

# Current

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# WORSHIP

## WHY & HOW IN APRIL

BY ED NILSEN

Based upon our convictions in the sovereign grace and glory of God, the Gospel, biblical exposition and a loving, passionate spirituality, we value and have a responsibility to worship publicly and privately. Be encouraged to do just that in the month of April at Taft Avenue in the following ways:

**Worship and prayer service** April 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm – in between times of singing we'll pray for our upcoming walk through the neighborhood.

**Neighborhood walk on Saturday morning, April 16<sup>th</sup>** – we'll be going back into the local neighborhoods, this time to share an invitation to join us for worship on Easter Sunday.

**Palm Sunday, April 17** – We'll be worshipping outside, in the courtyard.

**Easter Sunday, April 24** – The worship service will be at 10, and there will be no discipleship hour. Prior to coming to Taft Avenue, take that time to worship in private, with your family.



# DISCIPLESHIP

## SMALL GROUPS: THE INSIDE SCOOP

Ever wondered what other small groups do? Wonder no more! Find out below! If you want to join an open group, contact the leader! (Phone numbers on website under “Connect,” then “Small Groups.”)

Small Group	Time	Topic/Format	Open
Tom Walters	Mon 7pm	Studying David's life and relationship with God, care	N
Ray and Joyce Barton	Tue 7pm	Ephesians, closed for summer	Y
Rob and Sheila Marton	Tue 7:30pm	Sermon discussion	N
Fred & Bonnie Kaiser	Tue 7pm	Verse-by-verse study of Romans, sermon discussion, sharing, prayer, refreshments	N
Men's Study (Mike W.)	alternate Wed	More of an accountability group	Y
John and EB Adams	Th, 7pm	Video “Cross and the Resurrection” by Ray Vander Laan	N
Rick & Lisa Hicks	Th, 7pm	Romans/Isaiah, kid friendly	Y
Doug and Cathy Keller	Th, 7pm	Sermon discussion	N
Gordon and Sue Peterson	Th, 7pm	Sermon discussion	N
Pastor Bob & Vickie Burris	Th, 7pm	Sermon discussion	Y
College Group	Th, 7:30pm	Sermon discussion	Y

# MISSION



## 14 Thoughts on Evangelism, the Great Commission, and TACC's Mission

BY PASTOR BOB

in \_\_\_\_\_ (you fill in the blank).  
You get my point.

2. **Experience** is the best teacher. You have to do it to get experience.

3. **Deep spirituality** is the best motivator. You have something that others don't have.

"Evangelism, instead of being technical specialties modeled on rhetorical styles, sales, and marketing models imported from the outside, ought to be everyday endeavors, the natural result of thinking and living as we do...Witness isn't a method or technique. It's the sum total of our expression, what we say and what we don't, what we do, who we help, and who we harm. Our actions and reactions, taken as a whole, constitute a message to the

world we live in....all it takes to be a witness is a willingness to come forward and reveal what you know." J. Mark Bertrand

4. **Humility** is the only and best attitude. God approached me; I would never have considered Him had He not considered me. The bent-over woman in Luke 13 is a good example.

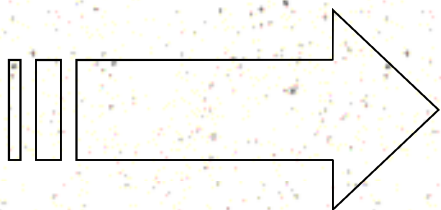
Jesus called her. John 6 is clear. Non-believers will never listen to arrogance. Condescension never works.

5. Be **prepared**. Read the suggested book list on our web site under evangelism, especially the *Unexpected Adventure*. I have copies in my office (\$10).

6. **Clarity** is essential. Learn the gospel essentials. Learn *how* to share the gospel essentials (1 Corinthians 15:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:4-6).

WITNESS ISN'T A METHOD OR TECHNIQUE. IT'S THE SUM TOTAL OF OUR EXPRESSION.

1. We are **witnesses** to Jesus. Knowing Him will result in telling others about Him. We won't be able to hold it in (Jeremiah 20:9). Spiritual life produces spiritual fruit and spiritual talk. And it is about Him. Make Him your chief love. Not church. Not you. Not that other church. Not the health care discussion. Not the war



### "Belonging" Women's Outreach

Our Women's Outreach Luncheon on Saturday, May 30, will be a fabulous opportunity for us to celebrate and demonstrate God's love for us and for the women in our community. Join us! Email [marcia.lichte@taftavenue.org](mailto:marcia.lichte@taftavenue.org) for more details.

## MISSION

## LETTER FROM MARK WILLIAMS

Mark Williams is our missionary with Dynamic Church Planting International. He is well known by many of us and has been our featured speaker at TACC and our Church Camps. His update is below.

Dear TACC Church Family:

Wow, my head is spinning after a whirlwind of travel and activities already this year. Here are some highlights:

1. Our annual DCPI Global Vision Summit was our best yet. We also prayed a lot for our leader from Egypt. He was detained by U.S. Immigration both coming and leaving, but it all worked out fine and his family was safe during the uprising. Let's continue to pray for Egypt and the need for greater religious freedoms there--many Christians suffer and even die for their faith there.
2. I met with ministry leaders in Orlando that might want to utilize our church planting training.



Other prayer requests:

1. Thanks for praying for additional staff for our ministry: we have four preliminary

*Cont. on p. 5*

#### 14 Thoughts (Cont. from p. 3)

7. **Pray** for opportunities. Some believers have gone months without sharing their faith. Ask God to bring people to you.

8. **Look** for opportunities. And they are abundant. The average non-believer is much more willing to talk about spiritual matters than the average believer is willing to talk about spiritual matters. Boldness is needed—the setting will never be perfect—just go for it! Bring up your spirituality within the first three minutes of a new friendship. If you linger, it will be awkward later.

