

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



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Dan Turner reviews the Fall Bible Conference

Should I marry Kim? Must I work in the nursery? Ought I to stay at this job another year? Can I purchase this sweater? Should we move to another house? Who should I e-mail today? What shirt should I wear to this social? Can I watch this movie? Can I eat this food?? Can I have this hobby??? In a blizzard of questions we walk. Does God say anything about how to make decisions?

Find Your Flock 3

Area Map and Contact List

We make hundreds of decisions daily; ranging from casual to critical. We want to please the Lord in all of them. We desire to make the right decisions; for decisions turn around and make us. And so, we ask

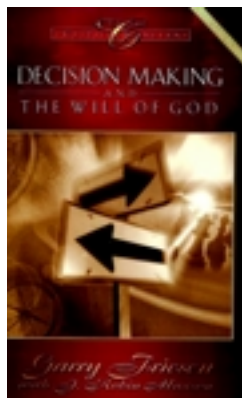
Global Partners 4

Dayton Gospel Mission Food and Toy Drive

THE IMPORTANT QUESTION: “What is God’s will for me in this situation”? Now here is the important question. Is that a good question? What are we seeking when we ask this question? How can we know God’s will for our lives? What do the Scriptures say with respect to God’s will and my decision making?

Bookstore Spotlight 5

Reviews of two new arrivals to the Chapel Bookstore



Dr. Garry Friesen, author of a best seller “*Decision Making and the Will of God*”, came to Clearcreek Chapel in October for our Fall Bible Conference. His aim was to help us understand how God guides us. That is, he set out to make

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Children’s Ministry Leaders
Sheila Schindler and Dottie Engle

clear what the Bible says about God’s will and what our responsibilities are in light of His will.

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Upcoming events in December and January

To do well at his agenda he had to succeed at two tasks. First, he opened with Scriptural teaching on the aspects of God’s will. Are there three or are there two aspects to the will of God? His clear teaching from the Bible demonstrated that there two; God’s sovereign will and His moral will. We search in vain to find God’s individual



Friesen on Decision Making

by Elder Dan Turner

will for us in nonmoral decisions like whom to marry, where to work, what hairstyle to have, what house to buy, what car to drive, what pastime to pursue, etc. He showed that Scripture never speaks of this illusive “bulls eye” of God’s perfect will at which we must aim all our decisions. To seek God’s “individual will” through external “signs” and internal peace is unscriptural and foolish. Garry taught us to see that in the Bible we have everything we need to live morally well in all situations. Trust in His sovereignty. Nothing happens apart from His will. Nothing coerces Him against his will. Follow His moral will. Nothing about it is a killjoy. Nothing in it is an error.

The second thing he needed to succeed in doing was to equip us with a way of making decisions when the decisions were nonmoral in nature. The summary of his teaching looked something like this.

- *Where God commands we obey.* Under this principle we were taught that God’s moral will is revealed in the Bible. We are therefore under authority to obey his will. We do not have the luxury of choosing the commands and precepts we like and

discarding the rest. All of God’s moral will we are to obey. This revealed moral will of God addresses not merely actions (i.e. don’t steal, don’t kill, do acts of goodness). The Bible reveals that His will addresses the heart (i.e. don’t covet, don’t seethe, do mercy with gladness). Dr. Friesen was plain and potent in His teaching over the moral will of God and how we are to respond to it.

“Scripture never speaks of an illusive ‘bulls eye’ of God’s perfect will at which we must aim all our decisions.”

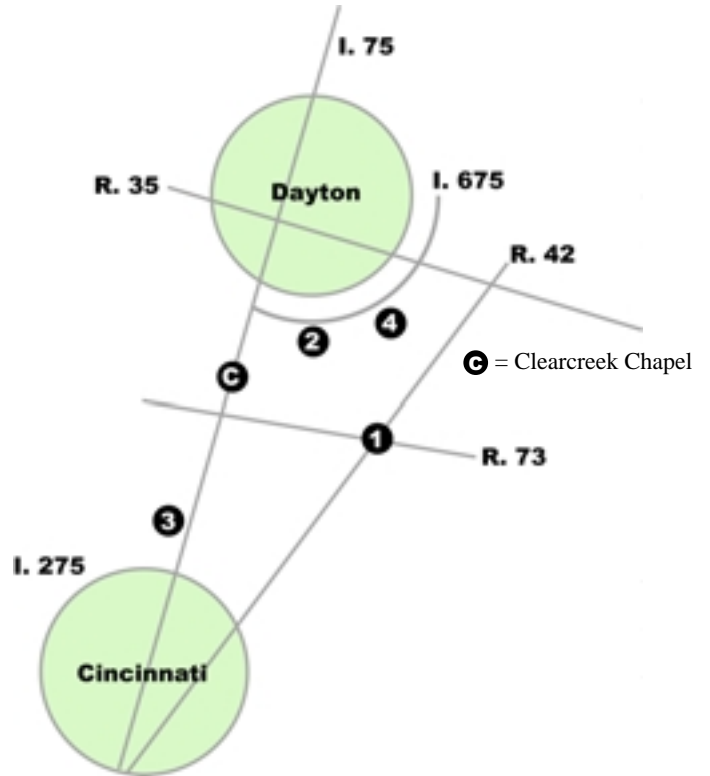
- *Where there is no command we have freedom to choose.*

