve interacting with someone else's past and sins
Some friends (even among the children of other Christians) apply peer pressure

Mischief may be part of your own child and getting with another child prone to error may be like mixing Nitro and Glycerin.

Your children should have stronger leverage than children in unknown families

Over time our children can become like Jesus, having the ability to influence others for good

It takes only one bad experience with an ill-advised relationship for tragic consequences to occur.

Resisting Temptation

Our children need personal motivations to guide them when temptations arise.

Legacy of Faith: Spiritual Formation

Steve & Tricia Staten

Friday 8:30 PM – Magnolia

"One day Samson went to Gaza, where he saw a prostitute. He went in to spend the night with her. The people of Gaza were told, "Samson is here!" So they surrounded the place and lay in wait for him all night at the city gate. They made no move during the night, saying, "At dawn we'll kill him." But Samson lay there only until the middle of the night. Then he got up and took hold of the doors of the city gate, together with the two posts, and tore them loose, bar and all. He lifted them to his shoulders and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron. Sometime later, he fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek whose name was Delilah. The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, "See if you can lure him into showing you the secret of his great strength and how we can overpower him so we may tie him up and subdue him. Each one of us will give you eleven hundred shekels of silver." So Delilah said to Samson, "Tell me the secret of your great strength and how you can be tied up and subdued."" Judges 16:1-6, NIV

"Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you." 1 Peter 4:1-4, NIV

"These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it." 1 Corinthians 10:11-13, NIV

The walls of resistance in our character may be brought down by disingenuous and complicated people (Delilah)
Some opportunities for "small" pleasures seem to have no repercussions.

The "little" compromise of lusting after a Philistine woman led to a "little" compromise of marrying an unspiritual person that were approved by Samson's unspiritual parents. The "little" mistake of sharing intimate information just with one person led to a great tragedy—giving comfort to the enemy through a traitor and exposing God's people to their enemies.

In reality, none of these errors were little at all—but they may have seemed that way.

Sometimes temptation happens through an environment like a party: where drugs, alcohol or a sexual encounter is made possible.

Our children should let non-Christians feel "strange" for giving away their virginity, rather than the other way around.
The goal (1 Corinthians 10:1-13) is to help our children see the dangerous outcomes for giving into sin.

Closing
As our children grow into young adults and into adulthood they should already have embedded lessons in their character and memory.

Your example (what is caught) is more powerful that words (what is taught). Think aloud with your spouse and ask yourselves how you have set the example in: (1) Making Tough Choices, (2) Responding Righteously to Wrongs, (3) Discerning Quality Friends and (4) Resisting Temptations.

Legacy of Faith: Discipling the Heart

Wyndham & Jeanie Shaw

Friday 8:30 PM – Lilac A/C

Legacy of Faith: Revelation of the Parent's Hearts
Deut. 6:4-9

Our Words, Priorities and Passion
Faith from the Head to the Heart

God's View of the Heart
I Samuel 16:7, Proverbs 4:23, Matthew 12:34

Source of Parental discipling
Target of Parental discipling

Exploring the Heart
Proverbs 20:5

It takes Time
It takes Attention

Healing the Broken Heart
II Corinthians 1:1-11

Comfort
Patience
Connection
Prayer
Grace and Faith over Time!

Building A Brave Heart:
2:19-23

Our Example
Our Instruction
Our Reassurance
Our Realness
Our Personal Experience

Working with Kids at Different Stages

Larry Craig & Phil Arsenault

Saturday 10 AM – Magnolia A

Part 1 - Larry Craig

1. The role of the parent changes, from one of control to one of influence.

2. Preteens and teens are influenced in two ways.
    a. by example
    b. through relationship

3. The relationship is changing also.
    a. more discussion about decisions
    b. gradually more independence

Part 2 - Phil Arsenault

From the book "Understanding Your Teenager":
"Kids who thrive during their adolescence usually have parents who care enough to understand them and stay involved."

Proverbs 20:5 — The purposes of a man's heart are deep waters but a man of understanding draws them out.

Different Stages for Teenagers

1. The body

2. The brain

3. The intellect

4. The emotions

People should never minimize the transition and changes teens are going through. Yet, as we better understand their stages, let's help lead them to Jesus.

