

the

Fountain of Life Fellowship Monthly Newsletter

September 2010

Council Members

Elders:

Matt Ford
Scott Clair
Ed Mirth
Vince Cabral

Deacons:

Irmgard Bishop
Jerry Schoenenberger
Don Woodhead
Rachel Stewart
Ronell Myburgh

*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

Body Building

According to the book of Ephesians, if you're a Christian you are called to a certain ministry. And the ministry is this (Ephesians 4.16):

...from [Christ] the whole body...makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Christians make up the church. We are together the body of Christ. And the church's main ministry is to build the body. One way we can do this is by taking responsibility for various important service needs we have here at FOLF.

So the goal of my writing is to alert you to some of our needs we share so that you can be empowered to embrace a ministry that builds up the body of Christ as represented by our local church.

Before we begin, you should know that we have two different kinds of ministries for which we need your participation: what we are calling a *service* and a *committee*.

Service

By "service" we mean a ministry that is more action oriented. There are specific duties we need done here at FOLF, and someone in service commits to getting that need accomplished as needed.

Committee

A "committee" is something that takes a different sort of commitment. A committee is a team of people who meet together in order to plan, create, and delegate various projects.

SERVICES

1) Cleaning Service *Glorifying Christ by serving orphans and one-another by cleaning the building*

In order to save money for our partnership with the church in Haiti, we're going to try and clean this building with volunteer power. As my mom would say, "many hands make light work." So the more volunteers the better! Volunteers will be organized into groups who will be responsible to clean the building every so often.

2) Children's Service *Serving families and training children in the Gospel*

There are four incredibly important positions in our children's ministry.

The nursery service cares for those ages 0-3 during the Sunday Morning Service. Positions include:

- 1) Nursery Teacher (leads the check-in, greeting, and lesson)
- 2) Nursery Assistant

The Children's Worship service cares for those ages 3-7 during the sermon portion of the Sunday service. Positions include:

- 3) Children's Worship Teacher (leads the class for a month at a time)
- 4) Children's Worship Assistant

3) Daughters of the King Service *Enhancing the monthly women's meeting*

DOTK could use your investment in two areas:

- 1) Volunteers to make coffee for the monthly meeting (the 3rd Sunday of the month, 5.00 p.m. – though you'd need to be a little early)
- 2) Volunteers to come up with and facilitate an "ice-breaker" – a fun game or conversation piece that will help to welcome and connect those who have come.

4) Hospitality Service *The Sunday-Service welcoming ministries*

The Hospitality Service exists to welcome and serve everyone who joins us for our Sunday Morning services. There are three tasks included:

Greeter Service

The Greeters glorify God by showing hospitality to our Sunday-morning visitors in a way that is welcoming, knowledgeable, and helpful.

Communion Service

The Communion Service aids us by organizing those who will do the bringing, preparing, and cleaning of the communion elements for our monthly celebrating of the Lord's Supper.

Luncheon Service

The Luncheon Service enables the planning, set-up, and clean-up for the monthly church luncheons

5) Technology Service *Helping our communication of the Gospel look sharp*

The technology service enables the worship to go smoothly on Sunday mornings by facilitating the overheads and sound system. An additional opportunity is volunteering to update content on the web site.

COMMITTIES

1) **Congregational Care Committee** *An extension of the diaconal ministry*

The CCC exists to organize and enable the meeting of the needs of the church community by the church community. This committee will oversee the following ministry services:

- ✓ preparing/ delivering meals for those in need
- ✓ visiting the sick, hurting, and shut-ins
- ✓ being part of the prayer chain
- ✓ giving financial advice to those looking for it

2) **Building and Grounds Committee** *Taking care of the campus God has given*

The BGC glorifies God and serves the church by administrating and meeting the practical needs of our campus, including yard care, building projects and maintenance, light-bulb replacement, and kitchen/ bathroom stocking. Additionally, the BGC joins with the CCC to provide building help to those of our congregation in need.

SIGNING UP

We need you! The more volunteers we have the more we will thrive as a body and glorify Christ as His church. You have a place! Please prayerfully consider what that might be. **Sign ups will be held after the service on both the 12th and 19th of September.**

Any questions? Please see a member of the Council, and we'll do our best to help.

Thankful for your service,

Matt Ford

Bi-Denominational Hymnal Update

Some of you have asked me recently about progress on the new hymnal being created by the Christian Reformed Church and the Reformed Church of America. For those of you who don't know, I am a regional representative on an advisory committee that provides feedback to the editorial board for this major undertaking.

