

# Chapel touchpoints

body life newsletter

“For the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.”

Ephesians 4:12



by Elder Dan Turner

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### From an Elder's Heart

Dan Turner explains why joy cannot remain silent

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Isn't she pretty? Wasn't the gentle snowfall breathtaking? Don't you think that sunset is splendid? Behold, the Grand Canyon! Just as we instinctively praise what we treasure, so too we spontaneously urge others to join us in praising it. Joy cannot keep quiet.

What does this odd way of starting an article have to do with Clearcreek Chapel's evangelism? How can understanding the nature of joy beget by saving faith become instructional and motivational for our efforts at reaching the lost?

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What this article sets out to do is one thing. There is much to be said about evangelism which will be neglected in this effort. I will limit the scope of this paper to one topic. The matter at hand is making clear the essence of evangelism. It is to explore how we are to go out of our way and reach out to help unbelievers; not reluctantly or under compulsion. To this end we aim to express four fundamental phases of evangelism observed in a new affection. The new affection, it will be argued, can only be a savoring of the supremacy of God in Christ. We will state that this savoring is stimulated when beauty is seen. And we will conclude that when the splendor of Christ is seen and savored joy cannot keep quiet. There can only be but one thing to do. Showing and spreading this breathtaking beauty for the lost to enjoy is the climax of joy. This, then, becomes a silhouette of evangelism.

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Dave and Sue Dernlan

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Let's now view the four phases of evangelism with hope of glorifying God through increased desire for and displays of outreach from the Chapel.

#### Phases 1 & 2: Seeing & Savoring Christ

In his commentary on Isaiah 2:1-4, John Calvin said something amazing. "By these words he first declares that the godly will be filled with such an *argent desire to spread* the doctrines of religion, that every one *not satisfied with his own calling* and his personal knowledge will *desire to*

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# Joy Cannot Keep Quiet!

by Elder Dan Turner

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draw others along with him. And nothing could be more inconsistent with the nature of faith than that deadness which would lead a man to disregard his brethren and to keep the light of knowledge choked up within his own breast”.

These thoughts on the affections of the church and its evangelism are tied to the nature of faith. Saving faith, in other words, by necessity cannot stay to itself. It must be expressive. It must be expansive. Joy cannot keep quiet. It is inconceivable to think that a Christian can enjoy the banquet of God’s grace found in Jesus alone without happily sharing it with those in need (cf. Luke 15).

Could it be that a principle reason for weakness in evangelism is seen precisely here? Is it reasonable to suggest that we are hushed in evangelism when Christ appears far and faint to our hearts? When the breathtaking beauty of the contours of Christ found in Scripture are not lucid in our hearts, we have nothing to say. If joy cannot keep quiet, despondency cannot speak out.

Christ must be visible to our hearts. The panorama of the perfections of the glorious King over all is made known in the Bible.

Jesus’ cross-like death clearing the believer of the eternal prison term for sin is portrayed in Scripture. The tongue is loosed and the joy-produced words of the gospel are sounded forth when we see and savor the splendor of the Sovereign Savior.



To advance in our evangelistic efforts let me advise us by the use of two verses. Ps.119:18,36 give us insight into who we need for clear eyes and joyful hearts. Let us memorize these verses to remind us that we are God-dependant for sight and delight. A

topic on evangelism without discussing how blindness to beauty and deadness to joy are cured is man-centered and dangerous.

Beloved, for the year 2003, let us pray. Let us pick up our Bibles. Let us with our eye and ear see and savor Christ. Let us not be gagged through loss of sight leading to lack of delight. Let us remember that joy cannot keep quiet.

Phases 3 & 4; Showing and Spreading Christ

As the eyes of our hearts become illumined to Christ by the Spirit and truth, two things at least take place. The first one is in the area of “Showing Christ”. In Matthew 5:13-16 we see a most important facet of evangelism. Friendship and acts of kindness as a foundation for witness is worked

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## Ken and Amy Ebert

by Scott Bennett

With snow drifting down and bone-chilling temperatures outside, the fellowship is warm and sweet as we lounge around the crackling fire at the home of Ken and Amy Ebert, laughing and sipping hot cocoa and savoring fresh-baked brownies right out of the oven.

