

Journey News

A publication of Journey Church of Clinton, Iowa



PRAYER

BY SENIOR PASTOR TOM LOYOLA

What a privilege believers in Jesus have! We can come boldly to the very throne of God to make our requests! In Jesus, and through faith in Him, we can approach God with freedom and confidence. (See Hebrews 4:16 and Ephesians 3:12.)

God tells us in the Bible that He sends His Holy Spirit into the hearts of believers to help us pray. When we don't know what to pray for, the Holy Spirit helps us and intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words (Romans 8:26). He also moves us to address God the Father as "Abba" (Galatians 4:6). "Abba" is an Aramaic term for "Father" that is similar to our "Daddy" or "Papa." For the Holy Spirit to urge us to call God "Abba" means that through Jesus we have a personal, close, and affectionate relationship with the Creator and Ruler of the whole universe! Amazing!!

Have you spoken in this way to God yet? If not, give it a try! During your personal prayer time, address God as "Abba" or "Dad" or "Papa." Of course, by using such a familiar term, we do not want to lose any respect for God; we do not want in any way to disrespect God. Rather, as one brother

in Christ put it, we want to relate to God with familiar respect. Or, we might say, we want to relate to God with respectful familiarity. This is a high privilege our Lord Jesus Christ has provided for us through His life, death, and resurrection.

In fact, I encourage you to actually say "Abba" out loud. Now an important first step in that direction is saying your private, personal prayers to God out loud. If you have never done that, give it a try! When God led me to begin praying out loud during my private prayer time, my prayers were transformed. All of a sudden they became more concrete. I didn't just direct vague thoughts to God; I was putting those thoughts into specific words.

Praying out loud also made the personal nature of my relationship with God seem more real to me. Please understand: ever since the night God saved me in 1976, my relationship with Him was real. However, my sense of that reality heightened through praying out loud. When I pray out loud, it is like talking to another person in the room ... *continued on page 2*

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EVENTS CALENDAR

August

- Life Groups on break*
- Sunday School on break*
- 4 Communion Sunday
- 10 Men's Fellowship Event
- 17 Six Flags Trip—Students
- 18 Fall Parent Meeting
- 25 Life Group Leaders Luncheon
- Move Up Party—Students

September Snapshot

- 1 Communion
- 2 Church is Closed; Labor Day
- 8 Life Groups Resume
- Sunday School Resumes
- Lunch with the Eipperle Family
- 9 Journey Vision & Name 1 Year
- 26 See You at the Pole—Students
- 29 Membership Lunch & Class

For a day-to-day calendar go to JourneyClinton.org/calendar

PRAYER continued

... because I am talking to another person in the room! God is a real Person and He is present. He is not far away somewhere “out there.” Through Christ I am in God (see Colossians 3:3) and God is in me (see 1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19). God is closer to me than any other person could ever be! Can I say again, “Amazing!!”?

And once you have taken that step of praying out loud by yourself, then take the step I mentioned earlier and address God, out loud, as “Abba” or “Daddy” or “Papa” ... with the respect He is due. This is what I am doing in my prayer times. As I pray to Abba, one thing I am asking Him is that He would help me to better grasp His love for me. I am asking Him to help me *experience* His love in a deeper way, in a way that powerfully impacts me. Would you like to join me in making that request of God?

We learn from the Bible that asking God to help us grasp His love is a good and right thing to pray for. How so? Because we have record of the Apostle Paul praying for this very thing for the Ephesian believers. He asked “that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God” (Ephesians 3:16-19).

Notice that not only does Paul pray for them to comprehend God’s love, he also prays for the *strength* and *power* to be able to grasp the love of Christ. We cannot know and experience God’s love on our own, through our own effort. We need divine enablement. We need God’s Holy Spirit to enable us to grasp God’s love for us. Why? Because, as verse 19 says, the love of Christ “surpasses knowledge.” His love is so wondrous, so amazing that without God’s help there is no way in our weak humanity that we can know it.

And if God grants us our request to experience His love more, we will be changed. We will be transformed. We will “be filled to all the fullness of God.” May God do that for us.

CELEBRATE OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Happy Birthday!

- 1 Pete Hinrichsen
- 2 Breton Williams
Scott Smith
- 4 Joe Haan
- 6 Elijah Eslick
Gary Fier
Jennifer Boyson
- 9 Patricia McClung
- 10 Ben Logan
- 12 Isaac Decker
- 13 Kinzie Gordon
- 18 Linda Gordon
- 19 Marcia Duval
- 23 Jeff Eggers
- 24 Linda Cornelius
- 25 Linda Puckett

- 26 Kyle Norman
Mike Ketelsen
- 27 Monis Ramnath
- 28 Carolyn Livingston
- 30 Kate Foster
Benjamin Brown
- 31 Rose Johnson

- 8 Daryl & Wendy Yoder
- 13 Brad & Cheri Hirl
- 18 Eric & Kristin Brown
- 19 Jerry & Joyce Duey
- 22 Dan & Kathy Liedtke
- 28 David & Carolyn Livingston
- 29 Russ & Deb Damhoff

Happy Anniversary!

