

MCA CONNECTION

Mission Moment

The Mast Family

The Mast family has lived in Thailand since 2006. Tom and Candice are the leaders of the RMM team there. They give direction to the team's activities, help take care of the workers' physical and spiritual needs, and with the rest of the team are involved in friendship evangelism and mentoring new believers. They also teach English classes and serve as outreach coordinators for the Thailand REACH teams. Candice is in charge of member care for missionaries in the Asia Region, working to take care of their needs and looking out for their physical, spiritual and emotional well-being.

In June our own Rhonda Mullet (daughter of Paul and Cindy Mullet) will be moving to Thailand to live and work with the Mast family. She will be



Tom, Candice, Claire, Eliza and Silas

there for a term of 1 year and is looking forward to her return trip to Thailand.

Tom Mast will be the guest speaker at MCA on April 15th. This is a great opportunity for you to meet

the Mast family and see first hand who Rhonda will be working with in Thailand. Please pray for Rhonda and the Mast family as they minister to the people in Thailand.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

- Easter Service (8th)
- Youth Fundraiser (15th)
- Elder Retreat (29th)

MAY

- Red Cross at MCA (2nd)
- Hoffnung at MCA (9th)
- Seize The Summer 2012 (29th)

JUNE

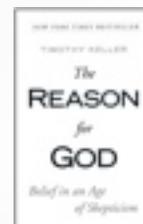
- Vacation Bible School (10th)
- Kentucky Mission Trip (24th)

PASTOR'S PICKS....

Looking for something to read or listen to? Check out Jeremy and Jeff's top picks.

The Reason for God
by Timothy Keller

All Sons & Daughters:
Season One



Family Spotlight

The Mark and Heidi George Family



Mark, Heidi, Carter and Makenzie

Mark and Heidi George live near Holmesville with their two children Carter and Makenzie. Heidi is the daughter of Steve and RuthAnn Schlabach and she has been attending MCA since the church started. Mark grew up in the Canton area and started attending MCA when he and Heidi started dating.

Even though Mark and Heidi both grew up in Ohio they had to leave the state before they would meet and become a couple. They both relocated to Lexington Kentucky where they attended Asbury College. While attending Asbury they were introduced and became friends. Ultimately their friendship turned into dating and in 2006 they were married. After graduating they continued to live in Lexington while Heidi attended the

University of Kentucky finishing her nursing degree. In 2009 Carter was born and so the George's returned to Ohio as a family and have lived in the Wayne/Holmes County area since that time.

Mark is a teacher in the Newcomerstown School District and he also coaches Freshman Basketball. Heidi is a Registered Nurse on the Progressive Care Unit at Wooster Hospital.

Heidi equates their family to a family of ants because they are never sitting still. Their favorite activities include hiking, going on walks, biking and campfires. Their family's favorite recipe is White Chicken Chili. They serve the chili over rice, topped with cheese and sour cream. Yum!

So...Will We Walk It Out?

by Jeff Polen

In late February the Area 51 Youth Group had our own "Winter Retreat". We spent all day Sunday at the church studying scripture and discovering what it means to Walk.

Over the course of three sessions we covered the following topics: Walk with Christ, Walk Worthy, and Walk Humbly.

In talking about what it means to walk with Christ, we emphasized the importance of discipleship. Following His death and resurrection, Jesus used His final moments on earth to command those who walked with Him to "make disciples" (see Matthew 28:16-20). In the same passage, He also promised to be with us always. Clearly walking with Christ means being discipled and making disciples. We cannot claim the promise without also obeying the command.

For the second session we spent our time in Ephesians and Colossians as we discussed what it means to walk

in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God (Colossians 1:10, ESV). We recognized that we are saved entirely by grace, but for good works.

In trying to understand what it means to walk humbly (see Micah 6:8), we spent our third and final session attempting to dive deep into Philippians 2:1-11 with hopes of understanding what it means to have the same attitude as Jesus Christ.

It was a great retreat for the Youth Group and I am convinced that it made an impact on the way that we think about God and about discipleship.

I'm glad for a renewal of our minds. It is important. But I don't believe that God is primarily interested in what we think about Him. Neither is He primarily concerned with whether or not we are taking time to study our Bibles or go to church (although both of those



activities are supremely helpful).

I think that the clear teaching of the Bible is this: will our thinking cause us to walk it out?

God is not looking for mindless service, but He is looking for our service. He has taught us how to live not just so that we would know it, but so that we would live it.

If our thinking has not moved us into action, then I would propose that we have not been thinking correctly.

The Winter Retreat is over. The information is in our heads. So now is the time for the real question... will we walk it out?

MCA Speaks

Reflections from the Seminar for Growth by Ruby Miller

Is the Old Testament still relevant? It's filled with some pretty cool stories, many of them seem quite strange to our culture, are they really true, and do they really matter to our faith? What about all the genealogy that's found in the beginning of Matthew, Luke, and in various places throughout the Bible. Should I care that some funny named guy begat some equally unpronounceable named guy who begat ...