Matthew 22:37-40 Jesus replied: "' Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Reaching Teens From the Pulpit

A.T. Arneson

Saturday 10 AM – Ballroom 1

Introduction:

As preachers all of us are aware of the importance of connecting with our audience. We diligently prepare sermons that we hope hits the hearts of all who listen. For many of us, our audiences consist of everything from mature Christians, new disciples, those seeking Christ, some who are weak, some who are strong, some who are older in years and some who are younger in years. It is no small thing to move all of these hearts with one message! Amazingly, each of these types of audience members can be found in one ministry alone; the teens.

In most churches there is a concentration of teens sitting together every Sunday. They are doing everything from sleeping or texting to taking copious notes of every point you make. Some have become Christians while others are far from God; yet all are in desperate need of spiritual guidance from you. Are you connected to them? Do they look forward to your sermons? Do they know you through personal involvement in their lives? Do they feel respected by you? Do you move their hearts in a relatable way? Do they respond to your sermons? Are teens considered and directly addressed in every sermon? What preaching 'techniques' have you implemented to keep those teens on the edge of their seats? We will answer these and other questions in this class.

Finally, for some of us, the non-Christian teens in our Sunday worship services represent the largest number of lost souls in attendance. Every parent who has a non-disciple teen listening to your sermon is longing for their child's heart to be moved by your words and every teen who has brought a friend is hoping the sermon connects in a powerful way. Let us strive to build for the future by reaching the teens from the pulpit. One day, in a reversal of roles, those very teens we preach to will be preaching to us. They will be our leaders in the years to come. Let us strive to be relevant, connected and inspiring to them today and who knows, maybe one day they will return the favor.

Mythbusters: What you think you know might be hurting you.

Myth #1—We have a youth and family ministry so I don't have to think about the teens.
Myth #2—I can't relate to the problems teens of today are facing.
Myth #3—I have to 'dumb down' my sermons to reach the teens.
Myth #4—Teens only want to be entertained on Sunday mornings.
Myth #5—I've already tried everything I know to connect to the teens.
Myth #6—The problem is their hearts...If the teens would just pay attention then...
Myth #7—I believe in 'Spiritual Osmosis'; over time it will all just sink in.

Lifelines: We will be discussing some proven practical ideas for connecting with teens.

Preaching Styles
Staying fresh in your Bible Study
Breaking Through Your Comfort Zones as a Preacher
Making the Bible Come Alive through Stories, Illustrations, Analogies, Skits and Props
The Use/Misuse of Technology
Staying Relevant and Relationally Connected
Knowing the Teen World of Today
A Vision for the Future

Having Your Affairs in order

Jeff Jones & Mark Perkins

Saturday 10 AM – Magnolia B/D

Financial And Estate Planning Strategies

To be successful, we need to reflect on and plan in several areas:

Financial Basics

Where am I? How am I doing?

- Prepare a budget
- Prepare a balance sheet (Assets & Liabilities)
- Home value vs mortgage balances
- Interest rates on home loans

Speak with a financial savvy friend and a financial advisor to set goals and review your budget, assets and asset allocation. What retirement income am I expecting?

Using credit wisely and controlling debt

Retirement Income

Social Security, Retirement plans, Personal Retirement Plans (IRAs), annuities and Employer Retirement Plans
Choosing your beneficiary

Investments

Bonds, Stocks, Mutual Funds, Tax-Deferred Annuities and 529 College Plans
Asset Allocation

Risk Management

Exercise & Physical Fitness
Health Awareness
Health Insurance
Disability Income Insurance
Long-Term Care Insurance
Term Life Insurance
Cash Value Life Insurance

Estate Planning

Importance of Estate Planning while living and at death
Planning for Incapacity

- Durable Power of Attorney
- Health Care Advance Directive
- Guardianship

Having Your Affairs in order

Jeff Jones & Mark Perkins

Saturday 10 AM – Magnolia B/D

Distributing Assets At Your Death

Direct Transfer Assets
Joint Ownership
Trusts
Wills vs No Will
Probate
Taxes and your Estate
Special needs twists: estate and financial planning for the disabled child

Parents

Talk with your siblings and develop a plan to help parents develop an estate plan and to understand their financial, physical and emotional needs.

