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Cedarville Magazine, Summer 2021: A Season for Growth

Cedarville University

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CEDARVILLE

MAGAZINE

A SEASON FOR GROWTH



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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Living among the cornfields and beanfields of Ohio has its benefits. We literally watch winter melt away, followed by farmers hard at work preparing and planting, culminating in the growth of crops throughout the summer. Our prayer is that this summer, we will all grow spiritually as much as the corn does physically. In this edition of *Cedarville Magazine*, we have several ideas for you to consider for nurturing your spiritual growth. In addition to those, may I make a few suggestions for you to consider?

This has been an incredibly difficult season for all of us. COVID-19 has presented an endless list of decisions to make with inadequate and evolving data. Statistics show that many pastors have quit, and nearly all pastors have felt the intense pressure of navigating COVID. Here are four suggestions that I believe would be a great encouragement to your pastor. Will you join me by carrying out at least one of these suggestions this summer?

First, let us write our pastors an encouraging letter. Pastors have been criticized and had members leave because they either took the rules too seriously or didn't take them seriously enough, and no decision could please all sides. Paul writes in Ephesians 4:29, "Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear." Let's all write a letter to our pastors mentioning two or three specific examples of their faithfulness to encourage them.

Second, let us renew our commitment to our local church (Heb. 10:25). During this season, many have avoided church for safety, watching online instead. We all fear that the habit of attending church in person will never return to the same level, even though we know being present in person is better. Let us make a commitment this summer to return to in-person church attendance and to emphasize the importance of church attendance among our family and friends.

Third, let us engage in personal discipleship relationships. Paul writes in Philippians 3:17, "Keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us" (Jesus, Paul, Timothy, and Epaphroditus). We benefit when we mentor others or in being mentored ourselves. Coming out of the season of face coverings and 6-foot social distancing, let's seek out those close meaningful relationships that can transform our spiritual lives and the lives of others.

Fourth, let us take our time with the Lord to the next level (Rom. 12:2). Let us commit this summer to spend consistent time with the Lord and to take that time with the Lord to the next level. Whether that means we read more, meditate more, memorize Scripture, keep a prayer journal, take a free online Bible class, or other steps, let us grow spiritually through deepening our personal walk with Christ.

Our mission states that "Cedarville University transforms lives through excellent education and intentional discipleship in submission to biblical authority." Life transformation and intentional discipleship don't stop when the semester ends. In fact, the summer may offer us all even more time to grow in godliness as we strive together for the Word of God and the Testimony of Jesus Christ.

In Christ,

Thomas White, President

cedarville.edu/president

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Cedarville University transforms lives through excellent education and intentional discipleship in submission to biblical authority.

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For the Word of God and the Testimony of Jesus Christ

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2019 Award of Merit

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The righteous **FLOURISH** like the palm tree
and **GROW** like a cedar in Lebanon.
They are **PLANTED** in the **HOUSE OF THE LORD**;
they **FLOURISH** in the **COURTS OF OUR GOD**.

Psalms 92:12-13

FEATURES

2 | BIBLE MINOR, MAJOR GROWTH

CHRIS MILLER Two years ago, Cedarville began making available for free the Old Testament Literature class taught by Chris Miller, later adding Theology 1 and 2, with The Bible and the Gospel and New Testament Literature coming in the future. God is using these videos to grow the faith and knowledge of individuals, Sunday School classes, and home fellowship groups.



6 | MORE THAN FRESH AIR

DON LOUGH, JR. '87 What is it about summer camp? Is it the challenge of fun outdoor activities, the reconnecting with the beauty of God's creation, or the quiet moments alone with the Lord that inspire us? For many, a camp was the place where they met Jesus or were pushed to a new level of following Him. With all of these positive outcomes, is it any wonder that, for many people, summer camp is a regular spiritual growth rhythm?



10 | TRANSFORMATIONAL ROAD TRIP

JOHN WHITMORE, MARK CALEB SMITH, AND JEFF '86 AND SHELLEY (FOX) BESTE '95 Summertime is the season for hitting the road. Iconic American destinations such as the Grand Canyon or Washington, D.C., beckon millions each year. For believers, these trips offer more than an invigorating adventure; they are an opportunity for spiritual transformation.



14 | THE WONDER OF CORPORATE WORSHIP

COREY ABNEY '98 A stunning mountain view at sunset or the magnificence of the sun rising over an ocean horizon, while enjoyable as you sift through a friend's vacation pictures or scroll a digital photo album, are much more amazing when you see them firsthand. Even more so is this true of corporate worship. In a season when tuning in to services online has become the norm, nothing can replace enjoying the wonder of our faith together as the body of Christ.



18 | DISCIPLES FOR LIFE

BRIAN BALES '93 Meet six friends who met at Cedarville 30 years ago and purposed to grow together in their faith. This decades-long commitment has not flagged. Through life changes, challenges, achievements, and setbacks, these disciples for life continue to spur one another on to love and good deeds.



22 | QUIET TIME REFRESHER

Maybe you find yourself meeting with God on your deck or porch, hot cup of coffee in one hand, Bible in the other, or feeding yourself from the Scripture in a peaceful, sunlit room. However you may view a quiet time, the value of this focused time with the Lord is a tried-and-true discipline for spiritual growth. Learn from our Bible faculty how they keep their time with the Lord fresh and vital.



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BIBLE MINOR, MAJOR GROWTH

BY CHRIS MILLER



IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A WAY TO ENHANCE YOUR BIBLE STUDY THIS SUMMER, WHY NOT TRY THE NEW RESOURCES AVAILABLE IN THE BIBLE MINOR PROJECT VIDEOS? THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE AROUND THE GLOBE HAVE ALREADY BENEFITED FROM THEM.

In 2019, one of Cedarville's best-kept secrets went public: The Bible minor. Cedarville President Thomas White asked the Center for Teaching and Learning to professionally record the lectures from several classes of the Bible minor, with the goal of sharing the Word of God freely and proclaiming the Testimony of Jesus Christ to anyone who wanted to learn more.

The Bible minor video project began with the second class in the five-course sequence, Old Testament Literature, and we have completed both the fourth and fifth courses, Theology 1 and Theology 2. Coming in the future will be The Bible and the Gospel and New Testament Literature.

Since we began offering the classes online, the response has been tremendous. We have received many kind and gracious comments about the helpfulness of the Bible minor videos in the continuing spiritual development of individuals and small groups from all over the country. We'd like to offer their words as encouragement for how you might use these videos this summer and beyond in your walk with God.

PERSONAL ENRICHMENT AND GROUP STUDY

Many people use the Bible minor videos for personal enrichment, but others have taken it a step further and gathered friends together. Youth leaders have used the videos as a teaching curriculum and discussion starters in youth groups. Couples have gathered together in small groups, and many have organized Bible studies for women, seniors, and even whole church gatherings.

One pastor organized the videos into an elective class for anyone in his church to attend. He hoped for 10 to 15 people and ended up with triple the number. Class members were responsible to watch a video on their own each week, and then they came together as a class to watch another and have a discussion about what they had learned. "The Bible

minor videos have been such an amazing experience for our church, and we're excited to launch into the next class this fall," commented Tom Hogsed, Lead Pastor of The Summit Church in North Canton, Ohio. "We currently have about 35-40 people taking the class, and the feedback has been tremendous! Here's an example of what people are saying: 'This class has really challenged me! It's hard to believe that I've been a follower of Christ for nearly 50 years and truly studied the Bible, but there is so much to learn! What a blessing!'"

We are blessed to give these resources away for free for the building up of God's church.

Another pastor who viewed the video classes wrote, "I pastor a small church in the Midwest and have been watching your class videos online while I eat lunch. I've only watched the first five videos, and each one has been incredible — you have blessed me far more than you may ever know. I believe every Christian needs this, and I definitely want my people to get it, so I'm going to turn it into several sermon series. I know your material is likely proprietary and owned by the school, but is there anything you can send me or I can go get that might save me time?" To that request, we responded with a hearty "Amen," and sent him the full range of class notes and PowerPoint files we use in the videos. We are blessed to give these resources away for free for the building up of God's church.

START WATCHING TODAY!

You can view the Bible minor videos right now by going to cedarville.edu/BibleMinorProject.



The Summit Church in North Canton, Ohio, offered the Bible minor videos as an elective class, with 30 students attending spring 2020 and another 25 this spring.

We are grateful for any way that these videos might be part of His plan for your transformation and transformation of your family, your Bible study, and your church.

A lay leader in a different church has a similar strategy: “I facilitate an adult Sunday school class, and a peer in the class highly recommended this course. While we do not use the videos directly in the class, this is a wonderful resource when studying and preparing to lead discussions. Thank you for sharing this resource.”

PROMPTING NEW GROWTH

One of my favorite stories is that of Jim and Joanne, the grandparents of a former Cedarville student, who call themselves my “senior” students. Joanne shared, “You have no idea how much your lectures have meant to me personally. We are not all the way through, and I usually listen to them twice, and I’ve copied some of the notes, which reinforces what I’m learning! Jim and I would like your thoughts on us sharing it in a small group as Bible study time together. Since we moved to a small retirement community, we have missed having that small fellowship group to study God’s Word together. We would encourage them to read the Scripture that we would be watching the video on and then have a discussion.” What a fantastic idea!