The Eberts are in hot pursuit of a dream they have shared for many years — to glorify God by reaching out to children who need caring compassion and, most importantly, who need the gospel. Equipped with months of counseling training, years of parenting experience and a life-long commitment to God's Word, they are laying the first building blocks for what they have named the Open Arms Children Home (OACH) — an outpost for the care and cure of boys ages 8-13 who need a nurturing home and guardians who are glad to show them the love of Christ.

The Eberts' pursuit of this dream has met its ups and downs along the way due to circumstances and situations that didn't quite fit God's timing. They have been interviewed for leadership positions in out-of-state children's homes in the past, but walked away from most of the interviews uncomfortable with the convictions of the leaders who interviewed them.

Just when it all seemed out of reach, Ken's brief mention of the idea to an Elder of Clearcreek prompted a deliberate pursuit that began about 2



years ago. "I mentioned my desires to an Elder at Clearcreek, and they told me to write up a proposal for new ministry development," he says. "That's when it all started."

*"Despite the hurdles that lie ahead for getting OACH off the ground, the passion Ken and Amy share for this ministry is contagious."*

Since then, Ken has been immersing himself in the innumerable layers of red tape and regulations that exist in the state of Ohio. We walk into the formal dining room, where the table is piled high with legal forms and documents. The pages contain overwhelming language and citations to sections that contain more citations. "Ohio is probably the most difficult state to operate a home such as this in," Ken says. "We're required to write about 300 pages of codes, and the codes change almost every day. We really need prayer in this area."

Despite the massive amounts of ongoing administrative work that will be required for

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## Dernlan's Ministry Update

by Dave and Sue Dernlan

Nov. 26, 2002

*Psalm 121:1-3 "I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber."*

This is the text of scripture Dave used Sunday, preaching in Pastor Alexander's church as we worshipped with a group of 15 precious believers. The "church" is a small apartment in the process of being remodeled—still no heat and no permit for electricity. The service was joyful as we sang great hymns of the faith, were taught the Word in three sermons, and had a time of requests and prayer. After the service there was a two hour fellowship over tea and cookies in an 8'x10' room. We arrived home at 4:30 pm—blessed and humbled.

We have been in our new home, Moscow, for 6 weeks now. It has been a whirlwind of activity and adjustment. Here are some of the highlights:

We arrived Oct. 14 with 4 suitcases and 4 Rubbermaid totes and moved into the lovely spacious apartment we are subletting from American missionaries. Our co-worker, Byron Shearer, and his Russian helper, Stas stayed with us to help us learn about language, the metro, buses, stores, currency, paperwork, and other details needed to adjust to a new culture.

At the end of the week two more pastors arrived from the states to teach in the training module in Tver, north of Moscow. Because of a delay in the paperwork getting our visas registered, we were not allowed to check into the hotel, and "police action" was mentioned! A local pastor and his daughter graciously welcomed us into their home for the night. We returned to Moscow, disappointed that Dave was not allowed to teach, but resting in God's sovereignty.

On Nov. 4 we flew to Romania to teach the first Tri-M module there. It was held in the picturesque mountain town of Slanic Moldova in northern Romania. Twenty-two pastors and church leaders attended, many having forfeited several days work and wages, and all eager to learn. Dave taught on prayer, and Dan Boulton from our home church Grace Chapel taught inductive methods of Bible

study. There were lots of smiles and hugs as the men received certificates of completion at the "graduation" ceremony. In a country dominated by Romanian Orthodoxy, one man stated simply, "It's not popular to be a Baptist (i.e. "Christian") here." We praise the Lord that while we were there we met with church leaders and set up two modules for April 2003, one each in the north and the south, as well as two more for October 2003.