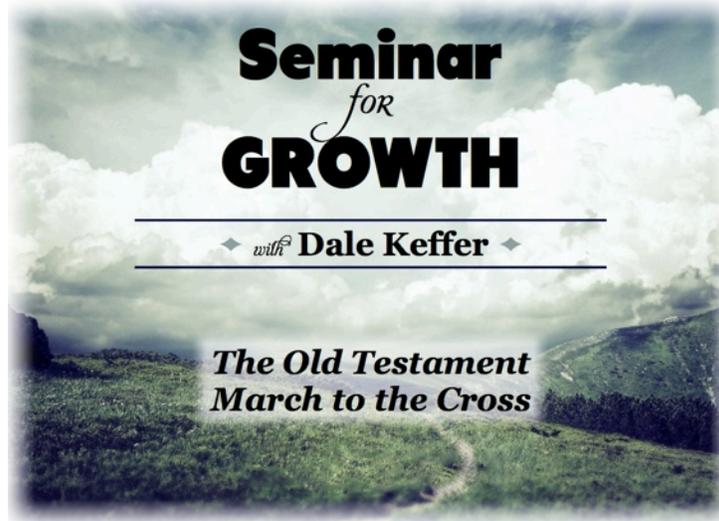
If you are like me, then you have struggled with questions like these at times. Hopefully you were at Dale Keffer's Old Testament March to the Cross seminar and found out that these things that happened in the Old Testament are essential to the plan of salvation. As Dale said, "Our eternal destiny depends on our understanding of who God is, and what He requires."

The plan of salvation and the road to the cross began all the way back in the Garden of Eden where God demonstrated His ability to reunite what was lost and separated. God took a piece of Adam's side and made a

woman, and then reunited them as one flesh. Man was then separated from God by Adam and Eve's disobedience in the Garden of Eden, and the rest of the Bible all the way to the cross, is God's plan to reunite Man to Himself. God

promised Abraham a great nation through which all the families of the earth would be blessed, and from Abraham's seed, The Messiah was born. That messianic thread got really thin at times, but through the Old Testament and the genealogies that are listed, we can trace the lineage of Jesus Christ all the way back to Abraham and the Garden of Eden, just Like God promised. If you missed some of Dale Keffer's messages, I urge you to listen to the

podcasts on the MCA website. It will be well worth your time. There are many religions out there, many of them are very convincing, and they all believe they are right. I resonate with Dale, "If I'm going to place my eternal destiny in the hands of some belief, I need to know it is right, and so do you."



Jeremy's Jots

Car Buying by Jeremy Miller

I felt the knot begin to tighten up in my stomach. I wiped my palms across my pants, wished for a drink of water, and tried to convince my mind to slow down. Useless. It was alive with anticipation. Something about stress and tension ratchets up my ability to focus and process thoughts more quickly and decisively. I was in the zone. Our house could have burned down (the kids were at the sitters), or a bomb could have gone off, but we were going to solve the problem. Sarah and I got out of the car and walked to the sales desk of the car dealership.

While I enjoy the clarity of thought the occasional stressor brings me, I have spent the last several days wondering why we often find car buying so stressful. I suspect there are many reasons: vehicles are a large investment and there are innumerable makes and models from which to choose, to name a few.

While the reasons listed above are valid, the real reason my heart beats faster and my mind gets clearer is that I don't trust the dealership. As I walk through their doors, I enter into a primal state of survival. "What brings you in today?" he asks innocently, the friendly smile begging me to drop my guard. Under normal

circumstances I am Mr. Chatty and would love to drop my guard and tell him about my kids, but I know where that openness leads. Thirty minutes later he will sit down and work to convince me to spend more than we budgeted because the upgraded vehicle will be sooooo much safer for my kids. "You care about your family...don't you Jeremy?" he asks. "Of course not," I want to retort.

To be fair, there are many trustworthy vehicle sales people. The problem I encounter is that I don't have a personal relationship with them. Without an established

continued on page 4...

Just for Fun...

by Keith Tennefoss

During the Wednesday Night JAM (Jesus And Me) services the kids have been doing many different activities that focus them on God's Word. From time to time they play a game or do activities that help them learn the books of the bible. When they reach a milestone they are given a little treat as a reward.

With that in mind consider the challenge that is presented in the paragraph below. The **first** person that

can email the list of 30 books to ktennefoss@mcachurch.org will win a special prize. Oh sure, you could run to the internet and probably find a site that blabs the answers, but don't take the easy way out. Spend some time and see what you can find. I've shown you the first two books to help you get started. The answers will be posted on the bulletin board at the end of April.

Can you find 30 books of the bible in this paragraph?

There are 30 books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the

difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus; there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God Bless.

Jeremy's Jots *continued...*

relationship, I don't know if they share my goals. "Does he know something about the vehicle he isn't telling me? Is he trying to get me to buy this car because it's been on the lot too long? Would he sell this car to his mother?" The lack of trust creates significant stress.

This connection between stress and lack of trust reveals its self in all sorts of human relationships. Those around us are looking to see whether or not they can trust us to want the best for them. Our children are looking to believe we want them to succeed. Our Core Group friends need to know that we want them to

thrive. If we are to have a positive impact on the lives of people around us, they must believe we want them to thrive. When our spouses, coworkers and children believe this, trust is born and sweaty palms go away. The heart slows and peace breaks in.

Live I Corinthians 13, see if it won't change our relationships.

If you would like to contribute an article for the next edition of the MCA CONNECTION please contact Keith Tennefoss at (330) 695-3011 or ktennefoss@mcachurch.org.
