



Leader's Digest

Camp Sharing Banquet

This year's Camp Sharing Banquet was held Thursday, March 10, 2011 at Pleasant View Missionary Church. What made this year's banquet unique was that it was held in the middle of our "Forever Faithful" capital campaign for the camp.

It was a memorable evening for those who attended as several shared their thoughts and feelings as to why Ludlow Falls Camp is special to them. Chastity Crowder, from the Gathering Place, shared how



Ludlow Falls Camp had always been there for her, from when as a teenager she strayed away from her faith to the Camp Meeting that God spoke to her heart and brought her back.

Rev. Jim Smith, Senior Pastor at Rona Community Church in Fairborn, also shared about commitments he has made at various camp meetings and is looking forward to making new memories and commitments at Ludlow Falls Camp. Our Camp Manager,



Jeff Warner, reported to the crowd the various projects recently undertaken at the camp, including the renovation of the Tabernacle platform, new cafeteria tables

in the dining hall, new trails in the woods which include a low ropes course, the interior of the Ministry Center being renovated, and the Lodge being painted.

Keith Berger, Capital Campaign Director, and Rev. Dale Leinbach, District Superintendent spoke regarding the campaign and (Continued on page 3.)

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for children completing grades 3-6

Kid's Kamp

June 27-July 2, 2011

Ludlow Falls Camp

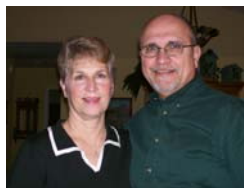
Cost: \$130

Speakers: Marc & Debbie Hamman

Registration Information coming out soon!



From Our District Superintendent



A TALE OF TWO CHURCHES

Church A:

In a pastoral search interview the candidate answered the normal questions for an hour or so. At the end he looked at the search committee and asked "Where do you see growth coming from in this church?" The search committee looked at each other as though they had never thought of this issue. Finally one of them said "Well, the people around here all go to church, I think they are all Christians." Another one added "We are not far from (and named a large, nearby town), maybe we could get some people from there." At the time of this interview the church averaged about 50 in number.

Church B: In this pastoral search interview the same scenario took place. However the answer given was much different. The search committee said "Our current pastor is retiring and we would like to have a younger pastor because that is an area where we need to grow. We know we need to attract younger families." They also said that they had purchased the house next to the church building. When asked why, they said "We don't need the land now but we trust God will help us grow to the place where we need to tear it down and use the land for parking." That church averaged over

one-hundred.

How much does the attitude of church leaders have to do with the growth of a church? How much does it tell about the faith and hope of the leaders? The leaders of Church A did not seem to really expect growth. The leaders of Church B not only expected growth, they made plans for growth. They even "put their money where their mouths were." (By the way, these conversations took place over 20 years ago. Church A still averages fewer than 50. Church B grew to over 200 in five years.)

Jesus said in Mark 11:24 (NIV) "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." Do we pray in expectant faith?

Yes, I am aware we need to be careful of the "name it and claim it" crowd. But I honestly wonder if that is our problem. I am afraid our problem might be that we don't pray for growth **and** expect growth to take place. Church leaders, what are your expectations for your church? If your church grew by 10 percent this year would you see that as an answer to prayer or would you be shocked? Do you pray for growth? Do you expect growth? Do you plan for growth?

Our conference theme this year is $E^1 R^1 = 3K$ (Each one reach one). What if each one of the ECD family took seriously the charge by Christ

to be witnesses first in "Jerusalem"? If we did, there would be over 3,000 people who will be touched by someone with the love of Christ. They may not all be Christians by next year, but try to imagine the impact we would have on our communities.

We are the "Missionary Church." We have that name because we have a tradition of missions, and as a former missionary and parent of a current missionary, I do not want to change that heritage. However, I am afraid that some of us find it easier to give money to support a missionary in another country than to walk across the office or street to share the love of Christ with a co-worker or neighbor. We must be serious about reaching those around us today AND helping those who are reaching others in far away countries.

Of course the next question that must be addressed is this "What are you willing to do to make way for growth?" But that is for another time. For now just ask yourself two questions:

1. Do I really pray for and expect growth in our church, not just in other countries? If so, what am I doing to make it happen?

$E^1 R^1 = 3K$
 "EACH ONE, REACH ONE"

Camp Sharing Banquet *Continued from page 1*

challenged people with the vision to give sacrificially. Thanks to the generosity of those who attended, just short of \$3,000 was raised for the camp. In addition, the Capital Campaign got off to a great start with over \$50,000

being pre-pledged that night.