Several alumni now find themselves at a different place in life and after various life experiences are ready to hear

those lessons again. “I’ve loved re-learning what I studied 15 years ago when I attended Cedarville. I think I’m a much better student now than I was back then!” Another alumnus wrote, “I am a Cedarville graduate from more years ago than I’d like to say. But I am thoroughly enjoying this series of videos, and as I finish one, I can’t wait until I can watch the next. I’ve watched some more than once as I journey through this process.” Finally, I heard from another graduate, who offered, “I was in this class in the early 90s. This study has not only evoked fond memories of Cedarville, but it has reawakened a love

for the Old Testament. I love how redemption is tied into every lesson.”

TOUCHING LIVES BEYOND CEDARVILLE

Many people who will never attend classes at Cedarville can still benefit. “As parents, we can share in our children’s learning. We can more easily talk of spiritual matters together and watch our two young men want to serve our God. Cedarville University is an answer to prayer. We are blessed.” And “I love that these are available to take online; I have recommended this class to many of my friends. I can’t attend Cedarville but love the biblical classes and teaching they give.”

“We serve as missionaries in England and are really grateful for the opportunity for our church to engage in studying an overview of the Old Testament. We are several weeks into the course and people have had really positive feedback and are looking forward to continuing.”

If you find other creative ways to use these resources to help others, please let us know! Until then, we pray that you will have a season of growth this summer as you pursue the Lord and study His Word, and we are grateful for any way that these videos might be part of His plan for your transformation and the transformation of your family, your Bible study, and your church. If you do use the Bible minor videos personally, or as part of a group study, we’d like to hear from you. Please email me at millerc@cedarville.edu.

Chris Miller is Senior Professor of Biblical Studies. He earned his Ph.D. in Bible exposition from Dallas Theological Seminary.



SUMMER READING LIST

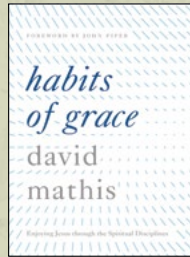
During this Season for Growth, consider picking up one of these titles written or recommended by our Cedarville faculty to grow in grace, godly wisdom, your love of the Word, and your relationship with the Lord.

HABITS OF GRACE

BY DAVID MATHIS

This book by David Mathis, executive editor of desiringGod.org and pastor at Cities Church in St. Paul, Minnesota, is used as part of Cedarville's The Bible and the Gospel course, which is part of the Bible minor. Readers are reminded of three familiar and very crucial practices to growing in faith: learning to listen to God's voice by reading the Bible, speaking with God in prayer, and joining with God's people as the church. These regular habits are graces from God to help Christians grow in their knowledge and enjoyment of Him.

Purchase your copy at cedarville.edu/habitsofgrace.

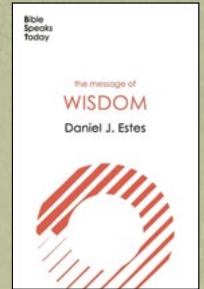


THE MESSAGE OF WISDOM: LEARNING AND LIVING THE WAY OF THE LORD

BY DAN ESTES '74

Dan Estes '74, Distinguished Professor of Old Testament, explores the theme of wisdom throughout the entire Bible, including familiar wisdom books such as Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes, but also in the Law, the history of Israel, prophecy, and the Psalms. The ultimate expression of God's wisdom is found in Jesus Christ. He is the master teacher of wisdom and the source of all wisdom, who challenges believers to live by God's wisdom rather than by the folly of human wisdom. This book challenges readers to learn God's wisdom, to live God's wisdom, and to love God's wisdom.

Purchase your copy at cedarville.edu/messageofwisdom.

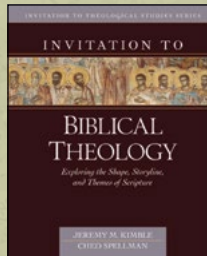


INVITATION TO BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

BY JEREMY KIMBLE AND CHED SPELLMAN

Jeremy Kimble, Associate Professor of Theology, and Ched Spellman, Associate Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies, hope that readers of their *Invitation to Biblical Theology* will gain a richer understanding of what each book in the Bible teaches about God. Biblical theology most often focuses on the way the biblical writers compose their own books and develop theological themes in relation to other biblical texts. Because of this, biblical theology serves as a complement to other disciplines like systematic theology, which emphasizes the logical coherence of the Scripture's teaching. This book focuses on the shape of the Bible as a whole by describing the grand storyline of Scripture and highlighting its central themes.

Purchase your copy at cedarville.edu/invitationtobiblicaltheology.

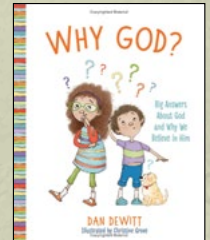


WHY GOD?: BIG ANSWERS ABOUT GOD AND WHY WE BELIEVE IN HIM

BY DAN DEWITT

Inspired by his desire to make apologetics accessible for his own kids, Dan DeWitt, Director of Cedarville's Center for Biblical Apologetics and Public Christianity and Associate Professor of Applied Theology and Apologetics, wrote *Why God? Big Answers About God and Why We Believe in Him*. DeWitt wrote this children's book in order to help parents engage the harder questions that kids have about faith, and in so doing, assist adults in their own spiritual growth. *Why God?* explains complex truths in ways that the whole family can engage and discuss.

Purchase your copy at cedarville.edu/whygod.

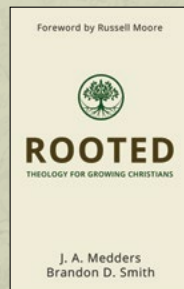


ROOTED: THEOLOGY FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

BY BRANDON SMITH AND J.A. MEDDERS

Rooted: Theology for Growing Christians is a book of theology that can aid anyone, including those without professional theological training, into a deep, life-changing knowledge of God. Readers will be treated to a thorough and easily accessible treatment of crucial theological subjects such as the Trinity, Scripture, redemption in Christ, and eternity. This book by Brandon Smith, Assistant Professor of Theology and New Testament at Cedarville, and J.A. Medders, writer, Bible teacher, and the host of The Acts 29 Podcast, is a good choice for individual or small-group study.

Purchase your copy at cedarville.edu/rooted.

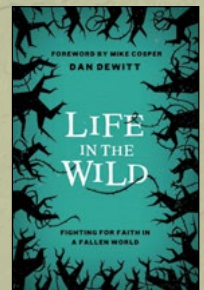


LIFE IN THE WILD: FIGHTING FOR FAITH IN A FALLEN WORLD

BY DAN DEWITT

Life in the Wild, written by Dan DeWitt, Director of Cedarville's Center for Biblical Apologetics and Public Christianity and Associate Professor of Applied Theology and Apologetics, examines seven clear consequences of the fall that are stated in Genesis 3. These outcomes include spiritual separation from God, physical death, environmental turmoil, gender dysphoria and moral confusion. In this book, DeWitt wants readers to know that the Bible takes the matter of pain and suffering seriously and offers counsel for how to address this topic in their own lives and answer with kindness and truth the doubts of family and friends.

Purchase your copy at cedarville.edu/lifeinthewild.



A photograph of a camp scene. In the foreground, a person is in a green canoe, holding a green paddle with "AWA" written on it. In the middle ground, a silver canoe is on the water. The background is a dense forest of tall evergreen trees under a clear sky.

MORE THAN FRESH AIR

CAMP IS A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

BY DON LOUGH, JR. '87





It was my favorite time of the day in the Adirondacks. In the dusky light, I quietly perched on the still-warm rocks at the north end of Word of Life Island, mesmerized by waves lapping near my feet. I was on the verge of completing a wilderness camping program, and God was clearly tugging on my heart.

Camp challenges us to consider what is most important and what God wants to do in and through us.

Was it the fresh mountain air, the conversations with my counselor, or the morning Bible hours? I couldn't put my finger on it exactly, but it was a season of spiritual growth, unlike anything I had ever experienced before. I was ready to take my relationship with God to the next level.

Today, as I interact with a new generation of campers, I hear the same story again and again. There is something special about attending a Christian summer camp. It's a unique and even sacred place the Lord uses to open the hearts of campers of every age. What is it exactly about a summer camp that pushes us to grow?

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE

I love welcoming campers on registration day. I will never forget greeting a high school student from New York City as he eagerly jumped off the bus. It had to be his first time out of the city, and his face was awestruck as he took in the beauty of the mountains and towering white pines. With a huge grin, he looked at me and declared, "This is the greatest day of my life!" When was the last time you said something

like that? Christian camps are much more than the scenery, s'mores, and swimming, but these are powerful tools that give us a fresh perspective and transport us to a place of greater openness to get to know God and His Word.

It concerns me that the typical American teen spends almost 7 ½ hours every day engaged with some form of electronic media, not including homework, according to an October 2019 article in *Newsweek*. The pandemic period of quarantines and lockdown has likely worsened this tendency. But thanks also to this pandemic period, I sense a strong desire for change.

Summer camp offers a needed break from our routines and the endless distraction at our fingertips. It allows space to consider life from a different dimension. Whether it's a stirring campfire service, a late-night cabin conversation, or paddling a canoe with a friend, camp challenges us to consider what is most important and what God wants to do in and through us.

DEEPER RELATIONSHIPS

We are more aware than ever that God designed us for relationship and community (Gen. 2:18). When it comes to relationships, our personal relationship with God is the highest priority. This is why our passion at Word of Life camps remains to see every camper take the "Next step with Jesus." As the Gospel is presented throughout the week, many take their first step in their spiritual journey by placing their faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

For others, God uses camp as a catalyst to move them to a new level of relationship and dedication to Him. As I travel around the world, I regularly meet people who reference a specific location at summer camp, like a tree or dock, where God rocked their hearts.