Options When In Financial Disaster

Due to the recession, soft job market, loss of home value and related issues, you may be facing monthly debts that exceed income and mortgage balances that exceed home value. Here are options to consider:

Some lenders have refinance programs to lower interest rates
Part of the bail out includes mortgage bailout options to reduce interest and possibly reduce principal
Sell your home
Short sale
Mortgage foreclosure (Q-deficiency)
Deed-in-lieu-of foreclosure
Bankruptcy (7 or 13)
Credit Card debt

Pray, Plan, seek advice, implement and pray

1 Th 5:17	Pray continually
James 5:13	Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray.
Mt 7:7	Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you
Prov 20:18	Make plans by seeking advice
Prov 19:20	Listen to advice and accept instruction
Prov 11:14	Many advisors makes victory sure
Prov 12:15	A wise man listens to advise
1 Tim 4:16	Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers
1 Tim 5:3	Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God
1 Tim 5:8	If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has de nied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever
Eph 6:4	Fathers, do not exasperate your children...
Eph 5:25	Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy....In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church...

Passing on a Legacy of Purity

Tom Nuelle & Dave Weidner

Saturday 10 AM – cypress

Introduction (Dave)

Value of Purity for ourselves and our lineage

- Our destiny is tied to our sexual purity (Job 31)
- Our heritage is tied to our purity
- Our inheritance is tied to our purity (Rev. 2:20-26)

Unfortunately there are numerous examples in the scriptures where sinful

- Intro – Spiritual battle for the Purity of God's People
- God has always desired a sexually pure people.
- Satan has therefore made it his mission to attack the sexual purity of God's people
  - Old Testament
  - New Testament
- Today behavior is passed down generation to generation

The truth is – You can't pass on something that your don't have. In working with the sexual integrity ministry one of the greatest challenges we have to help men break long standing cycles of sexual sin. The skills/Biblical principles that help and individual break the cycle of sexual sin are the same skills that will allow a family break the cycle of sexual sin or will allow you to begin a legacy of purity in your family.

I. Passing On a Passionate/Emotional Walk with God (Tom)

- Equip your children to find connection and comfort as God intended when emotional pain is present.
- Recognition of Emotional Pain and finding comfort from God and relationships II Corinthians 1:3-5
- Emotional Pain is what drives people to sin, and addiction, especially sexual sin.
- Dealing with emotional pain.
  - Christian life does not protect you from emotional pain.
  - Actually quite the opposite.
  - Jesus warned his disciple of this.

II. Passing on an emotionally open and shame free environment.(Dave)

- Family should be an open safe atmosphere. A place of Light.
- Sexual sin thrives in darkness.
- Sexual sin thrives in atmospheres of shame.
- There was no discussion of sexual sin in my household growing up.
  - If the topic ever came up, expressions of shame and disgust were soon to follow.
- There was never any admission of sexual sin by my parents.
- Dad never was open about his emotional hurts or sexual struggles.
  - I thought there must be something wrong with me

- Establish openness and a shame free environment. Confessing your own sin.
- Be real with our kids how painful and difficult life is for everyone.
  - Share your emotional pains and help your children identify their own. Demonstrate to your children how you find comfort to deal with the pain of life through you connection with God and others. Model true intimacy.
- Establish a culture of real intimacy (emotional training).
- Pass down a legacy of true intimacy with others.

III. Passing on the Example of an Intimate Marriage (Tom)

Do children see you being emotionally intimate with your spouse?

- Presence/Eye contact/Listening/Emotional Presence
- Initiation Focused Attention/ Dates
- Nurturing/Touching
- Completing Emotional Transactions/Humble apologies
- Honesty/Vulnerability

Do they see how a marriage relationship can bring comfort from emotional pain?

IV. Passing on Boundary Setting Convictions and Skills.(Dave)

Establishing Boundaries

Do we have the humility to embrace boundaries ourselves?

- Entertainment
- People
- Places

Do we have a healthy respect for our own sinful nature?

As fathers do we model boundaries in our own home

As fathers do we live anticipating snares for our hearts

Do we talk about these boundaries as "Pleasant places" which God has given for us.

V. Passing on strong relational skills (Tom) (With children and with others)

Dad did not make me feel desired. I always had to seek him out.

Dad did not affirm my successes. Felt like he had to keep me humble. Knock me down.

Shawn Wooten's Example

"Ups and downs."

Why do we insist on painting a picture of success and strength to our children? Are we afraid that if everything is not great that our kids will not want to follow God? I Corinthians 12 Strength in weakness

How many dads ever tell their son? Today was a rough one. I felt like a total failure. I make a fool of myself in a meeting. I felt a lot of shame.

