



I've Been Thinking about . . . Godly Mothers by Pastor Chris

What is the influence of a godly mother?

Monica bore three children, among them Augustine. While Augustine made her happy with his brilliance as a scholar and teacher, he also made her sad with his debauched and promiscuous lifestyle. Augustine also subscribed to a false religion called Manichaeism.

Monica prayed fervently and unceasingly for her son's conversion to Christ, her tears watering the ground in every place where she prayed. When Monica asked a bishop to straighten Augustine out, the bishop advised Monica simply to continue to pray for her son, telling her, "it is not possible that the son of these tears should perish."

For eighteen years, Monica prayed that her son Augustine would come to Christ. Monica's prayers were answered when, on a summer day in 386, Augustine read Romans 13:13-14: "Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature." Augustine came to Christ that instant. When he told his mother Monica that he had converted to Christ, her mourning was converted to joy as she leaped in gladness and praised the Lord. Augustine went on to become one of the most influential Christians who ever lived.

Susanna Wesley and her husband Samuel were the parents of nineteen children, ten of whom survived to adulthood. Susanna dedicated herself to the spiritual welfare of her children. She scheduled one hour per week alone with each child in order to nurture each child individually in the ways of the Lord.

When Susanna's son John grew up and left home, he asked her to convert the hour she had been spending with him into an hour spent writing to him. Susanna wrote letters to John about Christian faith and living. She wrote similar letters to her other adult children. Her letters are meaty, insightful, and full of devotion to Christ.

In addition to her letters, Susanna wrote meditations and Bible commentaries for her own spiritual growth. She also wrote commentaries on the Apostles Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments.

Susanna's son John became one of the spearheads of the First Great Awakening in the mid-18th century. Tens of thousands came to know Christ under his evangelistic preaching. Susanna's son Charles wrote over 6,000 hymns. Many of his hymns are still sung today, such as "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing," and "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today."

Nancy Johnson bore four children. Her devotion to her husband Earl, and his to her, showed their children the meaning of the vow "in sickness and in health." When her physician husband was called to the hospital on evening emergencies, Nancy took charge of leading family prayers, teaching four active children how to converse with God. Nancy's steadfast devotion to the Lord has played a large part in bringing her children to know and love Christ. Her joy in Christ and gratitude to God, even in the midst of griefs and privations, has set an example of the abundant Christian life for her children—one of whom you know.

Praise God for godly mothers!

“Prayer for Family”

Associate Pastor of Ministry Advancement & Adult Ministries
Howard Lundeen

“On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers.” (2 Cor. 2:10b-11a NIV)

The older I get the more convinced I am that one of the most valuable things I can do for others each day is to spend time in intercessory prayer for them. Recently there has been an increasing conviction within me that I should see if we can get a few people together to begin a small group ministry that focuses on prayer for families. In our society we are seeing an increased number of broken marriages and families that are struggling. People frequently share with me challenges they are having with their children. We are living in a society where even the definition of a family is in question. A few years back we had a prayer ministry known as “The Front Porch.” It consisted of a few mothers who met regularly to pray for prodigal children. I am wondering if we ought to begin a similar prayer ministry with a little wider focus upon the entire family? What do you think? If you believe God may be moving you, or someone you know, to be part of such a ministry, please contact me and I will arrange for an organizational meeting as soon as possible.

Heaven’s Gates & Hell’s Flames: How amazing God is! Sunday, Monday and Tuesday evenings, April 19-21, we had the powerful drama “Heaven’s Gates & Hell’s Flames” presented at Christ Community Church. I couldn’t be more proud of all of you who were members of the cast. You did an outstanding job! The Spirit of God was at work in a phenomenal way! Each night we had several people make decisions to either receive Christ as their personal Savior or to recommit their lives to Him in pursuit of spiritual maturity. How true the verse in Ephesians is that says God is able to do more than we can imagine! We honestly had underestimated what God was about to do. The last two nights we had to scramble to have enough materials to give to each of those who came forward. Praise God for the many who placed their faith in Jesus Christ, and please pray for wisdom as we move to meet the challenge of helping disciple those who are now in need of added encouragement and instruction. Maybe God is calling you to lead a small discipleship group? We all can speak a word of encouragement when we meet those new in the Lord. Also, remember one of the most powerful things you can do is to pray faithfully for God’s blessing, protection, and direction.

