



The ENCOURAGER

NOVEMBER 2024

NEWSLETTER OF CHRISTIAN FAMILY FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY
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LOVE SICK

Overtaken by the
overwhelming desire
to reunite with the one
whom your soul loves

Our fallen world exists in a creation gripped with the grief of “separation anxiety” from our Creator. It is infected with sin, a poison so insidious that it lured mankind’s desires from pure to putrid. In Adam, we became marked as enemies of heaven and our sentence, death. Humanity’s divide from God makes the widest gap of the Grand Canyon seem but a hopscotch jump in comparison to sin’s dark and endless abyss.

But God... in his unfathomable mercy and grace, made a way to heal the world of this terminal and infectious disease. God’s remedy is simple, that we would know the crucified and risen savior, Jesus Christ. It is through knowing Jesus that **our lovesickness** is forever healed, sin’s chasm closed, our desires made pure, and our souls exonerated.

I am not talking about merely knowing Jesus’ biography. Anyone can fill themselves fat with facts and bloat their intellect with verses. But not everyone has experienced his touch. Too often as believers, we settle for knowing our Lord’s accomplishments yet forgetting that what Jesus suffered was not only to pay for sin... it was to win our hearts, to spark our souls

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aflame with a love so irresistible that we would crave nothing else! Too often, we forget that to be separated from his love would trigger agony so cavernous and groanings so deep that we would cry out with furious desire for even a whisper of his tender voice.

Only in his presence our gray turns into day and desperation dissipates, vaporized by the burning passion of Calvary. The crushing loads of life fall from our shoulders when we fix our eyes on the one who rolled aside death's boulder. The terrorizing waves of our thoughts that cripple us with fear and anxiety settle down when we call out to the one who walks on water and commands the storms to cease. It's at that moment that peace breaks through the clouds of doubt. Shores of hope peak over the horizon of our heart's homeward journey to the safe harbor of the Lord's unfailing love. "And this is eternal life, that they know [*ginōskō*] you, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent" (John 17:3).

This Greek word *ginōskō* is known in Jewish culture as an idiom for the communion between a man and his wife. The intimacy of intimacy, true oneness. As marriage is sacred between man and wife, even more sacred is God's invitation to be in covenant with us through Jesus. There are secrets, revelations, whispers and dreams that the Lord wants to give those who love him. To chase anything outside of Jesus is to give ourselves over to lesser lovers, auctioning off the holy chamber of our heart to worldly paramours.

Yet when anyone encounters the Man from Galilee, perfect and glorious, who and what can compare? His love is better than wine and his name is like oil poured out beckoning us to come and sit at his feet to simply enjoy him. **Jesus is "lovesick" for us. How can this be?** Oh but it is! Look no further but to turn your gaze to the blood-stained cross of Calvary and you'll discover...

... *heaven's perfection given for the profane,*
... *the righteous king murdered as a criminal,*
... *the roaring lion brought to slaughter as a lamb,*
... *glory that became acquainted with grief,*
... *humanity's faithful lover betrayed and abandoned,*
... *the one who spoke no lie slandered and defamed,*
... *the light of the world left to die in darkness,*
... *him who drank the cup of bitterness to give us the chalice of victory.*

Anamaris (Annie) Rodriguez was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico and grew up in Largo, Florida. In 2013-14, she was a student in CFFM's Fellowlaborers training program in Tipp City. She currently lives in Vidalia, Georgia where she works as an orthodontic assistant for Smile Doctors Orthodontics. She serves at her local church, Connection Vidalia, as a small group leader for young women and helps lead the Sunday morning prayer team. Anamaris has a passion to ignite the heart of all people to have a deep and burning love for Jesus and to exhort the next generation of believers to cling to the simple gospel, Christ and him crucified.

"... you have left your first love!" ~ Revelation 2:4 (NKJV)

**"For you were continually straying like sheep,
but now you have returned
to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls."
~ 1 Peter 2:25 (NASB)**

Thank God **a lovesick savior** came and laid himself down. In Philippians

chapter three, it's no wonder that we read a passionate text from the Apostle Paul who, in light of God's incomprehensible love, left his old life behind for the supreme prize of knowing Christ Jesus. "Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with him" (Philippians 3:8,9a).