Why do leader's children often have the most difficulty with sexual sin? Often they had to learn to pretend that everything was OK, so their parents would be respected. After all, if our kids are doing bad, doesn't that mean that the parents are screwing up?

Conclusion (Dave)

What to Pass on to the next Generation

I. Pass on a passionate/emotional walk with God. Pass on the ability to connect and find God's comfort
II. Passing on an emotionally open and shame free environment shame safe and shame free environment.
III. Passing on the Example of an Intimate Marriage
IV. Passing on Boundary Setting Convictions and Skills
V. Passing on strong relational skills
VI. Pass on the ability to build true intimacy and to recognize false intimacy.

Family to the Fatherless

Anton Ivy

Saturday 10 AM - Ballroom G

TEXT: Psalms 68:5, Exodus 22:22, Deuteronomy 10:18

I. The world's view of the fatherless

II. God's perspective of the fatherless

III. The church - God's plan for caring for the fatherless

References:

"The DNA of Parent-Teen Relationships" by Gary Smalley & Greg Smalley, Psy.D.
"Life without a Father" by David Popenoe
"The future of the family " by Daniel P. Moynihan, Timothy M. Sneeding and Lee Rainwater

Notes

Daughters Living the Legacy

Barbara Porter

Saturday 10 AM – Lilac

Readings from Genesis
Romans 4:19, 9:9
Hebrews 11:11-12
Galatians 4:23-31

Sarah and Hagar—

Isaac and Ishmael—

Sarah represents what GOD can do, what can happen by God's love and power alone, without our work, effort and human will. Sarah teaches us the importance of faith placed in God, not in ourselves.

1. **What do we love about Sarah?**

   Sarah definitely wasn't perfect (ie. We can relate!!!)
   She took matters into her own hands
   She struggled to believe God's promises

   But Sarah had amazing faith
   Although she struggled, she did not give way to fear
   She could submit to an imperfect husband because she believed in a perfect God

2. **What do we learn from Sarah? (1 Peter 3:6)**

   Women living the legacy are holy and submissive
   Women living the legacy delight in their children (Titus 2:4)
   God lifts up women who are living the legacy – not what we do but who we are

3. **How do we live like Sarah?**

   Fight for our relationship with God
   True definition of obedience – "conscious listening" – Do we take God's word, people for granted?
   Praise and personal worship, meditation
   Letting Go (handout)

Letting Go

To 'let go' does not mean to stop caring; it means I can't do it for someone else.

To 'let go' is not to cut myself off; it is the realization that I must not control

To 'let go' is not to fix; but to be supportive.

To 'let go' is not to be in the middle arranging all the outcomes; but to allow others to affect their destinies.

To 'let go' is not to be protective; it is to permit another to face reality.

To 'let go' is not to regret the past; but to grow and live for the future.

Letting go is not to enable others. It is to allow learning from natural consequences.

Letting go is to admit my own powerlessness. This means the outcome is not in my hands.

Letting go is not to try to change or blame others, but to make the most of myself.

Letting go is not to care for; but, to care about.

Letting go is not to be in the middle arranging; but, to be on the sidelines cheering.

Letting go is not to deny but to accept.

Letting go is not to regret the past, but to grow and live in the Now.

Letting go is to fear less and to love more.

Purity

Virginia Lefler & Beth Pocta

Saturday 11 AM - Ballroom J

Part 1 - Virginia Lefler

When you hear the word "purity" what comes to mind? If you were describing the air you breathe or the water you drink, you would consider purity a necessity and a privilege. We appreciate a high level of purity in our environment. But what if the context was a discussion of the need to live a pure life? Would you think of purity as a privilege or something that requires a sacrifice? Many people believe that you will pay a price to be pure, in other words, you will miss out on a lot of fun if you choose to live a pure life. This is a message our children hear over and over from their peers, in movies and on television. However, the truth is that spiritual purity is a greater privilege than pure air or water. Our society does not understand. To help our children counteract this deception, we will discuss four challenges we face when it comes to living a pure life.

1) It is a myth that worldliness makes you strong.
   Teaching our children how to look at the results of what the world promises

2) Purity is too narrowly defined among Christians.
   Purity is not just for the young and unmarried; we are all called to pursue purity

3) There is a moving moral standard in our society and it's moving away from God.
   How close can I live to the world and not get burned?
   What is God's standard of purity for our lives?

