

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Search for Pastor of Children & Family Ministry
- Treasurer Report
- Summer Women's Bible Study
- Vacation Bible School Registration begins

INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:

- Reading Connection 2
- Advice from Dad 2
- Food Pantry 3
- Importance of Failure 3
- World Happenings 4
- SHMILY 4
- Calendar 5

FREE NEWS



VOLUME 16, ISSUE 5

June 2011

Why are we searching for a Pastor for Children and Family Ministry? Part 1 by Greg Chenoweth

At our January 2011 Congregational Meeting we voted to begin the search for a full-time Pastor for Children and Family Ministry. (You can read the Ministry Description at our website – www.gefc.org, click *Ministries* and then click *Children & Family Ministry*)

Why are we focusing on “Children and Family”?

God values Family as the primary place of discipleship! When a skeptic challenged Jesus on the most important commandment, He quoted a well-known passage which promotes the family as the center of discipleship. Deuteronomy 6:4–9 states,

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

This passage implies that parents are the full-time disciplers of their children. Ephesians 6:4 echoes this sentiment when it

says, “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but **bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.**”

In our modern culture, families have abdicated their role as primary educators to the state and the church. Certainly, we need professional educators and churches. But the Lord still holds parents responsible for the spiritual education of their children. We know that the family is where our values are introduced, ingrained and enforced for better or for worse. Schools and churches either work with or fight against what is going on at home. Doesn't it make sense that a discipling church promote godly family discipleship?

(Continued on page 3)

VBS is “Kickin’ It Old School”

Vacation Bible School will be here soon! Get ready for “Kickin’ It Old School” with new music and lessons from the Go Fish guys! VBS will be July 11-15 from 5:30-8:00pm, with a family lunch on Sun. July 17th. You may register starting June 1 in the church office or online at gefc.com, and receive a free CD

of this year's VBS music! Postcard invitations are available at the information center so you can invite your friends! VBS is open to children age 4 - entering 6th grade.

Attention VBS volunteers! We will have a training meeting for all volunteers on Mon., June 27th

from 7-8pm here at GEFC. If you haven't signed up to volunteer yet, please contact Christy Sancken at 944-0239 or csancken@dist228.org. During the week of VBS, we will have nursery and a 3 yr. old class available for children of our volunteers. Thank you!

Summer Reading Connection



Crazy Love to be reviewed at 10am on July 12.

Have you ever wondered if we're missing it? It's crazy if you think about it. The God of the universe—the Creator of nitrogen and pine needles, galaxies and e-minor—loves us with a radical, unconditional, self-sacrificing love. And what is our typical response? We go to church, sing songs, and try not to cuss.

Whether you've verbalized it yet or not...we all know something's wrong.

Does something deep inside your heart long to break free from status quo? Are you hungry for an authentic faith that addresses the problems of our world with tangible, even radical, solutions? God is calling you to a passionate love relationship with Himself. Because the answer to religious complacency isn't working harder at a list of dos and don'ts—it's falling in love with God. And once you encounter His love, as Francis describes it, you will never be

the same.

Because when you're wildly in love with someone, it changes everything.

The summer reading selection is *Crazy Love*, the #1 selling book of 2010, by Francis Chan. The book will be reviewed July 12 from 10:00-11:30am. This book is readily available in most book stores.

Join the book group for what is certain to be a lively discussion.

Best Advice Given From Dad

The following responses were given via facebook to the question: *What is the best advice that your Dad ever gave you?*

- **Terri Bush** - When your husband gets home from work, give him time to unwind and don't start telling him all the troubles of the day.
- **Kelly Kraft** - Just do it!
- **Marie Donaldson** - Bad things that happen can make you bitter or better.
- **Kisha Shoemaker** - I never really got any, but Dan is raising our sons with a passionate respect for women. They open doors for Elli and I. They say yes ma'am and sir. And, I think that is going to cover a multitude of things in life. He also shares a passion for modesty for our little gal as well.
- **Erin (Dawson) McCallister** - Always stay

on the moral highground.