Whether competing for cabin-of-the-week or sharing testimonies by the lake, camp fuels connectedness.

Camp fosters vibrant relationships with others, too. In fact, I met my wife, Darla (Cline) '89, on Word of Life Island, where she served as a camp nurse. Camps have a curious way of bringing us together, no matter our background or where we live and work. Whether competing for cabin-of-the-week or

sharing testimonies by the lake, camp fuels connectedness. It doesn't get any better than watching young people and entire families step forward at a campfire and commit to renewing their relationships with the Lord and each other.

GREATER HEIGHTS

OK, I admit it: I'm scared of heights. You will not find me rappelling down a cliff or scampering up one of our climbing towers. But as a young man, camp nudged me outside of my box and gave me the courage to try new activities. On a spiritual level, I see camp as a unique place that God uses to motivate campers of all ages to dream big and reach greater heights as followers of Jesus Christ.

For me, camp was much more than fresh air and crazy fun. No, it was hallowed ground where I began to get serious about my faith. It's the place where I began to boldly consider new ways I could serve the Lord with my life. Today, it is still that hallowed ground where God meets and moves me to new heights for Him.

As COVID lifts and we approach the summer months, I think we all need camp. No doubt, the fresh air will do us some good! But more importantly, God will use camp to spark a new and needed season of spiritual growth in your heart and mine. We look forward to serving you and seeing you soon. Or you may decide that God is calling you to a season of growth as a fellow servant. Visit us or volunteer at Word of Life camps! Learn more at camps.wol.org.



Don Lough, Jr. '87 is President and CEO of Word of Life Fellowship. He is also a member of the Cedarville University Board of Trustees.

In the spirit of Mark 6:31, consider drawing away with your family and your brothers and sisters in Christ to meet with the Lord at a camp or another place of rest this summer.



TRANSFOR- MATIONAL ROAD TRIP

A wide-angle photograph of a desert landscape. A paved road with a dashed center line curves through the scene, leading towards a large, flat-topped rock formation in the distance. The sky is a pale, hazy blue, and the overall lighting is warm, suggesting late afternoon or early morning. The foreground shows dry, scrubby vegetation and a rocky embankment.

Summertime is that beloved season for moms, dads, and kids to pack the family vehicle to the brim, fill the roof luggage carrier to bulging, and load up on music, books, and games to pass the time as you trek toward an iconic destination. Or in other cases, packing the suitcases, a carry-on, and a favorite pillow for an airplane adventure.

But how can this wonderful family memory become even more special? By looking at the journey, and the destination, through God's eyes. Family travel can produce wonderful memories, but prayerfully and through a biblical lens, they can morph into something even more amazing — a Transformational Road Trip.

THE GRAND CANYON

BY JOHN WHITMORE



Believe it or not, when most people visit the rim of the Grand Canyon, they take a couple of selfies, gaze for a few minutes, check an item off their “bucket list,” and leave — all averaging less than 15 minutes! If you get a chance to visit the Grand Canyon, I suggest you spend a little more time than the average tourist. Hike a short distance down one of the Canyon’s many trails, take your Bible and some water, find a shady spot, and spend an hour contemplating the following:

- The rock layers that you see before you were made during the global Flood of Noah and resulted directly from God’s judgment on man’s sin (Gen. 6:5–8). By the way, the Canyon itself was cut following the Flood. The layers in the Grand Canyon are typical of marine rocks that cover every continent. As you consider the vast expanse of the rocks and realize that similar rocks occur worldwide, the consequences of sin should be rather sobering.
- God turns ashes into beauty (Isa. 61:3). God takes the ugliness of our lives and transforms them into something beautiful. The ugliness of sin caused the layers in the Grand Canyon, but they have been transformed into something that is now breathtaking.
- You can’t begin to appreciate the size of the Canyon unless you’ve actually been down in it. As the crow flies, the distance from Grand Canyon Village to the North Rim is about 12 miles wide and the chasm between is nearly a mile deep. The hike from rim to rim is more than 20 miles. Thinking about the vast size of the Canyon, read Isaiah 40 and contemplate how big and truly awesome God is!
- Read Psalm 104 and notice the great care God has for His creation. Note the special emphasis on water and the role that it plays in creation and judgment.
- Read Psalm 103 and contemplate God’s care for each one of us as individuals. Despite the vastness and greatness of His creation, He deeply cares for each one of us — much more than the height of the heavens above the earth (v. 11). And, He casts our sins as far as the east is from the west (v.12).

John Whitmore is Senior Professor of Geology and has been to the Grand Canyon dozens of times since his first trip in 1979, which includes 16 raft trips with Canyon Ministries and Answers in Genesis. Cedarville now has more than 40 geology graduates from the program he began in 2009. Whitmore earned his Ph.D. in biology with a paleontology emphasis from Loma Linda University.



WASHINGTON, D.C.

BY MARK CALEB SMITH



Washington, D.C., like any great city, can be experienced in a few days. You may not unearth every treasure, but you'll discover plenty of jewels if you plan carefully. And you'll also see the faith of our nation's founders in small and large ways throughout.

The National Mall is a required destination. The massive green space connects the United States Capitol to the Washington Monument, and just beyond that, you will see the Reflecting Pool and the Lincoln Memorial. Smithsonian Museums (American History, Natural History, Air and Space, Museum of the American Indian, and the Museum of African American History and Culture) surround the Mall. You will also find the United States Botanic Garden, the National Gallery of Art, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the Museum of the Bible in the same area. You can spend an hour or a day in each of these spaces, depending on your family's patience and interest.

The Lincoln Memorial is most powerful after dusk. Lincoln's towering presence must be experienced. Take a few moments to read the walls, where you will see the 16th president's most famous words. Note on the north wall his second inaugural address, in which he clearly and repeatedly mentions the providence and plans of God, stating, "The Almighty has His own purposes" and "the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether," quoting Psalm 19:9.

If you take the 87, or "four score and seven," steps from Lincoln's chamber to the Reflecting Pool, you will notice the Korean War Memorial on your right and the Vietnam Veterans

Memorial on your left. Straight ahead, in the distance, is the World War II Memorial. The fluid, yet perfectly still, portrayals of Korean War veterans haunt the night. The names of the dead from Vietnam overwhelm even casual observers. At the World War II Memorial, note the 4,048 gold stars, one for every 100 American military deaths. These sacred grounds only barely communicate the sacrifices of those who died so that we might live in a land of peace and freedom.

History reveals our past to explain our present and show us a glimpse of the future.

Every family should schedule tours of the U.S. Capitol, the White House, and the Supreme Court Building. The Capitol Rotunda is magnificent. Pay close attention to the artwork, especially the Baptism of Pocahontas and the Embarkation of the Pilgrims. Look up to see the Apotheosis of Washington. The White House is smaller than you think, but fascinating, especially for those who enjoy early American furniture and learning more about our presidents and their families. The Supreme Court's exterior is just as impressive as its interior. The east side of the building shows some of civilization's great lawgivers, including Moses.

History reveals our past to explain our present and show us a glimpse of the future. It also reminds us of the people of faith who have shaped the nation. Every American should visit Washington, D.C., the city where our history lives.

Mark Caleb Smith is Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for Political Studies. He earned his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Georgia.

SHORT-TERM MISSIONS TRIP

BY JEFF '86 AND SHELLEY (FOX) BESTE '95

We had always dreamed of our family going on a missions trip together, so a few summers ago, when friends Steve '89 and Becky (Davis) Dye '89 asked us to consider leading a team of Cedarville students to Berlin, Germany, to help them with two weeks of vacation Bible school and camp, we began praying. We didn't want to do it unless the whole family felt like this was the right thing.

None of us spoke German, and we knew this could be a challenge, even though the camps were going to be in English. It was also a lot of support for our family to raise! But we wanted our girls to experience another culture together — and see that the Church is not just “American.” As parents, we hoped this would be an incredible opportunity for our family to serve together.

If you have been on a short-term missions trip before, you know what happens. You go with the intent of being a blessing to others and allowing God to work through you, sharing the Gospel with people who need Jesus. But He always ends up blessing us even more than we can imagine, and He works in us as much as through us. Our trip to Germany was no different.

We did not go on this trip for our family to benefit; we tried to always put our focus on the ministry in Berlin. But we did benefit. We were able to see God provide financially for our family's support in incredible ways. Our girls made new friends, both Cedarville students and people in Germany. We were able to learn world history and church history. From Luther and the Reformation to World War II and the Holocaust, we experienced lessons in the villages and cities where history took place. We were able to share the love of Jesus with believers in Germany, and with refugees who had not heard of Jesus and did not speak our language.

We were able to see God at work in our travel to Germany through canceled flights, missing luggage, and train connections. We saw Him at work in the hearts of kids and teens who showed up for the camps. And we were able to see the Lord at work in the lives of the missionaries as we observed their ministry up close and experienced as a family their day-to-day life.

As a mom, to serve alongside my family and engage the culture with them was an incredible blessing. I will always remember the two days our team visited a refugee camp in Berlin. Language was a definite barrier, but the sport of volleyball opened up a common connection between my daughters and a young teenage mother. I also found that the



other moms were interested to see my girls and then to share their children with me. The Dyes continue to nurture their friendship with a family that began because of that outreach. Ministry as a family is being intentional about what you are pursuing together and then trusting your children, knowing that they have amazing gifts God will also use to strategically reach others.