The first part of the project is to collect a list of songs that are candidates for inclusion in the hymnal. The collection has been grouped into four major areas: contemporary songs, hymns, global songs (including native worship music from the many traditions that are included in the two denominations), and psalms. Collections of songs in several of these categories have been published in a paperback form and are available from the denomination's publisher, *Faith Alive*. (<http://www.faithaliveresources.org/Home?search=songs+for+worship>).

If you would like to provide feedback on either the Contemporary Songs for Worship, or the Hymns for Worship, you may do so from links off the page <http://www.crcna.org/pages/hymnal.cfm>.

The advisory board will be meeting again at the end of January in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to continue to provide feedback to the editorial committee.

Shepherd's Corner

contributed by Matt Ford

The elders met Thursday evening, August 26th, from 8 – 10.30 p.m. Agenda items included prayer for the church, personal accountability, Shepherd Connect reports, and L. T. G. planning.

Of Note:

The Ford family will return from vacation on Tuesday the 7th. Encourage Scott for his preaching on the 5th!

Matt will be traveling to Massachusetts in end of September in order to lead a men's retreat for students there and preach in a chapel service for Gordon College. Please pray for him.

LivingWell Fundraising Dinner

LivingWell Pregnancy Centers is celebrating 25 years of service to Los Angeles and Orange Counties with their annual fundraising dinner Saturday, October 16 at 6 PM. We would like to fill a table with FOLF members/friends. LivingWell provides pregnancy counseling services, including free ultrasounds and first doctor visits to pregnant women. Be a part of this ministry by attending the dinner! The dinner will be held at the DoubleTree Guest Suites in Anaheim. Please contact Julia Bailey if you are interested in attending. If you know someone who is interested in providing pro-life services for pregnant women, invite them to attend with you!



Ignition Update

contributed by Scott Clair

It's difficult to find a place in which to start this month's Ignition Update. After all, we had an amazing summer and we are all a little bummed that it is over. I could start with our summer trip and talk about all the great friendships that were built and deepened through the experience. I could also begin by mentioning our times at the beach, at pool parties, or relaxing at wild rivers. All these would be a great entry point, but to simply focus on all the fun things we did would be a travesty because this summer I saw God move through our Youth Group like I have never seen during my time at FOLF. This summer I saw a new passion in our students for Christ and his church. Whether it was giving up a week of their summer to help lead kids during VBS or simply caring for each other during hard times, I saw the Holy Spirit at work maturing and strengthening our group. While I am sad that the summer is over, I am excited to carry this momentum into the school year as we begin a new series dealing with evangelism and the importance of sharing Christ with everyone around us.

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.

Ignitions 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.

Fall Life Together Groups (LTG)

At FOLF we are convicted from Scripture that the Christian life is life together. That's why we have what we call "Life Together Groups": small groups that meet in homes for the following purposes: 1) fellowship – our relationship with enjoyment of God infused into our relationships with one another, 2) sanctification – our lives continually and progressively changed to live as righteously as we already are in Christ, and 3) care – we want to know one another's needs and meet them as best we can.

Presently we have three groups to choose from: The Ford's, which will meet on Wednesday evenings, and the Mirth's and the Swenson's, which will meet on Thursdays. This fall we will be studying the acclaimed, *A Praying Life*, by Paul Miller (\$11).

So find what night works to you, and commit to a group. You will have an excellent opportunity to grow as a Christian and as a part of this community.

Everyone is welcome!

Out of the Salt Shaker

contributed by Julia Bailey

"Pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains. It is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world." ~C.S. Lewis

Pain and suffering are among the most questioned aspects of the human condition. Every generation, every culture, seeks to come to an understanding of the reasons for this. They are the reason that some turn to God...and others turn away.

A few of us recently attended the play "Shadowlands" at Vanguard University. The play is the story of the life of Oxford professor C.S. Lewis as he, late in life, meets and marries an American woman, who dies of cancer four years later. The play extracts quotes from many of Lewis's writings about pain, and inserts them into monologues throughout the play.

The play is moving, and I heard it's words echoing in the following weeks as I talked with friends struggling with life-threatening illnesses, unemployment, and betrayal; and sought to comfort an elderly friend just hours after she unexpectedly lost her husband.

I find myself wondering if we struggle against suffering because this is not the way life was supposed to be. The created world was good; there was no suffering in it. If there was no sin, there would be no suffering.

Yet God, in his goodness, uses suffering for good. He uses it to make us better people. He uses it to pry our fingers from the things we cling to so tightly in this world, that we may look towards the better things of the next. He uses it to insist that we place our trust in him. He uses it to test our obedience.

When we ask why we, as God's beloved children suffer, we must remember that he asked far greater suffering of His only begotten son than he has asked of us his adopted heirs. Do we have a right to expect that he will exempt the adopted heirs from that which he demanded of his own son *who was, unlike us, without sin*? We readily accept the gift of grace that we receive from Jesus' suffering brought about by the love of God; should we, then, point to the sufferings we experience as an indication of God's *lack of love*?

