



MONTHLY UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2024

- 1** HEART 2 HEART
- 4** PASTORAL CARE
- 6** HOME MISSION \$ DAYS
- 7** PK'S 4 PK'S
- 8** FOREVER YOUNG
- 10** CAMP FLYERS
- 15** CONNECTING CONVERSATIONS



Heart 2 Heart Ministries

2.2024

21 Day Challenge Agape Love

The word Paul used for love was—*agape*—which means spiritual, divine love. It's love that comes from God alone, and at the heart is expressed sacrificially. It's a powerful force. A love that moves us to respond to someone's needs with no expectation of being rewarded. When the true love of God is stamped on our hearts, we respond with acts of kindness, never anxious to impress, not touchy, nor possessive.

Challenge: For the next 21 days, read I Corinthians 13 each morning and evening. At the close of each day, meditate on the passage. Identify in self-examination where your love was manifested through word or action.

Allow this 21 day spiritual practice to transform both attitudes and behaviors. *"And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love" (I Corinthians 13:13).* Love is the final measure of our faith. It's our greatest trademark. Let's be known by our love. The challenge is on!

Resilient

For several years now, Holy Spirit has dropped a word into our hearts to guide and frame our lives going into a new year. In December of 2017, Scott shared with our family as we gathered around the Christmas tree that our word for 2018 was *trust* (trust God). I recount speaking up to voice that I didn't like that word; it would seem to indicate challenges. Little did we know that 2018 would introduce to us the loss of Scott's sister, mother, and father within the span of seven months, as well as a transition from Texas to Florida.

With 2024 on the horizon, the word to frame this year with purpose and intention was *resilient*. It goes without saying, adversity cultivates resilience.

Resilient—Resilience

To recoil. An act of rebounding or springing back. The power of resuming an original shape or position after compression, bending, etc.

To bounce back seems to imply that resilience is something that is quick and simple. Wouldn't that be nice? Yet, our own experiences of loss, disappointment, tragedy, trauma, hardship and difficulty teach us that the aftershock of such life experiences requires space to restore and solitude for soul rest and emotional health. In so doing, we eventually resume some version of who we were before, yet there is something different about us. Perhaps a new quality, a new strength, a better version of ourselves, for our pain becomes purposeful, if we let it. Yes, it will be the multiple storms over the course of our lives that will teach us about resilience.

Continued on page 2

I Care Initiative



The state of Florida is partnering with International Children's Ministries in offering their first International Institute of Children's Ministry for more than 200 children's ministers in Nepal. Our goal to raise \$20,000.00 for this training.

As I write, the team is in Nepal. It is reported that 250 participants filled the training room yesterday, spilling out onto the porch and courtyard.

Consider how you and your children's ministry can participate. You may give...

1. Online at cogop.org/children
2. Call 423.559.5330
3. Send donations to:
Children's Ministries
P.O. Box 2910
Cleveland, TN 37320-2910.

We give— because we care!

Jesus never promised health, wealth, and prosperity; He promised there would be trouble, that we would be hard pressed, perplexed, struck down. Yet with the promise of trouble, came the promise to overcome and find meaning through the pain.

Upon our arrival home from North Carolina, following six weeks of seeking to care for Mom and Dad as he transitioned from this life to the next, our healing has begun. *Healing starts when the unraveling unfolds.* Reflection upon serving as dad's caregivers his final days on earth and the trauma of mom's fall and brain bleed have opened up a well of emotions, tears, and memories. So, we continue to partner with God and intentionally seek to find a rhythm of rest that restores and heals.

Building a resilient life can't be done alone. We were made to live in relationship with God and one another. The Bible bears out this reality. With that being said, to be a resilient people we must come alongside one another and live in community. You continue to empower us by your expressions of care. You have linked arms and joined hearts with us during this season. Thank you.

You know my life verse, “***Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up: (Ecc. 4:9-10).*** Thank you for being a true Christian community that has shown up in my life. You have sent cards, memorabilia, chocolate covered strawberries, floral arrangements, financial support, groceries, tied yellow ribbons around our mailbox and the State Office, and you have sent text messages, called, and prayed for us. And what I am discovering is that resilience isn't found in the power of me, resilience is formed in the power of we.

Knowing that adversity awakens us from our comfort and to what we are capable of, may we (Scott & I) emerge as more effective leaders. As we continue to allow the truths of God Word to penetrate our hearts and minds, we covet your prayers.