The trip wasn't perfect, and neither was our family. There were challenges, and we didn't always respond correctly. But one of our daughters said this: “I learned that there are so many people who don't know much about Jesus, and those people are the ones who are most excited to learn. I want to be like them! I want to be excited to learn every day, even though I know about Jesus. It should give me a better and greater reason to learn and serve Him!” As parents, we couldn't be happier.

Jeff Beste '86 is Director of Strategic Relations in Cedarville University Advancement. He and **Shelley (Fox) '95** are the parents of Kylie '20, Sara '22, and Rachel.



THE WONDER OF CORPORATE WORSHIP

BY COREY ABNEY '98



Have you ever sent a picture of an overwhelming experience to someone, only to have them respond in an underwhelming fashion? I recently visited some scenic and beautiful locations within the Rocky Mountains just outside of Denver, Colorado. The views were absolutely breathtaking: snow-capped mountains, expansive valleys, jagged cliffs, and awe-inspiring sunrises that looked like the sky was on fire. My wife and I live in a flat, sandy community just outside of Tampa, Florida, so the mountains, valleys, cliffs, and sunrises were especially astounding.



I found myself taking countless pictures as I gazed at the immense beauty that was evident at every turn. Of course, I sent the best pictures to my family back home, hoping to share the overwhelming artistry of God’s creation with them. The problem is, they couldn’t fully grasp the majestic views I experienced. A picture may be worth a thousand words, but

We run the risk of settling for a picture of corporate worship.

my photos couldn’t fully capture the beauty of what I saw with my own eyes. A picture or video, no matter how excellent in quality, cannot fully communicate the majesty of a mountain range that is experienced in person.

A PICTURE OF WORSHIP

Similarly, we live in a time where the landscape of Christian worship has shifted dramatically due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many Christians are worshipping at home on televisions, mobile devices, tablets, and computers out of necessity, not just convenience. Thankfully, we have the technology available to facilitate corporate worship and small-group gatherings during a global pandemic.

These digital platforms provide avenues to connect with other believers when we can’t connect in person, either due to government mandates or health and safety concerns.

However, an inherent danger exists with the online options that are so readily available to us: We may be tempted to think that such options are a permanent substitute for corporate, in-person gatherings. That is a very real concern for those of us who are now accustomed to the convenience of worshipping in the comfort of our homes.

We run the risk of settling for a picture of corporate worship instead of seeing and savoring the enthusiasm, energy, and encouragement of being there in person. We risk missing out on the blessings of seeing it with our own eyes, sharing in it with other believers, and joining in with our hearts and voices. We can easily overlook the profound difference between observation and participation.

PERSONAL AND MUTUAL

God has called each of us to worship in a manner that is both personal and mutual. We are made to fellowship with God

We can easily overlook the profound difference between observation and participation.

and others so that our worship reflects a growing up (fellowship with God) and a growing out (fellowship with others).

We see a beautiful description of this shortly after Pentecost and the establishment of the church: “And they

devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42). The early church began to meet together regularly, on the first day of the week, for worship, teaching, communion, prayer, and fellowship. People from various backgrounds, ethnicities, and social demographics assembled as one body to grow in their faith and encourage each other.

The weekly gathering of such a diverse crowd for such a unified purpose was a beautiful reflection of the Gospel. These gatherings are described as something more than an event or activity; rather, they are characteristic of a body whose parts are working together

Let's gather with grateful and cheerful hearts, delighting in the God Who saved us and Who is worthy of our praise.

to ensure greater health and viability. The Apostle Paul reminds us, "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit" (1 Cor. 12:12–13).

WE NEED EACH OTHER

As members of Christ's body, we are made to worship and fellowship with other members. One member cannot say of another, "I have no need of you," because we need each other!

Yes, we need each other. We need fellowship. We need corporate worship. We need to gather together with other members of the body of Christ. As the author of Hebrews encourages us, "Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near" (Heb. 10:24–25). Therefore, as our country opens up, and it becomes safer to meet together, let's gather with grateful and cheerful hearts, delighting in the God Who saved us and Who is worthy of our praise. When it comes to the privilege and blessing of collective worship, don't settle for a picture or a video, because there's nothing better than being there in person.

Corey Abney '98 is Lead Pastor at Bell Shoals Church in Tampa, Florida, and a member of the Cedarville University Board of Trustees. He earned his Ph.D. in preaching, Old Testament, and New Testament from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

DR. ABNEY'S COUNSEL FOR PRACTICING COUNTER-CULTURAL KINDNESS

Robert Putnam published a well-known book in 2000 titled, "Bowling Alone," in which he claims that Americans are far less social than in years past. He offers some intriguing statistics to bolster his argument: club membership is down 40%; full-service restaurant patronage is down 25% while fast food dining is up 100%; and perhaps most troubling, personal engagement with neighbors and friends is down almost 50%. Therefore, Putnam concludes that Americans are "bowling alone."

Without question, our society is more individualistic than ever before, and the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the problem. We have more challenges to social engagement today than at any other point in our nation's history. But even with the obstacles in our culture, Christ-followers have tremendous opportunities to build meaningful relationships and establish Gospel on-ramps with our friends and neighbors.

In fact, the decline of kindness and hospitality in our society presents an opportunity for Gospel neighboring to stand out all the more. We have incredible opportunities to invite others into our homes and our churches. We have the privilege of being counter-cultural with a hospitality and generosity that is Gospel-centered. Therefore, as Jesus illustrated in Luke 14, let's go into the highways and the hedges to invite everyone we can! Our kindness and hospitality are needed now more than ever before, and, without question, God will use them to bring others into His Kingdom.

DISCIPLES FOR LIFE

STILL SHARPENING ONE ANOTHER AFTER 30 YEARS

BY BRIAN BALES '93





As iron sharpens iron, so one
man sharpens another.

Proverbs 27:17

If someone would have told me 30 years ago that I would be staring at a computer screen every day to meet with people, I would have laughed. Cedarville did not even have CedarNet

years later, I would have laughed harder. My friends 30 years ago were great guys, but it's just difficult to envision three decades from now when you have only lived 19 years. Time brings many changes, but Jesus and my good friends have remained. Cedarville had taught me about both.

Time brings many changes, but Jesus and my good friends have remained.

at the time, and I had to walk to a computer lab to write a paper. Yet, this is how much of my life is conducted now.

Since the early 90s, Mike Heft '93, Derek Gesler '95, Kevin Parliament '93, Tom Mathisen '93, Paul McGrady '93 and I have been friends. It started with the founding of Theta Rho Epsilon, a campus organization, but it has gone much further. We have been at each other's sides for weddings, the birth of children, and new jobs. We have also been there for

If someone would have told me 30 years ago that the men I hung out with then would still be the men I hang out with 30



deaths, disappointments, and even divorce. And the constant throughout each of those moments has been our commitment to Jesus and to one another.

PANDEMIC PRIORITY

The pandemic brought many challenges into people's lives. One great challenge is isolation. Yet, in the midst of this physical isolation, I have not been alone. I have Jesus, that's for sure, but I also have these friends I can count on, even if they are only seen on a computer screen.

A few months into the pandemic, it became obvious that we needed to connect at a deeper level. Yes, we had 30 years of friendship and experiences, but we needed to process the pressures of the pandemic, isolation, and life on a more consistent basis. And to us, there was no better group of people to process them with than each other. So, we began meeting on Friday nights via Zoom to catch up, encourage, and sharpen. It has been the lifeline that I needed.

There is something that cannot be understated about having friends with whom you can be completely vulnerable.

Too often as we grow older, we tend to become more guarded. Some find their identities in the titles in front of their names. Our group of friends have many titles.

Some are lawyers; others are vice presidents, directors, and project managers; and I am a pastor. With each title comes a temptation to live toward others' expectations instead of living out of Jesus' acceptance of us. Having friends who know us deeply helps cut through the fakeness we can be tempted to wrap around ourselves like a coat on a chilly walk around Cedar Lake. This combination of Jesus and friends who know us intimately well makes a significant difference during a pandemic and for the rest of life.

TRUTH AND TRANSPARENCY

Jesus did not design us to walk through this life alone. That is why he gave us the Holy Spirit to be in us and friends to be around us. Throughout the years, Jesus has used both

His Spirit and our friendships to guide, support, heal, and challenge. Sometimes that comes from an encouraging text with Scripture or a Friday-night conversation about theology. Other times, the text or conversation can be confrontational. Yet, the wounds of a friend are always better than the kisses of an enemy (Prov. 27:6).

When I was talking to the guys about this article, they mentioned several of those truths:

"I appreciate the complete transparency we have with each other and how we can do it without being judgmental."

"I value the honesty that I am not able to get everywhere."

"The fact that we know each other's stories makes all the difference. We do life together, even if it is from miles away."

Among all the comments, one truth always came through loud and clear, "We need this."

OAK TREE OF FRIENDSHIP

Might I suggest you need it, too? Yes, we are all busy and yes, the pandemic has caused a lot of additional stress and challenge. But that is why we need it even more. If you still

We planted our oak tree of friendship 30 years ago, and the benefits of it have been invaluable

connect with your college friends, set up a Zoom call or Google Meet and talk about life, Jesus, and the challenges you face. If you have grown close to a new set of friends,

connect with them and do the same. Jesus designed us for community (Eph. 4:15-16), and too many of us are trying to live for Him on our own.

For the six of us, we planted our oak tree of friendship 30 years ago, and the benefits of it have been invaluable. It has brought us closer to Jesus and closer to each other. We have sharpened each other. In the same way, we all need those oak tree-type friendships. And even if you don't have them today, it is OK. You can begin the process now. It is said, "The best time to plant an oak tree is 30 years ago. The second-best time is today."

