



The ENCOURAGER

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

FAITH OF CHILDREN & WISDOM OF ELDERS

Faith of Children

My wife Katrina and I have a 17-month-old toddler named Trey. As we have been watching him grow up, Matthew 18 keeps coming to mind.

Matthew 18:2-3 (NIV)

He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. ³ And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

This got me thinking about the different characteristics that little children demonstrate as they grow and how we can learn from them. The first thing I've noticed as a new parent is **how much trust our children put in us.**

Our son trusts Katrina and me to take care of his daily needs. We feed and clothe him. When he is scared or hurt, he turns to us to keep him safe. Our trust in God should be the same. There should be no doubt in our minds that God has us covered regardless of the circumstances.

Trey has **a wonder and excitement for each new thing in life.** Whether it is a toy, book, or skill he has discovered, watching Trey reminds me to approach God and his Word with that same kind of wonder.

Young kids **love to run everywhere.** As soon as Trey learned to walk, he was in full sprint mode. If he sees

something he wants, he is going towards it at full speed. God wants us to approach him in the same way. We can run to him as fast as we can, crawl into his lap and learn from him.

As with many things in life, approaching God as little children is a balancing act.

1 Corinthians 13:11 (NIV)

When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.

Paul encourages us to put away childish thinking if we want to see the fullness of God. But doesn't that seem to contradict what Jesus told his disciples? No! While children have a lot of qualities we should bring to our faith, they have others that we need to be wary of.

One such example is their **selfishness.** Babies and toddlers are mainly focused on

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one thing: *themselves*. They want WHAT they want WHEN they want it. If you've ever tried to tell a toddler "No," you know what I mean. When approaching God, we need to be humble and thinking about serving others. God has a lot of plans in store for each of us, but we will never fulfill them all if we are only thinking about getting what we want right now.

Another example of childish thinking is their *lack of maturity*.

Ephesians 4:12-14 (NIV)

to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.



Paul encourages us to build our spiritual maturity so we can be solid in our faith. If we do not have a firm foundation in the Word, we are easily persuaded, and we can succumb to the tricks of the adversary. *Trey believes what people tell him* and unless we teach him the truth, he can't discern right from wrong because he has no reference point for the truth.



Have you ever seen a movie for the first time that excited you so much you wanted to keep watching it again and again... a movie that stuck with you and that you couldn't stop thinking about? As you watched the movie over and over, did you ever realize that your enthusiasm for it was starting to fade?

In my walk with God, I have sometimes allowed sections of scripture to become like that movie. As I read through them over and over again, they didn't resonate with me the same way as the first time through.

When praying to God to stir up my spirit on these passages which I felt I knew so well, I was reminded to approach the

scripture like a child. *When children read something, they have a thousand questions. They don't have any preconceived notions of what it is trying to say. By simply approaching the Word with a humble expectation, they are able to glean more than they can imagine.*

Wisdom of Elders

As many of you know, Wayne Clapp, a good friend and teacher to me



and so many others, recently fell asleep in Jesus. And as we celebrated his life, a theme that came up repeatedly was his ability to memorize the Word and how he knew the scriptures inside and out.

He truly personified Psalm 119:11a, "I have hidden your word in my heart."

But when I think of Wayne, it's not the depth of his knowledge, but *his passion* for the Word that comes to mind. He was always searching the scriptures and sharing his enthusiasm with us for what he was learning.

I will always remember Wayne teaching the Word and getting choked up by a passage he had read a hundred times. Wayne knew that every single word from God was a treasure, so he held them in high regard and was constantly being impacted by them.

My hope for my son Trey and all of us is that we can seek after God with the same enthusiasm that Wayne showed every day. If we continue to approach God with child-like faith, he can ignite our passion for the scriptures more than we ever thought possible, and he will expand our wisdom each and every day.