- Brenda

Lessons from an iron skillet...Shellie Creasy

Just two days ago from this writing, I decided to restore a collected 100 year old cast iron Dutch oven. After looking up the best way, I filled the sink with a gallon of vinegar, lowered the pot into it and added water to cover the pot. Since they recommended time in this solution to loosen the rust, I let it soak overnight. Approximately 24 hours later I discovered the soaking was to be the easiest part. The scrubbing started. Oh, if you ladies could have seen me. The pot was heavy. Not only was it heavy, it was wet and had wet rust streaming down the sides. The years of neglect and amount of rust added to the difficulty of the task.

As I am scrubbing away at the rust, it is running down the front of me, the front of my cabinets, and pooling in my kitchen floor. I slip in the puddle, drop the pot smashing my little finger in between the very heavy pot and the granite kitchen counter. My knee bangs into the cabinet and hair springs loose from my sloppy bun. The hair sticks to my sweaty face and starts to tickle as my finger and knee are throbbing quite loudly. I was weary, I was hurting, and I was frustrated. That's when the tears started to well up in my eyes. I bet you're thinking "and that's when she gave up". If I were to be honest, I almost did. But, determination kicked in. I dried my tears, wiped my face, replaced my hair, threw a towel down on the floor and went back at it.

I scrubbed until my fingers were red and sore. When the rust was gone it was time to season it for proper use. I coated it with oil and put it in a hot oven where the heat and oil could do its job. When finished, I stood back and looked at the fruit of my labor and immediately the blood, sweat, and tears were forgotten. My investment had given me a beloved treasure that will now be used instead of just "collected".

Today, the Lord has me reflecting on the effort I have put into this restoration project in comparison to the effort that I have put into people. I have to admit that many times I've given up on people that may cost me time, effort, energy, and pain. Each Sunday, we collect people in our churches. They soak in the Word (solution) that is preached. They may even hang out in the fellowship (solution) for awhile. But do we get involved past that point? Years of neglect and exposure to the elements sometimes covers their healthy usefulness. In my experience with the pot, I had to assist the "solution" with a little elbow grease. We know that the Lord is the "solution" that loosens the rust but what if we need to help in the rescue? With a little elbow grease, a little determination, a little oil, a little heat, and a lot of patience we can work with the Lord and assist in restoring a beautiful and treasured vessel for the Master's use.

May we strive, as pastor's wives, to not just collect people but to put ourselves and effort into each and every one of them.

On the day of Pentecost, they spilled out into the streets where men heard them speak in their own language. How do the lost and hurting hear us now? Are we speaking to them in a language they can hear? We have been given the power to put ourselves aside and stoop down and love people where they are. Are we using that power?

Join us in March where we will continue our journey into becoming empowered women with the ability to breathe life into others.

Monday, March 4, 7:00 PM
Shellie Creasy, Facilitator



CONNECTING CONVERSATIONS
EMPOWERED TO SHARE LIFE

Rejoice with those who rejoice

CHARITY MARTINEZ

Pastor Charity Martinez and our congregation at Moore Haven have been awarded a 2023 Dodge Ram Promaster. Their continued partnership with Harry Chapin Food Bank continues to yield beautiful returns. Moorehaven, you are making a difference in your community. Congratulations on expanding your food pantry and the provision of resources needed to impact Glades County.

TONI MARTINEZ

Pastor Joe and Toni recently welcomed a new grandson, Josiah Ezekiel Martinez. Although he got off to a bumpy start having been admitted to NICU, he is now home and doing well. We rejoice with the Martinez family! Congratulations to Gabe and Chrissy.

CALEB DOMINGUEZ

Saturday, January 13, 2024, Caleb Dominguez was acknowledged as an Honorary Apopka Firefighter by the Apopka Fire Department. They stated that Caleb is a bright light and brings infectious joy to their first responders making the load they carry a little bit lighter. Congratulations, Caleb. (Parents: Pastor Marco & Angela Dominguez)



HEART 2 HEART MINISTRIES

invites you to a

Paint with a Twist Party



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
SISTER 2 SISTER MINISTRIES INC.

UPLIFT CONFERENCE
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2024
11AM - 1PM

RSVP DEADLINE - FRIDAY 02.09.24

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

*For those pastors' wives who RSVP'd,
we look forward to this time of
fun and fellowship with you later this month.*



*Pastors Wives Getaway
Coming the fall of 2024*

Pastoral Care Letter
February 2024



From my heart to yours...

Dear Pastoral Care Leader,

What a great time the month of February is! It is a season of showing love to our pastors. As we celebrate this February 14th please show your pastor the kind of love the Lord would be pleased for you to share.

