



# The ENCOURAGER

NOVEMBER 2021

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY  
1575 W. STATE ROUTE 571 • TIPP CITY, OH 45371 • 937-669-3090 • CFFM.ORG



## When We Disagree

### Honoring Every Seeker's Journey

**P**ear Family of Love,  
When someone commits to Christ they are also pledging to *help maintain unity among God's family*. But a call to unity must be more than: "If only folks would agree with *me*, then we'd all be unified!" We enter the body of Christ with a variety of life experiences, giftings and passions that are at the core of who we are. Because of that, even dedicated believers often have differing perspectives and beliefs.

Ephesians 4:2-3 (NIV)

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to **keep the unity** of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

In the very next verses, the Apostle Paul proceeded to call them back to some *essential doctrines* that he hoped would help "keep the unity."

Ephesians 4:4-6 (NIV)

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

*"In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things charity."* — R. Meldenius, circa 1627

Biblical doctrines can be a common area of disagreement among believers. Healthy study of Scripture involves clarifying what we believe (doctrine) while also allowing it to reprove and correct us in the process (2 Timothy 3:16). We shouldn't doubt what we believe, but we should enjoy confirming our understanding, deepening our convictions and making

adjustments along the way.

The Bereans were "more noble" because they searched the Scriptures every day to see if what they were being taught was true (Acts 17:11). That can also be our habit as we verify even long-held beliefs. As pastor Bill Johnson has commented, "God will never contradict his Word; but he may contradict *our understanding* of his Word." We should be confident in what we believe yet humble in our "absolutes."

Deciding what each of us believes about the meaning of Scripture involves many resources: prayerful meditation, diligent biblical study, the voice of the Spirit, gifted ministers, and interaction with fellow members of the body of Christ. If we over-emphasize one of these avenues over the others, conclusions may become skewed. These methods of interpretation act as checks and balances to keep us from being "tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine" (Ephesians 4:14).

In the process, we mustn't "take the bait" of being offended when someone believes differently than we do. Love prevents offense. 1 John 2:10 says, "Anyone who loves their fellow believer stays in the light, and there is no trap laid for [*skandalon*] them" (*The Source NT*). If we love fellow seekers, we won't easily stumble into angry feelings at points of disagreement.

Romans 12:10,18 (NIV)

Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves... If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Working through conflicts not only involves having faith in our own convictions, but also being a good listener, considering

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potential value within opposing viewpoints, being yielding on insignificant matters, and yes, remembering that we ourselves are sometimes wrong. As Stephen Covey says, "Seek first to understand; then to be understood."

The Apostle Paul admonished the Corinthian believers for being quarrelsome, judgmental and divisive (1 Corinthians 1:10-13; 3:3; 6:1-8; 11:17-34). He and Peter butted heads in how they acted among Jews and Gentiles (Galatians 2). Paul and Barnabas parted ways over a sharp disagreement as to who to take along in their travels (Acts 15). And Paul's letter to the Romans includes the amazing chapter 14 which confirms how believers should respect each other as we build our personal consciences by faith. In Acts 21, author Luke along with Philip's family begged Paul not to travel to Jerusalem. The Apostle disagreed which led to difficulties.

Paul also warned servant leaders to avoid: false doctrines, myths, meaningless unprofitable talk, unhealthy interest in controversies, quarrels about words, worldly godless chatter, foolish questions, speculations and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called "knowledge." To maintain cohesive unity, we do our best to keep our hearts compatible and complementary with each other. In fact, working through discord can be a conduit to deeper relationships.

In his letter to Philippi (4:1-3), Paul pleads with faithful women Euodia and Syntyche that they would "settle your disagreement" (Passion translation) because they "belong to the Lord." Paul implored them to get back into harmony with each other (to "be of one mind" or "agree"). Ann Nyland translates the exhortation: that they would "think along the same lines."

That desire for like-mindedness sets the

context for the familiar verses that follow (4:4-7) ... "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. **Let your reasonableness ["fairness"] be known to everyone...**" Christians shouldn't compromise on the truth, yet we should magnify what we share in common so we can move ahead without distraction.

*Much of learning & knowledge relates to "journey" more than "arrival."*

I used to think that spiritual knowledge was more a matter of a sudden grasp of new information... as if it was signing onto a self-supporting "package" of interpretations and doctrines from one particular theology, church or teacher. But more

and more I see learning as an unfolding journey of hunger, discovery and adjustment; a blend of confidence and humility; a balance of understanding yet "seeing through a glass darkly" and "knowing in part." And along the way, we glean and apply every piece of God's truth in our grip.

Our experience of God grows and evolves across our lifetime. The Greek term *ginōskō* refers to knowledge that's acquired through relationship. It means "to learn to know; to come to know; to recognize or realize."

John 8:32 (Mounce) and you will **come to know** [*ginōskō*] the truth, and the truth will set you free.

1 John 4:16 (ESV) So **we have come to know** [*ginōskō*] and to believe the love that God has for us...

Jesus was full of both grace and truth (John 1:14,17). Truth without grace is rigid and heartless. Grace without truth believes every

new doctrine that blows through town. Neither produce fruit without the other. Jesus shows us a life of equilibrium between both great realities. That wise balance neutralizes many disagreements.

True like-mindedness strives for *unity*, not *uniformity*. The body of Christ operates with a harmony that applauds its diversity.