A big thanks to Pleasant View for hosting the over 100 people who attended.

Also, thanks is given to Brenda Rapp and her team of volunteers who provided the delicious meal. We look forward to a wonderful camping season, as God continues to bless our camp, being "forever faithful."

Relief Aid for Japan

Following WWII, General Douglas McArthur made a call for missionaries to go to Japan to share the good news of Christ. Unfortunately, the response did not meet the challenge and now only 1.5% of Japan's population identifies itself as Christian. With that said, churches from all over the island have volunteered to help in a

coordinated effort with CRASH, (Christian Relief, Assistance, Support and



coordinated effort with CRASH, (Christian Relief, Assistance, Support and

Hope) to do relief work in Japan. The Missionary Church, in consultation with Tim & Jeannie Johnson, World Partner missionaries in Japan, have decided to make CRASH its primary relief agency for the Japan relief effort. Amidst the devastation, God has open hearts in Japan, making them more receptive than ever to the gospel. While the work in rebuilding lives seems almost insurmountable, as Christians, we are called to help those in need and to do

what we are able to do. For most of us, this involves the giving of some of the resources that God has blessed us with here in America.

If you would like to support the Japanese Relief effort, please make out a check to the Missionary Church, Inc and send your donation to the Missionary Church, PO Box 9127, Fort Wayne, IN 46899 or you may go to www.mcusa.org and give via PayPal at the bottom of the page. All donations will be forwarded on to CRASH.

Hilty Home
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO AN
Open House

ENJOY TOURS OF OUR NEWLY OPENED TRANSITION TO HOME AND ASSISTED LIVING WINGS

SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2011
12:00P.M. TO 2:00P.M.
304 HILTY DRIVE
PANDORA, OHIO 45877

Public Welcome

A COMPLIMENTARY LUNCHEON WILL BE SERVED

Forever Faithful

We praise the Lord for the generosity of His people in giving to the Forever Faithful Capital Campaign for Ludlow Falls Camp. If you were unable to submit your pledge, it's not too late. Simply send in your pledge envelope to the district office or call in your pledge to Wendy at the office.

From Our Director of District Ministries



Tomb Sweeping Day

This April 5 marks the date of the special Chinese celebration

known as Qingming Festival, or Tomb Sweeping Day. I must admit that until recently I didn't know this important day even existed, but once a year people in China set aside a day to return to their home areas to take care of the graves of their deceased relatives. The day usually consists of "cleaning and tending to ancestral graves, pulling weeds and cleaning away dirt, as well as setting out offerings of food and spirit money."

Chinese tradition holds that the spirits of deceased ancestors look after the family from the afterlife. In appreciation, families leave them money, paper gifts which are burned to ashes to send them into the afterlife, as well as food. It's kind of a circle of life, with deceased relatives looking out for families, helping them prosper, in exchange for a little appreciation, some money and food. In America, I guess we sort of have our own Tomb Sweeping Day which we call Memorial Day, although maybe not to the extent that they do in China.



Regardless, it's a good reason for all the kids in school across China to get out for the day and fly kites, one of the Tomb Sweeping Day rituals.

Tomb Sweeping Day reminds me of a work detail organized long ago made up of several ladies who decided to commemorate their own Tomb Spring Cleaning in order to put the finishing touches on the burial of Jesus. Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and other ladies "took spices they had prepared and went to the tomb."

The only problem was that someone had already done their job for them. The stone at the entrance had been

rolled away, the tomb swept, the linens folded and the body removed! Who would do such a thing! Maybe a tomb-robber? How

would they get by the Roman guard? Could the guards themselves have done it? They were guarding the tomb with their lives. Would they really risk their lives to go against orders and rob the tomb, knowing it only held the body of Jesus? What about the disciples, who just a few days earlier, scattered out of fear. Did they form a detachment, overpower the Roman guards, and hide Jesus' body? That seems very unlikely and doesn't jive with the disciples' own surprise at

finding the tomb empty.

So what happened? Luke 24:1-12 gives us our answer. "While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: "The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" Then they remembered his words."

The tomb was empty and didn't need to be cleaned. So what do you think the ladies did next? Clean another tomb? Not exactly! They basically ran off in hysterics, but then after meeting up with Jesus personally, they went and told the good news to anyone who would listen, first to the Eleven, and then to any other follower of Jesus that they could find.