The Scripture tells us in I Corinthians 13:13 "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity (Love)."

A great idea for this month is to have a **"Pack the Pantry"** day! This is something that everyone can participate in. Encourage your entire church to get involved and make this a great "Shower of Blessings" to your pastor and family. Make a list of items for everyone to bring.

Examples:

***Canned foods, beverages, fruits, breads, candy,
cakes, paper goods, cleaning supplies.***

Have the items brought before the congregation during a special prayer for them.

I can never "Thank You," enough for all that you are doing to give encouragement to our wonderful pastors all over this beautiful state. Please remember YOU are loved!!!

I wish each of you a very **"Happy Valentine's Day!"**

Frankie S. Dotson
State Pastoral Care Director

HOME MISSION DOLLAR DAYS



FEBRUARY DRIVE

This month we will be receiving special offerings
to aid District churches that are in need.

Please encourage each church in your District to participate.
100% of your donations will go to help your District Churches,
so every dollar helps!

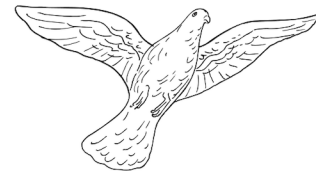
Funds will be kept and used within your District only.

More Info
flcogop.org

Email
fdotson@nacogop.org

Contact Us
352.323.1321

THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH



FEBRUARY DEVOTION

"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

John 6:12-14

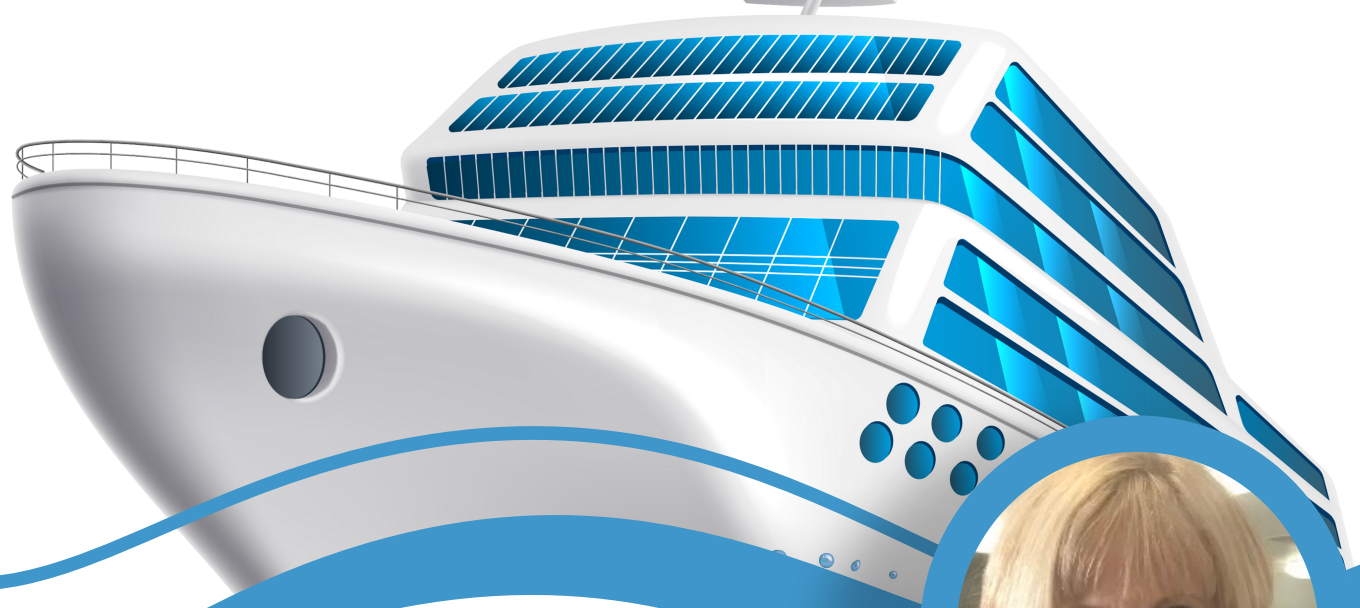
If you ever feel lost, you are not lost to God. He knows where you are at and has prepared for exactly this situation. Indeed, when Jesus came to Earth, he told his disciples that he couldn't give them step by step instructions on every little decision and every bit of knowledge. There were things that we humans wouldn't know.

Not knowing can make us feel anxious. We can feel frustrated at the unknowing. We know that we are limited, but don't we have an all knowing God? It can feel like a tough spot, and if we are not careful, it can make us begin to resent God.