Friend, come to the nail-pierced feet of Jesus and receive his love today! **Let your lovesickness be cured by his passion.** Let the hardened parts of our hearts be pierced open by the spear he received in his side. May every reservation to give Jesus all be laid to waste knowing he emptied himself for us when we were yet sinners. May we be unashamed to lavish our affection on Jesus, for he is worthy to receive the full reward of his suffering—**a people desperate for him.**

May we cry out to Jesus and become undone by his touch and enraptured by his voice. We serve a Lord who finds pleasure in knowing us. Jesus longs for us as the sunflower longs for the sun. The Lord is looking for lovers before he is looking for laborers, for it is our love that fuels our labor. May we give ourselves away to Jesus as living sacrifices willing to go wherever he calls and to do whatever he asks. There is nothing else that matters, there is no one else that compares.



**Annie
Rodríguez**
Vidalia, Georgia



As Announced	MEN'S FELLOWSHIP Hosts: Jeff Shroyer & Mark Harbert	CFFM Tipp City, OH
11/15-17	MIRACLE WEEKEND! <i>In the Word & the Spirit</i> Hosted by Tonia Shroyer Speakers: Jan Magiera & Brent Joseph	CFFM Tipp City, OH
12/15	CFFM CHRISTMAS PARTY Hosted by Tonia Shroyer, Tom Dill, Kevin Guigou	CFFM Tipp City, OH
5/2-4 2025	WILD AT HEART FOR WOMEN: Captivating to Jesus Hosted by Juany Harbert & Tonia Shroyer	CFFM Tipp City, OH
Fall 2025	MEN'S ADVANCE 2025! Watch our website for updates	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.

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... 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.



The Lowcountry Fellowship
Hilton Head Island, SC

CLERGY MEETINGS
at the U.S. Capitol & Library of Congress
9/11-12/24 ~ Washington, DC
Representing CFFM: Jeff & Tonia Shroyer



FUN TIMES!
CFFM ~ TIPP CITY, OH



Lately, Mark and I have been pondering the question of, "Who is my neighbor?"—as in "Love thy..."

I don't know if you've noticed lately, things are not as neighborly as they used to be. People seem to get offended at very little provocation. Especially with an election around the corner, many are having lots of opinions and disagreements. I see it every day. Some people just do not like other people. I am sure you notice it too.

Sometimes I've also acted that way, but I don't want to live like that anymore. So how do I learn how to love people that may not love, like, or agree with me? Nowhere does Scripture say that people must like me. But God does say that I must love them—love them as I love myself. It's a matter of obedience. It is a commandment. Jesus taught it to us a long time ago. We find it in the book of Mark 12:28-34.

:28, "And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he [Jesus] had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all?

:29, And Jesus answered him, the first of all the commandments *is*, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:

:30, And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this *is* the first commandment.

:31, And the second *is* like, *namely* this, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

:32, And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he:

:33, And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love *his* neighbor as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.

:34, And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, "Thou art not far from the kingdom of God."



There are many tasks that are asked of a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ, but the first

Christ, but the first two commandments he gave us are the very essence of who we are to be to God and the world.

God, in fact, tells us eight times in his written Word to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. To mark the importance, God made it a commandment. But what do we do when it is not so easy to love that neighbor? Living with other people can be messy. They can be vastly different and difficult to be around. So how do we do it?



by
Jacqueline Howley
Mechanicsburg,
Ohio

Love Thy Neighbor

The commandment, "do unto others as you would have them to do unto you" (Luke 6:31) is more than that. It is putting them first. Our actions and love are to show that we are followers of Jesus by the love we have for God, each other, and our neighbors.

We are to love them the way our Savior loves us—love them first before they love us. That is the pattern. God so loved that he gave. Jesus is our prime example of loving, speaking truth, blessing, presenting God to whomever is in front of us ... fearlessly, unreservedly. Not only did Jesus love God as completely as described, he loved each one he came in contact with—his neighbor; Jew, Gentile, sinner. Who they were didn't matter to him. And it shouldn't matter to us.

Something about our old man nature is not comfortable with the possibility of unrequited love. But push through that anyway. When you show your love and concern for another person, forget your sense of self-preservation. Tell them they are loved by the One who redeemed them. Tell them with the joy in your soul that the Holy Spirit has placed there. They need the reminder as much as we need to hear it ourselves. Don't be afraid of what they may think of us; what really matters is speaking the truth of being loved. Once you declare God, fear and inhibition will fall away. It will change your neighbor, and it will change you. There is freedom in that understanding.

And it transforms things. Not only is loving our neighbor good for them, but it is also good for us. Jesus is right, "Thou art not far from the kingdom of God," and isn't that where we really want to be?

Jacqueline Howley has been a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ since her first Bible class in July of 1980. She and her husband Mark live in Mechanicsburg, Ohio. They attend CFFM in Tipp City and were publicly ordained into Christian ministry there in 2016. The Howleys have been married since 1986. They have a daughter, Joanna, and a son, John-Mark, and two beautiful grandsons.

