

FAITH *In Focus*



Engaging the Word...Impacting the World

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WELCOME TO FAITH!

From Pastor Tom's Desk...

"The Spirit told Philip, 'Go to that chariot and stay near it.'" (Acts 8:29)

Do you ever hear the voice of the Spirit? Most of us think in rather dramatic terms when we talk about hearing the Spirit. Perhaps an audible voice, or a tangible sign. However, in my experience, the voice of the Spirit is quite different from that. It is an experience of communication, but the message usually comes through our thought process as we seek the Lord's leading.

My teacher and mentor, Dr. Richard Dobbins, used to say that the mind is the "interface" between the human and the divine. That is, when God speaks to us, it is usually through our minds, or our thought process. Too often we focus on external signs when we ought to be listening for internal thoughts. God will speak to us as we listen for that "still, small voice" that stimulates our thought process.

In his book *A Listening Ear*, Dr. Paul Tournier talks about this process. "The most precious thing of all," he writes, "is the possibility of being, through the words of my mind and through my inborn unconscious faculties, the recipient of *thoughts that come from God*." (Italics mine.) When I surrender my thought process to the Lord, He will often stimulate my mind by giving me fresh ideas.

This is the most common way that He speaks to us.

Obviously, not every thought that crosses our mind is from God. Some thoughts need to be rejected and ignored! Others, however, need to be evaluated for whether they might come from God. There are a few questions that are helpful in evaluating whether our thoughts might actually be promptings from the Holy Spirit:

- Does this idea glorify Jesus Christ? (The Spirit would never lead you to dishonor the name of Christ.)
- Would this action be a loving thing to do? (The motivation of the Spirit is always love.)
- Does this idea contradict the Scripture in any way? (The Spirit will never lead you to disobey the Scriptures.)
- Would this action be helpful? (The Spirit's promptings encourage and edify others, rather than condemning them.)

Sometimes thoughts cross our mind, and we dismiss them because we think they're just random. Perhaps you've sensed that you ought to call someone to see how they're doing, or perhaps you ought to introduce yourself to a stranger.

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From Pastor Tom's Desk...

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Don't assume too quickly that these thoughts are merely random. They might be of the Spirit, and if they fit the criteria above, acting on them won't hurt anything. You just might find yourself engaged in a very meaningful conversation with someone.

In general principle, we often "over-spiritualize" the work of the Spirit in our lives. You don't have to be super-spiritual to hear the voice of the Spirit. In fact, He is more than willing to meet us where we are. That means He may use very ordinary processes (like our thought process) to communicate His will to us. When informed by a knowledge of the Scriptures and motivated by a heart that loves Christ, His promptings can guide us into effective ministry.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Tom

Great Commission Women to Host Missionary Kris Prenger...

What a wonderful way to start our summer. The Great Commission Women will have their June meeting on the 14th at 6:30 p.m. (note new time) in the fellowship hall at the church. Kris Prenger will be

sharing about her mission work in Bangladesh. We are also having a carry-in dinner. Please bring your best covered dish—meat

will be provided. Merrily Hoffman will lead us in devotions, and of course we will have the opportunity to pray for our missionaries. Let's start out our summer with FAITH, FOOD, FELLOWSHIP. All ladies of Faith Alliance are welcome to attend.



Current Prayer Concerns...

- Praise: Dan Miller's brother (heart issues) is doing much better
- Jodi Shimp and LaRita Condon as they prepare to go to Greece on June 16 to minister to the Tea House team
- The Arizona mission team, leaving on June 18: Pastor Dave, Ken Freeman, Shirley James, Paige Philipps, Jason Philipps, Gage Oakley, Gabe Oakley
- Linda and Bill Shipman's daughter Sherry and grandson Jacob, both recovering from surgery
- Brenda Dudek, cousin of Andrea Ball, undiagnosed illness
- Kristin Lampert's uncle, John, preparing for a bone marrow transplant
- Brittany Pence, recovering from surgery on her foot
- Joann Boyer, in physical therapy at JT TCU
- Jay Berkey, recovering from surgery for brain tumor
- Bethany Schrader, herniated disk
- Heidi Siebenaler, dislocated disk
- Cierra Otting, now in Libreville, Gabon, for six months
- Gene Kuck, stroke
- Dottie and Ben Fennick's niece's husband, Tom, critically ill

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Don't miss your opportunity to help with our annual Vacation Bible School—Expedition Norway! This is a cross-cultural VBS, helping kids see an exciting world of faith beyond their own backyard!