That "good news" is still true today. He has risen! And believe it or not, there are still millions who have not heard. Unfortunately, many Christians today live like the ladies on their way to the tomb. They are depressed and discouraged with no joy to their faith. And while they admit that Jesus did rise from *(Continued on page 5.)*

Oasis

A day of renewal, relaxation and rejuvenation for ladies of all ages

Saturday, April 9, 2011

**Please Note
New location!**

**Troy Christian Elementary School
[1586 McKaig Ave, Troy]
10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

Cost: \$10* person [*Includes entrance fee, lunch and speaker]

Several vendors will be available for you to order and purchase items such as Mary Kay, Scentsy, Children's Books, Tupperware and many more.

Guest Speaker: Julie Newman Vicena



Coming Events

- ✓ **April 9, 2011**
Oasis: A Woman's Day Away
Troy Christian Elementary School
- ✓ **April 9, 2011**
Youth Quizzing
First Missionary Church, Clyde
- ✓ **April 29, 2011**
District Conference
Swan Creek Community Ch, Delta
- ✓ **June 27-July 2, 2011**
Kid's Kamp
Ludlow Falls Camp
- ✓ **July 5-8, 2011**
General Conference
Dallas, Texas

Kid's Quiz Finals

Kid's Quizzing wrapped up its season with a round robin tournament held at Pleasant View Missionary Church, Saturday, March 19, 2011. Fifty quizzers forming nine teams participated in quizzing over Luke 12-24.

In Division A, St. Marys (19-2) won the league crown, with Pleasant View finishing second (13-8). The year end tournament came down to the final quiz

between these two teams with Pleasant View edging out the league champions, 150-120.

In Division B, Pleasant Grove (17-4) won the league crown, with Pleasant View and St. Marys tied for second with a 13-8 record. The year end tournament was also exciting with St. Marys going undefeated for the day.

Congratulations goes to our top quizzers for the year, Wesley

Schwind from St. Marys (Division A) with an 87.6 average per quiz and Mallory Wardle from Pleasant Grove (Division B) with an 98.5 average per quiz.

Congratulations also goes to our one-on-one tournament winners, Wesley Schwind, St. Marys (Division A) and Zach Meier, St. Marys (Division B).

Trophies were awarded for all top
(Continued on page 6.)

Tomb Sweeping Day *Continued from page 4*

the dead, their faith in him is dead, for James says in 2:17, "... faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

I understand the ladies' discouragement for they didn't know what had happened until they actually got to the tomb. But what is our

excuse? Why do we still live defeated lives? Why don't we act more like the ladies who after receiving the good news went and told anyone who would listen? Why aren't we telling everyone that He has risen!

I know that the Easter season is coming up the end of April,

but why wait until then to let people know that Jesus has risen! Why not celebrate Tomb Sweeping Day, April 5, in your own personal way, sweeping away the dust and dirt from a neglected faith, putting your spiritual house in order, and then by going out and letting the world know, "He has Risen!"

Keeping the Faith ~ Challenging Our Teens

The Youth Ministries Board hosted its 4th annual Keeping the Faith Retreat, March 4-6, 2011 at the Embassy Suites in Blue Ash, Ohio. Rev. Robert Brandt, Assistant Professor of Youth at Bethel College challenged high school teens from the district to own their faith and take steps to safeguard their faith once they leave home for college or the work place.

Robert spoke on topics such as *Why is it so Difficult to Keep the Faith?; How Can I Keep My Faith When I Have Failed?; Critical Issues You Must Settle as a*



Single Person; and What Will You Be Remembered For?

Workshops covering a variety of topics were also offered to teens. Pastor Justin Romine led the teens in times of worship.

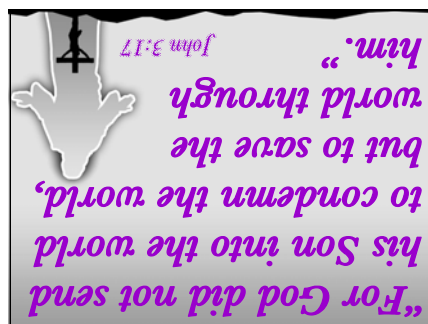
Besides the serious stuff, teens also enjoyed swimming in the indoor pool, socializing in the atrium areas and enjoyed pizza and snacks in the hospitality room set aside especially for them.

Plans are already underway for next year. It will be once again at the Embassy Suites. The exact dates have not yet been confirmed.

Quizzing *Continued from page 5*

quizzers (over 60 point per quiz average) and all-star quizzers (over 30 points per quiz average). Quizzers who faithfully participated throughout the entire season received a Bible Quiz medal. The day ended with everyone enjoying a pizza party together.

The 2011-2012 quiz season will begin in September with children studying the first half of the Book of Acts, chapters 1-12. If your church is interested in starting up a kid's quiz program, please let the district office know.



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