4) Purity is not a price to pay; it is a great privilege.
   Purity is the real source of strength in our lives

Part 2 – Beth Pocta

1) Purify Ourselves

2) Pursue Understanding
   our role
   our kids
   our world

3) Practice Faithfulness

Books referenced:

Pursuing Purity by Virginia Lefler;
God's Design for Sex (series) by Stan and Brenna Jones;
Every Woman's Battle by Shannon Ethridge;
The Wonder of Girls and The Wonder of Boys by Michael Gurian

Spiritual Moms: Busy, Contented & Loving It!

Marci Arneson & Lori Kwasniewski

Saturday 11 AM – Ballroom H

It is arguable that Christian moms are some of the busiest people on Earth! While it doesn't always seem like it, the Bible reminds us that it is good to be busy (Titus 2:5). As women we have much on our plates; our own walk with God, taking care of our husbands, raising our children, the upkeep of our homes, church involvement, reaching the lost, etc...the list can be long. The question is, as spiritual moms are we not only busy, but also content and loving it?

This class will explore the scriptures to find out how busy moms can find the deep contentment promised in God's word. These and other questions will be directly addressed in this class: How can I get 'it all' done? Can I really find peace and contentment? How do I keep my priorities in the right place? Am I busy doing the right things? As moms we tend to want to be in control, we focus our eyes on that which is seen and God directs us to believe in that which cannot be seen. In this class we will learn how to surrender willingly fully trusting that God will guide us to know that "I can't but God can."

Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the Lord.
Jeremiah 17:5

Relying On the Flesh: (Flesh Mom) This is our great temptation when we get busy. What are we up against?

Knowing You: Our Natural Tendencies
Refueling and Rejuvenation on the Fly
We say, "I Can't" but God says, "I Can" (And you're both right!)

Relying on the Spirit: (Spirit Mom) God will use us in powerful ways as we surrender to His ways and His will.

Spirit Mom is busy!
- Her mind is set on what the Spirit desires.
- She is busy: Not Resentful but Refreshed!
- She is busy with the right things
- She is willing to suffer
- She reaps what she sows.

Spirit Mom is Contented and Loving It!
- She leans on God—(Prov. 16:20, Psalm 143:8)
- She Uses God's Strength and Not Her Own (Psalm 86:16)
- She Allows God to 'repair' her (1 Samuel 30)
- She Loves God and therefore she loves others!

FAITH THAT IS LIVED

Ann Marie Buhay

I. Live The Word (2 Tim 1:5)
- a. Love the Lord
- b. Commit wholeheartedly to His commands.
- c. Teach & counsel with the scriptures
- d. Come into the light.
- e. With faith, patience & gratitude.

II. Build Relationships in the Family.
- a. Spend time together.
- b. Get to know each child.
- c. Set up boundaries.

Pat Parnell

III. His Compassion Fail Not (Lam 3:22-23)
God's faithfulness is renewed daily

IV. He has placed you in Families (Pslm 68:5-6)
- Maintaining strong relationships in the family of God
- Key Relationships: (Luke 11)
  - Personal discipler/friend -
    - Who is your Mary, your Martha?
    - Who is in your crowd/support group? (2 Tim 2:2)
    - Who is in your child's life?
  - Relationships with mentors and teen workers

V. Male and Female, God created them different (Prov 20:11)
- a. Parenting Different genders
- b. Raising boys

VI. Talents, many or one (Acts 9:36, Rom 16:12)
- a. You have something to offer

The Teenage Years

I. **Adolescent Growth and Development**

Brain/Cognitive Development

Physical Changes

Relationships

Parental/Individuation

Peer

Emotions

Drama

Imaginary Audience

Personal Fable

Identity Development

II. Spiritual Development

Growth and development shape/guide conversations, studies and classes

Connection to Jesus

Connection to Bible

Instilling Confidence in Teen Girls

Shannon Cleghorn & Kelli Mahomes

Saturday 11 AM – Ballroom I

They Hung the Moon: Believe in them

2 Corinthians 5:16-17 Teen girls struggle with seeing themselves from a worldly point of view. Examples: Unimportant, unnoticed, ugly, fat, not good enough...