Twice a week we meet with our language tutor, Olga, to study Russian. She is a sweet Christian girl with a master's degree in linguistics. After our lessons we sometimes wonder if she shouldn't be paying us instead of the other way around! We are persevering, though, and making progress!

Two weeks ago we found out that the owner of our apartment is having family move back in at the end of December. This means a move for us as well as the couple we are renting from, who have lived here for four years. The plan is for them to find another place, and we will continue to sublet from them. Since they are on furlough in the states, we have been apartment hunting for them. It's a little tricky doing it long distance! We are trusting the Lord that an apartment will be found in the next two or three weeks.

Each day we venture out by bus or metro to try to become more familiar with this huge city (12-15 million) and to try to use our Russian. It's usually lots of fun and we haven't gotten lost yet!

As the Lord brings us to mind, would you please ...

- Pray for 8 teachers needed for the Romanian modules
- Pray for our understanding and comprehension of Russian
- Pray for an apartment
- Praise for the opportunities and challenges God is giving us
- Praise for the many churches and individuals who are partnering with us

We know we would not be ministering here without your support, prayers, and encouragement. We daily thank and praise the Lord for you, and ask Him to make us good servants and good stewards.

Dave and Sue Dernlan

Serving with Evangelical Baptist Missions,  
Kokomo, IN

*Quiet...* continued from page 2

out in these verses. "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven". "In such a way" we are to care for the sick, the poor, the aged, the dying; "In such a way" we are to provide help and hope for the addict, the perverted, the abused; "In such a way" we are to befriend co-workers and neighbors through hospitality in our homes; "In such a way" we are to guide single mothers through their disparity; "In such a way" we are to take into our lives those who cannot repay SO THAT the One who contributes gets the tributes. As Christ is seen and savored by us our joy in Jesus will seek to alleviate misery. Gladness in God expands as we work to show Him to those who are "without God and without hope" in this world. Showing Christ has to do with going public with our faith through befriending unbelievers and acts of justice and kindness in our communities.

Growing in creative, courageous, compassionate, Christ-reliant evangelism is indication of germinating joy. Let us think of new ways to reach the lost.

One of the ways we as a Church can participate in this 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of evangelism is to consider supporting

*Open Arms Children's Home.* Ken and Amy Ebert are seeking to establish a boys' home on the Chapel's property. These boys are facing life with no parent or relative to care for them. Boys, ages 8-13, coming from shelters and homes filled with distorted thinking and twisted living will be brought to O.A.C.H. As the Eberts continue seeking the Lord's will, let us pray for their preparatory efforts with the State, with policy development, with raising support, etc. If the Lord permits and we have this home on property, what joy-produced sacrifices can we make in working along side Ken and Amy? Let our light shine in such a way that the boys and their distant families will see the light of the gospel of Christ and close with Him.

A tune is catchy but a good song has good lyrics. The fourth and final phase in evangelism is what we think of as "spreading Christ". We must speak the truth for new life to be created. Faith is given to God's elect through the hearing of God's good news. And the hearing of God's good news comes from God's people who are seeing, savoring, showing and spreading the glories of God seen in His Son (cf. Rom.10:11-17). Here is a clear distinction from philanthropy and humanitarian efforts. We ought to participate in public justice. We decry abortion and teenage pregnancy and toxic waste and corporate corruption and unjust legislation and pornography and impoverished advertisement. We do walks, raise monies, write editorials, call congressmen, and picket peacefully. And this we ought to do. But all our efforts to alleviate misery in this world must grow from faith. As belief-begetting joy in Jesus expresses itself in acts of kindness,

rationale for ministry must be heard. A clarion call for repentance and trust in Christ is the aim of good deeds. Joy cannot keep quiet. A heart spilling over with delight over the majesty and mercy of Christ will create inquiry (cf. 1Pet.3:15). This speaking ministry is for us all (cf. Acts 8:4). It is more germane with those gifted by the Spirit for speaking ministry (cf.