Brian Bales '93 is Lead Pastor at Christian Fellowship Church in Ashburn, Virginia. He earned his Ed.D. from Southern Seminary.

QUIET TIME REFRESHER

A photograph of an open Bible with a red bookmark, resting on a wooden surface. A brown mug is visible in the background, slightly out of focus. The scene is lit with soft, natural light, creating a peaceful atmosphere.

Meeting with God on your deck or porch, hot cup of coffee in one hand, Bible in the other. Feeding yourself from the Scripture in a peaceful, sunlit room. Being strengthened and made wise by the Word and prayer as you sit at the kitchen table.

However you may view a quiet time, the value of having focused time with the Lord through the Bible and prayer is a tried-and-true discipline for growing in our love and commitment to Him. *Cedarville Magazine* reached out to members of the School of Biblical and Theological Studies faculty to find insight and inspiration for how to have a meaningful and personal quiet time with God. We pray you are blessed and encouraged as you pursue your own quiet time with the Lord.

JEREMY KIMBLE

Associate Professor of Theology



A key is consistency in the rhythm. I am helped by my engagement with the church directory and the *Valley of Vision* (a book of Puritan prayers), as well as the Psalms to get me started in prayer each day. I read consistently and seek to use the Word of God as a means to hear from God and then pray back to God, communing with the Father, Son, and Spirit.

MICHAEL SHEPHERD

Professor of Biblical Studies

My occupation is to study the Bible day and night (Josh. 1:8; Ps. 1:2), but a very special part of that daily study is devoted to reading approximately three chapters from the Hebrew



Bible and one chapter from the Greek New Testament in order to complete both parts of the Bible annually. The focus of this time in the Bible is discernment of the text's verbal meaning. This meaning then prompts me to understand, believe, and obey accordingly. Thus, the Bible itself sets the agenda for my walk with God.

MICHAEL MCKAY

Assistant Professor of Biblical Theology

When reading the Scriptures, I ask myself questions when I have finished the text. First, "What does this passage teach me about God?" Second, "What does this passage teach me about humanity?" And third, "What does this passage teach me about how God interacts with humanity?" I find that these questions help to focus my learning and application from the text. These questions work when doing detailed Bible study or personal devotional reading.



JOSH BOWMAN

Assistant Professor of Missions and Theology

For many years the prayers that I prayed during my time with the Lord in the morning were divorced from what I had just read in Scripture. I would read through a portion of the Bible and then I would finish, close my Bible, and spend time in prayer. One of the simplest but most helpful things I have

done is to keep my Bible open. I spend more time meditating on the text and then letting the text guide my response and



prayers. This helps me reflect on the text and really apply the Word to my life. It has also helped diversify what I pray about and makes me think about my response.

A resource that gives me specific ways to pray for the nations is an app on my phone called IMB Pray. This app gives current prayer requests that have been written by missionaries all over the world. It is such a blessing to know how to pray specifically for people groups and individuals instead of just asking God to generically bless all the nations and missionaries.

ERIN SHAW

Assistant Professor of Women's Ministry



I have sought to prioritize knowing the God of the Bible for who He says He is and not creating a god of my own making. The way to do this is by reading Scripture faithfully. Back in the garden, the serpent challenged the woman with the question,

"Did God actually say ...?" (Gen. 3:1). There are many ideas and philosophies floating about that have set themselves up against the knowledge of God. I need to be able to have an answer for this same question today when these godless ideas and despair seek to take refuge in my heart.

BILLY MARSH

Associate Professor of Theology

I always begin my personal reading of Holy Scripture with a prayer asking that the Lord grant me understanding of what the Holy Spirit has "written for us" (Rom. 15:4) through



the biblical authors in the Old and New Testaments, the one Word of God. I keep the prayer concise and to the point, as its sole purpose is to preface my study of Scripture. An example of one passage I pray regularly is Psalm 119:33-34, "Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end. Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart."

Such prayerful pleas before scriptural reading are fitting due to the Spirit-inspired nature of Scripture's origin and content that we confess (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet 1:20-21; 1 Cor 2:12-14).

BIBLE MEMORIZATION

BY JEREMY KIMBLE



Memorizing the Bible has changed my life. Seriously. The best way I have found that I can apply Psalm 1:1-3 and delightfully meditate on God's Word day and night is by

memorizing Scripture. Whether a verse, a whole chapter, or an entire book, memorization is a way to hide God's Word in our hearts, so that we do not sin against Him (Ps. 119:11).

Several years ago, I was at a conference, and the preacher began his session by quoting the entire book of Philippians. This was such a powerful moment and had a profound impact on me. I had memorized many verses, and even some chapters of the Bible prior to that time, but it was then that I determined I would memorize longer sections of Scripture. So, I began with Philippians a few years back and since then have memorized 1 Peter, Jude, and Titus.

Such a habit renews your mind (Rom. 12:1-2), helps you see the flow of the text, assists you in killing sin, and grants you the ability to minister in an effective and powerful way (Heb. 4:12; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). It is worthwhile.

I have found two strategies that help me memorize Scripture. First, I print off the text I want to memorize, put it in a big Ziploc bag, and clothespin it to my shower curtain. That may sound strange, but it is a way to use that time for memorizing Scripture. Second, as I walk to work each day I say what I know, reviewing the passage as I walk.

Make memorization a part of your daily routine. Start by memorizing one verse and then add related verses or other Scripture from the same chapter, read the passage often, study the book that contains the passage, review regularly, and say it aloud to yourself and others. Memorizing God's Word is a profoundly powerful habit that leads to a deeper knowledge of God and provides a way to make Him known to others.

Jeremy Kimble is Associate Professor of Theology and Director of the Center for Biblical Integration. He earned his Ph.D. in Theological Studies from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

This prayer acknowledges that right reading of the Bible cannot (and should not) be done apart from the work of the triune God, and it puts me in the proper posture before Holy Scripture as I seek to engage it in total dependence upon the Lord to grant me the right understanding of the meaning of the biblical text. This is done to prompt me to a faithful response and obedience to God's Word as I walk "in Christ" in godly discipleship.

TRENT ROGERS

Dean, Assistant Professor of New Testament and Greek



I have a personal quiet time in the morning and also a time of family worship in the evenings. My personal quiet time involves Bible study and prayer. I typically have a text of Scripture that I am studying more closely while also having a reading plan that covers more material. I have a prayer journal, and I also pray through my church directory.

SCOTT DIXON '84

Associate Professor of Bible



More than any "how to" tip, one foundational lesson on the purpose and role of the spiritual disciplines has proved life-changing for me. In the book, *Formed for the Glory of God* about the spiritual practices of Jonathan Edwards, Kyle Strobel warns us of "the great temptation and danger to turn Christian spiritual disciplines into a self-help project" (p. 70). Edwards would describe the practices of Bible reading and prayer (among others) as "means of grace" that orient our hearts and minds properly to God. Powerless in themselves to change us or make us holy, God uses these means to reveal the beauty of his beloved Son. Joy and delight replace drudgery and a checklist mentality as the Spirit enables us to sing with the old songwriter:

Our pleasure and our duty,
Though opposite before,
Since we have seen his beauty,
Are joined apart no more. (John Newton)

YOUR MIND

WHY JOURNAL?

BY ROB WYNALDA

Education professionals say that your ability to retain information is often directly related to the method of learning. They would say that a person who simply listens to a lecture retains a surprisingly small percentage of the content delivered. Yet, when a person hears information and, at the same time, if they can physically participate with the lecturer (i.e., taking notes or discussion), their retention rate vastly improves.

In Deuteronomy 17, God gives instructions to the future kings of Israel: “And it shall be, when he sits upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write himself a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites: And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life” (vv.18–19) Wow! The most important man in Israel is instructed to sit and handwrite his very own copy of the law.

As we think about learning styles and retention rates, it makes perfect sense that God would want the king to handwrite his very own copy of the law. As the leader of God’s people, he needed to retain the law and learn to live and to govern in reaction to the Word of God.

If you are struggling with focus during your devotions, I would challenge you to get a piece of paper and simply write out the verses you are reading. You will be pleasantly surprised how the slowing of the pace and the added focus needed to copy the text may help you wrestle with and apply God’s Word to your life.

God follows His command to write, carry, and read the law with the benefits for the king and the nation. May we enjoy these benefits as well: “He may learn to fear the Lord his

God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them: That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or

to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel” (Deut. 17:19b–20).

Rob Wynalda is President of Wynalda Litho, Inc. and a member of the Cedarville University Board of Trustees. He is also the creator of the *Journible 17:18 Bible journal series*.

THE BIG PICTURE OF THE BIBLE

BY BILLY MARSH

One central goal I have for my personal time in Scripture is to grow in my understanding of the meaning and purpose of whole books of the Bible. Perhaps another way to put this is that I’m always guarding against getting lost in the trees, even if I keep walking slowly through the forest. I believe that biblical authors inspired by the Holy Spirit (2 Pet. 1:20–21) convey their intended meaning through the composition of an entire book. Therefore, if I want to understand individual verses or passages or even chapters, then I need to first grasp a sense of the whole. I will engage in “fast reading” where I’ll read through a book of the Bible quickly several times before engaging in “slow reading.”