9. **Love** people. Random acts of compassion, kindness, even to strangers. It will open up a new

world for you.

10. Yes, **learn** a system, but realize that witnessing isn't a system. "What is witness if not unrestrained expression, a desire to share what one knows without regard to setting or propriety?" J. Mark Bertrand.

11. Learn to **listen** and ask questions. And not just the questions to trap them in their worldview. Be interested in them as a person.

12. You will **never** lead someone to Christ. Or argue them. Or love them. Or persuade them. It is ultimately the work of the Spirit of God to regenerate them. They'll never see the holiness of God, their problem, or the incredible grace of forgiveness in Jesus. God may use you

– but He does all the work. Good thing too, that kind of work is God's.

13. Be **ready** for rejection. Some people just don't want to talk or make a new friend.

14. America has **changed**. Most Americans will not go to church without a personal invitation, and even then, they will be very skittish. Without personal friendships, we will never reach our nation. We must leave the Christian sub-culture of friendships and find avenues for meeting and knowing non-believers: clubs, service organizations, children's sports, school activities, neighborhood block parties, etc.

# MISSION

Mark Williams (*Cont. from p. 4*)

interviews with potential staff just this week.

2. God's divine guidance for my writing projects:
  - a. Our Certified Trainer curriculum revision
  - b. Our new book of encouragement devotionals for church planters
3. Our son Gabe needs prayer for deliverance from anxiety and depression.

Thanks so much for your prayers and support.

In Jesus' Love,  
Mark (& Carolyn)

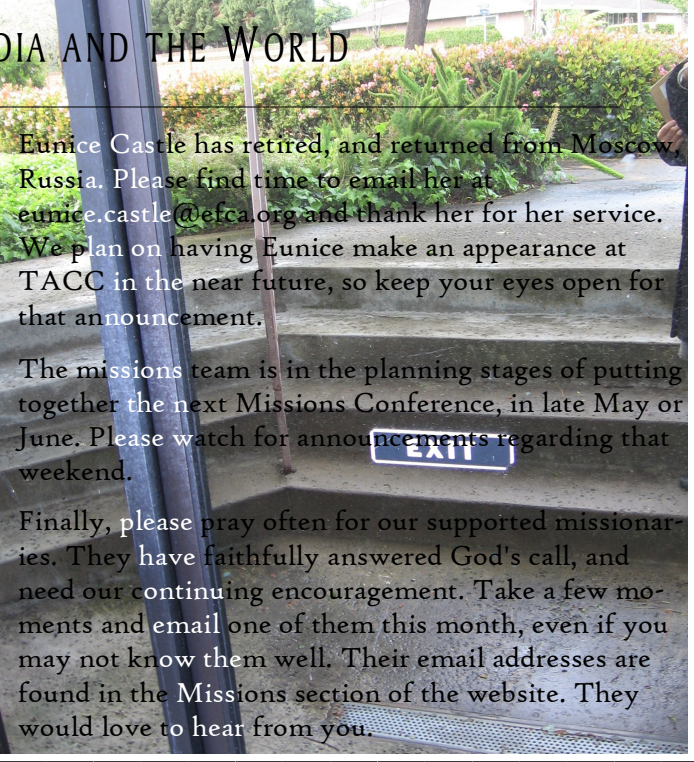
## DCPI 2011 Goals

1. Train 10,000 church planters
2. Equip 1,000 new reproductive trainers and leaders
3. Open 10 new countries
4. Plant 27,300 new churches as a result of these equipping goals

## CHARTING OUR MISSION TO ORANGE, INDIA AND THE WORLD

BY STEVE HICKS

The missions team has selected a team for the next trip to India. The team will consist of Steve and Rick Hicks and will focus on Evangelism, Discipleship, Church Planting and the long-term agreement with our partners in India, the Leadership Training Center. Also, they will be conducting site visits to the villages where TACC has had a presence, in an attempt to gauge the amount of follow-up being done, and the extent to which the churches in the villages are growing. Finally, they will be meeting with LTC to make plans for our next trip, which will be in late September or early October. In the meantime, make sure to ask them what their needs are, and how you can support and pray for this campaign. Also, ask if God is calling you to go on the next trip. We will be forming a team soon, so please see a missions team member for more information.



Eunice Castle has retired, and returned from Moscow, Russia. Please find time to email her at [eunice.castle@efca.org](mailto:eunice.castle@efca.org) and thank her for her service. We plan on having Eunice make an appearance at TACC in the near future, so keep your eyes open for that announcement.

The missions team is in the planning stages of putting together the next Missions Conference, in late May or June. Please watch for announcements regarding that weekend.

Finally, please pray often for our supported missionaries. They have faithfully answered God's call, and need our continuing encouragement. Take a few moments and email one of them this month, even if you may not know them well. Their email addresses are found in the Missions section of the website. They would love to hear from you.

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Office open M-Th, 9am-12:30pm, 1-5pm.

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[WWW.TAFTAVENUE.ORG](http://WWW.TAFTAVENUE.ORG)

Etc. (the stuff that didn't fit anywhere else)



New Church in Congo  
*Mark Williams*

## SERVE

*What's going on this month? A lot! Join us!*  
Jesus has died. Jesus has risen. Celebrate!

## WORSHIP: Easter Week Family Devotions

This year we are going to begin encouraging more regular family worship and devotions in the home. To get the ball rolling, we will be providing Family Devotional materials for Easter Week including activities for Good Friday for our families to do together. Instead of our traditional Good Friday service, we are encouraging everyone in our congregation to gather as families, small groups or gatherings of friends and work through the devotionals together for a more personal, intimate worship experience.