This year's VBS will be Sunday, July 17, through Thursday, July 21, from 6:30–8:45 p.m. We need your help with lots of things...providing supplies

for various stations and activities, volunteering beforehand to help with decorations and/or volunteering during VBS as helpers and leaders.

WE NEED YOUR HELP in this outreach ministry! Don't miss out on the blessings of Vacation Bible School! Contact Gina Tangeman (567-644-9313 or gina@faith-alliance.org) for more information or to volunteer.

In June, there will be a donation board full of items in the education hallway that we need for the week of VBS. Look for ways you can help! Thanks in advance!

Women's Bible Study Reminder...

Young Adult Women's Bible Study, "The Battle Plan for Prayer" begins June 15, 8:00 pm at Sherry Henschen's home.

Evening summer Bible study, "Habits of Happiness" begins June 7 at 7:00 pm at Shelly Finke's home.

Forgiving and Forgetting...

One of America's most renowned preachers, Henry Ward Beecher (1813-1887), once made a statement which surely challenges us all. He said, "Saying I can forgive but I cannot forget, is only another way of saying, 'I will not forgive.' Forgiveness ought to be like a canceled note—torn in two and burned up, so that it never can be shown again to anyone."

Financial Report

Offering June 12, 2016

General Fund: \$10,585

Local Mission: \$352

Great Commission: \$1,540

Building Fund: \$44

Deacons Fund: \$30

Love & Hope: \$1,297

Agape Ministry: \$100

Youth Center/Café: \$10

Adult Mission Trips: \$45

Tea House: \$10; Kitchen Fund: \$10

Joel Meyer: \$50; Andrey S. Ukraine: \$20

Attendance

Week of June 12, 2016

9:00 Worship—90

10:30 Worship—118

Kids—45; Adult Workers—7

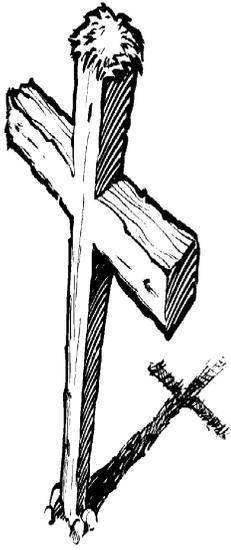
Total Worship—260

International Class—17

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22-23

RENEW



COMING EVENTS

Sunday, June 12, 2016

Today

9:00... Early Service

10:30... Kids Church

10:30... Late Service

June 14 ...Kings Island Trip

Leave @ 8 am; Return by 9 pm

July 5–10 ...LIFE Conference

July 16 ...Creation Museum

July 20 ...Canoe Trip

MINISTRIES

This Week

Tuesday...Kings Island...8am-9pm

Wednesday...Summer Youth Group... 2–4 pm

*If God is for us,
who can be against us?
ROM. 8:31*

Golf Outing Fundraiser Planned...



Golfers, a golf outing will be held at the Hidden Creek Golf Club in Lima on Friday, July 8th. It is to benefit Beulah Beach, our Christian and Missionary Alliance's church camp in Vermillion, Ohio. The golf outing begins at 8:30 a.m. sharp, and features a 4-Man Scramble (\$100 per player; \$400 per team). A fantastic lunch will follow the golf game and great door prizes will be given away.

Hidden Creek Club is located at 6245 Sugar Creek road in Lima. Individuals and businesses may sponsor this event. If you are interested contact Joe Schulman at jschulman@bbeach.org or call 440-967-4861. There are also registration forms in the church office.

For those of you not familiar with Beulah Beach, it is our denomination's camp ministry for kids and families. Many of our kids from Faith Alliance attend various camps each summer at Beulah Beach. The camp provides a fun and safe environment with the mission of seeing the kids encounter Christ in an authentic, life-changing way. God is moving in powerful ways at Beulah Beach and our kids are blessed by its ministry!