“Fast Reading” helps me get a sense of a biblical author’s intended meaning for the entire book that will then guide me as I “slow down” to study the book piece by piece. A sense of the whole is essential for making sense of the parts. All in all, Romans 15:4 shapes my approach: “For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” It is through understanding what was actually “written” that we faithfully read Holy Scripture as “written for us” whereby the triune God encourages and strengthens us for endurance in the Christian life by faith with real Gospel hope.

Billy Marsh is Director of M.Div. Programs and Associate Professor of Theology. He earned his Ph.D. in systematic theology from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

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One of God's means of growth to His people is the privilege of direct, personal interaction with Him. We pray these chapel messages will encourage, challenge, and inspire your daily fellowship with the Father.

A PRACTICE OF PRAYER – A PRAYER JOURNAL

The following is an excerpt from an August 29, 2012, chapel presentation by Bob Rohm. Listen to his full message at cedarville.edu/RohmAug12.

For years I struggled in my prayer life. I knew I should be spending time in prayer. I just didn't seem to be able to get a handle on it.

Number one, I was so distracted while I was praying. A minute and a half into prayer, and some sound got me thinking about something else.

Secondly, I struggled at times to remember substantive prayer requests. There should be more than just insignificant things I could take to God.

Thirdly, my prayers were “me” centered. I wasn't remembering or paying attention to substance and things to talk to God about.

Fourthly, I wasn't sensing answers to prayer, so why pray? Is this just some religious activity? It's not going higher than the ceiling.

Lastly, I was so inconsistent. I'd say, “OK, I'm going to spend time in prayer.” And three days later, I'm not praying as I ought.

I put together a prayer journal. It's something practical that works. You need some lined paper with holes punched in it or a spiral notebook. Divide the page into four vertical columns — a narrow column, wide, narrow, wide.



WHEN THE CHURCH PRAYS

The following is an excerpt from a November 16, 2016, chapel presentation by Chad Keck. Listen to his full message at cedarville.edu/KeckNov16.



In Acts 12:1–5, Peter is in prison, but earnest prayer was made to God by the church.

Let me give you four things that will help us as we learn to pray. The first one: Prayer should be directed to God. We are talking

to the Creator of the heavens and the earth.

We ought to come to God with a reverence about who He is, that He is able, and that He is the Lord. We've got to redirect our thinking away from man-centered activity to God-focused prayer. There is an intimacy there, but there is also a holiness.

Second, prayer is often corporate. Peter was in prison, but earnest prayer was made by the church, not by individuals. I'm not belittling individual prayer. But if you're not gathering as the body in prayer, you're missing out on what God intended. It's one way the church stands firm in one spirit and with one mind, striving side by side for the faith.

Third, prayer is persistent. Peter finds them in prayer. Many were gathered together and were praying all night because they

It's one way the church stands firm in one spirit and with one mind, striving side by side for the faith.

knew it was up to God to do something. They were praying. Persistent prayer.

Fourth, prayer is specific. Scripture tells us to lay all our needs and requests before Him. But there was something on their heart that they wanted to see God do. And God did it. So pray.

Chad Keck is Senior Pastor of First Baptist Kettering in Dayton, Ohio. He is also an Adjunct Instructor of Biblical and Theological Studies at Cedarville University.

A journal . . . reminds me of answered prayer and reasons for praising God.

The first column is the date. The second is a request, the third is the date, and the fourth is the answer to prayer. I also have a page where I list family members.

A journal helps me remember specific requests and keep focused during my time in prayer. It also reminds me of answered prayer and reasons for praising God.

Bob Rohm '68 is the former Vice President for Christian Ministries at Cedarville University. He is currently serving as Interim Care Pastor at Grace Baptist Church in Cedarville.



THE POWER OF PRAYER

The following is an excerpt from an April 17, 2017, chapel presentation by Thomas White. Listen to his full message at cedarville.edu/WhiteApr17.

You have a God that is with you in the hard times. He is blessing you in the good times. He is worthy of your prayers. He is worthy of your praise. And so we should come to Him at all times.

Prayer is not natural. Our culture runs against it in at least three ways. First, we are taught to be independent. Do it on your own. Rugged individualism.

And prayer says, "I'm dependent on God." That's hard to confess. "God, I need your help." That is humbling.

And our culture does not encourage that philosophy.

Second, we are taught to be busy and efficient. If you ask anybody, "How are you?," the response usually is "I'm too busy, too much work to do." We think having too much to do is a sign of success.

If your life is busy, you think that's successful. If you were to say, "I don't have anything to do," you might indicate that you're not that important.

They don't see that God can do more, and we do more, when we start our day in prayer.

Third, we fill our minds with so much that we rarely stop to meditate and listen to what God may be saying to us.

When we pray, we evaluate life more accurately.

When we pray, we evaluate life more accurately. We understand in a better way. Prayer allows things to settle so that we can see more clearly.

Thomas White is President of Cedarville University.



HOW CHILDLIKE PRAYER CAN CHANGE YOUR WORLD

The following is an excerpt from a February 11, 2020, chapel presentation by Jedidiah Coppenger. Listen to his full message at cedarville.edu/CoppengerFeb20.

Jesus says if you want to have a prayer life, you need to start with a childlike perspective. But you don't stop there. In Matthew 6:9, after He says, "Our Father in heaven," Jesus tells His followers what to pray.

Prayer doesn't work; God does. He can do more in a moment than we can do in a lifetime.

Jesus doesn't end His prayer the way most of us end our prayers. In verse 13, He says, "And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil." He doesn't even say "in Jesus' name." That's why in verse nine He said you should pray like this, not exactly like this.

It's about the elements, not the order. It's not about the wording; it's about the posture. He wants

you to remember Whom you're talking to. And when you see Him for who He is, you can walk out of that conversation without the burden you brought into it.

Deep inner peace does not come from understanding. It comes from trust.

That's how prayer produces peace. That's childlike trust. Deep inner peace does not come from understanding. It comes from trust.

God is doing amazing work here, but He wants to do more, and He wants to do it through all of us. So as you grow older, grow more childlike, because Jesus showed us that childlike prayer changes the world.

Jedidiah Coppenger is Lead Pastor of Redemption City Church in Franklin, Tennessee.



Watch Chapel on Your Smartphone or Tablet With CU Chapel+

Livestream chapel and access other Cedarville videos on demand with the CU Chapel+ app. **Learn more at** cedarville.edu/cuChapelPlus.

Chapel is also livestreamed each weekday at 10 a.m. at cedarville.edu/chapellive.



EXPANDING OUR ATHLETIC AND ACADEMIC CAPACITY

At Cedarville, athletics are a platform for the Gospel. In the classroom, Cedarville equips students to make a Gospel impact in some of today’s most in-demand healthcare fields, including the new Master of Athletic Training and developing physician assistant program. The upcoming Athletic and Academic Expansion will address both of these important areas.

As part of Cedarville’s 10-Year Campus Master Plan, Callan Athletic Center, named for legendary basketball coach and longtime athletic director Don Callan, will be expanded. The Athletic Center is the home of Yellow Jacket basketball and volleyball. It seats 3,000 fans and was opened in time for the 1981–82 academic year.

The expansion will include a dedicated weight room for athletes for growing physical strength so they can perform at the highest level. This will free up the current weight room for the rest of the student body to have more opportunity to experience the health benefits of weight training. In addition,

a new team room will provide more than 2,000 square feet of attractive, branded space for our athletic staff and student-athletes to meet, review film, host events, and recruit future Yellow Jackets.

The second story will create additional classroom and lab space and offices for our School of Allied Health. The new Master of Athletic Training program will enroll its first graduate students in summer 2022 to meet the new national requirements for this field. Additionally, pending all external approvals, we plan to add a Master of Medical Science in PA Studies to our already-strong array of healthcare professional programs.

Groundbreaking for the expansion took place in April, and the new facilities are slated for completion by March of 2022. What a great time to be part of how God is growing the capacity of Cedarville to prepare students to represent Christ well as athletes and as allied health professionals!



LEAVE A LEGACY AND HELP CEDARVILLE GROW!

Support the Athletic and Academic Expansion with your gift of \$20, \$50, \$100, or more!

Leave a legacy or honor a loved one with your naming-level gift, which may be given as a one-time contribution or over a period of years. Naming-level opportunities begin at \$25,000 for:

- Weight room
- Team room
- Collaboration rooms
- Offices
- Labs

For more information, call 937-766-7810 or email advancement@cedarville.edu.



On Friday, April 30, the campus community gathered to celebrate the groundbreaking of this new facility.

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING



This expansion will greatly support the developing physician assistant program and the Master of Athletic Training program. The dedicated education and laboratory space will alleviate pressure on the existing athletic training facility, which will also be a significant benefit to athletics.

EVAN HELLWIG, DEAN, SCHOOL OF ALLIED HEALTH



Cedarville does an amazing job of supporting its athletes and helping us get better. One way that they have done this is by listening to athletes' desires for a bigger varsity weight room. This will give athletes more access to equipment that will get them ready to play at the highest level.

ASHLYN HUFFMAN '21, WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



On April 6, the second annual CU Give Hope Day generated \$300,993 in new gifts to the University from more than 600 donors! This included \$135,000 in matching gifts released by the generous outpouring of giving.

All funds raised will help provide emergency scholarships desperately needed by hundreds of students at risk of not returning next year due to financial hardship.

If you missed out on CU Give Hope Day, you can still make a gift at cedarville.edu/cugivehope21 now through June 30, 2021.

RETURN TO TRADITIONAL FALL SEMESTER



We are excited to announce that Cedarville University is planning to return to normal operations, including the traditional fall schedule, for 2021–2022.