- **Christy Brewer** - Don't sweat the small stuff.
- **Debby Heniff** - My dad still tells all of us, "Follow the yellow brick road." I think he's unknowingly referring to the "straight and narrow road" from Scripture!
- **Jane Noyd** - In regards to home repair (which neither one of us are good at) ... "Never be afraid to call a professional."
- **Macy Brants** - The greatest accomplishment in life is to be you in a world constantly trying to make you someone else.
- **Debra Jones** - I can't think of verbal advice as much as in just the "advice" I see in how he's lived his life. Money was never of great importance, as he has always given it freely to anyone who needed it. The door was always open as

seen by the many times we had extended family living with us as I was growing up. And time was always for family and not just activities as he still shows in his life today (82 years) as he drives weekly to visit his brothers 60+ miles away and spend the day with them.♥

- **Beth Dykstra** - Never really put anything in words but taught us to get our work done first and you will have more fun playing because you don't have to quit and go to work. Also, if it isn't broke don't fix it. If you can't fix it, you probably didn't need it in the first place. Don't be afraid to try something new. And no working on Sunday's it is to be spent with family.
- **Amanda (Dykstra) Braun** - Choose your battles carefully.
- **Cheryl Whitford** - Always wear clean underwear.



(Why are we.....Continued from page 1)

GEFC values Family! As a church we want to encourage and equip parents to do what God has called them to do: disciple their children. Our Core Value of *Family* states: "We are a family-oriented church which tries hard to train God's people to live effectively in Christian families. Our children and youth ministries place an emphasis upon growing young people God's way; yet designed to augment, not compete with, parental responsibilities. We will provide both ministry opportunities and teaching/learning programs for all members of the family-youngest to oldest as well as those who are unmarried. In addition, it is our belief that strong, healthy marriages and a commitment to the sanctity

of life are additional components of family commitment." To fulfill what we say we want to be requires that we focus of the discipling of families.

Geneseo Values Family Children Driving around Geneseo and reading our local paper reveals that our community takes great interest in our children. Our school system is the largest employer in the community. When it comes to investment, our children deserve the finest sports facilities. Activities for our children surpass the number of hours in a week.

Yet, with all the emphasis on children, where's the investment in their families? It would appear that the primary role of parents in Geneseo is host and chauffeur

rather than nurturer and discipler. By helping to make disciples of families, GEFC can contribute to the health of our community.

Why are we focusing on "Children and Family"? God values family; we (GEFC) value family; our community values children. And when we look at the composition of our church family it makes sense that we would emphasize family. In a January 2011 demographic review of GEFC, we found that 72% of our GEFC family (280/389 individuals) consists of parents and children. With such a significant segment of our church in the daily grind of family life, shouldn't we invest in the encouragement and equipping of families?

"It would appear that the primary role of parents in Geneseo is host and chauffeur rather than nurturer and discipler."

Geneseo Food Pantry News & Needs

The Food Pantry roof has been completed and it looks very nice. Thank you to everyone in the community who contributed to this project in any way. It was truly a community effort and a coming together of God's people for a common purpose. We are blessed to live in a place where generosity and caring are part of everyday life.

The first donation of lettuce arrived at the Food Pantry on May 3, 2011! It was gone in less than 30 minutes, because almost everyone who likes to eat enjoys fresh

produce and vegetables from the garden. Our clients look forward to garden produce of any kind, and we would like to ask you to consider sharing any overabundance of vegetables with food pantry clients. The produce will be appreciated, and the people doing the giving will feel even better!

Again this spring, summer clothes are needed for all ages, especially children through sizes 12 to 14. Sneakers and sandals are also

requested.

Food needs for this month are: sugar, pancake syrup, cake mix, microwave popcorn, soda crackers, graham crackers, and instant potatoes

Non-food needs are: laundry soap, fabric softener, household cleaning products, diapers sizes 4 and 5,



Fresh produce is appreciated by the Food Pantry clients.

The Importance of Failure

"Our society is so caught up in winning," said Carlton Young, "we forget that most of the great men and women in history have, at one time or another, failed at something. Often repeatedly and discouragingly. But each failure is nothing more than a brick in the wall that forms the foundation of our success."