God bless you all,

Casey Mac

Casey MacPherson
Troy, Ohio
CFFM Minister
A/V Dept. Coordinator



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	MEN'S FELLOWSHIP HOSTS: Jeff Shroyer & Mark Harbert	CFFM Tipp City, OH
2/22-26/24	Low Country of SC OPEN FELLOWSHIP, Luncheon & Fun Times! Saturday 24th 10AM-4PM Guest Speaker: Kevin Guigou / Hosts: Daryl & Lauren Sturre	Hilton Head Island, SC
3/15-17/24	~ STRENGTHEN ~ TRAIN ~ ACCOMPLISH ~ A Weekend with ROBERTS LIARDON SPIRITUAL LEADER ~ CHURCH HISTORIAN HUMANITARIAN ~ AUTHOR ~ PUBLIC SPEAKER	CFFM Tipp City, OH
3/31/24	EASTER SUNDAY <i>The Resurrection of Jesus Changed Everything</i>	Worldwide
5/16-19/24	JOYFEST! Connect~Refresh~Ignite Weekend Fellowship at Camp Allen Hosted by Robert & Sheila Hitchcock & Team Among Speakers: CFF's Kevin & Sara Guigou	Camp Allen Navasota, Texas
5/19/24	PENTECOST SUNDAY <i>Celebrating the Outpouring of the Gift of Holy Spirit</i>	Worldwide
7/30-8/4/24	27th Annual YES CAMP 2024 Youth Excelling Spiritually! Camp Director: Tonia Shroyer	CFFM Tipp City, OH

CALENDAR

www.cffm.org

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

THANK YOU!

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

Join our live or archived 10:30 AM Sunday Morning Fellowships by live streaming at cffm.org/live-streaming.

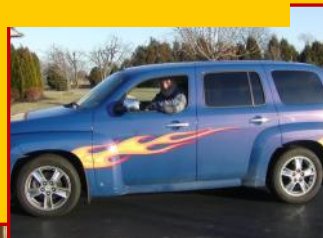
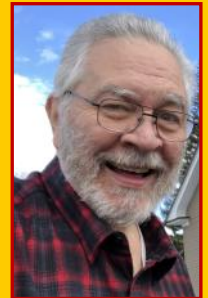
Also enjoy past teachings on our website, podcast or YouTube channel.



Our CFF ministry family is thanking God for the life & ministry of our friend & brother in Christ

WAYNE G. CLAPP

2/11/50 ~ 10/28/23



With my whole heart
I have sought thee:
let me not
wander from thy
commandments... I will
delight myself in thy
statutes:
I will not forget thy word.
Psalm 119:10 & 16



CELEBRATION OF LIFE
12/9/23 CFFM
Tipp City, Ohio



Join Us For

A Weekend with Roberts Liardon

Spiritual Leader | Church Historian | Humanitarian | Author | Public Speaker

FRIDAY, MARCH 15 – SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024

CHRISTIAN FAMILY FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

1575 W. STATE ROUTE 571 • TIPP CITY, OHIO



Dr. Roberts Liardon was called into the ministry at a very young age, preaching his first public sermon at the age of thirteen and lecturing on God’s Generals in Christian colleges and universities at age fifteen. He has produced radio, television, and Internet programs and has also authored over eighty books which have been translated into over sixty languages and to date have sold 16.5 million copies.

He speaks to a current generation of believers who want to draw closer to the heart of God and impact their communities and nations through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Strengthen

Believers

Train

The Next Generation

Accomplish

The Great Commission

SCHEDULE

FRI., March 15	6:30 pm	Doors Open
	7:00 pm	Session Begins
SAT., March 16	9:00 am	Doors Open
	9:30 am	Session Begins
	12-2 pm	Lunch on your own
	2:00 pm	Session Begins
SUN., March 17	9:30 am	Doors Open
	10:00 am	Session Begins

REGISTRATION

\$45 per ATTENDEE

\$55 per LOCATION FOR LIVE STREAMING

Register online at www.cffm.org/events by the registration deadline, **February 28, 2024**

For more information or assistance, contact Christian Family Fellowship Ministry at sarah@cffm.org; phone (937)669-3090.

HOTEL INFORMATION : Holiday Inn Express -Tipp City (937) 667-5161 (ask for CFF rate); Comfort Inn - Tipp City (937) 667-1574; Residence Inn -Troy (937) 440-9303; Hampton Inn - Troy (937) 339-7801; Fairfield Inn - Troy (937) 332-1446

In September 2019, I retired from my job with Ohio University in Cincinnati and my wife Nancy and I moved to Vandalia to be close to our church community at Christian Family Fellowship. I say **retired** but, more accurately, I have **refocused** my work as I still seem to stay busy with things for my wife, home, church, and community projects.