Fall classes are set to begin on August 18. The University's annual Getting Started move-in weekend is slated for August 13–15.

Lord willing, the Fall Semester 2021 will see a return to typical pre-pandemic activities, including Fall Bible Conference, homecoming, fall sports, study abroad, Global Outreach, and more. The academic calendar will include a fall break again to allow time to refresh mid-semester.

The anticipation of continuing vaccine benefits and more effective treatments for COVID-19 contributed to the announcement and planning for normal operations in the fall. Vaccinations are optional for Cedarville students, faculty, and staff.

It has been quite a journey back to a traditional fall semester.

On March 11, 2020, Cedarville President Thomas White announced in chapel that students would begin remote learning for the next two

weeks, following the recommendations of Ohio Governor Mike DeWine. Before those two weeks were finished, the University administration decided that students would continue to learn off campus for the remainder of the spring semester and summer terms; faculty and staff

were to work from home except for essential personnel.

Here are some other key milestones:

March 20, 2020 – Announced that virtual learning would continue for the remainder of the academic year; made the difficult decision to cancel all on-campus events, including commencement.

March 23, 2020 – Published guidelines to adhere to the Governor's stay-at-home orders.

April 8, 2020 – Held #CUGIVEHOPE Day; generous donors gave nearly \$215,000 to help students impacted financially by COVID-19.

April 17, 2020 – Announced a virtual senior celebration, which was held on May 2.

May 15, 2020 – Announced the return of residential students back to campus for fall 2020.

July 22, 2020 – Released the fall Caring Well. Staying Well. COVID-19 Operating Plan.

August 14, 2020 – Welcomed a record number of students during a touchless Getting Started Weekend.

September 21, 2020 – Implemented Caring Well Meals, delivering breakfast, lunch, and dinner to quarantined and isolated students.

November 23, 2020 – Completed fall semester with no serious cases of COVID-19.

January 16 – Welcomed students back for a second semester following COVID-19 guidelines and protocols.

March 9 – Announced the return to Jeremiah Chapel.

March 15 – Announced the return of in-person commencement for April 30 and May 1.

April 30–May 1 – Held in-person commencement services for 2021 graduate students and the class of 2020 on April 30 and two commencements for 2021 undergraduates on May 1 in Doden Field House.

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FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

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cedarville.edu/InsideView

MUSIC VIDEOS INSPIRE PRAISE



If you love Cedarville University – home of the Yellow Jackets – this is the place to shop. Browse Cedarville apparel, gifts, and athletic-branded products available online.

Visit cedarville.edu/bookstore

Cedarville worship bands, Resonance Gold, Resonance Blue, and Rekindle, have created music videos available for viewing on YouTube and for download on popular streaming services.

Resonance Gold performed *Whole Heart* on location at the Clifton Mill. Cedarville's Creative Services team filmed, edited, and produced the video, which is now available on YouTube and at cedarville.edu/wholeheart. The song is downloadable from iTunes, Spotify, and other streaming services.

Videos were also created for Rekindle's rendition of *What Mercy Did for Me*, which released on YouTube on June 3. Resonance Blue's *Graves Into Gardens* will be available online September 3.

In addition to the Resonance and Rekindle videos, members from Jubilate, Cedarville's select mixed ensemble, recorded individual videos of themselves singing *Here I Am to Worship*. The individual videos were then spliced into one, including Roger O'Neel, Associate Professor of Worship and the band's director, conducting. The Jubilate video released on YouTube this spring.

"The primary purpose for all our bands is the Gospel going out, the seed being sown," commented Susan Troth, Assistant Professor of Worship and Director for Rekindle.

DID YOU KNOW THAT CEDARVILLE OFFERS TWO ONLINE GRADUATE-LEVEL WORSHIP PROGRAMS?

- Master of Arts in Worship and Theology
- Graduate Certificate in Worship Leadership

Learn more at cedarville.edu/worship.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE

- 4 CU Friday
- 7-11 Academic Camps: Athletic Training, Criminal Justice, Music, Nursing, Psychology, Worship
- 12-26 Summer Scholars/Early Start
- 14-18 Academic Camp: Worship
- 14-25 WAVE Program

JULY

- 5-9 Academic Camps: Art and Design, Engineering, Geology, History and Government
- 12-16 Academic Camps: Engineering, Molecular Biology, Pharmacy

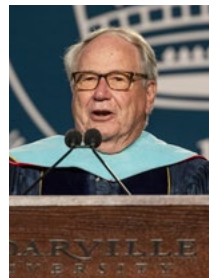
AUGUST

- 13-15 Getting Started Weekend
- 16-19 Fall Bible Conference

OCTOBER

- 1-2 Homecoming
- 14-16 Fall Break

cedarville.edu/events





2020 PRESIDENT'S TROPHY WINNER KIMBERLY POWELL



2021 PRESIDENT'S TROPHY WINNER MAEGAN CROPSEY



2021 PRESIDENT'S TROPHY WINNER DANIEL GRAEFF



COMMENCEMENT IN PERSON AGAIN!



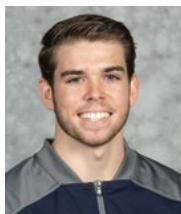
We were overjoyed to honor graduates in person during our 125th Annual Commencement on April 30 and May 1. Due to COVID protocols, we held three separate commencements in Doden Field House: one for graduate students and the class of 2020 on April 30, two for undergraduates on May 1. We also held a combined Senior Celebration for the class of 2020 and class of 2021. We thank God for the opportunity to recognize our graduates, and give praise to Him that family and friends could join us on campus for the celebration.



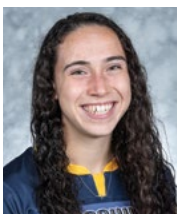
YELLOW JACKET



Ashlyn Huffman '21



Tommy Ansel '21



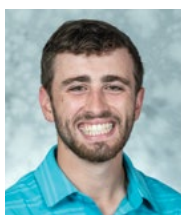
Aleah Martone '22



Caleb Pendleton '22



Lauren Willow '22



Isaac Wood '21



Madeline Barnes '21



Alex Totten '21



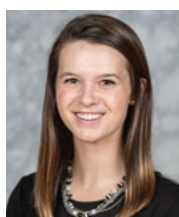
Lyssi Snouffer '24



Lydia Sweeney '24



2020-21 Women's Basketball Team



Erin Ackerson '19

GOLDEN JACKET AWARDS

NCAA Division II national champion (2019) pole vaulter Tommy Ansel '21 and Lady Jackets standout guard Ashlyn Huffman '21 were honored as the 2020-21 Yellow Jacket Club Athletes of the Year during the Golden Jacket Awards on April 21.

The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee produced and directed the annual gala in the DeVries Theatre for seniors and athletic staff, while all other student-athletes, due to COVID-19 protocols and guidelines, gathered at a watch party in the Callan Gym. There was a post-show reception for all athletes and department staff at Callan. A total of 58 senior student-athletes, cheerleaders, and athletic trainers were honored along with special award winners.

YELLOW JACKET CLUB ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

Ashlyn Huffman '21 (women's basketball)

Tommy Ansel '21 (track & field)

DR. AND MRS. DUANE WOOD FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

Aleah Martone '22 (women's soccer)

Caleb Pendleton '22 (men's track & field and cross country)

CALLAN SPORTS MINISTRY AWARD

Lauren Willow '22 (volleyball and women's track & field)

Isaac Wood '21 (golf)

PETE AND JOYCE REESE AWARD

Madeline Barnes '21 (women's track & field)

Alex Totten '21 (men's tennis)

OTHER AWARDS INCLUDED:

Freshman of the Year: Lyssi Snouffer '24 (volleyball and women's track & field)

Teammate of the Year: Lydia Sweeney '24 (women's basketball)

Comeback Athlete of the Year: Tommy Ansel '21 (men's track & field)

Team of the Year: Women's Basketball

Staff Member of the Year: Erin Ackerson '19 (athletic training)

FOLLOW YELLOW JACKET SPORTS ONLINE

Web: yellowjackets.cedarville.edu

facebook.com/cujackets

instagram.com/cujackets

twitter.com/cujackets

Livestream: cedarville.edu/AthleticsLivestream

SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS ARE BACK!



Cedarville University is planning to have a full slate of individual, team, and day athletic camps this summer. To register and find the most up-to-date information on each camp, visit cedarville.edu/sportscamps.

INDIVIDUAL CAMPS

Boys Basketball Elite Camp	June 26, 2021
Girls Basketball Elite Camp	June 5, 2021
Girls Basketball	June 13–15, 2021
Boys Basketball	June 20–24, 2021
Women's Soccer Elite Residential Camp	July 11–13, 2021
Boys Soccer Camp	June 10–12, 2021
Volleyball Elite and Development Camp	July 11–14, 2021

TEAM CAMPS

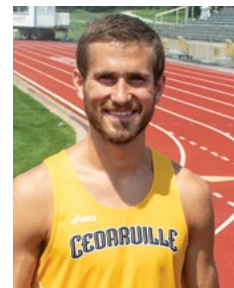
Girls Basketball Team Camp #1	June 7–9, 2021
Girls Basketball Team Camp #2	June 10–12, 2021
Boys Basketball Team Camp	June 17–19, 2021
Girls Soccer Team Residential Camp	July 11–13, 2021
Boys Soccer Team Camp	July 8–10, 2021
Girls Volleyball Team Camp	July 14–17, 2021
Girls Volleyball Spike Fest	July 17, 2021

DAY CAMPS

Boys Basketball Day Camp	June 28–July 1, 2021
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HEADING TO THE OLYMPIC TRIALS!