Vision Reminder: When we as a church moved from our old facilities north of Loon Lake to our new location, a vision we had was that God would use us to reach 244,000 people for Christ. The number 244,000 was arrived at as an estimate of the number of ears of corn that was in the corn field that existed at the location Christ Community Church now occupies. It was surely a unique thought, but one that caught on with church leadership and members. As I reflect upon this vision, the only reaction I have is that it seems conservative; why not one-million or more? Be that as it may, I am wondering if we are all aware of the vision our people had when we relocated to 2200 4th Street N.E. in 2004? How are we doing? How do you believe God wants to use you to help reach the lost for Him? Let’s not allow the vision of 244,000 souls to fade away; rather, let’s fan the vision into a roaring flame that helps motivate us to share the good news of Jesus Christ with our friends and neighbors. God is “not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” (2 Pet. 3:9) Let’s pray that God will give each of us a compassion for the lost similar to His.

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever.” Eph 3:20-21 NIV

Pastor Howard

20.20 Student Ministry Update

From the desk of: Pastor Zach Marino

I write this following a huge response to the gospel presentation at Heaven's Gates Hells Flames last night at CCC. This also follows a conversation I had with a student at school who could be labeled as an "outsider" or "rough kid." However, when you get to know this student a little, he is tender hearted and just wants to be loved like we want to be loved! Well, today I found out he gave his life to the Lord! How EXCITING! I am trusting God will work and not allow Satan to pluck that seed of desire and truth from him. I am learning fast that God is moving and working and we just need to be courageous to be active in His will! That reminds me of an Old Testament leader who needed some encouragement to be courageous as God called him to difficult tasks.

Joshua, the servant of the Lord, was called to fill some big shoes. "After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide; 'Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised to Moses.....As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them.'" (Joshua 1:1-3; 5b-6) Joshua was called to meet some big expectations. However, after he received his tasks he wasn't left to do it himself. God promised His aid every step of the way.

As a leader here at CCC, I was challenged with this verse. When God calls me to walk a tough part in life or a stretch where I think to myself, "God, you've got to be kidding me!" I need to remember this passage. **He is with me. He is my strength and confidence when I feel I can't do it!** Joshua led his people into battles, into musical battles... (battle of Jericho), etc. I think I can face the challenges that come before me. Wait, I don't think, I **know** I can.

God also commands Joshua and the people to obey the law and not stray from it. We too need to follow God's commands. If we are disobeying God's commands and not caring because we are covered in grace, that is being complacent and developing an "I don't care" attitude. God wants us to have a vibrant faith and life and we only receive that by being in relationship with Him and obeying His words for us.

Where is God calling you to be courageous? Are you following his words for your life or just living in an "I don't care" mentality? Recognize the state of your faith and how that is affecting your willingness to be bold and courageous for Christ! This is something I really will be focusing on as I journey day by day. May God grant us the ability to follow Him faithfully and courageously!

Serving Under Christ,

Pastor Zach Marino

20.20 Student Ministries Special Events Calendar!

<u><i>Sunday School:</i></u> <u><i>9:30a-10:30a</i></u> Jr. High FUEL (Sr. High)	<u><i>20.20</i></u> <u><i>Wednesday Night</i></u> Coming Soon - Guys/Girls Focus Groups	<u><i>SALT</i></u> Sr. High Sundays 3p-4p Fireside Room
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Book Review #10

By Jeff Stebbins
CCC Missionary

Resource Exchange International-Vietnam



The Knowledge of the Holy, by A.W. Tozer ISBN: 0060684127

Books often start with a 'catch'--something leaving readers eager for more. Charles Williams' *War in Heaven*, for example, begins with: "The telephone rang without result, since there was no one in the room but the corpse." Decades ago, students memorized the opening of Dickens' *Tale of Two Cities*: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..."