But let us not forget that our God loves us and understands us. He knows what we need and what we do not need. He gives us himself- his Spirit- to guide us into truth. So when we are stuck in unknowing, lean on God. Lean into his care for you. Let God speak, even if he seems to be quiet. And guess what? The scripture tells us that as we lean on the Spirit to guide us into truth, the Spirit glorifies Jesus. Let Christ be glorified in your life- lean on God. Let's pray.

Oh Lord, I have many worries. I cannot hold up the weight of the world, and I do not know enough to even get me through the day. Please guide me into truth. Remind me to rely on you. I want to bring you glory. Thank you Holy Spirit. Thank you Jesus, Messiah. Thank you, good Father.

Amen.



FOREVER *Young* 2024

MAKE PLANS NOW TO JOIN US
AT CAMP SONSHINE,
BROOKSVILLE, FL
ON APRIL 25-27, 2024.

THEME: "ANCHORED IN CHRIST"



CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!



SCAN HERE!

REGISTER NOW

FY
Forever
Young

Forever Young 2024

April 25-27, 2024



**ANCHORED
IN CHRIST**

Application

Camp Sonshine
24165 Dan Brown Hill Road
Brooksville, FL 34602
For Directions: 352.323.1321

Registration: Thursday, April 25, 2024 @3:00PM
Tuition: \$35.00 Per Single Person \$60 Per Married Couple
Deposit: \$5.00 per person must accompany application (non-refundable)
Make all checks payable to: The Church of God of Prophecy
Scan QR Code or Mail Application along with Deposit or Payment in Full to:



Church of God of Prophecy
ATTN: Frankie Dotson
6001 Monarch Blvd
Leesburg, FL 34748

FY
Forever
Young

WHAT TO BRING: BIBLE, LINENS, PILLOW, BLANKET, TOWEL, WASHCLOTH,
SOAP, SHAMPOO, MUSICAL INSTRUMENT (IF YOU PLAY ONE)

BANQUET THEME: "Anchored in Christ"

**Pack your best cruise attire to wear to the banquet.
Prizes will be awarded for best costume.**

—————PLEASE CUT & MAIL BOTTOM PORTION—————

Name _____ (Male) or (Female)
Address _____
Phone # _____
Payment Sent \$ _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

DATE RECEIVED _____

DEPOSIT RECEIVED _____

BALANCE DUE _____

CASH() CHECK OR MONEY ORDER # _____

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE



HOT COMING TO
SHOT CAMP 2024

**JUNE 7TH, 8TH, & 9TH
AT CAMP SONSHINE**

Ages 4-7 are invited!

MAKE PLANS NOW TO ATTEND

Big Shot Camp for parents that attend with their child!

EXODUS 3:14 AND GOD SAID UNTO MOSES, **I AM** THAT **I**
AM: AND HE SAID, THUS SHALT THOU SAY UNTO THE
Senior camp 2024

I AM

June 10 - 15

CHECK IN 2PM

AGES 14-19

DIRECTORS:

REAGAN &

HAYLEE VERNON

CONTACT US;

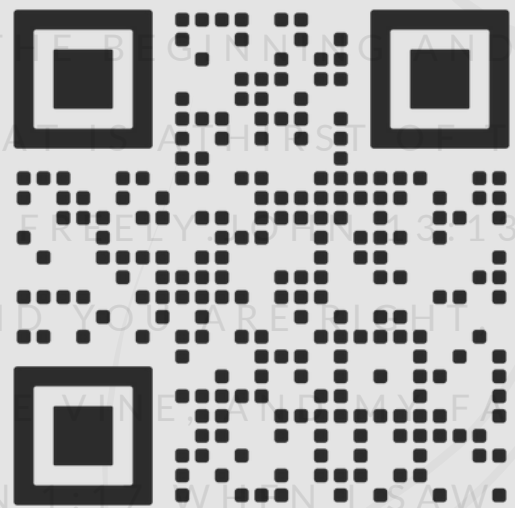
VERNONREAGAN@GMAIL.COM

HAYSTAYLORVERNON@GMAIL.COM

863-651-2964

352-815-9501

FOR MORE INFO!



@CampSonshine

WHERE NEXT?

LEAD

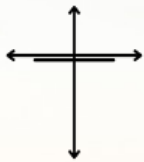
FOR EMERGING ADULTS

*Living Empowered,
Anchored and Dedicated*

JUNE 12-15, 2024

AGES 20-25

Florida Campground
24165 Dan Brown Hill Rd.
Brooksville, FL 34602



L E A D

LIVING IN FAITH
EMPOWERED BY CHRIST
ANCHORED IN LOVE
DEDICATED TO DISCIPLESHIP

WHERE NEXT?

