

the

Fountain of Life Fellowship Monthly Newsletter

July 2010

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Matt Ford
Scott Clair
Ed Mirth
Vince Cabral

Deacons:

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Jerry Schoenenberger
Don Woodhead
Rachel Stewart
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*Grounded in the Gospel,
we Gather to Grow in the Gospel
and Scatter to Spread the Gospel
for the Glory of God.*



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Pastor's Note by Matt Ford

Ten Things I've Learned (And Am Still Learning) In Ten Years of Marriage

10. It really helps to "marry up".

With this one I'm simply basking in the glow of God's grace to me in giving me a wife that loves Jesus so much. You can't beat this for marriage. She is faithful to the utmost, and not ultimately because she loves me or our children. If that were the case, her love would change because I change. I'm not always a great husband. But her love for me is secondary to her love for Christ, and therefore her love for me is sweeter and stronger than it would ever be otherwise. Marcia is delightful and beautiful, but Proverbs 31.30 really does hold true:

Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,

but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

9. Young love is great, but old love is better.

A friend of my father told us this near the beginning of our marriage. I was happy as clam then, but now I know what he was talking about. Godly marriage is like fine wine – it gets better with

time as each spouse grows in Christ and with the other. This is an encouragement to press on in faithfulness with trust, prayer, and obedience. Things can be rough at times, but in Christ, love gets better with age.

8. It's the little things that count.

I'm convinced that one of the most important Scriptures for marriage is Ephesians 4.26-27:

**Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,
and give no opportunity to the devil.**

Every marriage will have anger and arguments. We're often very different in personality, plus we're sinners, so it's impossible not to. Far more important than whether or not we fight is *how* we fight. And the truth of the matter is that something so seemingly small as hanging on to anger is actually deep betrayal to your marriage and to Jesus Christ. For you find yourself working for Satan and his designs. O, it is the little things that count. When you're angry, don't sin; handle it with love. And reconcile *fast*; that gives Satan the slip and no opportunity.

7. Ephesians 5 is True.

There are many who disparage the idea of a husband's role of headship (the authority for and responsibility of servant leadership) and the wife's role of submission (the joyful, intelligent support of the husband's headship). But Marcia and I continue to learn that the Biblical truth is beautiful. Things fall apart when we abdicate or dominate the roles God has given us, and things flourish when we are faithful. Even better, when we're faithful the relationship between Christ and His church is honored, and our home smells like the Gospel.

6. The Best Marriages Are Made Of Professional Forgivers.

Again from Ephesians 4 (verse 32):

**Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,
as God in Christ forgave you.**

Though, God willing, it is less than it used to be, the truth is that I am constantly sinning against Marcia and she is constantly sinning against me. And there's always a cost with sin. I could make her bear hers with many varieties of passive-aggressive vengeance, and she with me. Or I could "bear" her sin and let it go with forgiveness. That's what God in Christ has done for me. He has forgiven me of all my sin and does not treat me as my sin deserves. That's magic for marriage when we do the same for our spouse.

5. When In Doubt, In Trouble (Or At Any Other Time), Apply Grace.

It's not just Gospel forgiveness that makes marriage, it's Gospel grace. In the Gospel, God the Father sees me as though I am as perfect as His Son, though in and of myself I am obviously not. Therefore, not only does He forgive me of my sin, He showers me (and all who trust in Him) with a continual outpouring of love and blessing.

That's what we're called to and enabled for in marriage. Treat one another as though they are perfect, even (especially?) when they are not. Not as their sins deserve, but as Christ deserves.

4. Love Bears, Believes, and Hopes.

Our culture talks about falling in and out of love like it's a hammock. It's not. The Bible, especially places like 1 Corinthians 13, will give you something much more substantial. Consider verse 7:

Love bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.

Bear and endure: hard times will come so carry the load for the other and keep going. Believe and Hope: I take this to mean that we be control our thinking to dwell on the best in the other, to give the other the benefit of the doubt, and to hope in the power of the Gospel in the other person. That looks like love.

3. Covenant and Discipline Cream Feelings Any Day.

Ah, feelings. They can be so elating, and so down-heartening. Lately, "do what feels right" is a popular slogan. The only problem with living that out is that we would all deserve to be in prison. We can't do marriage or life based on our feelings because they are often inconsistent and deceitful. I love to feel passionately thankful and in love. But sometimes I don't.