Philippians 2:2-5 (NTE)

... Bring your thinking into line with one another. Here's how to do it. Hold on to the same love; bring your innermost lives into harmony; fix your minds on the same object. <sup>3</sup> Never act out of selfish ambition or vanity; instead, regard everybody else as your superior. <sup>4</sup> Look after each other's best interests, not your own. <sup>5</sup> This is how you should think among yourselves – with the mind that you have because you belong to the Messiah, Jesus:

When each member of a spirit-filled community builds the habit of *thinking like Jesus*, then each follower will find themselves more and more like-minded with each other.

1 Peter 3:8 (TPT)

Now, this is the goal: to live in harmony ["one-mindedness"] with one another and demonstrate affectionate love, sympathy, and kindness toward other believers. Let humility describe who you are as you dearly love one another.

We should be convinced of the truth that we believe, while also honoring each other in our unique journeys of learning, growth and change. When we have differences of opinion, let's think like Jesus and invest the

love and understanding required to preserve the unity that God has called us to.

**Kevin Guigou**  
CFFM Associate Pastor  
Tipp City, Ohio



## CHRISTIAN

When we accept Jesus as Lord, we receive his Spirit within us. Having Christ in us makes us Christians and children of God our Father. As we explore the Bible's promises and walk by the Spirit's direction, the character of Christ within begins to transform us from the inside out, revealing Jesus to the world through our lives.



## FAMILY

The Bible describes the followers of Jesus as God's sons and daughters. We are born again into an eternal family of the Father's love. He has uniquely gifted each of His children and called us to stand together in compassion, encouragement, and forgiveness. The spirit-inspired kindness that we share in our faith communities works to heal relationships and restore families.

## FELLOWSHIP

Christian fellowship is relationship. It is an intimate partnership of spiritual connection, association, and involvement. God calls us to a personal relationship with himself, with Jesus Christ, and with fellow believers so that our joy may be full (1 John 1:3-4). Our faith community is devoted to encouraging and cultivating these healing partnerships for everyone involved.

As Announced	<b>TEEN FELLOWSHIP</b> (12-18 yrs. old) <i>Hosts: Casey &amp; Katrina MacPherson</i> <i>If interested, contact Casey at youth@cffm.org</i>	CFFM Tipp City, OH
Monday Nights 7:00PM Meal 7:30PM Mtg.	<b>YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP</b> <i>Hosts: Joey &amp; Courtney Salvo</i>	CFFM Tipp City, OH
As Announced	<b>MEN'S FELLOWSHIP</b> <i>Hosts: Jeff Shroyer &amp; Mark Harbert</i>	CFFM Tipp City, OH
12/12/21	<b>CHRISTMAS PARTY &amp; Carry-In Luncheon</b> <i>Immediately after Sunday Morning Fellowship</i>	CFFM Tipp City, OH
1/1 thru 4/10/2022 Ddln: 12/25/21	<b>MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST 10</b> <i>Philippians – Joyfully Serving Together</i> <i>Wayne Clapp, Coordinator</i>	Worldwide
3/25-27 2022	<b>MEN'S DISCOVERY WEEKEND</b> <i>Guest Speaker: Jeff Jones, Oceanside, CA</i>	CFFM Tipp City, OH
5/13-15 2022	<b>WOMEN'S CONFERENCE</b> Calling all women to... <b>WALK IN KINGDOM AUTHORITY</b> <i>Value~Voice~Influence</i> <i>Guest Speakers: Pastors Carol Furman, Gayelee Reynolds &amp; Julie Schaecher</i>	CFFM Tipp City, OH
7/26-31 2022	<b>YOUTH EXCELLING SPIRITUALLY</b> <b>YES! Camp 2022</b> · <i>Our 25th annual youth camp!</i>	CFFM Tipp City, OH
11/4-6 2022	<b>RELATIONSHIP CONFERENCE</b> <b>for Married &amp; Singles!</b> <i>Guest Speakers: Romano &amp; Rebecca Richter-Reinhardt from Germany</i>	CFFM Tipp City, OH

# CALENDAR

[www.cffm.org](http://www.cffm.org)

We encourage all of God's people to get together freely and often to minister God's love and truth to each other, to cultivate spiritual maturity and to develop a meaningful faith-community.

## What Can We Do for You Today?

Join our live or archived Sunday Morning Service by Live Streaming at [cffm.org/live-streaming](http://cffm.org/live-streaming)

Also enjoy past teachings on our website, podcast or YouTube channel



## ~ THANK YOU ~

... for your prayers, encouragement and financial support that make all our ministry services possible, cultivating a healthy spiritual family.

## How to Offer Financial Support to CFFM

- 1) Through our **website**, [www.cffm.org/giving](http://www.cffm.org/giving) (one-time or recurring gift)
- 2) By **texting** a donation amount to (937)-502-2999 (one-time credit card input)
- 3) By **regular mail** to CFFM, 1575 W. State Route 571, Tipp City, OH 45371 (check/money order)
- 4) By CFFM **donation envelopes** available from our main office

## Jesus to the World!

Since our beginning in 1996, we've regularly heard from people who want to be actively associated with Christian Family Fellowship Ministry in our emphasis on...

