



stepping stones

living hope children's ministry

March 2011

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Thoughts from Cindy...

Here is a recent quote I read:

"He goes on to say, "Our culture has a deep-seated fear of monolithic, one-minded systems like communism, religious fundamentalism, zombies, and invaders from Mars. Each one is a dark echo of an oceanic state of unifying transcendence from which consciousness must, by nature, flee. The Fall from Grace is, in fact, a Sprint from Grace."

Chuck Lorre, creator and executive producer of Two and a Half Men (reflecting on Charlie Sheen)

You probably had to read the above quote a few times to even figure out what this guy is talking about! And no - I don't watch Two and a Half Men or follow the latest escapades of Charlie Sheen, but this is an excellent example of our culture's mindset. This is the kind of thinking that is deemed newsworthy.

Notice that communism, zombie, and religious fundamentalism are in the same sentence. We must be on guard; we must stay aware; we must train our children to think biblically - the battle wages.

"Sanctify them in the truth, your Word is truth." (John 17:17)

OrphanCare

"Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. God settles the solitary in a home." Psalm 68:5-6

"The deepest and strongest foundation for adoption is located not in the act of humans adopting humans, but in God adopting humans. And this act is not part of his ordinary providence in the world; it is at the heart of the Gospel." John Piper, "Adoption: The Heart of the Gospel"

I am currently reading a book called Orphanology. Awakening to Gospel-Centered Adoption and OrphanCare" and I am continually convicted on 2 fronts:

One - I marvel that God in His mercy demonstrated His love for us as sinners by sending Christ to die so that we might live! In faith we are adopted as sons - this is the cost of redemption. This picture of redemption; this picture of adoption is why we as believers must respond to the call of OrphanCare.

Two - How do I obey? How do I impact the life of an orphan? How do I become involved in the Gospel through OrphanCare?

Join me in these questions...consider how you can pray-partner or pursue OrphanCare to the Glory of God. Let me pray with you on this journey.

What are you teaching?

When summer comes, take advantage of the "down time" to provide some consistent Bible training. Dr. Bruce Ware's book is an excellent resource for families. "Big Truths for Young Hearts" is a systematic theology for children. It is well-written, easy to understand and provides solid foundational instruction of the foundations of our faith. I have copies of this book in my office - come by and get one.

Also, Sinclair Ferguson has written a number of Bible studies that are excellent for children. "The Big Book of Questions and Answers" and "The Big Book of Bible Truths" are a few titles - the format of these books supports Family Worship and would certainly enhance your summer learning.

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday Nights are for Families!

The 1st Wednesday night of each month will be a Family Night Worship Service. This is an interactive, energetic service with components geared to all ages. Living Hope preschoolers through Senior Adults worship and learn together. Join us in April.

Kids STEPS (for older preschool - 3rd grade) is a new program that will meet **the 3rd Wednesday night** of each month after worship and prayer in WNW. Kids STEPS will include teaching, mission moments, small group conversations and take home activities. I would encourage you to add this to your monthly calendar.

Backyard Bible Club:

Backyard Bible Clubs (BYBC) - Last year Living Hope families hosted Backyard Bible Clubs in 15 neighborhoods. This year we are challenging our family of faith to continue BYBC outreaches in their neighborhoods. This year we are praying for 30 homes - JOIN US!! This is such a powerful outreach opportunity! Prayerfully consider joining with your small group or ABF to host a BYBC in your neighborhood.

Curriculum is written for a 1,2 or 3 day BYBC. Hosts are given a kit that contains the curriculum, craft supplies and games. We have two dates for training available; the evening of Friday, May 6 and Saturday morning, May 7. Training for our onsite BYBC will be held at a later date.

MOPS

Every third MONDAY of the month our MOPS group meets in the Middle School Room (formerly Fellowship Hall). MOPS is an outreach ministry designed and directed for Mothers of Preschoolers: moms with newborns - kindergarten children. MOPS meets in April and May and then will resume in the fall. For more information you can contact Karen Buchanon at kbuchanon@ymail.com. Below is some of our MOPs moms at a conference at Southern Seminary in Louisville, KY.



(Next year's conference - March 10th.)

Tedd Tripp (August 26-27, 2011)

It has taken us almost 2 years to book Tedd Tripp, author of Shepherding a Child's Heart. Dr. Tripp will be here on August 26-27, 2011 for a Friday night/Saturday morning parenting seminar based on his book. There will be more details in the future, but we are so excited about this opportunity that we don't want you to miss this!!

The VBS Answer

Some of you have asked, "Are we having VBS this year?" and here is my response:

Yes, we are having an on-site outreach this year - A BYBC in OUR OWN BACKYARD - an outreach to both our neighbors and our family of faith. Please mark your calendars now so that you can be part of BYBC Living Hope - Sunday, July 17th through Wednesday July 20th. This is an all-church event that will happen at night - we will begin with a BLOCK PARTY on Sunday night and end with a lively, gospel saturated WNW on Wednesday. The evenings in between will be filled with games, Bible stories, music, crafts, refreshments as we speak and live the truth of God's Word to all that participate. We will need lots of adult volunteers to help make a difference. Watch next month's newsletter and Hope Lines for more information!

Camp Spots Still Available!

Did you miss the deadline to register for camp? We still have 2 boy and 2 girl spots for 3rd grade camp and 4 girl spots for 4/5 grade camp available. Email Dawn at dfarmer@lhbg.org to get registered.