

March 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10:00 MAKS 6:30 Student Min 7:00 Property	2 6:00 AWANA 7:00 Jr & Sr High	3 12:00 Men's Lunch 7:00 Elder Board 7:00 Women's study	4 6:15am Men's Grp 8:00 Club 180	5 9:00 AWANA Grand Prix workshop
6 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 5:00 Prayer	7 6:30 Precepts	8 5:00 Women's Ministry 7:00 Cong Care 7:00 Property	9 6:00 AWANA 7:00 Jr & Sr High	10 12:00 Men's Lunch 7:00 Women's study	11 6:15am Men's Grp 8:00 Club 180	12 6:00 Men's Leaders 8:00 AWANA Grand Prix
13 Daylight Saving begins 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 5:00 Prayer	14 6:30 Precepts	15 10:00 MAKS 7:00 Elder Board	16 1:30 Quilters 6:00 AWANA 7:00 Jr & Sr High	17 12:00 Men's Lunch 7:00 Elder Board	18 4:30 Beds For Kids 6:15am Men's Grp 8:00 Club 180/Curtis Fry	19
20 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:30 Student Min Fund Raiser 5:00 Prayer	21 6:30 Precepts	22 7:00 Adult Discipleship	23 6:00 AWANA 7:00 Jr & Sr High	24 12:00 Men's Lunch	25 6:15am Men's Grp 8:00 Club 180	26
27 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 5:00 Prayer	28 6:30 Precepts	29	30 AWANA 7:00 Jr & Sr High	31 12:00 Men's Lunch		

Christ Community Church Disciple-making Pathway

Developing people who live God's love by:

Loving God - Loving one another - Loving our neighbors

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 Website: www.cccefca.com
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March 2016

Cornerstone

A heart for God and you

Volume 14, Issue 03

I've Been Thinking about . . . Becoming Older

By Pastor Chris

In the debate between math and incredulity, math wins. Despite my protests that it cannot be, the calendar does not prevaricate. March will mark the completion of six decades of my life. The nondescript appearance of one date among its peers belies its magnitude. That magnitude compels me to ignore the screeches of my "to do" list in order to engage in a little quiet reflection.

Reflecting upon the passing of decades in his own life, Henri Nouwen writes:

I came face to face with the simple question, "Did becoming older bring me closer to Jesus?" . . . I found myself praying poorly, living somewhat isolated from other people, and very much preoccupied with burning issues. Everyone was saying that I was doing really well, but something inside was telling me that my success was putting my own soul in danger. I began to ask myself whether my lack of contemplative prayer, my loneliness, and my constantly changing involvement in what seemed most urgent were signs that the Spirit was gradually being suppressed.¹

Does becoming older bring me closer to Jesus? Good question.

Becoming older indubitably brings its physical changes. My tent is beginning to sag, and its fabric is starting to fray. Despite my best efforts to care for it, repair it, patch it, and tauten its ropes, its eventual collapse is ineluctable. Yet as the transitory part of me displays its evanescence, the eternal part of me can increase. Inwardly I can be renewed day by day. Am I being inwardly renewed day by day? Does becoming older bring me closer to Jesus?

Finding clues in Nouwen's experience, becoming older can bring me closer to Jesus only if I discipline myself in three ways.

I must discipline myself to pray well. Praying well includes, but goes beyond, praying for Aunt Bertha's gall bladder surgery. Praying well embraces contemplative prayer—the praying expression of "an ardent desire to dwell in God's presence, to listen to

Continued inside

CURTIS FRY CHOICES
CHOOSING HIM OVER CHOICES EVERY SITUATION

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, when you face trials of this kind, because the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Perseverance, tested, produces a sure and complete lack of fear. James 1:2-4

Curtis Fry
FRIDAY MARCH 18th 8:00pm
(doors open at 7:30pm)
at Christ Community Church
(across from water-park)
2200 4th St. NE Waseca, MN
 This event is FREE
(designed for Jr. & Sr. High students & parents)
Questions call 507-327-7047
Sponsored by Club 180

Club 180
 Friday Night Activities
 8-11pm
 Jr. & Sr. High Students
 At Christ Community Church



God's voice, to look at God's beauty, to touch God's incarnate Word, and to taste fully God's infinite goodness." And so, I read Psalm 84 back to the Lord as the prayer that it is, and I meditatively sing "Be Thou My Vision."

I must discipline myself to love people sacrificially. For Nouwen, that meant resigning his professorship at Harvard to go live and serve in a home for people with mental disabilities. It was among the poor in spirit that he drew closer to Jesus. Likewise, I will draw closer to Jesus as I find ways to love people who cannot reciprocate.

I must discipline myself to attend to the important rather than the urgent. The urgent often demands my time at the expense of the significant (Luke 10:38-42). Yet that which seems most urgent at the time is often fleeting and unimportant in the light of eternity. Exigency does not entail significance. Significance is found in that which will endure forever: people, God's word, God's kingdom, God himself. My challenge is to remember the Scripture, "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory" (Colossians 3:1-4).

May becoming older bring us closer to Jesus as we prepare to appear with him in glory.

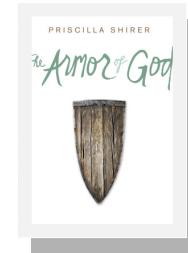
1. Henri J. M. Nouwen, *In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership* (New York: Crossroad Publishing Company, 1989), 19-20.

2. Ibid., 43.

Women's Ministries

Bible study in March -
 mor of God
 By: Priscilla Shirer

The Ar-



Times/Dates: Mar. 21st - 9:30 - 11:30 am (7 wks)
 : Mar. 24th - 7 - 9 pm (also 7 wks)



SAVE THE DATE "THIRST CONFERENCE" May 8th—11th, 2016

Living water is still available today . . . we just have to drink.

THIRST exposes one of the main causes of dryness in Christians' lives today: *substitution*. Substitution happens when we start looking anywhere besides Jesus for our main source of joy and fulfillment.

The THIRST revival conference will carefully unpack biblical texts related to loving God, loving people, understanding and receiving God's grace, turning from pride and sin, calling out for God's help, and seeking Him wholeheartedly.

A team of 22 people will be with us from May 8 through May 11, leading meetings Sunday morning and each evening. Preparations are already well underway to house, feed, and transport team members during their stay. Won't you plan on attending each of the five events? The nursery will be open for all of them!