**JESUS, our focus**  
**PRAISE, our response**  
**HEALING, our benefit**  
*...all to the glory of God our Father!*

Check [www.cffm.org](http://www.cffm.org) to find pastors, contacts and homechurches near you. Feel free to contact any of them or our staff so that we may support you and your local faith community. We want to partner with you in personal growth and in cultivating the life of the Lord Jesus Christ in our world.

*I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ.*  
Philemon 1:6 (NIV)

# MESSENGERS *for* CHRIST 10

100-DAY TRAINING ADVENTURE

**PHILIPPIANS:  
JOYFULLY SERVING  
TOGETHER**



To sign up, contact Wayne Clapp  
wgccff2@aol.com / 850-982-3343

**January 1 thru April 10, 2022**  
Registration Deadline: December 25, 2021

**Messengers for Christ 10** is a spiritual training adventure of Christian Family Fellowship Ministry. It is a commitment to discipline oneself to incorporate prayer and praise, reading God's Word, speaking God's Word, deliberate and purposeful giving, and fellowshiping with the saints into one's lifestyle.

**The Main Thrust** of this 100-day *Messengers for Christ 10* adventure is to develop, establish, and maintain outrageous joy in serving God and our brothers and sisters in God's family like-mindedly. **We will concentrate on Paul's letter to the Philippians**, focusing on practically living the great mystery of godliness.

#### **The Messengers for Christ 10 Commitment:**

**As a Messenger for Christ 10, I commit myself to:**

- ✦ Complete 2-3 hours of preliminary background work before the adventure begins.
- ✦ Speak in tongues the first thing in the morning when I arise.
- ✦ Assemble and maintain a lift list (a prayer list to include the other MFC; to be used daily).
- ✦ Spend at least 15 minutes in God's Word reading the Scriptures every day.
- ✦ Read and execute the *Messengers for Christ Handbook 10* lesson for the day.
- ✦ Learn and use *retemorries* (scripture retained in the memory).
- ✦ Purpose in my heart (i.e. deliberate and decide) how I want to give each day.
- ✦ Develop a habit pattern of meekness to God and His Word.

#### **As a Messenger for Christ, I anticipate:**

- ✦ Being faithful to my commitment.
- ✦ Learning more about keeping God in my thinking with prayer and praise.
- ✦ Learning more about receiving strength and comfort from God's Word.
- ✦ Learning more about overcoming the inertia of not speaking.
- ✦ Learning more about operating all nine manifestations.
- ✦ Learning more about telling my personal story of deliverance and victory.
- ✦ Developing my intimacy with God and my Lord Jesus Christ so that whether I face weal or woe, my love for and commitment to them never fluctuates.
- ✦ Using my *Messenger for Christ Handbook 10* every morning and every evening.

#### **The Commitment of Christian Family Fellowship to the Messengers for Christ:**

- ✦ Personal, daily prayer support.
- ✦ A curriculum on Philippians and how to practically live the great mystery.
- ✦ Daily email/phone contact from the training coordinators.
- ✦ Suggestions for additional and optional weekly growth-producing activities.

#### **The Goals of the CFF Messengers for Christ 10:**

- ✦ To develop habit patterns of prayer and praise, reading God's Word, speaking God's Word, deliberate and purposeful giving, and fellowshiping with the saints into one's lifestyle.
- ✦ To cultivate fruit of the spirit by operating manifestations of the spirit.
- ✦ To grow in relationship with God and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- ✦ To further the gospel by serving with joy.
- ✦ To practically live the great mystery of godliness.



God's got a place for everyone; somewhere that your gifts can work for His goodness. Maybe for you that happens in a high-rise, consulting with businesses and showing God's love can help a business flourish. Or maybe it's through the prayers you say while laboring in someone's home. Possibly it's by way of the smile you give as you volunteer at a food pantry. For us, it's through making friends and spreading God's love to the skateboarders and to all the "misfits" at the Joe Reardon Skatepark in Troy, Ohio.

We've always had a heart for the skate community. Like many reading this, we were once rebellious, trouble-making teenagers. For us, our paths through the darkness cultivated a soft spot for the lost and broken. When God put it on our hearts to go love on the kids in our local skate park, we weren't even sure that many skaters gathered at the Troy facility. But sometimes you have to dive right in and have faith that God will work out the details.

So with the help of two of our good friends, Michael Burrows and Brandon Ike, we headed over to the park with the goal of building relationships and spreading God's love. For the past couple of months, we have been providing free cookouts and cold drinks to the large skate community we found there.

The vision of what we call *Troy Skate Church* is to give the youth and young adults in our community an opportunity to encounter the love of Jesus in a non-traditional way. We bring Jesus to the skate park to love life with Troy's youth. Many of these kids have felt rejected by mainstream churches. Others simply don't believe that someone like themselves would be



welcomed there.

We believe God wants us to begin by building relationships with these young people, making friends and loving them in any way we can, using every opportunity to introduce them to our Lord. We plan to soon be praying together and sharing short messages in the park.

As these months have unfolded, the skaters have let us in more and more each week. For now, we will continue to feed them a meal every week and often we stop by throughout the week to bring them things like ice cold Gatorade. We have lots of ideas for the future including skate competitions, holiday meals, snowboarding trips and a food trailer to help us expand our outreach to other skate parks near us.

We are loving getting to know the community of God's "misfits" here in Troy. It's a privilege to hear their stories, speak into their lives and spoil

them in any way we can. Many kids also hang out that don't even ride skateboards because of the strong sense of community surrounding the sport.

