



Leader's Digest

An Event for the Whole Family

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME

@ pROGRESSIVE fIELD

Start Time: 12:05 pm

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Cost: \$10



Justin Masterson



vs.



To make reservations, call the district office at (937)339-0015 or email Jeff at jeffg@woh.rr.com.

Reservation Deadline: Monday, June 20, 2011

RENEW - Run, Walk, Soar!

There's still time for you to reserve a place at RENEW, July 21-24, 2011, but cottages and lodge rooms are quickly being gobbled up, so don't delay. Registration information for the SOAR youth camp, which runs concurrently, has



been sent out to our churches. This year we are privileged to have Rev. Mike Drury, Senior Pastor and Lead Teacher at Pine Hills Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana as our RENEW speaker. Mike's style is very relational, as he

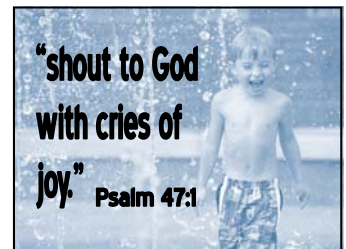
attempts to communicate God's truth in creative and culturally relevant ways.

Worship this year at RENEW will be led by Rev. Jerry Francis during the evening sessions and Dr. Jeff Kephart in the morning.

We are also excited (Continued on page 3.)

Inside this issue:

From Our District Superintendent	2
RENEW Camp	3
Camp Meeting	3
From Our Director of District Ministries	4
Coming Events	5
Youth Camps—SOAR & Journey	5
Kid's Kamp	5
Camp Meeting Contd.	6



Your District Team:

Rev. Dale Leinbach, District Superintendent
Email: dalel@ecdistrict.org

Rev. Jeff Gerig, Director of District Ministries
Email: jeffg@ecdistrict.org

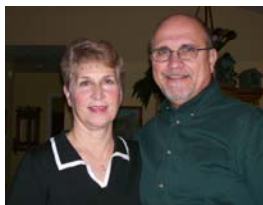
Mrs. Jean Gerig, Secretary
Email: jeang@ecdistrict.org

Mrs. Wendy Dyke, Financial Secretary
Email: wendyd@ecdistrict.org

District Office Information:
Phone: (937) 339-0015
Fax: (937) 339-1924

Website:
<http://www.ecdistrict.org>

From Our District Superintendent



I am Frustrated! Want to Know Why? (Part 2)

Last month I wrote about two of the general areas of life where I experience frustration: things and others (and that might include you.) Now in a little more personal mode I share my third area where I experience frustration: **ME!**

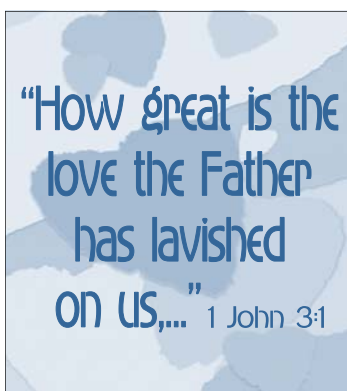
Yes, I become frustrated with me. I lose my patience when I have to wait in line because you forgot something. I lose my patience when I am in a hurry and have to stop for a train or a red light. Then I realize if I had left the house earlier I would not be so late and my impatience with you/ trains/stop lights would be a lot less and that frustrates me.

I become frustrated with me when I play golf, especially military golf. (One shot goes left, the next goes right, left, right, etc. on and on all day.) I become frustrated when I act like Tiger Woods and express my frustration (not anger) at the stupid ball, club, or playing partner, never at myself.

I become frustrated when I realize that my frustration with my children was because of my embarrassment over the fact they are not perfect. I wanted people to think I was the perfect parent. Then I realize my embarrassment was because of pride and that frustrates me even more. I won't list other

reasons I become frustrated; just thinking of them is frustrating!