More and more, I'm seeing the godly impact we can all make by **getting involved in our local communities**. I hope to tickle you to consider new ways you might engage in your own towns and neighborhoods. I also want to encourage those of you who are already making these connections to keep going. I realize that, being retired, I have more time than some to take on a variety of projects, but even with a full time job there are often opportunities to get involved that won't require a lot of your time.

About 15 years ago, I felt compelled to find ways to minister more directly in my community. James 1:27 says, "Pure religion... is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction...." I asked myself, "What am I doing in this area?" We were not in a position to adopt, but I tried to find something in this context. I decided to become a Big Brother and worked with a young boy for several years.

When we lived in southeastern Ohio, Nancy worked with Habitat for Humanity. I gained respect for that organization, so when we moved to Vandalia and I was looking for ways to engage locally, I decided to volunteer for the Habitat Center in Troy. I worked there once a week for several years and then felt I needed to move on to something else. We live near the Aullwood Audubon Center in Dayton, and we connected with a woman who facilitates a program called READS in which adults mentor third and fourth grade children who need help with reading through hikes, presentations and structured reading projects at the Aullwood Nature Center and Farm. I volunteered as a mentor and am completing my third season in December.

Through our local church community at CFF, we have connected with a variety of believers who already have ongoing projects in the community. We have partnered with them both financially and by attending some of their functions in the community.

For example, Jonathan and Sami Hagar started Troy Skate Church which ministers to young people at the skate park in Troy. Nancy and I went to one of their Friday cookouts and

helped grill burgers. Jade Brown, Michael Burrows and Casey McPherson started Prayer Tent Ministry which stages pop-up tents offering prayer at local community outdoor races and other events. This summer, I went to a race they sponsored in Tipp City to be a part of the prayer team.

Several years ago I was inspired by a woman in our church who ministered for the Dayton Police Department as a spiritual resource for their work in the community. Earlier this year, I watched a video in which a pastor in California mentioned a city with over 40 volunteer chaplains on the police force.

Then one day, there was a patrol car sitting in front of my house monitoring traffic. I walked out and tapped on the window and asked if the Vandalia Police Department had chaplains. The officer said yes and gave me the name of the lieutenant who coordinates the chaplains. I met with him, went through some background preparation and became one of three chaplains.

I met with him, went through some background preparation and became one of three chaplains.

At this point I am working to get to know the officers. I ride around with individual officers for an hour or so on his/her shift, attend meetings and police outreach events, and respond to calls if they request a chaplain. At this point, I have not been on a lot of calls, but all I know is to keep making myself available and looking to God to open doors. I keep reminding myself, as you should too, that

my presence with Christ in me makes a difference.

There are also shorter local community events that you can get involved by volunteering or just by showing up. For example, downtown Tipp City has hosted free, outdoor, First Friday Concerts facilitated by Steve and Sally Watson for many years. Several of us from local churches have helped by serving, selling raffle tickets, or sharing the opening prayers.

For the past two years, local churches have worked together to present a downtown community meal in Tipp City called "Thankful Thursday." I learned about these at a home fellowship and was referred to Adam Berning who works with numerous local churches to facilitate the meal twice a year in the spring and fall. After I met with Adam, he invited Pastors Tonia and Jeff Shroyer to meet, along with Nancy and me. Plans were made to partner with the other churches to provide tents, food and servers for their November meal. The result was a joyous occasion. Although the meal was designed to be outdoors, the local Methodist church graciously offered to host the event in their community room when the weather turned cold. The Prayer Tent offered prayers as people arrived and individuals from the community and local churches engaged with one another and enjoyed a thankful meal together. We are one Body.

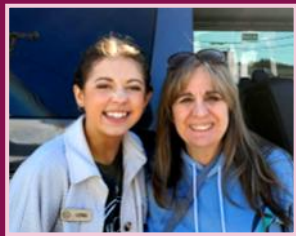
So what is God working in your heart?



By
Hayward Chappell
Vandalia, Ohio

Community Connections

Pastors Hayward & Nancy Chappell met doing musical theater. They served in full-time ministry, then Hayward worked in sales and later as a small business counselor. They live in Vandalia, Ohio and serve in a variety of ways at Christian Family Fellowship. They are blessed with two wonderful sons, their beautiful wives and four beloved grandchildren who live in Texas and Louisiana.