Lewis does not trivialize the pain of pain. In fact, he learned that it was much easier to talk about it in the abstract than to experience the full impact of it in his life.

May we, as we experience our own individual suffering, accept it as the tool of a loving God, and seek to find his purpose for it in our lives.

"The full acting out of the self's surrender to God therefore demands pain: this action, to be perfect, must be done from the pure will to obey, in the absence, or in the teeth of inclination".
~C.S. Lewis

Irmgard Bishop would like to express gratitude to everyone for the outpouring of love, support, encouragement, and service that she received over the last month of coping with the passing of her husband, Ron. Thanks for always stepping up for those in need, FOLF family!



Prayer Guide

contributed by Matt Ford

Monday – Growth in the Gospel

Pray Ephesians 3.14-21

Pray that we would be individually and corporately grounded on the Person and Work of Jesus Christ. **Pray** that our Life Together Groups would be catalysts for substantial fellowship, sanctification, and practical care.

Tuesday – The Family

Pray Psalm 78.4; 112.1-2

Pray for the marriages of our church, that they would derive their wisdom and strength from the Gospel. **Pray** for the parents; that they would have the grace, wisdom, diligence and endurance to raise their children in the Gospel. **Pray** for the nursery, children's worship, and youth group ministries of the church. **Pray** for the leaders and the students involved, that God would give grace and power to transform lives.

Wednesday – The Sick and Suffering

Pray 1 Peter 1.3-9

Pray for sick and suffering in our church. **Pray** that God would heal physically, spiritually, emotionally, and relationally. **Pray** that we would be enabled to cling to Him throughout the difficulties and find Christ faithful.

Thursday – Growth of the Gospel

Pray Matthew 28.18-20

Pray that we would be wise, joyful, and bold in sharing the Gospel. **Pray** that hearts would be opened to believe.

Friday – BSTC (Haitian Partner Church)

Pray 2 Thessalonians 1.11-12

Pray for Pastor Abner, that he might be full of faith and wisdom and faithful in preaching the Gospel. **Pray** for the congregation, that they would be strengthened by and bold in the Gospel. And **pray** for those orphans, that they would know the deep love of their Father and grow into men and women of God who are instrumental in the transformation of Haiti.

Saturday – Sunday Worship

Pray Acts 2.29-47

Pray that God would be honored by our sincere, Gospel-centered worship. **Pray** the preaching of God's word would be powerful for believer and unbeliever alike. **Pray** that folks would come, and that the meeting would result in lives changed for the glory of God.

Daughter's of the King

Daughters of the King will be **changing its meeting date** from the second Sunday of the month to the third Sunday. This change will allow us to align better with other church activities.

We have finished our study of women in the Bible! Our study for the next year will focus on God's promises. The Bible contains hundreds of promises; each month we will look at his promises in a different area of life, discover what the promises mean and don't mean, and learn how to find comfort and strength from the promises of God to his people.

Our first lesson will focus on discovering why we can trust the promises of God.

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 another year!

Birthdays

9.10	Tristan Jacobo
9.15	Eleanor Bailey
9.20	Craig Powers
9.23	Ann Siino
9.28	Samantha Mirth
9.30	Katie Ford

Anniversaries

9.25 John & Cinti Anderson



Andrizomai (Men's Ministry)

Our next breakfast is September 11th, 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 5.21-43.

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@folfcrc.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.

August 2010

Inflow:

General Fund (offerings, rent): \$16,064.85

Special offering:

- World Missions - \$258.00
- Haiti Orphans Fund - \$365.00

Outflow:

General Fund/Ministry Shares: \$20,224.70

July 2010

Inflow:

General Fund (offerings, rent): \$12,349.00

Special offering:

- Benevolence - \$209.00

Outflow:

General Fund/Ministry Shares: \$14,832.57

Roommate Wanted

Mona, a single woman from the Egyptian church that meets at FOLF is looking for a room to rent with a single person/family. If you are interested or know of anyone who is, please call her at 714-855-0441.

Ministry Schedule	Sep 12, 2010	Sept 19, 2010	Sep 26, 2010	Oct 3, 2010
Nursery	Laura Dorothy Samantha	Tracey Gayle Audrey	Carolyn Julie Michael	Laura Kathryn Lizzy
Children's Worship	Cinti Ann S.	Marcia Debbie	Marcia John B.	TBD
Hospitality	Ken and Sally			
Congregational Prayer	Ed	Todd	Vera	Heather L.
Scripture Reading	Cinti	Heather L.	Wesley	Julie
Sanctuary Care	Rachel	Scott	Mira	Cinti