Solid ground is found upon covenant and discipline. Marriage is built on a promise that is to be kept, feelings or no. And discipline is the structure that enables the keeping of that promise, feelings or no. So love, serve, go on dates, read Scripture and pray together, and a host of other good things because of the covenant, whether or not you are feeling like it. And what a bonus! Often the feelings will follow.

2. Marriage Is About the Gospel.

It is elating and purposeful to realize that my marriage is not ultimately about me or my happiness. It's much bigger than that. My little marriage is about the Gospel (Eph 5). In my little marriage (and every other marriage) a picture is to be colored, a drama to be enacted about the relationship between Jesus Christ and the Church. There is nothing bigger or more epic or more important than that. This truth lifts my eyes off myself onto the greatest thing – the Gospel.

1. There's A Greater Marriage

My marriage will end with death. That's because my marriage is but a tiny appetizer or commercial about the real thing, which all of God's people will share in. The church is the Bride of Jesus Christ. And when He returns, we will enjoy the wedding feast and the ultimate marriage that will last forever. As Revelation 19.6-8 proclaims,

“Hallelujah!
For the Lord our God
the Almighty reigns.
Let us rejoice and exult
and give him the glory,
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his Bride has made herself ready...

Growing in this marriage and getting ready for the next,

Pastor Matt

Summer LTG!

We'll be studying the book of Colossians together this summer, and we encourage you to start reading through the book in order to get familiar with it. The schedule is as follows:

The evenings go like this:

From **5:30 – 6:30 p.m.** we enjoy food prep (Scott will be BBQ-ing!), fellowship, fun (maybe even some volleyball!), and dinner together (we ask \$4 per adult or whatever you can afford).

From **6.30 – 7.00 p.m.** we study the Word together. And from **7.00 – 7.30 p.m.** we conclude with praise and worship together.

Babysitting is provided from 6.30 – 7.30. (We ask for a small donation from whoever is willing as payment for our sitters.) So join us! Community life is so important for the church of Jesus Christ, and we trust that this opportunity will enable some good growth together in the Gospel. See you there!



Shepherd's Corner

contributed by Matt Ford

The elders met Thursday evening, June 24th, from 8.30 – 10.30 p.m. The meeting included a devotion from 1 Timothy 4.7-16, evaluation of ourselves and our ministries, Shepherd Connect and LTG planning, and prayer.

Of note:

Matt and Marcia will take off for some backpacking in Yosemite National Park from June 28th – July 3rd in order to celebrate their 10-year anniversary! Matt's mom will be flying out to care for the kiddos. Matt will be back for the service on the 4th.

Ed Mirth will be preaching on July 4th (Matt will be there to lead worship). Pray for Ed as he prepares and thank him for all his hard work! Preaching is tough!

Scott will be heading out for the Youth Trip from July 12 – 18. Pray hard for the leadership and the students; that the trip will be full of fun, fellowship, safety, and growth in the Gospel.

Matt will be stepping in for 242 on the 11th and 18th of July.

Daughter's the King (Women's Ministry)

We will meet on July 11th at our regularly scheduled time of 5 PM. We will be studying the sisters Mary and Martha, and will also have our regular game time, singing, and an interview with one of our members.

For those of you who like to read the Scripture ahead of time, we will be looking at Luke 10:38-42.

Daughters of the King is a fellowship of women from 18 to 102+ who meet to study God's word, play together and learn about each other. Visitors are always **welcome!**

Feel free to bring a friend as we kick off summer!

Andrizomai (Men's Ministry)

Our next breakfast is July 10th, 7 a.m. at Carrows (Magnolia, between Heil and Warner). Join us as we enjoy one another's company and continue our study in the Gospel according to Mark. We'll be giving our attention to Mark 4.26-33.

Ignition Update

contributed by Scott Clair

Summer time is always a little different for us in the Youth Group. After working hard all year digging deep in the word on Wednesday nights, we love to take a break from the regular routine, and enjoy the warm weather and long nights of summer. So far we have enjoyed a Bonfire and a pool party with Grace Church. During these times we were able to laugh, build friendships and learn about our faith. A highlight was when Andrew Wiskus, from Grace Church, spoke last week about the importance of the “word” when evangelizing. It was a great reminder that we are not only called to evangelism but that faith comes through hearing. We look forward to our summer trip coming up next week and can’t wait to see what God is going to do in each of our lives through it.

Ignition’s Purpose:

We exist to glorify God by having and spreading a passion for the **supremacy of God** in all things for the joy of all peoples through Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit.