We're all *messy*. Even some of most devoted Christians we know are messy. These kids just wear their mess more externally than most. God loves the troublemakers! If we can impact even one of them, to become troublemakers for God, it will all be worth it! *Troy Skate Church* exists to see lives changed!



"My favorite thing about skate church is the thank-yous I hear... true appreciation for either a cup of water or a cheeseburger."  
~ Michael Burrows~

W haaaat? I can hear you laughing, but there is a point to the question!

When I was a very new Christian and so excited about the newness of life God had given me, I was eager to do all, be all, and participate in all things biblical and spiritual. I filled my days with “good works” with the intention of growing and developing in my relationship with God and Jesus Christ. I was following the model the world had taught me: “Anything worth achieving is worth

Expect that kind of relationship with Jesus. His lordship affects the way we think, speak and act. CLAIM his lordship in your life—over your thoughts, what you say—over all of your activities. It is not an intellectual exercise! This can give you victory over mental and verbal actions in your life as well as the challenges you may face.

With Jesus Christ in your heart nourishing you with his love, it changes everything. And as you change, your life will continually change. Don't be hesitant about pressing in for more in your spiritual life.

## When Did Jesus Do His Laundry?

By Jan Rawlins / Kernersville, North Carolina

overachieving.” I didn't understand that my focus was misplaced.

All true good works are God-planned, God-inspired, created in Christ Jesus, not in ME. I was not abiding in Jesus. With a full-time job, volunteering, fellowships and classes, burn-out was inevitable, leading me to my question, “Well, when did Jesus do his laundry?”

*I am the sprouting vine and you're my branches. As you live in union with me as your source, fruitfulness will stream from within you—but when you live separated from me you are powerless.* John 15:5 (The Passion Translation)

These verses also speak to us if we sense we are going through a time of spiritual “drought” when fruitfulness is not streaming from us. In that same Gospel of John, in verses 9 and 10, Jesus says, “I love each of you with the same love that the Father loves me. You must continually let my love nourish your hearts. If you keep my commands, you will live in love, just as I have kept my Father's commands, for I continually live nourished and empowered by his love.”

Jesus gives us the answer to both extremes—drought and overachieving—and everything in between. In verse 11, he continues to say, “My purpose for telling you these things is so that the joy I experience will fill your hearts with overflowing gladness!”

An English pastor and evangelist who lived in the late 1800s named F. B. Meyer said it well: “I gave Christ the ring of my will with the keys on it but kept one little key back...” The joy of the Lord begins when we hand over the last key.

How do we realistically (true to life) acknowledge Jesus as Lord and live in union with him?

*The sheep that are My own hear My voice and listen to me; I know them, and they follow Me.* John 10:27 (Amplified Bible)

Jesus Christ is our way, our road. The entire Bible was written about him. He is all in all in all. He tells us that he gives us eternal life! Further, he says that we will never perish, and no one can snatch us out of his hand (John 10:28).



*Not that I have already obtained it [this goal of being Christ-like] or have already been made perfect, but I actively press on so that I may take hold of that [perfection] for which Christ Jesus took hold of me and made me His own. <sup>13</sup>Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have made it my own yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal to win the [heavenly] prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.* (Philippians 3:12-14, Amplified Bible 2015)

You may have accepted Jesus as your Lord many years ago, but there is never a better time than now to reaffirm his lordship in your life.

Lord of every thought and action,  
Lord to send and Lord to stay;  
Lord in speaking, writing, giving,  
Lord in all things to obey;  
Now and evermore to be.

*Written by E. H. Swinstead (a youth worker from England in the 1880s who regularly opened his home to groups of young people for evangelism, fellowship and Bible study)*

Jan Rawlins and her husband, Chris, serve on the CFFM Pastoral Care Team in North Carolina. They have been married almost 40 years and have one daughter, Amy. Jan loves to pray for, laugh with, and minister to others — sometimes all at the same time!



GUEST SPEAKER—PASTOR JEFF JONES



Jeff pastors at The Movement Church in San Marcos, California. He is a LifeGroup leader, Adult Ministries teacher, and a member of the Elder Board. Jeff is a prophetic voice for multiple ministries within San Diego County. He has been married to his wife, Gayle, for twenty-five years. They have six children and four grandchildren.

MAKE PLANS NOW TO JOIN US FOR THE

# MEN'S DISCOVERY WEEKEND

FRIDAY, MARCH 25-SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2022

LOCATION: Christian Family Fellowship Ministry, 1571 W. State Route 571, Tipp City, OH

### WEEKEND SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MARCH 25	7:00 PM	Registration
	7:30 PM	Bonfire gathering
SATURDAY, MARCH 26	9:00 AM	Doors open
	9:30 AM	Session begins
	12 noon	Lunch on your own
	2:00 PM	Session resumes
	6:00 PM	Buffet dinner and evening activities, Troy Country Club
SUNDAY, MARCH 27	10:00 AM	Doors open
	10:30 AM	Conclusion of Men's Weekend

### HOTEL INFORMATION

- Holiday Inn Express** — Tipp City  
(937) 667-5161 (ask for CFF rate)
- LaQuinta Inn** — Tipp City  
(937) 667-1574
- Residence Inn** — Troy  
(937) 440-9303
- Hampton Inn** — Troy  
(937) 339-7801
- Fairfield Inn** — Troy  
(937) 332-1446

### REGISTRATION FEE \$45

REGISTRATION FORM FOR "Men's Discovery Weekend 2022" Please print clearly and register by **March 1, 2022**.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please submit a registration form and registration fee for each person attending the event)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
P.O. BOX/ STREET CITY STATE ZIP

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Register online at [www.cffm.org/events](http://www.cffm.org/events) or by mail with check payable to CFFM and registration form sent to: Christian Family Fellowship Ministry, 1575 W. State Route 571, Tipp City, OH 45371 by the registration deadline, **March 1, 2022**. For more information, contact Sarah Mullens at [sarah@cffm.org](mailto:sarah@cffm.org); phone (937)669-3090.