Greetings and blessings in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. He remained faithful to the Most High, the Almighty God, who is faithful and who called us to the fellowship of his Son (1 Corinthians 1:9).

Born in Brazzaville, Congo in 1957, I grew up with Christian parents. I attended church with them into high school, but it did not give me sufficient opportunity to take Bible classes or to know how to understand its pages.

I always had a Louis Segond (French) Bible but had never learned how to read it effectively. Towards the end of my medical studies at the University in 1986, a patient offered me the Ecumenical Translation (French TOB) Bible. I saw that as a sign that I needed to read more and to better understand its meaning. During those days, I know that the Spirit of God was stirring in me to answer his call to serve him with my life.

God honors our hunger for him. What we ask for by believing faith is what we receive (John 20:29). It did not take long, because in the days that followed, some enthusiastic Christian believers shared with me greater insight into the Scriptures and introduced me to a course on biblical fundamentals. The Word of God that I began learning changed my life. It was my great deliverance with an inexpressible joy!

One particular bible verse transformed my Christian walk: "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things will be added to you" (Matthew 6:33). What a

great truth! It forged my convictions and my beliefs. I had faith and conviction that by putting God first in my life, everything I would do afterward would be under his direction; so that's what I did. I began to set God's will as my priority in every detail of my life including sharing of my financial resources to ministry efforts.



A HEART TO PUT GOD FIRST

A testimony of prioritizing the will of God in family & career



by
Dr. André Mananga
Leuville sur Orge,
France

While continuing an array of Bible courses, I also completed my career studies by successfully defending my Doctorate of Medicine thesis.

There in Congo, I continued to grow in ministry involvement, promoting the Word of God and assuming leadership responsibilities. God inspired my next big step of moving to France where my French nationality that I had at birth was reinstated.

There I worked for almost 20 years as an Orthopedic Surgeon, and since then in my second spe-

cialty as Emergency Physician in the Medical-Surgical Emergency Department at Hôpital Paris-Saclay in Orsay, 15 minutes outside of Paris.

Prayer in the spirit is a great strength in my profession where God often inspires me to do acts that save lives. I strive every day to be a role model in my personal life, for my family, for believers, as well as at work. And this is felt at work where some nurses "fight" to work with me. Ha! I remember the day when two nurses drew lots to work with me. God continues to bless me with his gracious favor.

It is exciting to put God first in my job as a doctor. I do my best to transmit the love of God through every act, both in the team and with the patients. Some of them recognize the outstretched hand of God in my work and give thanks to him inspired by my actions and smile.

I have been married for 30 years to my darling Gisèle Annette with whom we raise our children in the Lord. Our sons and their wives conduct household fellowships at their homes, and together we hold joint meetings once a week.

In 2006, God led our family to join Reverend Victor Bikwaku in

the Christian Ministry of Reconciliation (MCR) of which he was the founder in 2005. Today it is known as Christian Family Fellowship Ministry France MCR (CFFM France-MCR). In that body in 2012, I was ordained as Reverend Pastor and currently serve as President, assisted by Mrs. Micheline Luzambu, who is very effective in our work for the Lord.

Our theme this year is *Faithfulness to God, to his Son and to his Word*. This inspires us to walk in the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22) which must remain our lifestyle as children of God.

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MEMORIES FROM **YES CAMP** 2024!

JULY-AUGUST '24 / TIPP CITY, OH / PHOTOS BY JOANNA HOWLEY & OTHERS



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POWER GROUP LEADERS



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JULY-AUGUST '24 / TIPP CITY, OHIO





Prayer Warriors

BY RUTH WALL
TIPP CITY, OH

Christian Family Fellowship Ministry has fostered a Prayer Warrior Group for over four years. It is a group of like-minded believers who love the Lord and gather together outside the church service to praise, worship the Lord, and pray in unity to see God's "kingdom come, thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven" Matthew 6:10 (KJV).

Our prayer group has grown from around five people to 12-13 who meet weekly at the CFFM guest home to pray in unity and expect results. Matthew 18:19b-20 (TPT) says, "If two of you agree to ask God for something in a symphony of prayer, my heavenly Father will do it for you. For wherever two or three come together in honor of my name, I am right there with them."

We are aware that our prayer weapons are not worldly. 2 Corinthians 10:4 (NIV), "The weapon of our warfare are not flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses." We endeavor to put on the full armor of God (Ephesians 6:14-18, TPT), especially verses 17 and 18, "Embrace the power of salvation's full deliverance, like a helmet to protect your thoughts from lies. And take the mighty razor-sharp Spirit-sword of the spoken word of God."