In *The Upper Room*, Bob La Forge writes, "Failure does not mean that

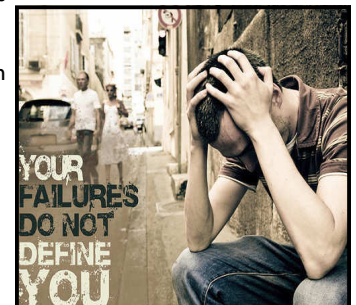
God is against us or that we are hopelessly inept. Failure may be exactly what God can use."

Moses and David, two giants of faith, also knew failure — and not just the average variety that comes from everyday mistakes. Their huge moral missteps resulted in severe consequences. But failure wasn't the end of their stories. These men repented and moved forward, and God used them

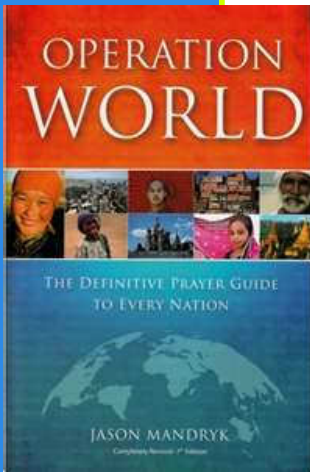
mightily.

And so it can be for any of us who fails or falls short.

Let's give one another room to fail!



World Happenings by Chuck Donaldson



Available to borrow from our church library.

...the only Christian in the Pakistani government cabinet died in a hail of bullets while on his way to work.

Events in many predominantly Muslim countries around the world daily capture headlines about wars, atrocities, conflicts, government unrest, and genocide. Whenever we read a newspaper or watch television news, we have to have a world atlas handy to keep track of all of these countries and cultures. The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association April 2011 newsletter has some interesting facts about Christianity in the Middle East and Northern Africa, and how so many of our Christian brothers and sisters are being severely persecuted. Here are some excerpts:

Our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Middle East need our prayers.

As events unfold in Libya, we are reminded that Christians under Moammar Gadhafi's ruthless regime have been persecuted and imprisoned for converting from Islam. It is illegal to encourage a Libyan citizen to turn to Christ. We pray that whoever succeeds Gadhafi will give freedom to churches.

In Iran just a few days ago, five Christians were sentenced to a year's imprisonment by the Iranian Revolutionary Court on charges of "crimes against the Islamic order" because of their participation in house churches. Recently Iranian authorities confiscated and burned hundreds of Bibles, and an Iranian pastor is now on death row for "apostasy" because he once was a Muslim.

Last month, the only Christian in the Pakistani government cabinet died in a hail of bullets while on his way to work. His assassins scattered leaflets at the scene with this warning to Christians: "With the blessing of Allah, the mujahedeen will send each of you to hell."

Only weeks earlier a state governor in Pakistan, himself a Muslim, was assassinated after he spoke out against a harsh law that is used to harass and jail Christians. The news media reported that members of an Islamic lawyers union showered the assassin with flower petals following his arrest.

This past New Year's Day, a suicide bomber attacked a

packed church in Egypt's port city of Alexandria, killing 21 worshippers and wounding 80 more. These are just recent examples of what churches in many parts of the Middle East face. Though they are a tiny minority and often persecuted, followers of Christ gather for worship in every country in the region. We can say about them what Paul the apostle said: "Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring" (2 Thessalonians 1:4, NIV).

All across the Middle East where the church is oppressed, harassed, and persecuted, Christians are putting their faith and their lives on the line to present the truth of the Gospel to friends and family, and God is drawing people to Himself in truth and love. Pray that these new believers will "be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer" (Romans 12:12).

NOTE: You may pick up a graph adapted from *Operation World* at the Welcome Center in the foyer to give you perspective.

SHMILY

Shirley Dobson tells of a game her grandparents played called SHMILY. They took turns writing that word in unusual places for the other person to find. For example, when steam would gather on a bathroom mirror, one or the other would write "SHMILY" on it with a bare finger.

Apparently, the word could

show up anywhere—even on sugar, flour or salt spilled on a kitchen counter. The game lasted a lifetime.

When Shirley's grandmother died, a bouquet ribbon had the letters SHMILY on it. What did they stand for? They were the first letters of the words:

See How Much I Love You.