The world may be encroached by darkness, but at Christian Family Fellowship Ministry, the light of the Lord is bringing hope in its annual Youth Excelling Spiritually (YES!) Camp! More than 100 people from age 12 to 81 gathered at CFFM for a week of moving in the spirit, being loved on by the Father, and being transformed by His Son.

The campers and crew came from 23 states, ranging from the cold north of Alaska to the sunny shores of Florida. They piled into vans, rented cars, and flew overnight.

But no matter how they arrived, they left with one thing in common – an invigorated passion for the Lord and His kingdom.

*“Our lives are not ours to take. They are ours to give.” – Joey Salvo, a teacher from Troy, Ohio*



## Campers Say “YES!” to Living in Freedom

by Joyell Nevins, CFFM Blogger



### Who We Truly Are

From the stage, teachers included guests JJ Stroud and Lorri Seidensticker and Dre Greenwood from Los Angeles, California. They were joined by the staff of CFFM, plus Katrina MacPherson and Joey Salvo of Troy, Ohio, and Susan Furr of Manassas, Virginia.

Laughter and tears always intermingle at camp because we know that God is a good God, He is a fun God, and He is a God who gets down in the muck with us, too. His Son Jesus is the ultimate friend and Savior.

Our teachers reminded us of this, and how loved we are: that we are never alone. We were informed that we are created in the image of God, how we are royalty in the Kingdom of Heaven – and that *there is nothing wrong with us*.

They spoke to us as a whole group, and sometimes gave individual words of encouragement and life, too. We learned about manifestations of the holy spirit and how to operate its presence from inside us!



### Freedom and Light

But, they also shared hard life stories. They gave us strategies to fight the enemy in our schools, our homes, and our minds (Pastor Tonia said the enemy isn't even worthy of the title of his name!) Honesty isn't always easy, but the truth will always set people free.

*“Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:32 – Jesus said this to the Jews who believed in him.)*

But, it wasn't just the spirit shining from the stage that set our young and young-at-heart people free. Freedom and light came from meal times, where campers amazed us with testimonies of how God healed and saved them.

It came from conversations on the



bus (a.k.a. “Macie’s Limo”), reminding us of where our identity lies: who we truly are in Christ. It came from prayers in power groups, similar to a small fellowship, where hearts opened and healing occurred. CFF campers and crew proved again and again that there is no age limit on holy spirit!

**Chocolate and Chuckles!**

There is no age limit on fun either – we preach hard *and* play hard! YES! Campers got to relax and experience a just-released film in a theater all to themselves. They felt the heat with the Kaiyakura Fire Troupe, who did a special show on the



**TIPP CITY, OHIO**

church’s front lawn.

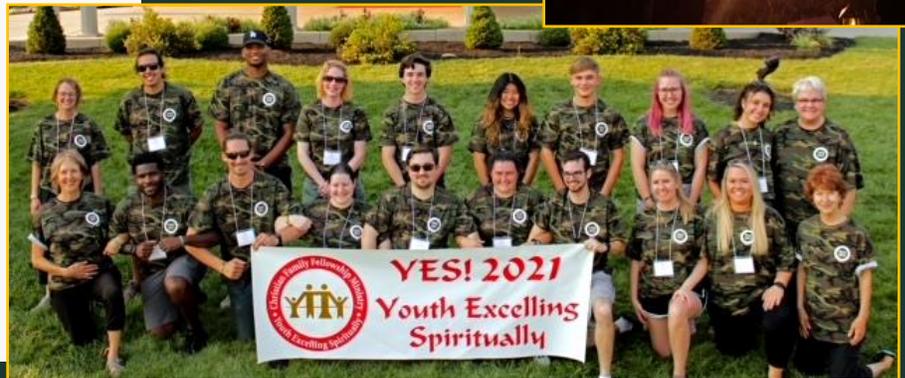
Campers went canoeing up river and bowling down lanes. They did their own version of the food-guessing challenge “Taste Buds” and made up a roll call rap for Jesus’s disciples. And of course, the game Four Square was on a permanent rotation on any break or down time.



There were special edible treats, too, like local food trucks bringing homemade ice cream and shaved ice. Chocolate overflowed out of a three-tier fountain one evening, complete with strawberries and marshmallows. And of course, many meals came with lots of watermelon. (Read about CFF’s ongoing love relationship with watermelons in *Melons and Miracles: A Faith Surprise!* in “News & Views” at [cffm.org](http://cffm.org).)



If you are between the ages of 12 and 25 and want to join us next year (7/26-31/2022), put the dates on your calendar and email [sarah@cffm.org](mailto:sarah@cffm.org) for more information. Spots are limited to 100 applicants, so save your space early!





