

## AUGUST EVENTS AT OLIVET

Saturday, August 4, 2-4pm  
 Sunday, August 5  
 Thursday, August 9, 11:30  
 Friday, August 10  
 Saturday, August 11, 9am  
 Monday, August 13, 7pm  
 Saturday, August 18, 8am-5pm

40th Wedding Anniversary celebration for Pastor Ron and Cindy  
 Come-and-go reception in the Carol Room  
 Promotion Sunday for children  
 Golden Agers  
 Student Back-to-School Party at Ferguson's home  
 The Bicyclists Bike Club at Sedgwick County Park  
 Elders Meeting  
 Awana leader training



Thank you so much for your joyful and generous support of this fundraiser! God provided!

**Ron Pracht** Pastor  
**Keith Ferguson** Student Pastor  
**Angie Hettenbach** Preschool Director  
**Heather Neumann** Communication's Director  
**Cheryl Phipps** Secretary  
**Gordon Dorian** Pastor Emeritus

**Tim Dodge** Discipleship & Outreach Pastor  
**Kenny Underkofer** Music & Arts Pastor  
**Sheila Warner** Children's Director  
**Kathy Dakin** Financial Secretary  
**Mike Phipps** Building Engineer

[WWW.OLIVETWICHITA.COM](http://WWW.OLIVETWICHITA.COM)  
 Missed a sermon? Want to check the calendar? It is all there! Would you like to receive the Olivetter via email? Let the church office know.



CHECK  
US  
OUT!

The Olivetter is a monthly publication of  
**Olivet Baptist Church**  
 3440 West 13th Street  
 Wichita, Kansas 67203  
 316-942-2246

The events in Aurora, Colorado last weekend are too heinous and evil for the mind to comprehend. How can a man be filled with such hatred, evil and disregard for human life that it makes sense to him to enter a crowded movie theater and intentionally attempt to, and successfully kill innocent people? How can a human being have so little concern about others that it enters his mind to wantonly take human life?

I am a World War II history buff. I find it fascinating to look back at one of the most difficult times in American (and human) history and try to look into the mind of men who took the world into war because of their huge egos and misplaced passions. How could a man order the extermination of an entire ethic group? What kind of warped, distorted world view allows for that kind of madness?

The reality is that all men are flawed, sinful and broken in their hearts and minds. Rebellion against God fills the hearts and minds of every person who has ever lived – and that includes you and me. This is not an aberration. It is the norm. The prophet Jeremiah wrote: “The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?” (Jeremiah 17.9 NIV) The heart and mind, apart from a radical transformation brought about by the Lord Jesus Christ, have no hope, no good in them at all.

The only hope the world around us has is the message we carry of the transformation and renewal of heart and mind through Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection. It is only through the innocent blood He shed as payment to satisfy God’s anger against sin that men are allowed to experience forgiveness and restoration. Government programs, self-help books and seminars offer nothing. It is only the message of the Cross that can change a human heart. That is the message we have – the hope we have – for the world.

That is the message we, as the Body of Christ, offer the world. It is the only message that offers real hope to fallen, sinful people – just like you and me. The Apostle Paul said it this way: “We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made Him Who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5.20-21 NIV)

Because of our commitment to develop disciples of Jesus, let’s boldly and unapologetically, take this message of hope to all who are far from God – whether they live in our neighborhood or in distant places around the world. This is the only message we have...and it is enough, because Jesus is ENOUGH! Pray that God’s Spirit would draw men and women to His love and forgiveness and that through His life-giving transformation, our world will experience hope, peace and reconciliation.

Ron Pracht

AUGUST 2012 • VOLUME 33 • ISSUE 8



## Awana Leader Training

August 18th  
8am -5pm  
Lunch included  
All leaders are required

**APPROVED  
WORKMEN  
ARE  
NOT  
ASHAMED**

Who: 100+ kids, more than 50% not attending Olivet  
What: Bible lesson, individual verse recitation, games  
When: Wednesday evenings 6:30-8:00  
Where: All over Olivet! We have babies, preschoolers & up to 6th grade  
Why: We "go and make disciples . . . teaching them to obey" (Matt. 28:19-20)

## WE NEED YOU!



Contact Curtis Amrine or Travis Hettenbach, the Awana commanders for more information or to volunteer.



## Olivet Women and the Olympians

Olympic athletes soon will compete in the ultimate competition. Most trained many, many years. Some, like the gymnasts, have disciplined themselves all their lives for performing. Every individual participating in the games dedicates their sleep, eating, and physical activity to their sport. And they submit themselves to their coach.

which do you think is easier?