Ignition’s Mission:

To live a lifestyle of worship by **Growing** in Christ, **Building** meaningful relationships with other believers, **Serving** those who are in need, and **Reaching** those who do not know Christ within our community.

THANK YOU!

The youth group would like to thank the Atkins family for opening up their home once again for a pool party. It’s not just anyone that will allow 20-something teenagers to invade their home and backyard, but the Atkins have always been welcoming! Thank you so much; your generosity is so appreciated!

2:42 Update

contributed by Scott Clair

This last month we continued our study through the book of John, focusing in on Jesus’ final teaching in the upper room. During this time we saw Jesus’ amazing humility as he washed the disciples feet and proclaimed to his disciples that they to must serve one another. Through this we also dug deep into Jesus’ new commandment in which he proclaimed, “...love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.” (John 13:34) While the commandment to love was not new to the disciples, Jesus elevated the command by setting himself as the standard of love. This commandment is not limited to the disciples, however it goes out to all believers, including us in 2:42.

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” Acts 2:42 (ESV)

Out of the Salt Shaker

contributed by Julia Bailey

Back in April of 1976, I participated in my first Earth Day. I was studying at Cal State Fullerton, and worked at a booth promoting alternative energy sources before they were called anything like that.



As far as I can recall, I was the only Christian that participated in the Earth Day program. I thought that was kind of odd; I had been raised in a family that embraced stewardship of the earth as part of the Christian cultural mandate. This comes from God's commands to Adam and Eve (before the Fall) in Genesis 1:28, to subdue the earth and have dominion over it. The term "subdue" (the Hebrew word used is *kabash*) suggests bringing something into subjection so that it will serve the one subjecting it. Since in the previous verse (Gen 1:27), mankind is described as being created in the image of God, the understanding is that we will cause the earth to yield good things for the benefit of humans, for the glory of God.

Gen 2:15 says that God put Adam and Eve in the garden to "work" it and "keep" it. The Hebrew words here are the same used to describe the work of the priests and Levites in the tabernacle, elsewhere translated as "serve" (*'abad*) and "guard" (*shamar*). Thus we are given responsibility to guard and care for all of creation.

Since the Fall, there has always been tension in how humans care for the earth. On one hand, there are those that make earth a goddess, and argue that the earth's benefit takes priority over that of humans. On the other hand there are those that argue that we are free to use the earth however we choose.

Earth Day was created in 1970 in part in response to a series of environmental disasters. One of those was the oil spill off the Santa Barbara coastline in 1969. This disaster, which, among other things, killed 10,000 birds, led to a moratorium on new off-shore drilling which was lifted in 2008.

I remember thinking when the ban was lifted, "Doesn't anyone remember what happened in Santa Barbara? What is going to prevent that from happening again?" Then came the BP disaster. Even with the advances in cleanup technology, the environmental impact from this spill will dwarf the impact of the Santa Barbara mess. We have, essentially, fouled our own nest, threatening our own food sources as well as the economics way of life for many in the Gulf Coast.

I wonder about God's providence in this matter. It seems interesting that such a spill would happen right at the point we as a nation are discussing moving ahead with a massive expansion of underwater drilling. Is God pleased with the way we are caring for the earth? Or is this a

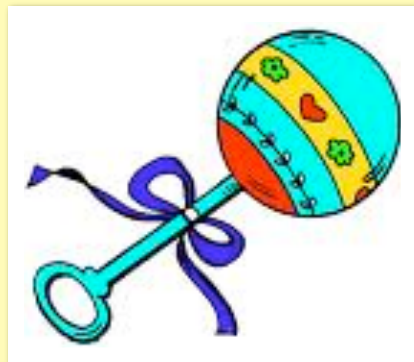
modern-day Tower of Babel action to discourage us from pursuing this type of retrieval when it is obvious we don't have the technology to do so safely?

Earth care is, of course, a much bigger topic than simply off-shore oil drilling. And, in fact, there are much larger problems in poorer parts of the world that we easily ignore because they aren't in our face. Christians of good will may disagree on what policies best support caring for the earth. But I would hope that we would not leave it to secular participants to frame the discussion.

Some Christians throughout the world have found practical ways to participate. One Tanzanian pastor was instrumental in getting churches in his area to participate in a plan where every person who goes through a confirmation class plants a tree in order to graduate. As a result, 500, 000 trees have been planted, restoring an important water resource.