# Memories from...

## A Weekend with Dr. Roberts Liardon

Author of the "God's Generals" Series  
Tipp City, OH / CFFM / September 2021





Sarah started as the finance secretary for CFFM in 2014. In 2018, she added the role of general manager to those responsibilities where she continues to sit at the crossroads of much of our ministry communications. Sarah and her husband Saukar have three children – MaKayla, Amiri and Alijah, along with their grandson, Carter.

The most honest question I ever was asked about where I was going with my relationship with God was given to me in a basketball analogy. The question was, “If I had to choose between waiting to get seats behind the bench and meet Ben Wallace (my favorite NBA player of all time) or taking seats for the whole season up in the nosebleed section, what would I pick?”

This question was asked at a very pivotal time in my life. I was making bad choices. I was a single mom working two jobs. I went through the motions of going to church. There wasn’t a lot about God I trusted at that moment except that He was always faithful when I gave with a heart of love.

Where you are today in your relationship with God, Jesus, your family, in your finances and in every aspect of your life is directly related to the choices and decisions you have made up until this point.

Deuteronomy 30:19 (NIV) says, “This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live.”

God tells us—CHOOSE LIFE! It’s like a test with a cheat sheet! A plan without God’s presence is a problem.

I tell my kids, “You can choose your actions, but you can’t choose the consequences of those actions.” You can’t predict the outcome. Sometimes you get away with something – that is called *God’s grace and mercy*. But sometimes what happens is way worse than you think.

Doing what is convenient or the popular “next step” rarely ends the way we plan. We need to have a standard. We need to know what we believe and why we believe it. Compromising on what we believe will always end in loss or hurt in some way. Making good

decisions requires having a standard that we can hold on to in spite of our emotions. The choices we make today will affect us for years.

The question was, “Would I wait to sit behind the bench behind Ben Wallace or take nosebleed seats?” Of course I would wait.

If I would wait for better seats at a basketball game, then maybe I should be willing to wait on God. Then the biggest question I have is, “How long is the wait?” I can wait pretty easily when I know how long I have to wait but when the wait

is being persistent, hardworking and doing the best we can. Practice doesn’t make perfect—practice makes permanent.

Proverbs 10:21 (NIV), “The lips of the righteous nourish many, but fools die for lack of sense.”

Proverbs 18:21 (NIV), “The tongue has the power of life and death...”

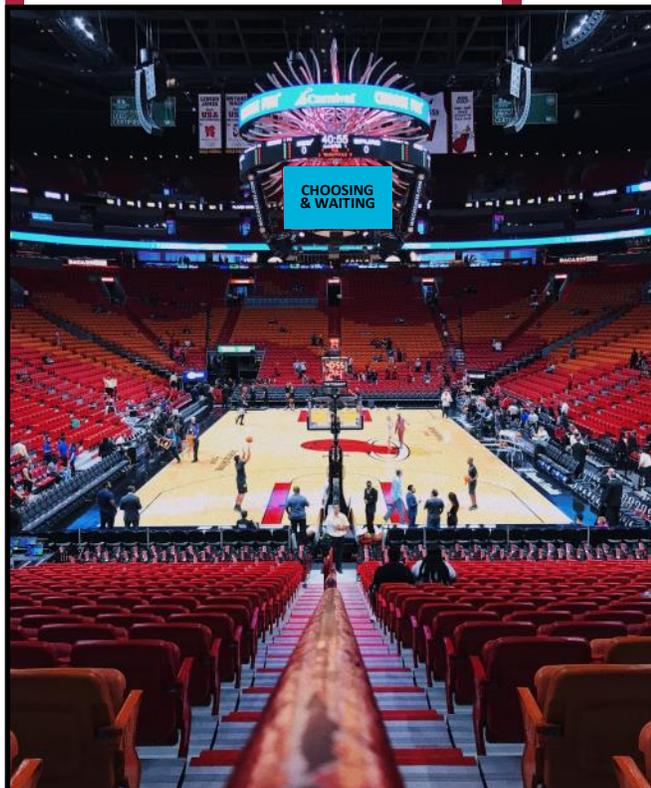
Proverbs 27:17 (NIV), “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”

What we speak to others and to ourselves matters. Our actions and speech are directly related to what we think about and who we surround ourselves with. Our words can change the atmosphere the room. They can change a person’s whole life.

I remember a manager telling me, as I took my first HR position, “You are either going to be the type of person that people come to for advice or the type of person that people go to other people to get advice on how to deal with. How successful you are in this job (and life and in relationships with people) will be determined on which person you are.”

Matthew 6:21 (NIV), “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Ultimately, I am the only



## Willing to Choose & Willing to Wait

By Sarah Mullens / Tipp City, Ohio

time is unknown, am I still willing? I started to realize how often I “took the nosebleed seats,” that instant gratification, instead of waiting for what would be better for me.

Principles in the Bible work whether you believe God or not. God is not a respecter of persons (Romans 2:11). His laws work for everyone who follows them.

Success in any area of life requires diligence (Proverbs 22:29). Dili-

one who can choose the paths I take. Today, I am more willing to “wait for the seats behind the bench.” For example, when I financially support godly causes, I eagerly wait for God to bless every area of my life. The giving and the waiting are both a heart thing. A selfish heart has a closed hand.

I want to be able to speak about Jesus to everyone I meet. My choices, words, and money all “speak” in my daily life—I want them to say what Jesus says.