The next principle to summarize Dr. Friesen’s teaching pointed us to the idea of freedom. In nonmoral areas of life God tells us that we can please Him as we freely choose for His glory and our good. This insight allows believers to enjoy liberty to choose in areas about which the Bible does not

talk. Dr. Friesen exhorted us to go ahead and make these types of decisions and be thankful for God’s generosity and wisdom.

- *In freedom, we MUST choose wisely.* His third guiding principle addressed how we are to make decisions in the area of freedom. Our speaker did not say that we are to make decisions based on mere personal pleasure and preference. He maintained that the Bible made clear that our decisions were to be shaped by prudence. Wisdom guides non-

(Continued, page 7)



	Name	Neighborhood	Shepherds	Host Location	Contact
1	Central	Springboro Franklin Waynesville Germantown	Dan Turner	Barb Berger 8680 Cedar Hill Rd Waynesville 513.897.2200	Terry Engle 937.748.9295
2	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
3	South	Middletown Monroe Mason West Chester South of Rt. 123	Michael McDonald Ken Ebert	Greg and Linda Frye 665 Linn Ct Monroe 513.539.4436	Amy Ebert Church Assistant 937.885.2143
4	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



Dayton Gospel Mission Pantry and Gift Drive

Ken and Sue Clarkson

Christmas is a special time for most people, but for many different reasons. The Gospel Mission is able to provide the seasonal extras that are the Christmas traditions for most people. The Mission Christmas is more than gifts. Our heart and concern is to move beyond the tinsel; we strive to balance the spiritual with the material aspects of life. Gifts are given in the spirit of prayer... perhaps a gift and a kind word could open the heart of someone in this Dayton community.

You may participate in our Christmas by providing from the following list of gifts or by sending funds ear-marked for the Holidays.

With much thanksgiving:

Ken Clarkston

Toys:
Dolls and Games
Soccer balls
Footballs
Basketballs
Cars and Trucks
Medium-sized Toys
Coloring Books and Crayons
Teen Girl Gifts
Radios and Cassette Players

Clothing:
Gloves for adults
Tube socks, adult & child
Sport Shoes
Belts and Scarves
Underwear
Clothing, all ages
Raincoats and Hats

Food Items:
All Canned Fruit - gallon size
Sugar
Aluminum foil
Zip-Lock Bags - sandwich size
Apples & Oranges (do not bring until Sun. 12/14)

Miscellaneous:
Wrapped Holiday Candy
Watches and Jewelry
Alarm Clocks
Manual Can Openers
Toiletries & Backpacks
Umbrellas & Pillows

Place items on the table near the missions board at the rear of the auditorium by December 14.

Family Enrichment Conference

Mark your calendars now for January 30-31, 2004. Featured speaker Dr. Bill Smith is a counselor and faculty member of the School of Biblical Counseling at CCEF and lecturer in Practical Theology at both Westminster and Biblical Theological Seminaries. He will speak on Transparency in Marriage at the Embassy Suites in Blue Ash, Ohio.

Everyone is welcome to attend. All relationships, whether with spouses, relatives, friends, or coworkers, need improvement in the areas of forgiveness and honesty. Dr. Smith will help us get to the heart of our relationships so that we can honor God in each of them.

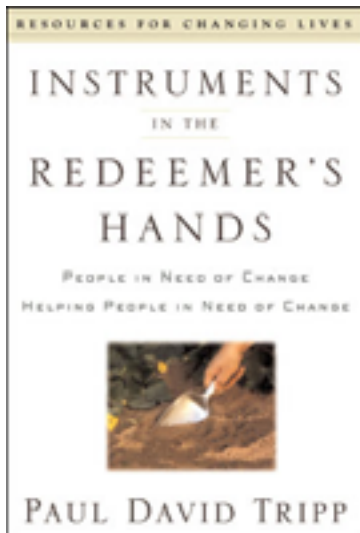


Spotlight on the Bookstore

Featured Books for December and January

Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands

Paul David Tripp



Comprehensive treatment of how God uses people as tools of change in the lives of others, people who themselves are in need of change.