What can you do? First of all, become aware. Know that the safety measures required on platforms in other parts of the world were not mandated in the US because of the cost. Learn that people are being poisoned in Africa and other places because there are not the environmental restrictions on how oil is extracted. (And this is being done by US companies). Hold politicians accountable for making decisions that take into account the safety of the environment. Make the small changes in your own lifestyle that you feel are appropriate. Whether that's walking more, taking the bus, buying local produce or planting your own vegetable garden.

I recognize that many small steps we can take will only minimally impact the entire problem. I suppose that's a bit like saying that no matter how well we love each other it won't bring world peace. But this is part of the job God has called us to, and I encourage us to embrace it.



Showers of Joy is back at it. Through Living Well and Gentler we have a group of ladies in need of our love and support, and we need your help to provide it! The shower will take place on Saturday, July 24th at 11 a.m. Here's what we're aiming for: a pot-luck luncheon, a "wish-gift" (something substantial that they need) for each lady, and a "basics packet" (with diapers, wipes, and an outfit). Please look for sign-ups and see where you contribute to the effort!

Contact Genesee Atkins (GeneseeLove@hotmail.com) for more information.

Prayer Guide for July

July 4-10: Romans 6.1-14; Pray that we would understand and treasure the reality that the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ changes who we are, how we think, and how we live, and that we would celebrate our having been set free from sin!

July 11-17: Genesis 30.25-31.55; Pray that we would recognize the faithfulness and provision of God in our lives, and praise Him for it.

July 18-24: Genesis 32.1-33.20; Pray that we will cling only to Christ for the blessings we need, and trust in Him at all times.

July 25-31: Genesis 34.1-35.15; Pray that we would be vigilant and responsible in our worship and walk, and that we would put away all other competitors and be devoted to God alone.

Birthdays

7.3	Irmgard Bishop
7.3	Laura Cabral
7.4	Dorothy Jacobo
7.5	Julia Bailey
7.5	Matt Ford
7.6	Zoe Walbridge-Mohan
7.15	Vera Neske
7.21	Ruth Cuevas
7.22	Ellie Atkins
7.24	Cynthia Anderson
7.24	Ashaya Jacobo
7.27	Josiah Swenson

Anniversaries

7.1	Matt & Marcia Ford
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Care for our Shut-Ins

Below is a list of friends & family of FOLF that would appreciate a call, a card, a visit, and prayer.

Please contact Rachel (Rachel@folfcr.com) for phone numbers and addresses of those we care for.

Joe Bakkelo has moved back into his home in Victorville. He would appreciate calls and cards.

Hetty De Jonge is still recovering. We give thanks to God for healing! Hetty still loves to have visitors and cards, and enjoys fresh flowers from your garden.

Russ Hanff is in an assisted living home in Whittier. Russ suffers from Alzheimer's; while forgetful, he really enjoys visits and cards (he has no phone). He LOVES to talk about the Angels, and his years of coaching Little League and softball. He recently was able to take a trip to Alaska.

June Verhoeven live at the Artesia Christian Home in Artesia. June cannot walk due to a stroke that she suffered a few months ago. She would love to receive cards and visits. She also enjoy home-cooked food and fresh fruit.

Rosalie would appreciate some visitors from the FOLF family. If you are interested in visiting or bringing a meal, please contact Irmgard for information.

Brian McGuire is a former member of our church. He lives in Fullerton with his son, Kyle. Brian suffers from advanced effects of diabetes. He would love a call or a card from FOLF friends.

Budget Update for June 2010

contributed by Anne Buteyn

Inflow:

General Fund (offerings, rent): \$14,774.00
 Special offering:
 – Generation Her - \$335.23

This month's health insurance fee was a one-time expense and will end up saving the church money in the long run.

Outflow:

Total: \$21,389.38
 General Fund/Ministry Shares: \$15,337.84
 Pastor's Insurance (Health Savings Accounts, annual fee): \$6,051.54

Ministry Schedule

	Jul 11, 2010	Jul 18, 2010	Jul 25, 2010	Aug 1, 2010
Nursery	Natasha Julie Michael	Tracey Mira Allana	Laura Carolyn Samantha	Irene Sally Audrey
Children's Worship	Marcia Irmgard	Marcia Judy	Marcia Jacky	Christine Denise
Hospitality	Jannie and Ronell (July) Ken and Sally (August)			
Greeters	Ann S. & Anne B. (July) Rachel & Alex (August)			
Congregational Prayer	John	Scott	Vera	Ed
Scripture Reading	Ed	Cinti	Wesley	Scott
Communion Elements	Cinti (August)			
Sanctuary Care	Cinti	Mira	Scott	Rachel