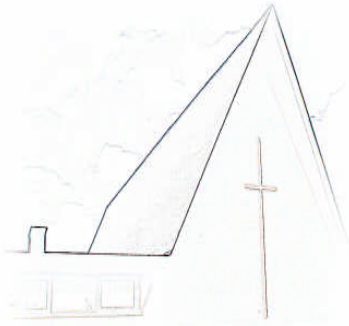


Connections



Cornerstone Church of God Monthly Newsletter

Challenging Our "Instant" Living



By Pastor Gene Blair

On a recent trip to GNC looking for vitamin supplements, I came across an intriguing packet called "Maximum Greens". In one little packet was over 26 nutrient superfoods that translated into six servings of vegetables. Simply mix with eight ounces of water or other choice of beverage.

I thought that this might be the perfect snack during the day. I'll feed my hunger pains with a healthy vegetable tonic—perfect. So I bought a couple of individual packets to try it out.

My first time trying my powdered vegetables was—interesting. The dark green powder looked like Kool-Aid, but after mixing it up it looked more like swamp water. I bet you

figured this out by now, it tasted like swamp water too. As I drank this concoction, I understood with crystal clarity why the item was on sale, it was horrific—but healthy.

Sometimes I have to laugh at myself, I am always looking for a shortcut to reach a goal. I recently bought an audio course to refresh my Spanish while driving around in my car. Guess what it's called, "Instant Spanish". Es bueno? Si'.

I think in part it is our "microwave mentality" of our culture. We want things like -right now. But the truth is would you rather have a baked potato from 3 minutes in a microwave or from 3 hours in an oven. I prefer the later, there is no comparison.

In regards to spiritual matters, there is no instant spiritual health or growth. It is a process of developing an intimate relationship with God through the practice of spiritual disciplines like prayer, study, meditation, etc. . . . It is a process of allowing God's Spirit to transform our attitudes, desires, and urges into a lifestyle that glorifies God. It is the process of becoming aware of God's presence moment to moment throughout the day. Our salvation begins the **instant** we put our trust in the Risen Christ, but our spiritual health or as "old school" Christians would say holiness is an on-going progression. When you think about it makes sense. God is not shaping us for this "instant" or temporal world but is shaping us for eternity.

Inside this issue:

Calendar	2
Book Review	3
Youth News	3
WCG News	3
Sermon Series	4

Dates to Remember

- 5/2—Kidz Night 6:30 pm
- 5/3- Life Line Screening 9 am—3 pm
- 5/7- Leadership Meeting 7 pm
- 5/9—God Squad 6:30 pm
- 5/12—Youth Concert @ the Underground; meeting at the church 6 pm
- 5/13—Reception for Bethany @ the Cookston's 3—7 pm
- 5/16- Family Night 6:30 pm
- 5/19—Senior Moments Picnic 4:00 pm
- 5/23-F.I.T. Class 7 pm

Paving the Way to the Future



As we begin this capital campaign, there is a buzz of excitement as our congregation takes this important step of faith. As we work together, each person contributing as they can, God will be doing something greater than simply repaving a parking lot, he will be building His church.

This anonymous quote speaks










to a great truth,

"What you are becoming is more important than what you are accomplishing".

God is building a future vision for our ministry by enlarging our hearts and strengthening our unity. This capital campaign is simply an opportunity to release our faith.

If you have already made a pledge—thank you for your faithfulness and obedience. If you are still considering a pledge, don't miss this opportunity for a blessing. It is not the size of the gift that matters, but our obedience. Every gift makes a difference, and we will trust God to bless and multiply these gifts in reaching our goal.

May 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1  <i>Happy Birthday, Rhoda Russell!</i>	2 6:30 p.m. Kidz Night	3  National Day of Prayer	4  <i>Happy Birthday, Lindsey Fox!</i>	5
6 Sunday Services Cell groups	7 7:00 p.m. Leadership Meeting	8 7:00 p.m. Senior Moments Meeting	9  <i>Happy Birthday, Katie Mercer!</i> 6:30 p.m. Youth Night	10	11	12  <i>Happy Birthday, Brooke Warning!</i> 6:00 p.m. Youth Concert
13 Sunday Services Cell groups  3 to 7 p.m. Reception for Bethany	14	15	16 6:30 p.m. Family Night	17	18	19 4:00 p.m. Senior Moment's Picnic
20 Sunday Services Cell groups  <i>Happy Birthday, Natalie Browning!</i>	21	22	23 7:00 p.m. F. I. T. Class	24	25  <i>Happy Birthday, Michael Warning!</i>	26
27 Sunday Services Cell groups	28  Memorial Day	29	30	31		

Fantasy and Your Family—Richard Abanes

OK, I admit it, I am a huge Harry Potter fan. I can't wait for the last book, and the fifth movie (Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix) to come out in July. I am also a big fan of the Lord of the Rings trilogy. As a matter of fact when Return of the King came out at the movies I was 8 months pregnant with Hannah and I was determined not to miss out on any of the movie (3 hours in length), so I didn't drink any fluids at all that day before viewing (I was tap dancing by the end of the movie, but I made my goal)!