Ivan and Patti have been functioning pastors for over forty years and serve on CFF's Pastoral Care Team. Living in Piqua, Ohio, they have three grown children, one grandchild and one great-grandchild. They are retired and growing in what their "re-fire-ment" journey looks like.

Most of my life I've been a "destination man." I've had places to go, people to see and definitely things to do—of course *right now!* But as I grow older and hopefully wiser, my perspective is

At the time of this writing, when we take a drive down our country roads in western Ohio, we see corn and beans are being harvested. The seed that was planted last spring has grown over time and produced fruit.

ing of our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Corinthians 11:26 (KJV) says, "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."

Communion is the remembrance of the cross and what was accomplished, his coming and what's in store. I heard it said, "No past but the cross; and no future but his coming." Our journey lies in-between. So, what do we do?

2 Peter 3:12,13 says, "Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God ... Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and **blameless**."

Being **blameless** in God's sight is a major theme in our Christian journey!

1 John 3:1-3 (KJV) Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

We've been called by God our Father. Our true beginning is the incorruptible seed that we receive by the work of the cross. Our life lived for Him is our journey. And the glorious end is, "He's Coming Back!"

~ ~ ~

# LIFE is in the Journey

By Ivan Miller, Piqua, Ohio

changing. Recently I was talking with Michael Burrows to learn about the local "Skateboard Church" that the younger CFF crowd is developing in nearby Troy. One thing in our conversation that got my attention was when he said that they see the beginning and he's got a picture of where it's going, but that "the in-between" is not yet revealed.

This got me to thinking about the individual "journey" that describes our spiritual walk with God. My wife Patti also looks at life as a journey about which she's been encouraging me for 30-40 years. Some scriptures come to mind.

Genesis 8:22 (KJV) says, "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

Ecclesiastes 7:8 (KJV) reminds us, "The end of a matter is better than the beginning, and a patient spirit is better than a proud one."



1 Corinthians 2:2 (KJV) says, "For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified."

That's where I started. My life changed. Old things passed away and all things were new.

What I look forward to is Jesus Christ's return—a shout, a trumpet, my new body—the WOW!

1 Thessalonians 3:12,13 (KJV) states, "And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you: To the end he may stablish your hearts **unblameable** in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints."

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (KJV) shares, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved **blameless** unto the com-

*There's a beginning—the seed; and an end—the harvest.*

*And I've come to realize that the time in-between describes the journey of life.*



Church leaders of Tipp City regularly get together and plan events together, such as The National Day of Prayer and praying for the local schools.

We recently got together to pray for all of Tipp City's public schools just before the school year started. In our town, we had five locations to visit (elementary, intermediate, middle and high schools.)

This year the participating people gathered at the first location and one church leader representative, along with other participants of that church, prayed for that location for about ten minutes. Then we all drove in our cars to the next location, where another church leader and their people prayed for that school.

Some of the aspects that were prayed for were: the students, teachers, administrative staff, other staff such as bus drivers and cafeteria personnel, etc. We also prayed for the spirit of God to move freely in our schools, for our kids to have hunger for the Lord, that the Lord's plans for them would be realized and for a blessed year in every way.

It was a great testimony to some of the parents and students, because the prayer time occurred at the ending of an open house at the different locations. Some of those families, when they saw what was happening, joined the group activity.

We firmly believe in spiritual intercession by way of prayer. 1 Timothy 2:1 says, *Most of all, I'm writing to encourage you to pray with gratitude to God. Pray for all men with all forms of prayers and requests as you intercede with intense passion.* (The Passion Translation)

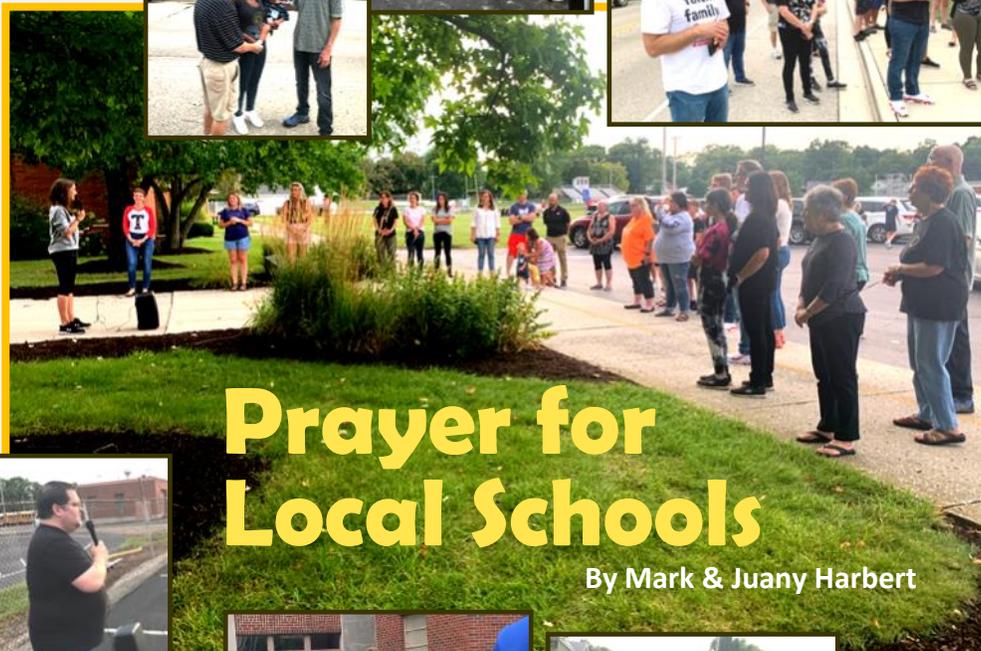
Also 1 Peter 5:7 encourages, *Pour out all your worries and stress upon him and leave them there, for he always tenderly cares for you.*

We are so grateful for this initiative. It helps us as a body of believers in our community to pull together in the same direction. And what better edification than to invest in our young students, teachers and staff?