In many ways, the church today has more consumers than committed participants. We see church merely as an event we attend or an organization we belong to, rather than as a calling that shapes our entire life.

Tripp explains how his work follows an “all of my people, all of the time” model. If you followed the Lord for a thousand years, you would still need the ministry of the body of Christ as much as you did the day you first believed. This need will remain until our sanctification is complete in Glory.

Seeing with New Eyes

David Powlison

When our gaze awakens to the gaze of God, we have started to see. Seeing clearly, we can love well. . . . We learn to see how God sees, writes David Powlison, a respected biblical counselor. Learning the gaze of God, we come to weigh life aright. We discern good and evil, fair and foul, lovely and degraded. We become able to pry apart true from false, instead of living in a murk of half-truths and flat lies.

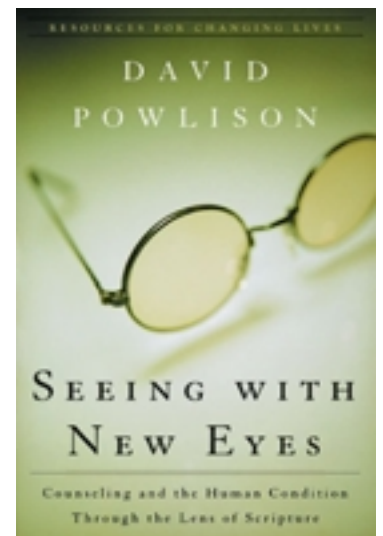
This book explores two main topics.

Scripture: Gods voice speaks into real life to reveal the gaze and intentions of the Christ who pursues us. How do we embrace, probe, and unravel Scripture?

Understanding people amid their real life struggles: How do we embrace, probe, and unravel the problems of daily life?

Powlison encourages readers to think Christianly by thinking Gods thoughts after him. He asks, Does God have a take on counseling? Of course, yes, amen. This book seeks to listen, look, and think hard within the patterns of Gods gaze. God has the real take on things. And God teaches us his gaze!

Visit the Bookstore corner before or after church services. The Bookstore will also provide Special Order services to meet your needs. For more information see the Bookstore Manager.





Dottie Engle and Sheila Schindler: Children's Ministry

by Joy Bennett

If you do not have school-age children, you will probably have limited experience with the children's ministries of Clearcreek Chapel. Talking to Sheila Schindler and Dottie Engle, directors of children's and nursery ministries respectively, revealed depths of planning and commitment to children uncommon in churches today.

Children's ministry begins in the nurseries where they care for each child's needs and prepare them to participate in a classroom. Dottie oversees crib, walker, and toddler nurseries, staffing the nurseries for each service and for special events such as the Fall Bible Conference, promoting the children as appropriate (she joked that the kids must learn to say "Dottie" before they can move from the crib to the walker nursery), and purchasing supplies.

Dottie and her workers help children learn to preliminary independence (separating from parents), respect for authority (obeying teachers, not just parents), and basic classroom skills such as sitting still and paying attention for stories. Teachers and workers gradually implement more and more structure so that when the children move into the preschool program they are prepared to sit in part of the service and participate in worship.

Sheila Schindler coordinates the educational ministries for children (age 2 through 6th grade). She works with teams of leaders for each age group (toddler, preschool, primary, and junior), helping them staff their classrooms, understand and deliver the

curriculum, and work alongside parents in their efforts to raise their children to worship and glorify God.

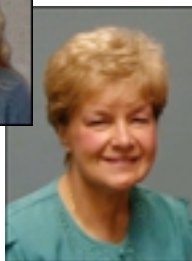
"We believe we should be doing more than just getting through a lesson on a Sunday morning. Our mission is partner with parents, to come alongside and assist them in working with their child's various strength and weaknesses," said Sheila. Since many of the teachers are teens, she spends a lot of time helping them in this task and helping everyone find people with the same vision to teach and substitute in each classroom.

The educational aspect of the children's ministry is well-thought-out. Each lesson and activity builds on the previous ones and prepare children to not only learn about God but learn how to study their Bibles, how to worship and serve in the church, and how to memorize and apply Scripture.

Scripture Scholars, the program children attend during the Sunday School hour, focuses on teaching and learning the Word. During Learning Lambs, children learn the same lesson, but this time they focus on applying the lesson (what does it mean for me that David killed Goliath?). During Scripture Sowers (evening service), children learn how to study and memorize the Word.