Teens need adults to see them from a spiritual point of view, to see them the way God sees them... chosen, valued, unique, perfect in Christ

Give them a vision for what God could do with them and through them in their lifetime (Jeremiah 29:11-13).

They had HIM at "Hello": Show them God's love

Romans 5:6-8 Jesus handpicked them even in their most sinful moments. He has something great planned for their life.

Teen girls need to learn to experience God's love and desire for them (Hosea 3:19-20). He wants to romance them and be near them.

They are never alone (Isaiah 41:10-13).

OMG: What teens say about confidence

"Be real with me." Honesty builds security

"Challenge me." I want to do great things for God but I need someone to believe I can.

"Set and example for me." My parents make me secure in my future.

"I love a deep Bible lesson." The people in the Bible inspire me because they were sinners like me and God used them.

Notes

Joshua: Legacy of Faith

John Porter

Saturday 1:30 PM - Grand Ballroom

1. How was a "Joshua" created?

Moses was willing to let Joshua go and do exciting, meaningful and challenging things (Exodus 17:8-16)

We must give young people the opportunities to do the exciting things that we used to do!
(Deut. 3:21 – "you have seen with your own eyes...)

2. Moses was willing to let Joshua be involved in his relationship with God (Exodus 24:13, 32:17, 33:11)

Who is your Joshua?

Who is your Moses?

3. Moses was willing to train Joshua from the time of his youth (Numbers 11:28)

Moses was not disillusioned by Joshua's immaturity

Moses even changed Joshua's name (Numbers 13:16)

**As senior leaders, we must be involved with youth!

Notes

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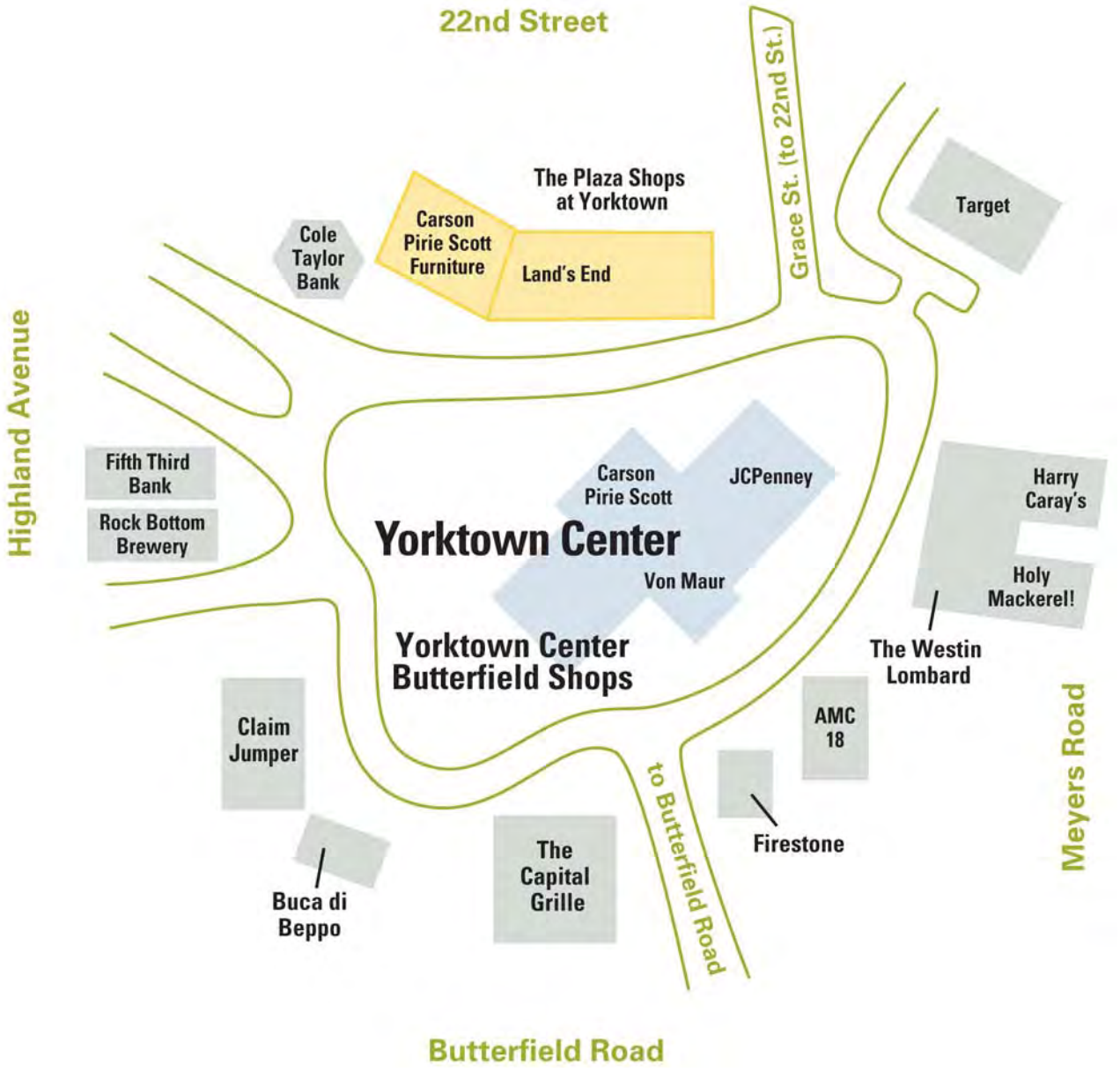
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Yorktown Center