- 2 Wayne & Jenny Gordon
Kevin & Rachel Hansen
Tom & Sue Ann Loyola
Earl & Jeannie McBride
- 4 Chris & Becky Pluister
- 5 Samuel & Corrine Sheets
- 6 Jaryd & Tiffany Prince
Josh & Anna Traverse



MEGA
SPORTS CAMP®
AND ART!



SUMMER CAMP

BY DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY JOY LOWER

Summer Camp: five days, tons of kids, amazing volunteers, extreme heat, lots of fun, and children hearing the Good News of salvation in Jesus for the very first time!

This year at Summer Camp the kids got to choose from four different sports (archery, basketball, soccer, and volleyball) or art. We also had our "Junior High Extreme" group which got to play different crazy games each night. The kids played hard, but they still had plenty of energy for the opening and closing rallies! I think one of my favorite parts of the whole week was during the Closing Rally on Friday night. The kids were invited to join the Music Leaders up on stage to belt out their favorite songs, and what began as a few brave souls on Monday became nearly 100 kids on the platform by Friday, singing praises to our God! Thursday evening we focused on the Gospel, and after hearing about our need for a Savior and Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf, the children had the opportunity to connect with their Huddle Coach and pray to trust Jesus for salvation. We had at least five children put their trust in Jesus that night, and countless more seeds planted! *continued on page 4*

SUMMER CAMP continued



So many of you gave *so* much to make this special week happen for these kids. You prayed. You gave of your time, talents, and love. You donated supplies and planned practices and led drills. You cooked and served food and stayed to clean up afterward. You welcomed families and kids with a smile and warmth, even the kids who had you pulling out your hair by the end of the evening! You all make it possible, and with God's help, lives are changed. One little girl from our church

brought her friend; the girl's mom told me that the friend's family "doesn't do God" and she was quite surprised that the friend was even given permission to come to Summer Camp. Another evening I got to have an extended conversation with a mom who had brought her two boys; she grew up in church but confessed that since having children, she hasn't made it a priority for her family. She wants to find a church home and is very interested in returning to Journey on a Sunday morning. These are just a few of the stories, and I'm sure every camp volunteer could tell more. By God's grace, we get the opportunity to invest in these lives! Praise God!!



M&Ms—50's & Up

August 15 • 11:30 am-1:00 pm • Fellowship Hall

Come enjoy a potluck lunch and time together!

Journey Students Six Flags Trip

August 17th \$45 a ticket

See Nathan Johnson for more information





Missionary Focus

Josh and Jen Duey,

missionaries with Cru, work on the college campuses in the Minnesota Twin Cities area. Josh, after graduating from Clinton High attended UNI. There he was active in the college ministry of Cru. Not only was attending Cru beneficial in his spiritual growth, it was there he met Jen. They married, joined Cru staff and have been serving with Cru the past 16 years. They are motivated to spend time and energy with students because they believe that college students are the future leaders of our world, nation, communities, families and churches. Students sold out for Jesus Christ mature under the influence of Cru staff, co-leaders and activities. As an organization, the commitment is to bring attention to Jesus Christ so that one day everyone might know someone who truly follows Him.

However, as our culture changes so have the expectation and involvement of college students. Current statistics result in potential concern for Christian families:

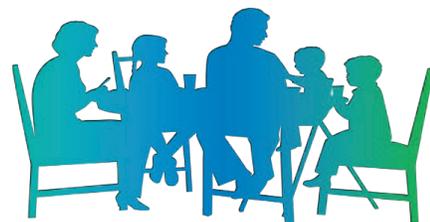
- Three out of every four Christian students who attend a public university fall away from their faith in less than one semester <http://thebasicsite.org/start-chapter/>
- There is a trend for twenty-somethings to disengage from the church; they are less likely than any other age group to believe “a person’s faith in God is meant to be developed by involvement in a local church” <http://thebasicsite.org/start-chapter/>
- “Colleges and universities are magnets for extreme beliefs, ideologies and cults,” J. Budiszewski, author of *How to Stay Christian in College*
- “From the moment students set foot on the contemporary campus, their Christian convictions and disciplines are assaulted.” Budiszewski

Cru, established in 1951 as Campus Crusade for Christ on UCLA campus, has a well-developed focus offering college students opportunity to develop other Christian friends, take part in leadership roles, build confidence in evangelism and discipleship, attend church, bible studies and have fun together. The number one safe guard to one’s faith on college campuses is to be intentional about making Christian friends according to Budiszewski. He states that a student who seeks other Christians will probably keep his faith—and grow.

Outreach activities have resulted in many new followers of Jesus. Statistics also show encouragement for evangelistic opportunities. Cru is dedicated to be innovators in evangelism as well as discipleship.