- Run 10 miles like a marathoner or daily wake before my family so I can meet with God alone? (Psalm 119:147)
- Butterfly stroke for 1600 meters or be kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving to each other? (Ephesians 4:32)
- Coach the Olympic soccer team or diligently teach my children while at home and out to love God with all they are? (Deuteronomy 6)

The athletic events almost seem easier! Loving God really is "a long obedience in the same direction" (Eugene Peterson describes life with God this way).

So how do we train spiritually? Just as the Olympians go to their coaches day after day for each training session, we must go to God's Word day after day and obey what we read. The Olympians' relationship with coaches began as strangers and their training started at basics. Over the years the relationship grows and the training builds until they compete this August! Our training began when we chose to follow Jesus and His Spirit came to live in us. Now it builds as our relationship with Him grows by knowing Him more through His Word and as we follow His instructions (1 Tim 4:7-8). It is a daily commitment to listen to Him and get to know Him as we see His interaction with others in Scripture.

Compare yourself to the Olympians as you watch them: Do you desire God as much as they desire the Gold?



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## Aiming at the Heart of Students

One of the most meaningful truths that has ever reached my heart is also one of the simplest: "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks." (Matthew 12:34b). Or, as our recent study in the book of Mark has revealed: "For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person." (Mark 7:21-23). Thus, what Jesus is saying is that it has everything to do with the heart.

As I comprehended this truth, it revolutionized how I observe and interact with people. It certainly has been invaluable wisdom in working with students. As we—church members, parents, and volunteers—continue to invest in and shepherd the hearts of Olivet's students, it is important to remember the heart. Just as words and actions come from out of the heart, so our ministry should be directed first-and-foremost at the heart.

Here are a few keys and practical tips to remember and get you started:

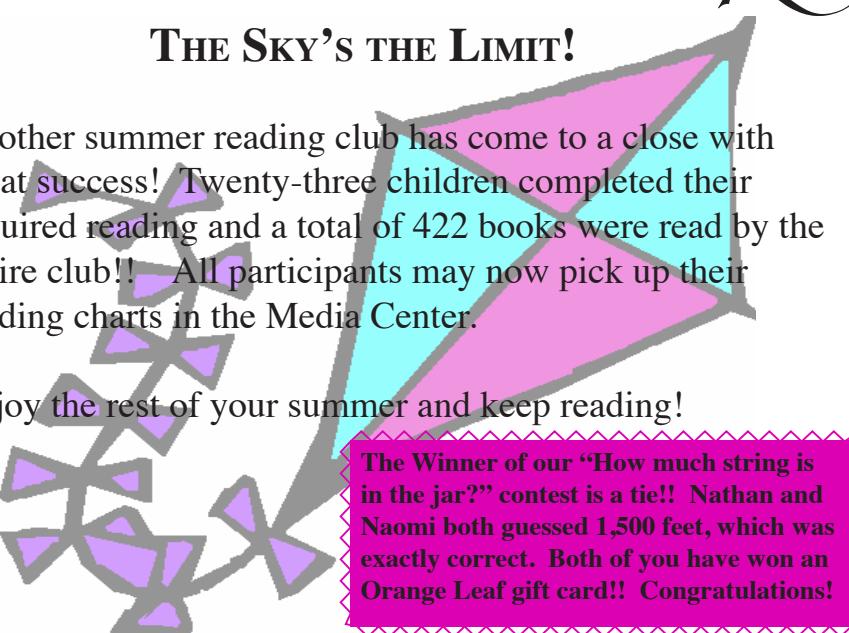
- When you see a student doing or saying something, ask the question: Why is her or she doing this? Once you get an answer, ask again: Why? Keep asking this question until you can go no farther—keep digging. It gets to the root (heart) of the matter.
- If a student in your life puts up walls to keep others out, remember that those walls are there for a reason. Seek to understand how those walls got there, pray that God would tear them down, and then be available to help that person walk through the healing process with God.
- When a child is doing something that is displeasing to God, remember that it comes from a heart that is naturally rebellious to God. Address the heart, and not just the behavior. As an example, when children are fighting over toys, it is not enough to simply give it to the child who had it first. Rather, it is more important to address the selfish heart that each child displayed.
- People long for security, and insecurities can wreak havoc on our hearts. When a person is not secure in Jesus Christ, they will seek security in a host of other things. Remember this the next time you see someone desperately clinging to something or to another person. They may very well be seeking their security in it.