Joe & Heather Dotson,
Directors
eye2eye.xyz



Intermediate Camp



TRANSFORMERS!

Jesus Lives Inside

Romans 12:2

Directors: Richard & Carrie Roberts
IntermediateCamp2018@gmail.com

(352)-494-1352/(352)-494-1751
(text preferred)

Ages: 11-13
Dates- June 17-22

Camp Sonshine

24165 Dan Brown Hill Rd, Brooksville, FL 34602

CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY

JOIN US AS WE
NAVIGATE ZONES OF
REGULATION AND THE
ISLANDS OF EMOTIONS.

TRANSFORMED FROM THE

INSIDE OUT

TEACHING KIDS TO
IDENTIFY EMOTIONS THE
BIBLICAL WAY, AND
EXPRESS ALL FEELINGS
IN A HEALTHY WAY.

AGES 8-10

ROMANS 12:2 (THE VOICE)

**JUNIOR CAMP 2024
JUNE 24TH-29TH**

CAMP SONSHINE

24165 Dan Brown Hill Rd,
Brooksville, FL 34602

BRIAN & VANESSA NULPH - CAMP DIRECTORS

preacherbrian50@gmail.com | 813.394.7232



FLORIDA FORWARD

Connecting Conversations

An equipping initiative of Florida Ministries.
6001 Monarch Blvd.
Leesburg, Florida 34748
352.323.1321



February 2024

7 Lessons Learned While Leading Change – Ron Edmonson



You can have change without leadership. **But I am not sure you can have leadership without change.** In leading change for over 35 years, I have learned some things that may help you better lead change.

Change is all around us. **As leaders, we are called to be agents of change.** We are charged with taking people to places they may not be able to go on their own – or at least no one has taken the steps to get started. But you can't take people somewhere new without change.

I talk about change in my book *The Mythical Leader*. Here I want to share a few random tips I've learned about leading change which may help you better lead change.

7 tips to better lead change:

Be a proponent of the new more than an opponent of the old.

Everything that happened in the past was not bad. In fact, something happened which has allowed you to be where you are today. When you bash prior days and leadership you push people into a defensive mode and alienate people who might otherwise support you.

Keep the “why” as simple and easy to understand as possible.

You will have to repeat it often – like continually – so, you want it to be sticky enough for people to quickly grasp. People aren’t as reluctant to the what the more clearly they understand the why.

Know the key stakeholders.

The number one component of change is always people. People matter. (People who don’t understand this aren’t leaders as much as they are tyrants.) Most people are looking for someone to help them – lead them.

And because of that, there are always leaders in the room. They are not always the loudest voices, but they are the ones to whom people will listen. They may be adversaries or allies, but you simply have to know who they are if you want to lead change successfully.

Understand the real resistance.

It’s not always obvious. Sometimes it’s a very minor issue, which can be resolved easily, and sometimes it’s simply change. Every change comes attached to emotions – a sense of loss. Knowing why people are resisting helps the leader walk people through change in a caring, less controlling way.

Timing is huge.

It’s difficult to know the perfect time to make a change, but doing the right thing at the wrong time can end up being the wrong thing – no matter how much change is needed.

The key is leaders must strategically plan out a timeline for change. When are key decisions going to be made? Who is told what and when? What are the steps that need to be taken before the change is made?

Identify critical wins and non-critical elements.

You may not get everything you want. It's a controlling leader who thinks they must. There needs to be some collaboration and cooperation. It's a healthy part of leading people – and it's a necessary part of leading change. Identify what must take place to be successful. Use a team to help you with this if possible. Then hold everything else with open hands.

Develop a healthy rhythm of change.

Ultimately, you want each new season of change to go easier than the last. This isn't always possible, of course, simply because some changes are more complex than others and seasons change for people, cultures, and organizations. But great leaders become students of change. They learn as they go.

The way you handle change – things like the speed at which you change, the people you include in change, and the rest and celebration in between change – helps develop the DNA of change in the organization. Change is never easy, but over time you become better at leading change and the organization becomes better at accepting change.



[Ron Edmondson](http://ronedmondson.com)

<http://ronedmondson.com>

Ron is a frequent contributor to outreachmagazine.com, is the former pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, Kentucky. He revitalized two churches and planted two more.

We must be changed by the work of Holy Spirit, ***"till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love" (Ephesians 4:13-16, NKJV).***