- There are approximately 700,000 international students studying in the United States, and over half are from the 10/40 window
- College students are more likely than other age groups to be searching for truth and the meaning of life.
- Only 10% of Christians come to Christ after the age of 25, so there is the opportunity to reach people before they “write off religion” <http://thebasicsite.org/start-chapter/>

Josh and Jen, with Aubrey and Alex, will be visiting Journey Church **Sunday, August 11**. There will be a **lunch following the worship service** for all to hear from them on how God is working on their campuses and in their lives. Please **RSVP** at the Connection Point or on the Connection Card in order to plan plenty of food. A free will donation will be appreciated.



'Overcomer' Leads August's Family-Friendly Spotlight

BY MICHAEL FOUST



I admit it. I cried during the first Kendrick Brothers movie I watched: the marriage-themed *Fireproof* (2008). I did the same during *Courageous* (2011), which spotlighted fatherhood, and *War Room* (2015), which focused on prayer.

And, yes, I cried again while watching a screener of their latest film, *Overcomer*, which opens in theaters Aug. 23 and follows the story of a basketball coach and a high school cross country athlete who are searching for their identity in life.

Alex and Stephen Kendrick -- the filmmaking duo behind these popular faith-based films -- are skilled at weaving an emotional-laden story with biblical truth.

Sure, they want to entertain you, but they're more concerned with your heart. They want to convict you with the gospel. They want you to walk away from the movie with a desire to become more like Christ. *That's* why many of us cry during these films.

Overcomer (PG) follows the story of John Harrison (Alex Kendrick), a coach whose team is expected to contend for the state title. But when a local company closes -- forcing families to move elsewhere looking for work -- he loses his best players. He also loses his identity as a successful basketball coach. John is then forced to coach the cross-country team, which consists of one girl named Hannah (Aryn Wright-Thompson) who also is searching for her identity and purpose. She grew up without a father. *Overcomer* also stars Priscilla Shirer (*War Room*) as the principal and Shari Rigby as John's wife, Amy.

Overcomer asks the question: What do you allow to define you?

A Christian's identity, the Kendricks say, mustn't be found in their work, hobbies or family, but in Christ.

"Even though we call ourselves Christians, we still tend to put our primary identity in our job," Alex Kendrick told me.

Said Stephen Kendrick, "If we don't know who we are in Christ, we will be devastated rather than just disappointed when trials come."

"It's like sending somebody out on a football field and they don't know what team they are on or what position they're playing," Stephen Kendrick said. "They're failing perpetually and frustrating everybody else because they don't know who they are in Christ."

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AUGUST'S FAMILY-FRIENDLY SPOTLIGHT continued

It is the Kendricks' sixth film and their first since *War Room*, which climbed to No. 1 nationwide on its second weekend.

A No. 1 showing at the box office may be a tall task for *Overcomer* because of the competition: The R-rated *Angel Has Fallen*, which opens the same weekend as *Overcomer*, is predicted by Box Office Pro to make around \$17 million its first weekend. (*War Room* was No. 1 with \$9.5 million.)

But Kendrick films always seem to surprise us.

Overcomer is rated PG for some thematic elements.

Visit OvercomerMovie.com.



Also worth watching this month:

'Unplanned' -- It's the film about Abby Johnson, the former Planned Parenthood clinic director who became pro-life after assisting with an abortion. *Unplanned* releases on DVD and Blu-ray Aug. 13. It was rated R but should have been PG-13. Yes, the film shows an abortion on an ultrasound, but that's the only scene in the film involving an actual abortion. The rest of the film follows Johnson's story. Still, this film isn't for children. It's disturbing and includes minor language.

'Tolkien' -- It's the biopic about J.R.R. Tolkien, the author of *The Lord of the Rings*. *Tolkien* is a fascinating peek into the life of the famous author, although it doesn't touch on his faith. It's rated PG-13 for some sequences of war violence and is probably best for tweens and up. *Tolkien* releases on DVD and Blu-ray Aug. 6. It debuted on digital platforms in July.

'Secret Life of Pets 2' -- Don't believe the critics. This animated film was better than its predecessor, and it includes a great pro-family message about children. It releases on digital platforms Aug. 13 and DVD and Blu-ray Aug. 27. Rated PG for some action and rude humor. (It also includes one unnecessary instance of "p-ssed.")

'Buddy Davis Amazing Adventures' -- It's an adventurous nature-centric children's program with a biblical worldview. Buddy Davis goes on a dinosaur dig, visits the everglades, goes caving and explores Alaska and glaciers in this Answers in Genesis series. It's now on Pureflix.com.

Michael Foust is the husband of an amazing wife (Julie) and the father of four small children. He has covered the intersection of entertainment and faith for 15 years.



Operation Christmas Child

The Missions Leadership Team will once again gather shoe box gifts for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. The kick-off will begin and boxes will be available in October, but right now school supplies are on sale; and as you purchase items for your children it would be a good time to pick up items for your boxes. Last year almost 2000 shoe boxes were received in Clinton with Journey Church contributing 126 of that amount. How about a goal of at least 140 this year?



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“FORMING *Followers* OF *Jesus* WHO IMPACT THEIR *World*”

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