At certain age levels, children participate more and more in the adult service. When toddlers move into the preschool program, they begin to sit in the service and learn to participate in

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Decision Making... continued from page 2

moral decisions. We must increase in wisdom so we will make nonmoral, God-pleasing, people-helping, kingdom-advancing, soul-satisfying decisions. Dr. Friesen helped us see sources of wisdom and how to become wiser.

- *Entrust the outcome to the Sovereignty of God.*

His fourth and final principle took to heart God's sovereign will and how it interconnects with our decision making. Dr. Friesen's teaching helped us to see what believing in the sovereignty of God manifests. Trust, peace, joy and love were but some of the results of believing God's sovereign will. Our speaker

emphasized that planning and executing were to be done in humility; for "man plans his steps but the Lord directs them."

In our Fall Bible Conference, we were made uncomfortable and comforted; unsettled and at

"We must increase in wisdom so we will make nonmoral, God-pleasing, people-helping, kingdom-advancing, soul-satisfying decisions."

peace. Dr. Friesen disputed the traditional Christian approach to making decisions by demonstrating it to be unbiblical and unworkable. For some, our precious paradigm toppled. But he didn't stop there.

He then went on to work at building a biblical model. Dr. Friesen insisted that we must change the question. Instead of wondering, "How do I find the will of God?", a better question to pursue is, "How do I make good decisions?". Answering that question stood as the central purpose of our time together. He left us with a gift; God's gift of light. This Bible teaching illumined the two deadly extremes of decision making; unwarranted and costly vacillation on the

one side and unwise and emotional irrationality on the other. He gave us the third way. He gave us the only way. He gave us the biblical approach to decision making and the will of God.

Children's Ministries... continued from page 6

worship. When they reach the fourth grade (juniors), they begin to sit through the entire service and learn to take notes on the sermon. This year juniors in Scripture Sowers are learning Kay Arthur's inductive Bible study method and are also working through the "Two Ways to Live" evangelism tool. This gives them practical ways to use the Scripture they are memorizing.

Both Dottie and Sheila have attended Clearcreek for many years. Dottie and her husband Terry began attending in 1991 after they moved to Springboro. Dottie was saved in December of 1987 while battling breast cancer. She said, "Right before surgery a pastor asked if I knew where I'd wake up if I didn't make it through. I realized it probably

wasn't where I wanted to be." When they tried Clearcreek, they never left.

Sheila and her husband Mark began attending Clearcreek in 1988, also after they moved to the area. Sheila was saved as a senior in high school when the young man she was dating gave her a tract that taught Ephesians 2:3-9. As a Catholic, learning that salvation was a gift and not of works was a revelation to her. She prayed the prayer in the tract and began studying her Bible. "See, those tracts really work!" she commented.

Dottie, Sheila, and many others are committed to ministering to the many children of the Chapel. We thank God for their partnership with parents in teaching children in the instruction and admonition of the Lord.



December 2003						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Ladies' Bible Study 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	3 Uncommon Vessels 10:00-11:00 a.m. Flock groups 7:00-8:30 p.m.	4	5	6 Counseling Class 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
7	8	9	10 Uncommon Vessels 10:00-11:00 a.m. Flock groups 7:00-8:30 p.m.	11 Ladies' Cookie Exchange 7:00 p.m.	12	13 Women's Workshop 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Counseling Class 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
14 The Lord's Table and Christmas Cantata AM Service	15	16 Ladies' Bible Study 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	17 Uncommon Vessels Brunch 10:00-11:00 a.m. Flock groups 7:00-8:30 p.m.	18	19	20
21 Cookies and Carols PM Service	22	23	Church Office Closed for Christmas Holiday			27
28	29	30	31 Church Office Closed for New Years NO Flock groups			

January 2004						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Church Office Closed for New Years	2 Youth Lock-in, 8:00 p.m. Fri - 8:00 a.m. Sat.	3
4 Scripture Sowers Game Night	5	6 Ladies' Bible Study 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. David Levy's birthday	7 Uncommon Vessels 10:00-11:00 a.m. Flock groups 7:00-8:30 p.m.	8	9	10 Women's Workshop 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
11	12 Lee Weiss's birthday	13	14 Uncommon Vessels 10:00-11:00 a.m. Flock groups 7:00-8:30 p.m.	15	16	17
18	19	20 Ladies' Bible Study 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	21 Flock groups 7:00-8:30 p.m.	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Flock groups 7:00-8:30 p.m.	29	30 Family Enrichment Retreat, Embassy Suites in Blue Ash, Ohio	31