Memories from WACO!

Restoration & Relaxation
Waco, Texas

CFF Women's Weekend
November 2023



In October 2023, I was blessed to travel with Xenia's *A House of Prayer* (AHOP) church team to Honduras. After a day long ride from San Pedro Sula airport in Honduras over rutted, mostly dirt paths, and maneuvering over a few streams, we arrived in Chaguitillos, Honduras, at Prayer Plan Mission's facility. The building served as our meeting place and lodgings. We unloaded the trucks, unpacked, enjoyed dinner and went over our plans for the week. We needed to be extra conservative with water since it is supplied by catch basins on the roofs of the structures.

Another piece of property had been purchased to make a place for widows who are in desperate need of assistance; a place where they can live out their days with dignity and joy.

Five guys from the team worked on a water diversion project, building a block wall and concrete conduit to redirect rain water. This will also help to prevent erosion on the property where plans are being made for widows' housing, a garden area, church and school.

Each day began with individual quiet time with God, prayer and scripture. Then groups gathered for sharing and discussion of God's inspiration for the day. Breakfast followed and then on to our assigned projects – men to water project, women to put together gift health packets and filling piñatas with candy.

Each afternoon, we women would walk to one village school in the area. Sixth grade is the top public grade in their education. At these schools, we shared with the children the story of how David bravely protected the sheep from the lion and the bear and of his becoming king. Each child then received a "Burger King" crown with the goal of encouraging them to be brave like David because Jesus, THE King, is with them.

It was a blessing to hear one of the school boys recite the 23rd

Psalm. For one of the schools, the government had given permission for the distribution of booklets of lessons and craft projects about the character of Jesus. Excellent! At this school, we used this booklet, along with the story of David, to emphasize the love and strength of Jesus.

Sunday, after personal morning worship time, I shared key aspects from Jesus' ministry and about people who touched

his life. The geographical area where Jesus boldly taught the Word of God was a small but his impact was huge! At Pentecost, the gift and power of the Holy Spirit were born into each person who made Jesus Lord. From then on, empowered followers were sent out to proclaim the good news.

We are all witnesses of this today – unto the uttermost part of the earth (Acts 1:8)! I asked

the group, "What exactly is this power and how do you know you have it?" I shared that the book of Acts and Paul's letters to Corinth help show us how it worked in people's lives.

All of our days were dedicated to bring glory and

praise to God and Jesus Christ. We visited schools, churches, villages, widows and families. We gave gifts, supported community meals, made pinatas and learned about their agrarian culture. Blessed with time on a cacao farm, we also made chocolate bars and cocoa. Of course, I brought home coffee and vanilla of extra good quality!

What a blessing it was to go on this mission trip! On this kind of adventure, we always receive much more—spiritually, educationally and in our understanding—than we can physically or materially give.

Let's go out and be victorious for God's Kingdom!



Karen Puterbaugh (left), Director of Greene County Council on Aging, with support from the Area Agency on Aging, presented community volunteer Mary Amlin with the Outstanding Senior Citizen award, Spring 2023. (courtesy xeniagazette.com)

On a Mission In Every Season of Life Mary Amlin / Xenia, OH



A native of Xenia, Ohio, Mary Amlin and her husband Ron raised three children and owned and/or managed wholesale and retail businesses over the years. From 1994 to 2016, she was a contractor at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. Mary now enjoys volunteering with CFFM, Greene County Parks, the Council on Aging, Xenia Adult Recreation Center, Community Action partnership, two Christian radio stations and FISH food pantry. Having visited all 50 states and Canada, Mexico, Israel, Jordan, Greece, Turkey, and the Caribbean Islands, she likes to stay on the move always with an eye open to bless others.

27th ANNUAL
CFFM YOUTH CAMP



YES! CAMP 2024

YOUTH EXCELLING SPIRITUALLY

“YES” stands for *Youth Excelling Spiritually*. Young followers of Jesus want to excel in their spiritual walk of love and power. They want to say “YES!” to God’s invitation for youth to live for him.