My frustration with myself goes back to a misunderstanding of God's love. If I think I have to live to a certain level of perfection to be loved by God, I am in trouble. When I blow it (and I do) my frustration might be because I am afraid God won't love me the way I am acting. I still struggle with the performance mindset that has been so deeply ingrained into my thinking by the church for years and years.



Wayne Jacobsen in his book He Loves Me mentions the game played with daisy petals by a girl trying to discover if a boy really loves her "he loves me, he loves me not, he loves me, he loves me not." Jacobsen says we often play that game with God. If I get the raise, he loves me; if my child is sick, he loves me not. If a prayer is answered like I wanted, he loves me; if my car needs a new transmission, he loves me not. "Often in my pain and frustration, when I felt like I had done enough to deserve better, I would rail at God like the Job of old, accusing him of either being unfair or

unloving. In more honest moments, however, I was well aware of the temptations and failures that could exclude me from his care. I would come out of those times committed to trying harder to live the life I though would merit his love."¹

Jacobsen continues "...God has never acted toward us in any way other than with a depth of love that defies human understanding. I know it may not look like that at times...But perception is not necessarily reality. If we define God only in our limited interpretation of our own circumstances, we will never discover who he really is."

And he really hit me and my performance mentality when he writes, "So perhaps it's time to toss your daisies aside and discover that it is not the fear of losing God's love that will keep you on his path, but the simple joy of living in it every day."²

I am God's child. We know the words of 1 John 3:1 (NIV) "*How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!*" I am not a perfect child, but a child he loves nonetheless. Do I/we believe this?

If/when I can truly believe that God loves me "just as I am" life will definitely change for me – and those around me. Jesus loves me, this I know, no matter what the daisy petals may say.

¹Jacobsen, *He Loves Me*, p. 19

²Ibid, p. 21-22

RENEW *Continued from page 1*

to have Pastor Jon Bruney, professional strongman as well as Missionary Church pastor, confirmed to



perform feats of strength on our tabernacle stage, Friday, July 22. On Saturday, July 23, kids will enjoy fun

and games on the ball field as the camp hosts it's annual Family Fun Carnival at 2:00 pm.



Camp Meeting

This year, Ludlow Falls Camp celebrates it's 126th Annual Camp Meeting, July 30-August 7, 2011. While we've traded in our tents for cottages and straw tics for beds with mattresses, the Gospel message remains the same. While every cottage and lodge room is currently spoken for, we do hope many will be able to come down for a day or two.

Speakers

Rev. Stephen Manley, itinerant evangelist with Cross Style Global Ministries, returns to Ludlow Falls Camp for a third stint at camp speaker, sharing the preaching responsibilities with Rev. Steve Jones, District Superintendent for the Central District of the Missionary Church.

Worship

Worship this year will again

be a team effort. Carl White, who served as worship leader for Avalon Missionary Church in Fort Wayne will lead our evening services, with Crista Heindel, worship leader at Grace Missionary Church in Celina, leading us during the weekday morning Bible studies.



We are also pleased to have PROV3RB5, a men's vocal ensemble from Bethel College, with us throughout the second half of Camp Meeting. Getting its name from Proverbs 3:5, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding," the group seeks to serve Christ

through music while reflecting the diversity of the Christian community.

Special Guests

A number of special events have been planned for everyone to enjoy.

On **Sunday, July 31**, at 2:00 pm in the Tabernacle, the Fort Wayne Alumni & Friends Resource Center will host a Seniors Extravaganza, celebrating the history of the Missionary Church through song, testimony and video, with refreshments to follow.

Rod Snow will entertain the young and old alike in the Tabernacle with his comedy, ventriloquism, magic and chalk art on **Monday, August 1**, at 1:30 pm. Rod is a frequent guest at Ludlow Falls and never fails to entertain.

(Continued on page 6.)