Our CFF family also had the opportunity in other ways to bless some who attended: Mike Magel heard someone complaining about a back pain, so he and Hayward Chappell offered prayer for that person. At the end of the gatherings, Judi Magel also offered her wonderful angel pins to the group; and people took that blessing with them, ladies and gents alike.

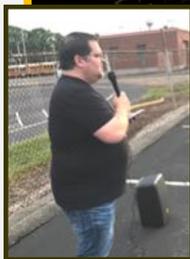
The greater family of Christ-followers in our Tipp City area is known for their diligence in prayer and selflessness in service. What a blessing to be a part of a community like ours! We encourage every believer to bring the

power of prayer and the life of Christ into their towns and cities.



## Prayer for Local Schools

By Mark & Juany Harbert



Mark and Juany Harbert live in Tipp City with their daughter Nicole and serve on the Pastoral Care Team at CFFM. Mark is a small business owner, teaching and training small commercial enterprises how to use social media to increase online exposure. Juany was born in Chile, South America and works with Mark in their online business reaching all corners of the world.



**PROPHECY SEMINAR**  
 September 2021  
*Guest Speakers:*  
**Rob & Eva Williamson**

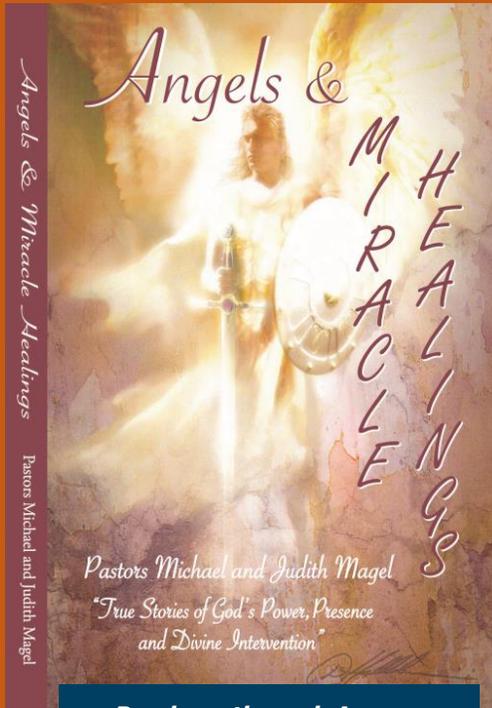


**A NEW BOOK** *from*  
**Pastors MIKE & JUDI MAGEL**

**Angels & Miracle Healings**

presents a foundation of the Scriptures about angels and miracle healings. It also gives firsthand testimonies of supernatural events from witnesses who have had encounters with angels and those who have experienced miraculous healings.

These are witnesses of all ages and backgrounds who have personally experienced the power of God. In their own words, they describe the supernatural events that they have seen and heard. The Magels also include many testimonies of events they have personally been involved in as ministers. Our hope is that **Angels & Miracle Healings** will inspire you and bring you to an even greater realization of the presence of God's ministering angels and of his great power in signs, miracles and wonders *today*.



**Purchase through Amazon**  
*(includes Kindle format)*

**Michael and Judith Magel**, the couple that gave us the book, *God Shots*, are introducing this exciting book that shows the significance of angels in our lives and that miracle healings are not uncommon! The "Merry Magels" have ministered healing throughout the United States and many other countries around the world. They are both ordained clergy, and Michael is one of the original founders of Christian Family Fellowship Ministry ([www.cffm.org](http://www.cffm.org)), in Tipp City, Ohio. Their desire in writing this book is that you may realize the mighty presence of God's angels and the powerful working of the Holy Spirit in the lives of people from all walks of life – just like you.



**WELCOME!**  
**Cypress David Allen**  
 BORN: 9/13/21  
 Parents: Eric & Kristen Allen  
 Jeff & Tonia's first grandbaby!



**August 2021 Guests of CFF Board**  
 Pastors Houk & Shelia Hitchcock  
 From Houston, Texas



**APPLING, GEORGIA ADVANCE**  
 Among Guest Speakers: Kevin Guigou  
 Hosts: Justin & Elisa Demers/October 2021

**Hebrews**  
**10:24-25**  
 ESV

And 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.



**DAY IN THE WORD: Members in Particular ~ Mill Valley, California/August 2021**  
 Guest Speakers: Kevin Guigou & Houk Hitchcock ~ Hosts: Eldon & Kathy Daugherty



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## YES 2021

### *CFFM's 24th Youth Camp*

#### *From Generation to Generation...*

Don't let anyone look down on you  
because you are young,  
but set an example for the believers  
in speech, in conduct,  
in love, in faith  
and in purity.

1 Timothy 4:12 (NIV)

