



The ENCOURAGER

MAY 2025

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



We have been saved! As Christians, each day we should remember who provided us salvation. Not one of us can truly imagine what it was like for Jesus when he died. His sacrifice for us should fill us with thanksgiving, joy ... *and praise!* He is the reason we will spend eternity in heaven.

Jesus set an example of praise for us in Luke 10:21, "At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, 'I praise you, Father, lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.'"

Psalm 22:3 Says that God inhabits in the praises of his people. He "dwells" in the atmosphere of praise. Praise is a vehicle of faith which takes us into his presence and power.

Praising the God of Our Salvation

Psalm 100:4
Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

God can work miraculously through our praises.

In Joshua 6:1-21, the walls of Jericho came crashing down, giving victory to God's people as a result of their shouts of praise.

Perseverance in praise paid off for Paul and Silas. When they had cast out a spirit of divination from a girl, the local authorities beat them and threw them into a jail cell.

Acts 16:23-26

And when they had laid many stripes on

(continued on page 2)

"... I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it." 1 Peter 5:12 (NIV)

(continued from page 1)

them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. ²⁴ Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. ²⁵ But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.

PRaise IS POWERFUL!

No matter what our circumstances are, when we lift our hearts above our troubles and begin to praise, we are accessing the joy, peace, and presence of God.

Praise puts the enemy on the run. When the children of Judah found themselves outnumbered by hostile armies, King Jehoshaphat and all the people sought the Lord's help. God assured the people that this would be his battle. He told them to go out against them, and he would do the fighting for them.

Judah sent their army against their enemies—*led by the praisers!* The name Judah means "praise"!

Praise the Lord, for his mercy endures forever (Psalm 136:1)!

2 Chronicles 20:22

And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah, and they were smitten.

**For they heard them
speaking in tongues
and praising God.**
Acts 10:46 NIV

**Come, everyone!
Clap your hands!
Shout to God
with joyful praise!**
Psalm 47:1 NLT

**Lift your hands
toward the sanctuary,
and praise the Lord.**
Psalm 134:2 NLT

**Shout to the Lord,
all the earth;
break out in praise
and sing for joy!**
Psalm 98:4 NLT

There are many expressions of praise listed in scripture:

Speaking in tongues
(Acts 10:46)

Declaring thanks
(Hebrews 13:15)

Clapping hands & shouting
(Psalm 47:1)

Musical instruments & dancing
(Psalm 150:4)

Singing praises (Psalm 9:11)

Praise, hymns & spiritual songs
(Ephesians 5:19-20)

Joyful shouting
(Psalms 98:4; 33:3; 95:1-6)

By lifting hands (Psalm 134:2)

By being still
(Psalms 4:3-5; 46:10)

As we remember the sacrifice, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us overflow in thanksgiving and praise!

Hebrews 13:15

By him therefore let us offer **the sacrifice of praise** to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

You are loved and
you belong,

**Tonia
Shroyer**

Lead Pastor
CFFM - Tipp City, OH



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.

28th ANNUAL
CFFM YOUTH CAMP

YES! CAMP 2025

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 29—SUNDAY, August 3, 2025

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 29, 3:00—6:00 PM; dinner provided for campers
- ◆ Camp Ends: Sunday, August 3 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, 2025**



Registration Form (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

NAME: _____ BIRTHDAY: ____/____/____ AGE AS OF 7/27/25: _____
(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)



memories from
Weekend in the Word
Orlando, Florida / March 2025
Hosts: Dale & Cathy Reichel





There are times when I feel that there are inconsiderate, non-law-abiding car drivers on the road. They drive incredibly close to the back of my car; they swerve in and out of their lane; they (apparently) decide that using their turn signal is optional. What's bad is that I'm probably more like those drivers than I want to admit!

With that said, ***there are many benefits to abiding by the rules of the road.*** It promotes an organizational unity among fellow travelers. Imagine the utter stress, confusion and danger if we had no vehicular regulations! Since the highway system was formed in the United States, clear guidelines have been set, not to be a burden to drivers but rather to facilitate safe, peaceful travel for all people.

That reminds me of being citizens of heaven. Learning God's will teaches us the truths to obey that are a fruitful blessing to me and those around me. *We promote God's peace and blessings as we abide by the rules of God's highway.* God even goes so far as to tell us that in keeping his precepts, we are walking in his love.

1 John 5:3 ESV

"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome."

Obedying God's commands brings us only good. Rather than walking in our fleshly desires (what I **FEEL** like doing and how I **FEEL** like behaving), our obedience to God's will stems from our desire to live out the Christ within us. God asks us to "drive away" from things that bring division and destruction. If

we go against God's precepts, we hurt ourselves and others. Obedience to a loving parent's wishes doesn't limit us, it brings long term freedom, success, and joy.

It's great to know God's loving commandments. They not only tell us how to think and act, but they also lay out his living benefits to us. Let's look at how obedience to commanded actions result in supernatural blessings.

Philippians 4:4-9 ESV

[ACTION:] Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness (meekness, mildness, gentleness) be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

[BLESSING:] And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

[ACTION:] Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things,

[BLESSING:] and the God of peace will be with you."