From Our Director of District Ministries



Fishing: A Humbling Experience

Do you think when Solomon wrote Proverbs 3:34, "God mocks proud mockers, but gives grace to the humble," he had fishing in mind? Fishing to me is the great equalizer. It's also the great humbler. You can put the best lure or juiciest worm on your pole, but it's up to the fish if it wants to take the bait or swim on to find something better on someone else's rod.

It's been nearly twenty years now, but while on vacation in Florida, Jean and I decided to try our hand at some deep-sea fishing in the Gulf of Mexico. With the help of sonar, the boat took us over a school of fish and then told us to start fishing. Out of a boat of approximately fifty people, guess who caught the largest fish of the day? Jean! She caught a big old grouper which was enjoyed later.

A few years back, the Winston-Salem Journal reported, *North Carolina Man Makes Record Catch With Barbie Fishing Rod*. "David Hayes was fishing with his granddaughter in a pond behind his house when she asked him to hold her Barbie fishing rod while she went to the bathroom. The rest is North Carolina sports history. Hayes took the fishing rod and seconds later the toy hooked a state-record channel catfish, at 21 pounds, 1 ounce.

I was pretty sure I was going to lose it. I was hoping I would

hang on to it long enough for Alyssa to see it. When she did, she squealed so much it took off on its last run.' The catfish gave up after about a half hour, allowing Hayes to scoop the fish into a net.

Alyssa's father had bought the pink Barbie fishing rod for Christmas. On this early August day, she had caught a few fish before she went to the bathroom, but nothing like the catfish. When she came back, the pond water looked like it was boiling and she told her grandfather, 'Papa, you're going to break my fishing rod.'

In response he told her, 'Wait until you see what I've got on the other end of this rod.'

A few years ago, Jean's parents came for a visit and Grandpa Ayabe decided to take Jenna fishing. She was about five years old at the time and had one of



those same Barbie fishing rods. Grandpa showed her how to hold the pole and cast the line and about five minutes later he brought in a small fish. Grandpa never caught another fish that day, but Jenna hauled in six. At least one person enjoyed fishing that day.

Now besides the obvious point that if you love to fish you need to get a hold of one of those Barbie fishing rods, the Bible draws many spiritual parallels to fishing. The disciples loved to fish. Most of them earned their livelihood by fishing, but often they too were humbled, spending



the entire night on the lake, catching nothing. Maybe they had the Fisherman's Curse of Isaiah 19:8 in the back of their minds, *"The fishermen will groan and lament, all who cast hooks into the Nile; those who throw nets on the water will pine away."*

Jesus changed the disciples priorities in an instant when He challenged them with the words, *"Come, follow me and I will make you fishers of men."* Mark tells us that *"at once, they left their nets and followed him."* Mark 1:17-18.

While fishing for fish is a nice diversion from life's busy pace, for the Christian, fishing for men is our life calling. Volumes have been written on how to fish for fish. I went online to look for some basic fishing tips for beginners. Surprisingly, many of them could also be applied to fishing for men. Here's the Top 10 Fishing Tips for Beginners by Bleacher Report.

1. *Do your research.* Before you begin fishing for men, have some idea of what you are doing and why you are doing it.
2. *Understand the basic procedures.* Learn how to relate to the non Christian in their world and how to best interject Christ into the discussion.
3. *Choose the right equipment for you.* The Four Spiritual Laws, the Roman's Road, the Bridge, the Wordless Book. What tool works best for you in sharing the Gospel?
4. *The bait is the main course of fishing.* While I don't like the picture of Christians dangling Christ in front of people as bait, I do think our testimony, *(Continued on page 5.)*



SOAR
July 21-24, 2011
Youth Camp
(During RENEW)



SPEAKER: BRAD Bullock
SOAR DIRECTOR: ERIC DUNAWAY
COST: \$65*

*REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Friday, July 1, 2011

YOUTH CAMP
DURING CAMP MEETING



JOURNEY
LUDLOW FALLS CAMP

JULY 30-AUGUST 6, 2011
COST: \$130*



SPEAKER:
JEREMIAH BOLICH

*REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JULY 6, 2011

for children completing grades 3-6

Kid's Kamp

June 27-July 2, 2011
Ludlow Falls Camp
Cost: \$150*

Speakers: Marc & Debbie Hamman

*Late registration is due by June 21, 2011.