We strike the atmosphere with the power and authority of the spoken Word of God over situations. For instance, if there is a confidential request for healing, our prayer warriors will locate a scripture on healing and then decree and declare that scripture together over the situation. We stand with the person or stand in the gap for that situation. We regularly pray for our church, country, state, city,

families and children, world issues, and personal requests.

Our prayer warriors were recently asked why our prayer group is important to them and here is what some had to say:

"Our like-minded prayers make an impactful, godly difference in so many lives"

"It's a time to receive and give back to God my love, praise, and joy"

"A place for healing, to open hearts and be understood within the confidence of a small group"

"It's a group that understands their God-given authority and wants to partner with HIM to see HIS will done"

"Full sharing with other members of God's family who are serious about prayer"

"Like-mindedness and unification of prayer concerns"

"A safe place to love one another and pray specifically for personal and worldly needs"

"A place to disciple one another as we grow in our journey with Jesus"

The Prayer Warrior Group always expects the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us. We count it a privilege to battle in spiritual war with God's angelic team and other prayer warriors standing in the gap.

Ruth Wall serves as the gracious hostess at the CFFM guest home and shepherds the Prayer Warrior group. She also enjoys watching over her grandson and great-grand kids. She is a blessed daughter of the most high God.

As the Movers & Shakers Dance Team, we get the honor and privilege of ministering to our Christian Family Fellowship Ministry family through dance. One form of dance involves the use of flags.

our dancers (which includes Belinda Kaplan from Colorado and Susie Heckel locally, when they are available) that we stand in awe of God's inspiration (in-spirit-action). Why a flag?

Every nation has a flag that represents that country. You can break it down into three elements: (1) Identification; (2) Authority; and (3) Celebration.

Identification: Each country has a flag that defines in particular who they are.

Authority: Countries vary on how much authority they carry. A larger country usually wields more authority than perhaps a smaller country.

Celebration: Each country's flag is used in celebration of that country; like when we wave our flags on the Fourth of July or in a parade in honor of our nation here.

Much more could be shared about the biblical history of why and how flags, canopies, and textured fabrics were used to express praise. I think we can understand how the flag is used today

by the spiritual parallels: We "identify" with our Creator and Father God. We are children of the Most High God. We exercise the "authority" given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ. We "celebrate" the kingdom of God and the reality that we are a part of that kingdom.

When we dance from inspiration and revelation, we endeavor to communicate the heart of the Father to his people. Also, we communicate to the Father and Lord Jesus Christ that we praise, worship, and adore them. Even the colors we choose for the flags are important. The biblical meanings are sown in our hearts so when we dance (hopefully) the heart of that meaning is also communicated. The congregation may not always perceive that; but our God and Lord Jesus surely understand.

I think I can speak for all of our dancers that ministering through the dance (flag) ministry is a humbling and incredibly fulfilling experience. We serve in a way that is different and unique but just as important as any other act of service.

Martie Richardson was introduced to ministering through dance in 1970. She has served on dance teams and ministered in different venues for 21 years. For the last 4+ years, Martie has been most honored to serve CFFM (with her other team members) thru the Movers & Shakers Dance Team. She was publicly ordained into Christian ministry in 2018.

Flag Ministry

BY
MARTIE
RICHARDSON
PIQUA, OH

In Psalms 149, various ways of praising God are mentioned. In verse 3, it speaks of dance: "Let them praise his name in the dance." In Psalms 150, it's also shown in verse 4. "Praise him with the timbrel [tambourine] and dance."

Dance is defined as "to move rhythmically to music." God our Creator is into movement. From the beginning of creation, his moving was necessary. In Genesis 1:2, the Spirit of God "moved" upon the face of the waters. Then, it says God started speaking creation into reality. How did we get the holy Scriptures? 2 Peter 1:21, "...but holy men of God spoke as they were 'moved' by the Holy Ghost."

I do not know if I have the words to express the joy that comes when we allow ourselves to be "moved" by the Holy Spirit when we dance ... to realize the magnitude of expressing our God and Lord Jesus through the movement of a flag. I think I speak for all of

SUE DILL,
MARTIE RICHARDSON
JULI TUROCY

BELINDA
KAPLAN

SUSIE
HECKEL



Memories from **OREGON INTERACTIVE WEEKEND** ~ August 2024

HOSTS: Ed & Sharon Brockman, Dave & Liz Christofferson

SPEAKERS: Kevin & Sara Guigou, CFFM / Daniel Ginn



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 house churches 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)

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- 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

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



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