Property Map



The mall has a food court with the following places to eat:

Arby's
Auntie Anne's
Burger King
Charley's Grilled Subs
Cinnabon
Dairy Queen
The Hot Dog Lady
Panda Express
Sarku Japan
Sbarro
Subway
Taco Bell
Yogen Fruz

Yorktown Center

Eating Establishments

fine dining

redstone grill
(American/Steaks)
lincoln ct.
lombard, IL
630-268-0313
Superb Hotel Dining
Approx. 1.5 miles

wildfire
(American)
232 oak brook center
oak brook, IL
630-586-9000
Rustic Atmosphere
Approx. 2.5 miles

tuscany
(Northern Italian)
1415 w.22nd street
oak brook, IL
630-990-1993
Memorable Dining
Approx. 2 miles

holymackeral
(Seafood)
Westin Yorktown
lombard, IL
630-953-3444
Holy Cow!
On Site

mon ami gabi
(Continental)
260 oak brook center
oak brook, IL
630-472-1900
Elegant Dining
Approx. 2.5 miles

ditka's
(Steakhouse)
rte. 83 & 22nd st.
oak brook, IL
630-572-2200
Chicago Bears!
Approx. 2 miles

grotto
(American)
30141 butterfield rd.
oak brook, IL
630-571-5700
Large Menu
Approx. 1 mile

the capital grill
(American/Steaks)
87 yorktown center
lombard, IL
630-627-9800
Outstanding Winelist
Walking Distance

casual dining

rock bottom
(American/Brewery)
94 yorktown center
lombard, IL
630-424-1550
Brewed on site
Walking Distance

uncle julio's
(Mexican)
2360 fountain sq.
lombard, IL
630-705-9260
Great Margaritas
Approx. 1.5 mi.

p.f. chang bistro
(Chinese)
2361 fountain square
lombard, IL
630-652-9977
Delightful Menu
Approx. 1.5 mi.

greek islands
(Greek)
300 22nd street
lombard, IL
630-932-4545
Classic Greek Dining
Walking Distance

giordano's
(Pizza)
17W280 22nd st.
oakbrook terrace, IL
630-620-7979
Chicago's Famous
Approx. 2 miles

ra
(Japanese/Sushi)
310 yorktown center
lombard, IL
630-627-6800
Extensive menu
Walking Distance

brio
(Italian)
330 yorktown center
lombard, IL
630-424-1515
Charm and Taste
Walking Distance

volare
(Italian)
1919 South Meyers Rd.
oakbrook terrace, IL
630-495-0200
Quaint & Quiet
Approx. 1 mile

the cheesecake factory
(American)
2020 spring rd.
oak brook, IL
630-573-1800
Lunch Buffet
Approx. 2 miles.

parker's ocean
(Fresh Seafood)
157 1000 31st street
downers grove, IL
630-960-5701
Casually Delicious
1 mile

harry caray's
(Italian/Steakhouse)
Westin Yorktown
lombard, IL
630-953-3400
Superb Hotel Dining
On-Site

claim jumpers
(American)
92 yorktown center
lombard, IL
630-932-4290
Varied Menu
Walking distance

If you would like information on other restaurants available in the area, please contact the concierge for more referrals.

Westin Layout