TUESDAY, JULY 30—SUNDAY, August 4, 2024

WHO: **12 thru 25 years old**

WHERE: **Christian Family Fellowship
1575 W. State Route 571, Tipp City, Ohio 45371**

COST: **\$325 per attendee**



- ◆ A “what to bring” list & other information will be sent to you
- ◆ Camp Arrival: Tuesday, July 30, 3:00—6:00 PM; dinner provided for campers
- ◆ Camp Ends: Sunday, August 4 after Sunday Morning Fellowship
- ◆ Airport pick-up available at Dayton International Airport only
- ◆ For more information contact: Sarah Mullens 937-669-3090/sarah@cffm.org
- ◆ **REGISTRATION DEADLINE: June 30, 2024**



Registration Form (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Facilities limit us to **75** applicants

NAME: _____ BIRTHDAY: ___/___/___ AGE AS OF 7/30/24: _____
(As you prefer on name tag)

ADDRESS: _____ (PO Box/Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip code)

Camper Ph.# _____ Camper E-mail: _____

Camper Preferred Social Media contact info: _____

Parents Name(s): _____ Parents Consenting Signature (required if under 18): _____

Emergency Contact Phone#’s: _____ T-SHIRT SIZE: _____

How & When Arriving: _____ How & When Departing: _____

What are some areas in your walk with God where you are looking for personal growth? _____

(Register online at www.cffm.org/events, or send your above info and check to CFFM, 1575 W. State Route 571, Tipp City, OH 45371)

Make the First Move

KIRK KELLEY ~ TULSA, OKLAHOMA

Did you ever see someone at work or maybe at church and think, “What’s up with them? They see me all the time, and they know who I am, but they never say a word to me.”

Did you ever think that maybe you should talk to them first? Maybe say hello and initiate a conversation? The reality is that most people go through life waiting for someone else to make the first move.

The truth is that great things generally happen outside of our comfort zones. Successful people in life push harder. They put more effort into whatever they do.

Let’s apply this to God. In life, we often run into two types of Christians—one who says that God talks to them and another who says that God has never talked to them. I would ask them, “Did you ever talk to God first? And did you expect an answer?” If you are this second person, why not push in a little harder and start the conversation?

We see an example of “first-move” perseverance in Matthew 15, beginning in verse 22 (KJV)—

²² And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him [Jesus], saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

The Canaanite woman is pursuing Jesus for an answer. In verses 23 and 24, he basically ignores her.

²³ But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. ²⁴ But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

In verse 25, she doesn’t take a perceived “No” for an answer.

²⁵ Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.

Jesus again seems to give her the cold shoulder.

²⁶ But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children’s bread, and to cast it to dogs.



Kirk Kelley has been a believer since the early 1970s, ministering in home fellowships and local churches in southern California. Recently retired from 30+ years in the motorcycle industry, he and his wife Susie have moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma where they are developing Christian small group gatherings.





Nicola Baker
Sector Missionary at Overland Missions
SMF Teaching Guest / CFF Tipp City, OH
December 2023



JUANY HARBERT



JOANNA HOWLEY



MARY KRISTI BRASHEAR



KATRINA MACPHERSON

A few of our recent speakers at Sunday Morning Fellowships...



SARA GUIGOU

Debi Pilot & the Meldrums
Lead Sing-along & Scripture
New Jerusalem Christian Church
Bay City, Michigan Nov 2023



MICHAEL BURROWS



MARK & JACQUELINE HOWLEY



But That's Not All

A poem by Juanita Shelton

A tree can draw you by her beauty with yellow green Spring, velvety verdant Summer, golden splendor in Fall.
But that's not all.

The Creator, who gave you eyes to see has much more.
Mountains, blue violet hazes and soft fog rising, Golden walls against the bluest skies, icy white majestic peaks where the golden eagle cries.
But that's not all.

The Mighty One who imagined these and spoke them into Life gave you the heart that gasps in awe has much more.

The soft grasses where the wildflowers dance in meadows, the orchids in the jungle green, your hopeful hands that plant Spring dreams.

The Loving Father with gentle ways longs to guide you through all your days.
But that's not all.

~ THANK YOU! ~

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

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 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)

How to Offer Financial Support to CFFM

- 1) Through our **website**, 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



CFF Holiday Family Festivities December 2023

Thanks to all our guests who've visited Tipp City recently!





1575 W. State Route 571
Tipp City OH 45371
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Fax 937-669-4087
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To Current Occupant Or:



Women's Weekend
Restoration & Relaxation
Waco, Texas
November 2023