The first sentence of *The Knowledge of the Holy* is profoundly true, but it also clarifies why Tozer's book is important: "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." Oprah Winfrey, Benjamin Franklin, our spouse, our boss, our neighbor, ourselves: Tozer says nothing's more critical about anyone than their thoughts about God.

If he is right, then we'd better have a true (biblical) understanding of God's character. Anything less is *idolatry*, which Tozer describes as "thoughts about God that are unworthy of Him." Fortunately, God reveals Himself in the Bible, and Tozer's book summarizes and organizes what we find there.

This is a thoughtful, worshipful study of God's character. Each chapter focuses upon one of His attributes (His justice, grace, holiness, etc.), what the Bible says about it, and what it means to us. God's *love*, for example, means that He desires what is best for me; His *wisdom* means He knows what is best and how to make it happen; and His *sovereignty* means He has the power to make it happen. The practical application of these truths, of course, is that we can trust Him utterly. Such truths incline us to worship God, to praise Him for His infinite perfections. God is Himself what makes the Good News good!

Tozer emphasizes the unity of God, that there are no contradictions among His attributes. The Lord, for example, does not suspend being merciful in order to be just. He is always both, and Tozer expresses this concisely: "All that God is does all that God does." While humans vacillate, and sometimes have to choose between love and wrath, God does not.

Every few years, I reread *The Knowledge of the Holy* (perhaps seven or eight times so far), and I need to read it again soon. It never fails to enlarge my view of God. This means that Tozer is doing for us something that God wants to continue the rest of our eternal lives—he is helping us to keep growing in our knowledge of God, who is infinite!

For that and other reasons, this is the favorite of my 'Top 10 God books.' It's not about religion, or about Christian issues. It's about God Himself, an inexhaustible topic deserving more attention than anything else. Period.

For this series, I've chosen two Tozer books (*The Pursuit of God* was reviewed last August); both of them excel at leading readers to passionately pursue a personal knowledge of God. Next month, I'll describe my choices for the 'honorable mentions'--a dozen other great books that each came in eleventh. So many great books!



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A heart for God and you

Sunday Worship Events:

1st service: 8:00am to 9:15am

Fellowship: 9:15am to 9:30am

Sunday School: 9:30am to 10:30am

Second Service: 10:45am to 12pm

Prayer Meeting: 5:00pm to 6:00pm



Staffed Office Hours

	<u>Volunteer</u>	<u>Secretary</u>
Monday:	9:30 a.m.-noon	12 p.m.-5 p.m.
Tuesday:	=====	8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Wednesday:	9:30 a.m.-noon	12 p.m.-5 p.m.
Thursday:	=====	8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Friday:	9:30 a.m.-noon	12 p.m.-5 p.m.

Christ Community Church Mission Statement

As a local body of believers, we will seek to glorify God in worship, in evangelizing the unsaved and in teaching Christians to obey everything Christ commanded. To that end, prayer will be our foremost task, Scripture will be our authority, God's Holy Spirit will be our source of power and love will be our motivation.



MAKS

ALL MOMS WELCOME!!

FRIENDS, FUN AND FELLOWSHIP!

Bring a friend!!



Spring is here and summer is just around the corner. MAKS wants to help energize you during this busy season. MAKS is a moms and kids group that meets the first and third Tuesday of each month in the fireside room from 10 am to noon. We spend time working and learning together as mothers. Then we enjoy a meal together while our children are well cared for and having fun.

May 5th



Cake Decorating!

Learn some cake decorating techniques you can do and be prepared for the next birthday.