*Keith Ferguson*

## THE SKY'S THE LIMIT!

Another summer reading club has come to a close with great success! Twenty-three children completed their required reading and a total of 422 books were read by the entire club!! All participants may now pick up their reading charts in the Media Center.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and keep reading!



The Winner of our "How much string is in the jar?" contest is a tie!! Nathan and Naomi both guessed 1,500 feet, which was exactly correct. Both of you have won an Orange Leaf gift card!! Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following children for reaching your goal:

Sydney & Reese Amrine  
Catelyn & Alison Dikeman  
Asher Dodge  
Lucas & Makayla Dodson  
Benjamin & Abigail Ferguson  
Nathan Graves  
Noah Hettenbach  
Cadance Mills  
Naomi & Levi & Leonora Neumann  
Alexis Seal  
Adrianna & Eden & Derek Sweat  
Colby & Madison Underkofer  
Alison & Shelby Yonce

## Summer Camp Recap

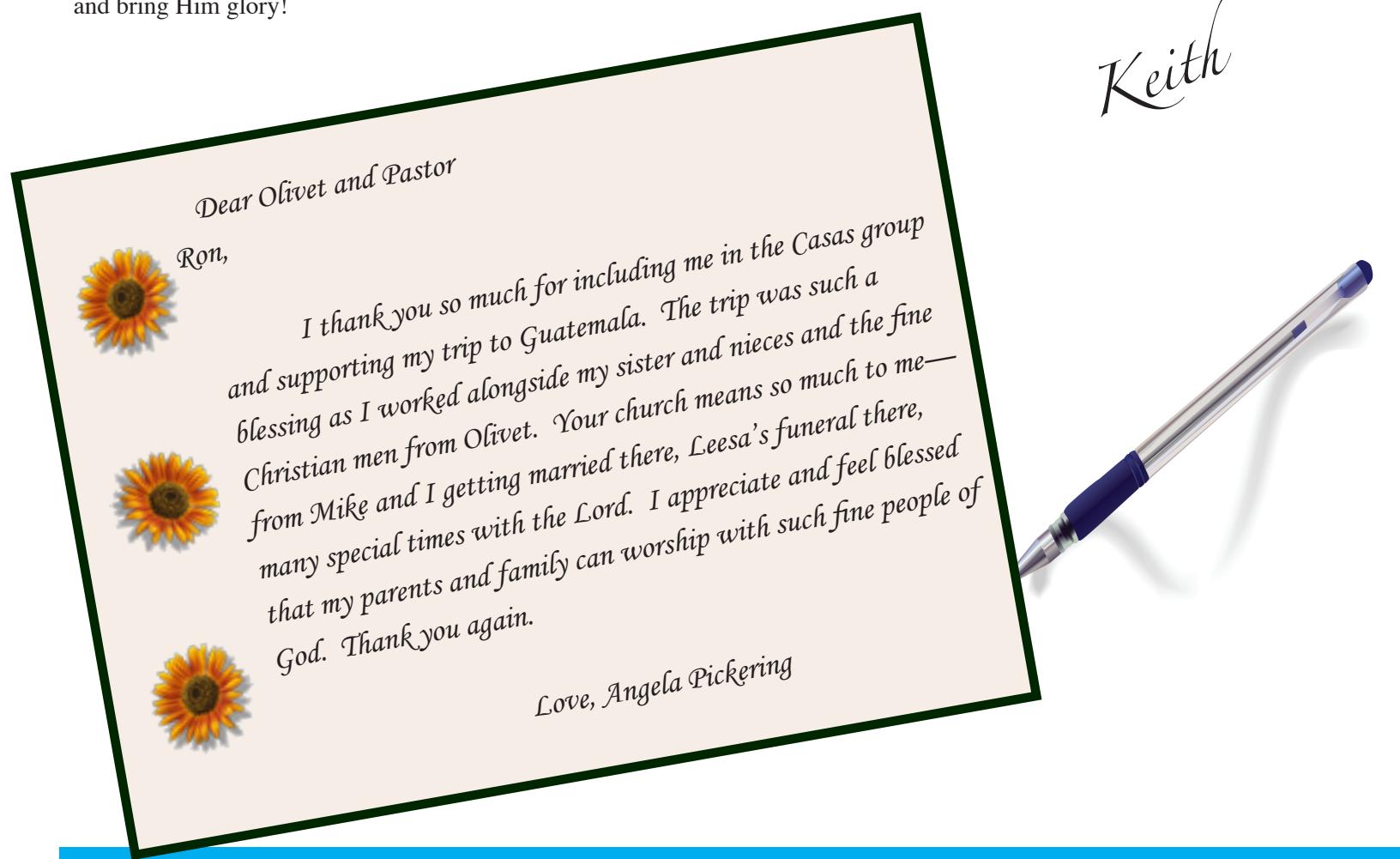
On June 25, fourteen of Olivet's students loaded a school bus and headed up the road to Webster Conference Center in Salina, KS. As we all prepared to go to Super Summer, we knew it was going to be much different than what the students experienced a year before in Oklahoma. However, it was also certain that the Lord had great purposes in sending us, and we would need to trust Him to do a work in our hearts!