1Pet.4:10-11). But we all must

learn how to make clear the gospel. We need language to help shape our savoring and showing Christ. Spreading the gospel of God comes when consummate joy takes form in the words of the gospel. For many, speaking to people of the wonder of the cross can be daunting. This is why *Spreading the Gospel of God Ministries*; a branch of Clearcreek Chapel, has rich resources, loving accountability and a hands on training program design to assist us in the four phases of evangelism. Call or E-mail the office for more information for assistance.

We've talked about the essence of evangelism.

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*"When the breathtaking beauty of the contours of Christ found in Scripture are not lucid in our hearts, we have nothing to say."*

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*Eberts...* continued from page 3

this ministry, Ken doesn't let paper distract him from pursuing this dream. He's going about it as if it will happen — all for God's glory.

Once it's off the ground, OACH would disciple young boys from the ground up — from hygiene to heart issues. Many of them won't even know how to brush their teeth when they arrive. By God's grace, the boys will progress through the structured proving grounds of OACH, earning privileges based on how well they master skills and deliver on their assigned responsibilities.

Ken and Amy hope that ultimately prospective residents of OACH will be young boys referred to them privately. The boys may have no parents, or they may have parents who are unable to care for them for a long period of time. When possible, they will try to counsel the parents, too — before the kids are placed back into the home.

### **Immediate Needs**

The Eberts need your prayers as they work through all the preliminary work – policy-writing, getting licensed and choosing and preparing a facility. Once the facility is ready, they must get a fire inspection before they can open the home. Part of the process requires them to create an agency and

appoint a board of directors to oversee the home. They will need volunteers to fill these positions.



The Eberts will be required by law to have at least 1 full-time couple to serve as relief parents, and preferably more. They will need people to supervise boys who must stay behind on field trips and outings because they didn't reach that level of privilege, or who lost the privilege through misbehavior.

“It all sounds overwhelming, but we've actually come a long way,” Ken says. “We've climbed a huge administrative mountain at this point. There will no doubt be needs for helpers as we go. When the time comes, we are praying that there will be willing hearts among the church family who will step in and serve.”

Despite the hurdles that lie ahead for getting OACH off the ground, the passion Ken and Amy share for this ministry is contagious. And although we aren't directly involved in their hard work now, our prayers are important to the work already underway.

OACH may someday be a part of our lives. If that day comes by God's Grace, we look forward to rolling up our sleeves for the sake of the great news of the gospel. Let's be poised to serve in any way we can!

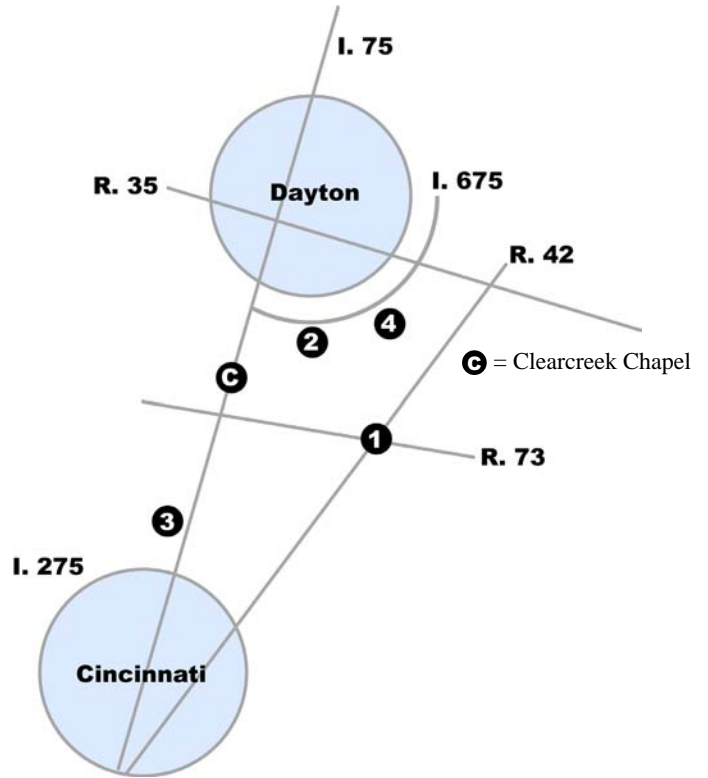
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The seed from which efforts to make Christ known was said to be a new affection. This new affection we called joy. Joy cannot keep quiet. This joy comes to life when the awe-inspiring beauty of Christ is seen. And so our first work in the effort of increasing evangelism at the Chapel needs to be centered on seeing and savoring Jesus Christ for ourselves. Pray, pray and scour the Bible. If we observe