May 19th



End of Year Brunch

Come prepared to relax and visit with friends for one last time before summer. Please bring your favorite brunch dish to pass. See you there.



Come prepared to relax, laugh, and meet other moms.

*If you have any questions please contact
Stacey Dufault, Aimee Miller, or Kara Ring.*



Worship Notes



Gloria Seifert - CCC Worship Arts Director

A weekly family tradition we had while our four girls were growing up, was on a Saturday or Sunday evening we'd pop a bunch of popcorn and all go down to our family room for a program or movie to watch together. We may not have all agreed 100% on the choice we were to watch but we still did it together. After the program or movie, of course we'd all make our comments about different things we liked or disliked, etc...

When an article recently resurfaced again in my reading, I thought what an interesting way of comparing this subject. With the author's permission to print the article in our church newsletter, I trust as we read it, it will prompt us all to be active in our worship of our Lord and Savior.

Pass the Popcorn: Physical, active definition for worship

by Dan Adler



What's a worship service supposed to look like?

I'm sure if we polled everyone, we'd get many different opinions—and strongly stated ones at that. But I think many of us approach church much like going to the movies. It's sort of a spectator and consumer activity to a lot of us.

Think of it like this: You go to the movie and buy your ticket. In church, that's like the offering.

Then you get your popcorn. In church that's like the bulletin.

You settle into your seat in the theatre and listen to the music and passively watch those trivia questions on the screen before the show. In church, that's like the prelude music and reading the bulletin while you're waiting for the service to start.

Then, back at the theatre, come the previews for upcoming shows. In church, those are the announcements and for some of us, that's the category that the music fits in as well—preliminaries—stuff you have to get through to get to the show you came for.

And then in the theatre, at last, the movie comes on. In church, that's the sermon. In the theatre, we had hoped to be entertained. Maybe we were moved or maybe we laughed or maybe we were scared. And when the movie's over, either we think it was great or maybe it was a dud and we let everyone we came with know what we thought.

Continued from page 7

In church, we tend to have the same expectation and we give our assessment of the sermon in the same way. "That was a great sermon." "That was a boring sermon." "Man, pastor was meandering today, wasn't he?" "I didn't like the songs they picked this week."

Then, after attending either a church or a theatre, we go home and come back looking for a good show the next week.

For many of us, church is a weekly show we go watch. We pay our offering as if we're buying a ticket and we expect the results we want. Our mindset is that we're going to church to receive something. And certainly that's an okay expectation on one level.

But ultimately, is that what a "worship service" is all about? I don't think so.

You see, the very nature of the word worship, in all of its New Testament and Old Testament variants, is that it's a verb. It's something we do. And that thing we do is never defined as simply "showing up" at a service.

If you're going to be in a real "worship service," it's going to involve some people choosing to worship God. Biblical words for worship have definitions such as "to kiss towards," "to kiss the feet of," "to bow down," "to prostrate oneself," "to ascribe worth to," and "to serve." Biblical worship is described as: singing, shouting, bowing, kneeling, clapping, making joyful noises, dancing, sacrificing, giving offerings and presenting our bodies as living sacrifices. These are very active, physical sounding definitions and descriptions that don't come close to sounding like "show up and receive something."

Worship isn't a passive experience. Worship is a response to who God is and what He's done in light of who we are and what we've done. And when we really start to grasp that truth, we will find ourselves bowing and kneeling and lifting our hands and singing with our whole hearts and giving our offerings as sacrifices to the one who sacrificed His all for us. Just showing up and listening doesn't look anything like biblical worship.

If you're looking for good entertainment or just want to watch a show, maybe it'll be worth your eight bucks to go the local theatre. But if you've gotten a taste of who God is and what He's done in light of who you are and what you've done, I'd recommend heading to church and letting God be your audience for awhile. He'd love to listen and watch and he's worthy of every expression of worship we can offer Him!

