

The Encourager

Awakening Love in Marriage

Martin Wright

February Calendar

Events:

- ◆ Feb 1st Donut Sunday
- ◆ Feb 5th No Jesus Jam
- ◆ Feb 8th Financial Peace University *
- ◆ Feb 8th Baby Shower for Julie Riggs 2pm Café
- ◆ Feb 15th F.P.U.*
- ◆ Feb 21st Men's Breakfast

New Members:

- ◆ Gordon & Lucy Trueblood

Baptized:

- ◆ Abigail Folz

Births:

- ◆ Dawson Lee Mullins (Dustin & Kayla)
- ◆ Shaley Sue Smallwood (Chris & Samantha)
- ◆ Emmerine Nicole Mullins (Derek & Megan)

The Song of Solomon almost feels out of place in the Bible. No other book of the Bible is as explicit in its descriptions of love, marriage, passion and intimacy. In fact, some portions of the Song of Songs might leave us feeling a little embarrassed or at least a little uncomfortable. Other portions of this text seem a bit confusing, even humorous

("...your nose is as fine as the tower of Lebanon..."). But as we look beyond the cultural language and poetic descriptions of this text we also discover an amazing, passionate and beautiful love story. We also find some time tested wisdom and relationship advice that, if followed, can awaken love in marriage and foster intimacy.

We invite you to join us on Sunday, February 1,



as we explore this unique Biblical text and as we discover God inspired wisdom advice for healthy marriages.

Words of Love...

*Love ever gives—
Forgives—outlives*

*And ever stands
With open hands.
And while it lives—*

*It gives
For this is love's prerogative—*

To give—and give—and give.
—John Oxenham

*Love to faults is always blind,
Always is to joy inclin'd
Lawless, wing'd, and unconfin'd,
And breaks all chains from every mind.*
—William Blake

*Love is not love
Which alters when it alteration finds
Or bends with the remover to remove;
O, no! is an ever-fixed mark
That looks on tempests and is never shaken*
—William Shakespeare

For love covereth a multitude of sins. —I Peter 4:8

Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. —John 15:13

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. —1John 3:16



The Living Church

Martin Wright

Upcoming Preaching Series

Living in Freedom **(Feb. 15)**



Life can be hard. We sometimes find ourselves mired down in repeating routines and struggles. Throw in feelings of residual guilt and shame from past mistakes and we can quickly feel trapped. There is a better way to live and God's word makes it clear we are meant for more than mundane day-to-day living. We are meant for more than endless feelings of shame, failure, guilt and judgment. The truth is that Jesus came to set captives free! The life God intends for us is one of freedom. Join us as we explore how to truly live in God's freedom.

Living in Peace **(Feb. 22)**



Life can be full of drama—sometimes way too much

drama! Conflicts at work, at home, and in the world around us can really wear us down. Fortunately, God has a solution for living in the midst of drama and he supplies it in the form of peace. This peace begins with God, flows to our hearts and eventually changes how we react to life's circumstances. If you are ready for more peace and less drama then join us as we discover what the Bible says about living with peace.

Living with Control **(March 1)**



Do you ever wish you had more control over what happens in your life? Unfortunately, for most of us, self-control is in short supply. It's not that we want to make poor choices, in fact we want just the opposite, but too often we end up doing the very thing we know we shouldn't do. We struggle to win some of life's battles. This weekend

we will explore how God helps us to win the battle over life's temptations enabling us to find control where it formerly eluded us.

Living with Clear Identity **(March 8)**



There are many factors which shape our sense of self. People's perceptions of us influence how we see and think about ourselves. Unfortunately, many of us get a warped, even false sense of who we are from those around us. Fortunately God's word allows us to not only see ourselves as we really are but also illuminates what and who we can become with God's help. In fact, as we explore what it means to be a child of God we find we are infinitely more valuable than we ever imagined.

Mexico Mission Trip

Virgil Clotfelter

I am a “missions minded” believer. Getting to know missionaries has brought great joy to my life for many years. I have hosted them in my home, listened to their reports, sat over many a meal with them, and prayed with them. I love who they are, what they do, and that they sacrificially do it so willingly and humbly. Missionaries are among my most admired heroes.

Since 1988, it has been my blessing and honor to get to know and work alongside Mexican missionaries Jair and Norma Castillo. They are the founders and directors of Vida Nueva Ministries. VNM is headquartered in Piedras-Negras, Mexico and also has planted new churches in three other areas of Mexico. The Castillo's have been frequent visitors to our area for

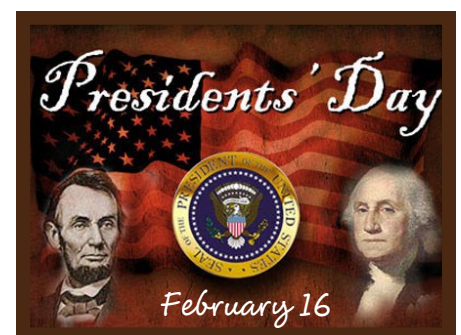
the ICOM, preaching, VBS, camp, etc. Since meeting the Castillo's some 26 years ago, there has only been one year that I have not spent time working at the mission myself. I serve on the VNM Board of Directors and was just elected president of this group of overseers of the mission. It is with gratitude that our missions team has just agreed to add VNM to our roster of missions receiving regular monthly OCC support.

In light of this, plans are underway for another mission trip to Vida Nueva Ministries in Mexico this fall under my leadership. New Hope Christian Church will also share in this week of service. The dates are October 3-10, 2015. Initial cost estimates are around \$800-900 per traveler and include flights, meals, projects, housing, and ground

transportation. Specific project needs are now being discussed and will largely depend upon the skills and interests of team members. Passports are required, but typically immunizations are not. I'm always glad to see families go on such trips together and encourage them to do so.

If you have interest or want to know more, please let me know. A tentative fact sheet about the trip to aid in your planning will soon be assembled. And, by the way, if you ever want a long conversation with me—just ask me about missions, missionaries, and particularly VNM and my dear friends, the Castillo's.

It is my hope several OCC'ers will join our Mexico work team this fall. Please give it some thought in prayer.





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*Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
 his LOVE endures forever. Psalm 118:1*

february

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birthday & anniversaries

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 2 Faye Michael | 16 Garrett Long |
| Jerry Hall | John & Susie Hundley* |
| Bonnie Purnell | 17 Susan G. Hundley |
| 3 Sydney Lewis | 18 Mark Yeaton |
| Bobby & Elizabeth Lockherd* | Les Roettgen |
| Issac Kerkof | Sidney Wilcoxon |
| 5 Rick Hatchett | 20 Ruthanna Montgomery |
| 6 Lucky Jenkins | Josh & Jessy Meek* |
| Dominic Piper | 22 Caylee Brown |
| 8 Nathan & Jeannie Long* | 23 Caleb Wright |
| 7 Harold Hutchinson | 24 Jaleigh Buck |
| Morris Bolin | Mia Petro |
| 9 Cheryl Jenkins | 25 Christopher Mohr |
| Bill Allen | 26 David Foust |
| 10 Fred King | Tony Strahl |
| 11 Janie Faulkner | Brian & Cathy Wichman |
| Scarlett Pruitt | 27 Kathleen Schwein |
| 12 Myra Hurt | Tonya Shewmake |
| 13 Judy Kirby | Wilma Johnson |
| Julie Petro | 28 Floyd Hale |
| Charlotte Moss | Gregg Surenkamp |
| 14 Jerry Bruner | Kim Hamblen |
| Eric Carlson | Isaac Carlson |
| 15 Emma Ramp | Kay Cobb |