Coming Events



- ✓ **June 27-July 2, 2011**
Kid's Kamp
Ludlow Falls Camp
- ✓ **July 5-8, 2011**
General Conference
Dallas, Texas
- ✓ **July 21-24, 2011**
RENEW Camp
Ludlow Falls Camp
- ✓ **July 21-24, 2011**
SOAR
Ludlow Falls Camp
- ✓ **July 30-August 7, 2011**
Camp Meeting
Ludlow Falls Camp
- ✓ **July 30-August 6, 2011**
Journey
Ludlow Falls Camp
- ✓ **October 14-15, 2011**
Women's Fall Retreat
Hope Hotel in Fairborn

Fishing *Continued from page 4*

- how we live our lives, does serve as bait. Paul calls it the aroma of Christ. 2 Cor. 2.
5. *Location, location, location.* It shouldn't need saying, but if one is going to fish for fish or for men, one must go to where the fish or people live.
6. *Check the weather.* When fishing for men, make sure the environment is conducive to discussing spiritual matters.
7. *Bring food.* I like this one. Often times discussions over food helps break down communication barriers. In my case, I just like to eat.
8. *Dress for success.* Your external appearance should support the importance of the message you are attempting to deliver.
9. *Bug Spray!* I take this to

- mean, keep the distractions to a minimum. Nothing is worse than trying to have a serious discussion with continued interruptions.
10. *No Children, No Worries.* Some might see this the same as Bug Spray, keeping the pests away, but I think the idea has more to setting aside the worries of the day, so one is free to provide the time necessary to have a meaningful discussion.

I haven't fished for fish for a couple of years. Why should I when I've got a wife and a daughter who put me to shame. The bigger question is this, "When was the last time I fished for men?" It's not as often as I would like, but Jean and I do

have some "fishing holes" around our neighborhood where we try to inject our faith into conversation. We hope, one day, to reel in a neighbor for Christ. When was the last time you went fishing for people? Do you have an unsaved pool in which to fish?

Remember we fish for men, but God is the one through His Holy Spirit that causes that soul to respond to the lure of Christ's love. Fishing for men is also the great humbler, because while we have tips that help us be successful, it's really nothing we do that puts that fish on the hook. It's a God thing. People respond, and we simply reel in what God has hooked. And don't forget to get one of those Barbie rods.

Camp Meeting *Continued from page 3*

On **Thursday, August 4**, at precisely 1:30 pm the Tabernacle will be invaded by reptiles and amphibians, as Peter Rushton, P.T. Reptiles, visits the camp to share his animals with the boys and girls.

Peter is very gifted and knowledgeable, sharing information about each animal as children have the

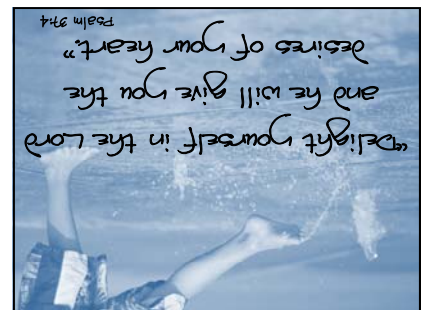


opportunity to interact with them.

This year's Family Fun Carnival will be held the last Saturday of camp, **August 6**, on the ball field beginning at 2:00 pm. As always, the fun and games will not be limited to the kids.

We invite you to take advantage of the ministry of

Ludlow Falls Camp by attending RENEW, July 21-24, 2011 and Camp Meeting, July 30-August 7, 2011. They will be special times that make memories for the entire family.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 325
Non-Profit
Organization
Troy, Ohio

The Missionary Church
East Central District
607 South Market Street
Troy, Ohio 45373-3334