sluggishness and shyness in the area of evangelism, we may find shriveled joy as the problem. The call of this article is to delight yourself in the Lord. We need more good deeds in our society. We need more gospel talk in our communities. But the most helpful observation is not found in these areas. Remember: joy cannot keep quiet.





	Name	Neighborhood	Shepherds	Host Location	Contact
<b>1</b>	Central	Springboro Franklin Waynesville Germantown	Dan Turner	Barb Berger 8680 Cedar Hill Rd Waynesville 513.897.2200	Terry Engle 937.748.9295
<b>2</b>	Mid and West	Centerville Kettering Miamisburg West Carrolton	Russ Kennedy Ed McNeese	Russ Kennedy 211 Marsha Jeanne Way Centerville 937.886.9126	Russ Kennedy 937.886.9126
<b>3</b>	South	Middletown Monroe Mason West Chester South of Rt. 123	Michael McDonald	Greg and Linda Frye 665 Linn Ct Monroe 513.539.4436	Amy Ebert Church Assistant 937.885.2143
<b>4</b>	North and East	Dayton Oakwood Bellbrook Brookville Fairfield Xenia North of Dorothy Lane	Dale Evans Greg Cook	Roger Gelvin 115 S Main Street Bellbrook  Tom Watkins 1515 Hearthstone Dr. Dayton	Mitch Mascotti 937.848.9116



February 2003						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 The Lord's Table 10:30 a.m.-noon	3 Counseling Training 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Chapel Auditorium	4 Ladies Bible Study 9:30-11:00 a.m. Chapel Kitchen	5  Flock groups 7:00-9:00 p.m.	6	7	8
9	10 Counseling Training 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Chapel Auditorium	11	12  Flock groups 7:00-9:00 p.m.	13	14	15 Golden Buckeye Brunch (Youth) Chapel 10:00 a.m.-noon  Monica Fulton Wedding Shower 3:00-5:00 p.m.
16	17 Counseling Training 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Chapel Auditorium	18 Ladies Bible Study 9:30-11:00 AM Chapel Kitchen	19  Flock groups 7:00-9:00 p.m.	20	21	22
23	24 Counseling Training 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Chapel Auditorium	25	26  Flock groups 7:00-9:00 p.m.	27	28	

March 2003						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3 Counseling Training 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Chapel Auditorium	4 Ladies Bible Study 9:30-11:00 a.m. Chapel Kitchen	5  Flock groups 7:00-9:00 p.m.	6	7	1  8
9	10 Counseling Training 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Chapel Auditorium	11	12  Flock groups 7:00-9:00 p.m.	13	14  Youth Overnight 8:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.	15 Youth Overnight 12:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m.
16	17 Counseling Training 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Chapel Auditorium	18 Ladies Bible Study 9:30-11:00 AM Chapel Kitchen	19  Flock groups 7:00-9:00 p.m.	20	21	22  Monica Fulton and Brian Hartz's Wedding
23	24 Counseling Training 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Chapel Auditorium	25	26  Flock groups 7:00-9:00 p.m.	27	28	29
30	31 Counseling Training 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Chapel Auditorium					