After five days of camp craziness, we praise God for doing only what He can do. Our students heard the Word taught energetically from "PJ," the camp pastor, and it pierced their hearts in a meaningful way. They entered the throne room in song with "Reverchon," the camp worship band, and it stirred their affections for God. The BLAST games drew us closer together; the group times grew us personally; the recreation time gave us memorable laughs; and so much more.

While the true work of the heart is known only to God, it was encouraging to see some of the immediate fruits of that work. Several students responded to God that week—many recognizing the need for re-dedication to His holy purposes in their lives, a few answering the call to ministry, and one surrendering and giving her life to Jesus Christ!

So, needless to say, there is much to praise the Lord for in what He did in our students over that week. And, as a church, much prayer is needed to see that these students continue to grow beyond these experiences at camp. As you see them in the halls of the building, please take a moment to ask them what the Lord taught them at camp, as well as what He has been teaching them since. Take a moment to pray for them. Your affirmation and encouragement will go a long way to seeing them built-up in Christ.

Thank you for your prayers and investment in Olivet's students. May this report of His works encourage your hearts and bring Him glory!



## A Struggle for Authentic Christian Community

John 17:20-23 *I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, 23 I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.*

What is at stake when the body of Christ is not unified—being deeply connected to one another? And yet, what is the sustainable "engine" which drives and sustains the community of believers?

These are two important questions to consider as we begin to look at the closing of the summer—a time, for most of us, when it is most easy to disconnect from others. The timing of vacations among other things unfortunately creates a typical slow drift in fellowship of the church. We all feel it. However, the fall provides a natural opportunity to recommit to the priority of being the church together.

If you have been around Olivet for very long at all, you know that relationships and accountability among the body of Christ are critical to both the mission of the church as well as the spiritual growth of the individual. To offer an answer to question one is this: Jesus' reputation and mission are at stake and secondarily (always) is my spiritual vitality. If I say that I love Him yet continually fail to value the things that He values, then I betray my stated belief. Jesus said, if you love me, you will keep my commandments (John 14:15). It is one thing for me to say that I agree with it, but it is entirely something else for me to truly believe, be committed to, and to do it.

Obviously, simply showing up in and of itself cannot create unity and community. I must be an active participant in the process of connecting with others. Yet, time and time again, we have seen and experienced shortcomings in attempts at Christian community. I read from the pages of Holy Scripture God's passion for His name being lived out among His people and I feel the disappointment in my own failure to grasp and keep a part of my own life.

Through the discipline of the Holy Spirit, I have come to see that for me the reason for this is because I usually make community about me. When it is difficult to connect to and value the person across the table or across the room from me, it is nearly always a personal failure. I fail to love Christ and that person more than myself. Here is the sinister reason for this: I quite often see others as means to my ends. I want them in or out of my life for reasons most often related to my agenda. Sadly, I sometimes see my relationship with Christ as a way to make myself better rather than for His glory. Maybe I am being harder on myself than I should be. Perhaps I have tried but the person I am trying to win is not interested. Yet I don't think so.

Many of these attempts—with successes and failures alike—have left me with a major question. On the one hand, I want to love Jesus' bride as He does. Yet, I long to know what is the glue or the engine that can sustain a transforming community who is on mission for Christ. Christian community cannot be about people simply liking each other enough to hang out and do some stuff together. Jesus wouldn't have placed His reputation on the line if that was all it was about. It must exist for the purpose of building the Kingdom and building up the body and the individuals which make up the body (Eph 4:11-16). So I ask again: What is the "engine" that can truly drive and sustain authentic Christian community? I invite your comments and questions. You are loved!

Tim Dodge