Dan Adler is co-founder of Heart of the City Ministries along with his wife, Sandy. For the past 11 years they have been gathering Christians across racial and denominational lines in worship and calling them to biblical unity.

MISSIONS BUZZ

We are looking forward to having Ro and Mawii Pudaite minister to our church on May 31st for both services, and a combined adult Sunday School class. They are gentle, humble servants of the Lord who have an exciting story to tell!

Ro and Mawii are founders of Bibles for the World. Among other outreaches, this ministry mails New Testaments all over the world in the languages of the recipients. Ro and Mawii also founded the Evangelical Free Church of India, which today has over 300 churches. To learn more about Bibles for the World, check out their homepage at <http://www.bftw.org/> and plan to attend services on Sunday, May 31st.



UPCOMING MISSIONS EVENTS

- May 31 - Guest speakers Ro & Mawii Pudaite
- June - Mike & Ann Wheeler furlough
- June 28 - Steve & Tanja Pankratz to share
- Summer - Jerry & Gina Krause furlough
- July - Wayne & Maggie Ferris visit

Watch for more details in the June Cornerstone.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1 <u>6:00-7:30am</u> Men's Group <u>9:30-11:00am</u> Women's Bible Study <u>7:00-9:00pm</u> Celebrate the Gift committee meeting	2 <u>8:00am</u> Journey Men's Breakfast at Cabela's
3 <u>8:00-9:15am</u> Worship Service <u>9:30-10:30</u> Sunday School <u>10:45-12:00</u> Worship Service <u>3:00-4:00</u> SALT <u>5:00-6:00</u> Prayer	4 <u>9:30-11:30am</u> Women's Bible Study <u>6:30-8:30pm</u> Precepts Bible Study	5 <u>10:00am</u> MAKS <u>7:00-9:00pm</u> Congregational Care Commission Meeting	6	7 <u>12:00-1:15pm</u> Men's Study <u>7:00pm</u> National Day of Prayer Service at Grace Luth. <u>7:00-9:00pm</u> Women's Bible Study	8 <u>6:00-7:30am</u> Men's Group <u>9:30-11:00am</u> Women's Bible Study	9
10 <u>8:00-9:15am</u> Worship Service <u>9:30-10:30</u> Sunday School <u>10:45-12:00</u> Worship Service <u>5:00-6:00</u> Prayer <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;"> <i>Happy Mother's Day!</i> </div>	11 <u>9:30-11:30am</u> Women's Bible Study <u>6:30-8:30pm</u> Precepts Bible Study	12	13	14 <u>12:00-1:15pm</u> Men's Bible Study <u>7:00-9:00pm</u> Women's Bible Study	15 <u>6:00-7:30am</u> Men's Group <u>9:30-11:00am</u> Women's Bible Study	16
17 <u>8:00-9:15am</u> Worship Service <u>9:30-10:30</u> Sunday School <u>10:45-12:00</u> Worship Service <u>3:00-4:00</u> SALT <u>5:00-6:00</u> Prayer <u>6:30</u> BFTH3 Kickoff Social	18 <u>9:30-11:30am</u> Women's Bible Study <u>1:00-4:00pm</u> Quilting Club <u>6:30-8:30pm</u> Precepts Bible Study	19 <u>10:00am</u> MAKS <u>6:30pm</u> Elder Meeting	20	21 <u>12:00-1:15pm</u> Men's Bible Study <u>7:00-9:00pm</u> Women's Bible Study	22 <u>6:00-7:30am</u> Men's Group <u>9:30-11:00am</u> Women's Bible Study	23
24/31 <u>8:00-9:15am</u> Worship Service <u>9:30-10:30</u> Sunday School <u>10:45-12:00</u> Worship Service <u>5:00-6:00</u> Prayer	25 <u>6:30-8:30pm</u> Precepts Bible Study	26	27	28 <u>12:00-1:15pm</u> Men's Bible Study	29 <u>6:00-7:30am</u> Men's Group	30