We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the Rick Gilson family as they mourn the loss of his brother who passed away on May 12, 2011

See How Much I Love You!



June 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2 Pastoral Search Meeting 7:00 pm	3	4 Conner Hartman Graduation Party 11am-1pm
5 Partners-In-Prayer 7:45am Tim Reynolds Graduation Party 2-5pm Sr. High Sponsor Training 4pm	6 Missions Team Meeting 7pm Men's Softball 7pm	7	8 Sr. High Youth Group 6:30pm Awana Leadership Meeting 6:30 pm	9	10	11 Isaac Walton Fishing Rodeo 8-11am
12 Partners-In-Prayer 7:45am	13 Missions Team Meeting 7pm Men's Softball 7pm	14 Elders Meeting 7pm Men's Softball 7pm	15 Jr. High Youth Group 6:30 pm	16 Pastoral Search Meeting 7:00 pm	17	18
Sr. High Snowbird Outfitters Camp - June 12-19						
19 FATHER'S DAY Partners-In-Prayer 7:45am	20 Administrative Council Meeting 7pm Men's Softball Tournament	21	22 Sr. High Youth Group 6:00pm Jr. High Youth Group 6:00 pm	23 Women's Bible Study 6:30pm	24	25
26 Partners-In-Prayer 7:45am	27 VBS Volunteer Mtg. 7pm Men's Softball 8:15pm	28 Men's Leadership/Elders study 6:30pm Men's Softball 7pm	29	30 Women's Bible Study 6:30pm	ALL MEN'S SOFTBALL GAMES PLAYED AT RICHMOND HILL	

Treasurers Financial Report

April 30, 2011

Annual Budget:	\$365,504.00
GF Contributions	
YTD:	\$121,815.60
Expenses YTD:	\$109,602.41
Emergency Fund	\$90,000.00
Basement Rebuild	\$75,814.00
Building Fund	\$59,194.48
General Fund	\$47,809.23
Youth Retreat	\$3,955.66
Missions	\$1,022.94
ABF's and SS	\$652.36
Gifts & Memorials	\$421.69
GRAND TOTAL	\$278,870.36

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Sunday Worship Services

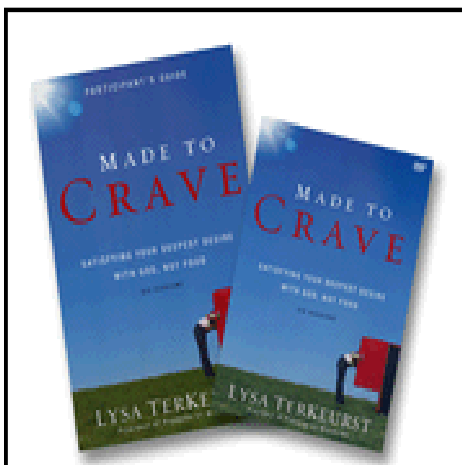
- Conventional Service - 8:15am
- Contemporary Service - 10:45am

Education - 9:30-10:30am

The FREE NEWS

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We're on the web
gefc.org



Women's Summer Bible Study
MADE TO CRAVE
by Lysa TerKeurst
Thursdays June 23-August 4
6:30-8:30 pm

Made to Crave is the missing link between a woman's desire to be healthy and the spiritual empowerment necessary to make that happen. The reality is we are made to crave. Craving isn't a bad thing. But we must realize God created us to crave Him. Many of us have misplaced that craving by overindulging in physical pleasures instead of lasting spiritual satisfaction.

This is not a how-to study. This is not the latest and greatest dieting plan. This study is the necessary companion for women to use alongside whatever healthy lifestyle plan they choose. This is a book to help women find the "want-to" in making healthy lifestyle choices.

Ladies, can you relate to these statements? Join us for our summer Bible study by Lysa TerKeurst. We will meet on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30pm from June 23-August 4. This study uses both a book and a participant's guide. You may register for the study and materials at the Welcome Center in the foyer of the church. The cost is \$10 a piece for book and guide (\$20 total). We will order materials for those who register and pay by June 2. If you have questions contact Alli Stahl, Teri Walters or Catherine Sommers.

NOTE: Although this study focuses on issues with food the principles are practical to any area of struggle in your life.