This leads me to the book review of the month, Fantasy and your Family was written by Ricard Abanes. His aim in writ-

ing is four fold. First, the explanation of fantasy and its roots IE: fantasy is the distant relative of fairy tales. He also explains why it is so important for parents to be involved in their child's reading, and how fantasy is impressionable on a child's mind vs. an adult mature mind. He also differentiates "magic" and "magick". "Magic without a k- the kind found in most fantasy books and fairy tales- is imaginary....magick operates in a real way in our real world.....Today, however, there is an increase in blending through fantasy of magick with magic; reality with alternate reality." Part two and three Abanes compares and contrast

JRR Tolkien the Lord of the Rings trilogy with JK Rowling's Harry Potter series. Part four is given to debates, disputes, and decisions on the Lord of the Rings, but specifically more to Harry Potter. Abanes' bias is very clear, he does not think it appropriate for children and teenage consumption; my bias is also very clear from the beginning of the article, so you must choose what is right for your family.

Now, are you wondering if Abanes' arguments won me over to reject Harry Potter? Well, if you are not I am going to tell you anyway. :) Abanes made *(Continued on back page)*

Jody Fain is our featured contributor. Look for her book reviews each month.



Congratulations Bethany Cookston!

Bethany is graduating from Medical School this month. Her reception is May 13th at the Cookstons.

The God Squad (Youth)

Youth Council—This past month we had our very first Youth Council Meeting. Youth Council exists to allow our youth to take a vested interest in the ministry through leadership, organization, planning and simply greater involvement. Youth council officers include: Sarah Mercer, Natalie

Browning, Kayla Blair, Katie Mercer and Kasey Carpenter. Our Council advisors include Kirsten Miller and Cory and Rebekah Cookston.

Superchick Concert at the Underground— May 12th, is the date for this much anticipated concert. Those who are interested in going need to let us know immediately,

tickets won't last. The tickets are \$13 per person.

Dead Serious—This musical drama will be at Scott High School on May 19th and 20th. We are one of the sponsoring churches in Northern Kentucky. This is a must see for any youth. The cost per person is \$7.



WCG (Women of the Church of God) News

Hope Hill Children's Home—the WCG are currently collecting needed items such as composition books, journals, folders, binders, new pillows, scrapbook supplies, stationery, craft supplies, disposable cameras and boots for the barn. This collection will run through **August 1st**.

Child of Promise— the WCG has a new child that they are

sponsoring—**Angelito** who is ten years old. Look for his information on the bulletin board and how you can get involved.

Spiritual Birthday Offering- May 20th is our date for this special offering that goes toward missions as we celebrate the day we became Christians.

Miles for Meals—We are al-

ways looking for contacts at companies and local businesses as we look for sponsors for our 5k event that can underwrite any expenses or donate materials toward the event. If you have any contacts pass them along to Angie Walthers-Lumpp.

Recycling—Remember to bring your paper trash for our bin!

Senior Moments

This group of seniors are having a great time. Last month they went to the Air Force Museum. This month they are having a picnic on May 19th. Make sure to sign up and join the fun! [See Bob Miles for details.]

(continued from page 3)

Cornerstone Church of God

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“Impacting people's lives with the love of Christ.”

We're on the WEB: cchog.org

some very enlightening comments on society's fascination with the occult, neopagans and wiccans and how easy it is for children to obtain such information. For example: Scholastic, the publisher for the Harry Potter series, has a web site called "kidsfunonline". This has direct links that will take you (or your child) to a web site for wicca and learn how to cast "real spells". Abanes also links some real magick to the Harry Potter books with quotes from known practicing neopagans. The quotes from the occultist were pleased with the outcome of the books and JK Rowlings has done her homework to have such extensive knowledge of the craft. (should we trust these people?) None of the sources gave specific examples from the books. Consequently, Abanes and I disagree on some points of magic and magick used in Lord of the Rings trilogy and the Harry Potter series. One thing is for sure, if you are comparing a treasured classic fantasy like Lord of the Rings to a Pop culture icon like the Harry Potter series the classic will always win. Abanes has some valuable warning to give concerned parents, but is he making a mountain out of a mole hill, throwing the baby out with the bathwater or is the warning more dire? This is for you to decide...you know yourself, and more importantly your children the best.

(Review by Jody Fain)

Sermon Series: Spiritual Core Values

Why are values important? Because they answer the question, Why do we do what we do? Values are the core beliefs that determine our actions and drive our lives. For Christians, spiritual core values define who we are as Christ-Followers. Over the next couple of months we will be exploring some of these core values at a personal level and as a congregation.



August 22nd

“Building on the Foundation of Christ”

(Matthew 7:24-28)

August 29th

“Unity without Uniformity”

(Ephesians 4:1-16)

May 6

**The Christian Life of Purity—
A New Set Of Clothes**

(Ephesians 4:17-5:4)

May 13th

Mother's Day Message

May 20th

**The Christian Community—
Life Together**

(Acts 4:32-35)

May 27th

**The Glory of the New
Covenant—Freedom**

(2 Corinthians 3:7-18)

DVD Recordings—If you miss a Sunday, you don't have to miss out. To request a DVD, see Carol Kittle, Church Secretary. Our special thanks to Chip Kittle who records and puts together the DVD's.

Service & Meeting Times:

- **Sunday Worship**—10:45 am
- **Sunday School**—9:45 am
- **Sunday Small Groups**—6:00 pm
- **Wednesday Ladies Bible Study**—10:30 am