This is but a sampling of Scripture, yet it shows how the benefits and blessings are directly linked to commands. Also of note is that there is absolutely no burden added as the will of the Father is being lived out. When we live according to precepts that God has established in scripture, we know that there are benefits and blessings to ourselves and others. Let's keep seeking God's "rules of the road" and enjoy the benefits of the journey.

The Rules of God's Highway

Obedience Leads to True Freedom

By Sara Guigou
VANDALIA, OHIO



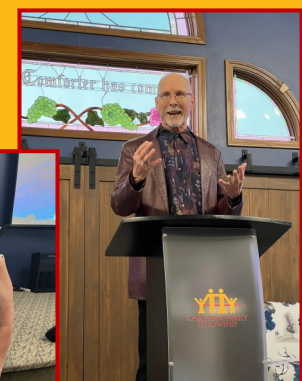
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3/16/25 DEDICATION OF
SAGE EVELYN ALLEN
TIPP CITY, OH



Family,
Friends
&
Celebrations



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



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)

~ THANK YOU! ~

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

A number of years ago, my husband Jon served as a volunteer at Skate Church in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, my hometown. Over the next couple years, we got to know Steamboat Skate Church and fell in love with its culture and heart. Because of that, I knew what it meant when the Lord said to me, **"Troy Skate Church"** one winter day in 2020 at our home in Troy, Ohio. I'll never forget going to Jon that day and saying, "Jon: Troy Skate Church" to which he replied, "Okay!"

We weren't intending to be the founders of anything or to plant a church. We were simply trying to love on some skater kids. We prayed about how the Lord wanted us to kickstart this passion. In August 2021, we got a couple friends on board and started weekly cookouts at our local skatepark in Troy. "Just make two new friends" was Jon's instructions to our team members, Brandon Ike and Michael Burrows, as we headed to the park week after week to feed the teens and young adults that gathered there.

We will never forget the second time we came to the park when a teen walked up to us and said, **"Why are you doing this? Don't you know nobody cares about us?"** That statement alone sums up why we keep showing up still today.

The years since we began have been an adventure full of learning. For the first few winters, we were able to rent a facility one evening per week to give the skaters a warm place to skateboard, enjoy a meal, and hear a short Christ-centered message. In January 2024, we were seeing over 50 teens and young adults coming from about a 40-mile radius every week. These numbers confirmed our vision of having a year-round facility... **a skatepark for the Lord.**

In March 2024, we had our very first fundraising event and raised enough money to pursue *a year-round, indoor location.* We found the perfect facility to lease, and our team got to work preparing to open our doors. God inspired a wealth of needed resources and volunteers to pull off this enormous undertaking.

As I look back since the beginning of TSC, I often think of the verse in Matthew: **"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."**



Every time our skate church needs something, we practically trip over it.

Today, we celebrate all that God has done. We opened our doors on January 15, 2025, for our first Skate Church Night in the new facility. That night, we welcomed over 90 skaters! Since opening day, we have seen 40-60 skaters every evening that we are open.

We serve teens and young adults ages 13 and up.

They come from about a two-hour radius to enjoy our indoor skatepark and positive culture. We are currently open Wednesdays and Fridays, from 5-9 p.m. Wednesdays are designated as "Skate Church Night" where we provide a meal and a message. We are in awe of what God has done and continues to do for this service to his cherished young people.

Skateboarding is the activity that draws us together—but *the real work* happens in-between our

weekly meetings as our team meets one-on-one with many of these young men and women. In those opportunities, the volunteers speak life into a skater's personal story as well as helping with practical skills such as learning to drive or finding a job.

People often ask, "What's been the hardest part?" For me the answer is simply showing up when you don't feel like it ... over and over again. God has blessed our team's "Yes," and we have learned so much about the power of obedience.

Christian Family Fellowship Ministry (CFFM) was our very first supporting church and one of four partner churches that helps fund us and provide volunteers to cover the diverse needs of our organization. Beyond that, we also receive funding from local businesses and individuals that believe in our mission.

If you would like to learn more about us or offer financial support, you can visit our website at: www.troyskate.church and follow us on Facebook.

Troy Skate Church exists to reach the youth and young adults in our community with the love of Jesus regardless of gender, background, race or religious affiliation. We exist to see lives changed!

Along with Sami's efforts to build a sustainable future for Troy Skate Church, she operates a small cosmetology business in her hometown of Troy, Ohio with her husband Jon and five children ranging from 5-18 years old. Jon serves as lead pastor for Skate Church and is currently transitioning from his previous career in IT and cyber security to becoming an EMT firefighter. We also serve as a foster family, at times welcoming additional children into our home for temporary periods.





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To Current Occupant Or:



The Family of God in
House Churches & Small Groups
teaching, fellowship & power



The churches in the province of Asia send you greetings.
Aquila and Priscilla greet you warmly in the Lord,
and so does the church that meets at their house.
1 Corinthians 16:19



JOIN US FOR WEEKLY
CFF TUESDAY ZOOM FELLOWSHIPS / 7 PM (EST)
CONTACT SARAH MULLENS OR KEVIN GUIGOU FOR THE LINK