Dan Michalski '18 is heading to the U.S. Olympic track & field trials in June. At one time this spring, he owned the top American time in the steeplechase and the third best time in the world for 2021. Michalski was the 2017 NCAA Division II champion in the steeplechase. He continued competing during his graduate studies at Indiana University, where he was an All-American. This spring, he won the Drake Relays with a time of 8:29.83, breaking the meet record set in 1977.



GLOBAL OUTREACH TRIPS PLANNED THIS SUMMER



Prior to COVID-19, Cedarville students spanned the globe to serve and share their faith through Cedarville's Global Outreach program. Summer 2020 trips were postponed due to the pandemic. But this summer, plans are underway for a return of U.S.-based and international short-term missions trips.

"As certain areas of the world have opened to American travelers, we are moving forward in sending teams with the same COVID-19 protocols that we expect students to abide by here at home," said Keith Holcomb, Assistant Director for Global Outreach at Cedarville.

U.S. TRIPS PLANNED INCLUDE:

- **Clarkston, Georgia:** From May 2–9, Thad Franz, Vice Chair of Experiential Programs and Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice, and ND Nguyen '21, Pharm.D. '24, led a trip to Clarkston, home to thousands of refugees from more than 40 countries. The team will provide healthcare services and education.
- **Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania:** Students supported a new church from May 2–9. Jim Cato '83, Associate Vice President of Christian Ministries, led the team.
- **Salt Lake City, Utah:** From June 14–20, Scott Crosby, IT Services and Support Coordinator, along with his wife, Pam, will lead an outreach team to help with church planting.
- **Chicago, Illinois:** From July 25–31, students will serve children and youth through a Christian school and Bible clubs with Inner City Impact. Senior admissions counselor Cam Arminio will coordinate.

INTERNATIONAL TRIPS PLANNED INCLUDE:

- **Guatemala:** Emily Leeds '22, a social work major, led a team of students that shared Jesus with children through songs and drama from May 2–10. They served alongside Advancing Ministries of the Gospel (AMG).
- **Togo:** From May 2–30, Scott Long, Assistant Professor of Nursing, and Toni Lynn (Van Beveren) Fleming '88, a nurse at Mayo Clinic in Fairmont, Minnesota, led a team of nursing students to serve in a mission hospital.
- **Eleuthera, Bahamas:** From May 29–June 6, students worked with a local church to offer community outreach and sporting events and built a new playground for a public school.
- **Democratic Republic of Congo:** From May 29–July 10, a team of students will serve with a missionary family in a hospital, work on construction projects, and care for children. Mark McClain '89, Chair of the Department of Science and Mathematics and Professor of Chemistry, will help prepare the team for the trip.
- **Central Asia:** Janelle Thompson '18 will lead a group of nursing students to serve with WorldVenture at a hospital that cares for women and children from June 1–29.
- **Italy:** From June 10–28, Emily Gifford '21, a recent international studies graduate, will lead a team to work as counselors and staff for an outdoor camp, serve through construction, and provide English as a second language (ESL) instruction.
- **Hungary:** From July 24–31, Jillian Figley, administrative assistant for the Department of Science and Mathematics, and Claire Salser '22, an early childhood education major with a women's ministry minor, will lead a group of students to serve alongside Word of Life staff by teaching English and coaching soccer and basketball.

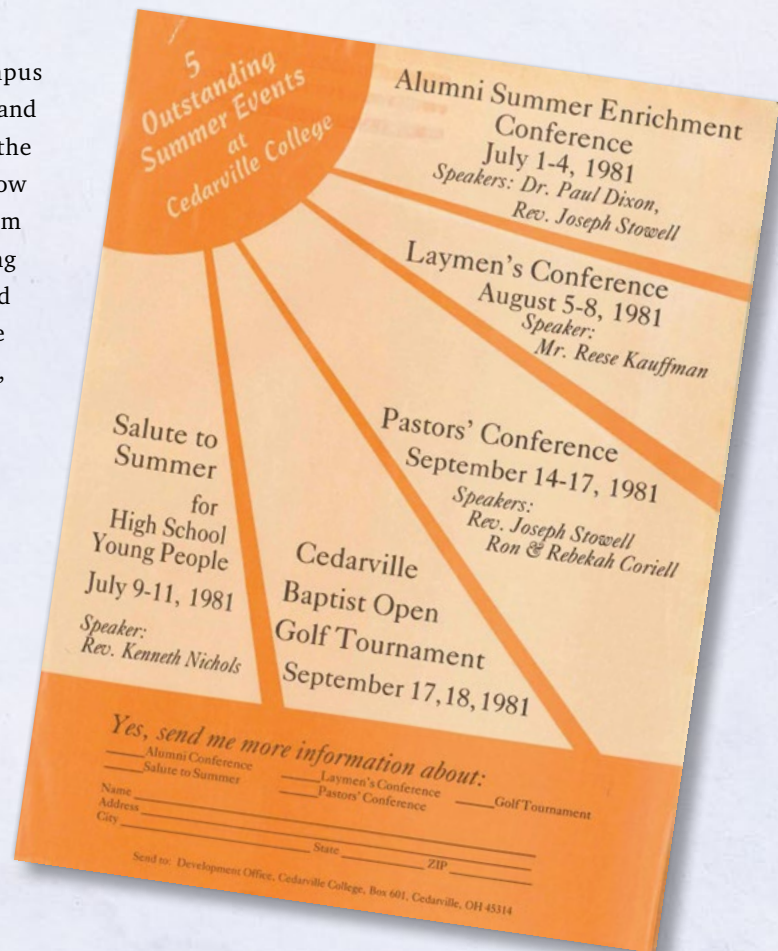


MOMENT

in Time

RETREAT, REFLECT, RECREATE

During the summer, Cedarville's campus has been a place of spiritual, physical, and emotional rejuvenation. This ad from the spring 1981 issue of *The Torch* shows how active campus was with special events. From denominational conferences to weeklong high-energy teen retreats to academic and sports camps, Cedarville is a place where friends and family come to meet the Lord, grow in their faith, and discover more about the way God intends to work through them for His glory. We look forward to having you on campus this summer!



5 Outstanding Summer Events at Cedarville College

- Alumni Summer Enrichment Conference**
July 1-4, 1981
Speakers: Dr. Paul Dixon, Rev. Joseph Stowell
- Laymen's Conference**
August 5-8, 1981
Speaker: Mr. Reese Kauffman
- Pastors' Conference**
September 14-17, 1981
Speakers: Rev. Joseph Stowell, Ron & Rebekah Coriell
- Cedarville Baptist Open Golf Tournament**
September 17, 18, 1981
- Salute to Summer for High School Young People**
July 9-11, 1981
Speaker: Rev. Kenneth Nichols

Yes, send me more information about:

Alumni Conference Laymen's Conference Golf Tournament
 Salute to Summer Pastors' Conference

Name _____
 Address _____
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Send to: Development Office, Cedarville College, Box 601, Cedarville, OH 45314

GENEROUS LIVING

“God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor. 9:7)

Have you ever considered what it means to be a cheerful giver?

In 2 Corinthians 8:1, Paul describes the Macedonians as an example of generous living, “For in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.” Did you notice how he described the Macedonians? Severely afflicted and overflowing with joy, extremely impoverished and overflowing in generosity. How is this? Too often our circumstances affect our joy and giving. Yet, according to the testimony of Paul, the Macedonians discovered that you can be severely afflicted and overflowing with joy, and extremely impoverished and overflowing in generosity.

Randy Alcorn, author of the *Treasure Principle*, helps us discover the secret of joyful giving and generous living. Alcorn says we are living on a continuum. There is a line that goes from eternity past to eternity future, and we are just a dot on that line. We can either live in that dot or we can live on that line. We can live for now, or we can live for eternity. When we understand that it’s all God’s and that God freely supplies all things, then giving of ourselves — our time, our talents, and our treasures — becomes an eternal perspective, not a temporal one.

The Macedonians understood this. They understood what it meant to give freely with a Kingdom purpose in mind, not to satisfy themselves with the trappings of this world, but to be satisfied in Jesus Christ, our greatest treasure, and to have a Kingdom perspective in generous living. The Macedonians had an attitude of gratitude. Even in their severe affliction and persecution, they were thankful to God and gave of themselves and their possessions joyfully.

When we give of ourselves, our time, our talents, and our treasures, we are enriched in every way and God is glorified. Warren Wiersbe says it this way, “Giving is not something we do, but something we are.” He goes on to say our giving encourages others to give, blesses us, meets the needs of others, glorifies God, and unites God’s people together in praise and thanksgiving.



In 2 Corinthians 9:6–7, Paul underscores two principles in generous living. First is the principle of sowing and reaping. “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” Second is the principle of intent or motivation. Paul says, “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” The Greek word translated as “cheerful” literally means hilarious. If something is hilarious, there is an outward expression, an abundance of joy that wells up within us. Paul describes a kind of cheerful giving, joyful giving, and happy giving that wells up within us and exudes joy.

My challenge for all of us is to live generously, to give generously, and to give cheerfully for the needs of others. I believe that there is a correlation between giving and joy. When we give of ourselves, we will find great joy. It is God who supplies all things. It is not giving out of our self-sufficiency, but giving out of God’s all-sufficiency. Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift.

For His glory and our exceeding joy.

Rick Melson is Vice President for Advancement. He earned his Ph.D. in leadership studies from Dallas Baptist University.



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