

Current

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CALL TO WALK, 1
By Unknown

CHALLENGE TO BE FREE, 2
By Pastor Bob

CO-LABORERS ON THE FIELD, 3
By Bill Petersen

CHARGE TO ACTION, 3
By Ministry Leaders

CHARTING OUR COURSE, 4
By Steve Hicks

Call to Walk



CHALLENGE TO BE FREE

BY PASTOR BOB

Proverbs 26:18-19, "Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows and death, so is the man who deceives his neighbor, and says, 'Was I not joking?'" (NAS)

The deceiver thinks to himself, "No real apology needed here." Then he says, "If you misunderstood, I'm sorry you read me wrong."

No. When we do wrong, we need to ask for forgiveness. However, we are all well-honed in skills that don't fully implicate us – who wants to take the hit without at least a little cover? "If I inadvertently...If anyone was...I didn't mean it that way..." It is tough to say, "I'm sorry for [name the sin]; will you please forgive me? What can I do to make it right?"

Marvin Olasky, in the November 25, 2006 issue of *World Magazine*, "Apologizing in Public," quotes Jesse Jackson's apology from 1984 for his anti-Semitic remarks, "If in my low moments in word, deed, or attitude, through some error of temper, taste, or tone, I have caused anyone discomfort, created pain, or revived someone's fears, that was not my truest self. If there were occasions when my grape turned into a raisin and my joy bell lost its resonance, please forgive me. Charge it

to my head, so limited in its finitude, not to my heart, which is boundless in its love for the entire human family.' " Olasky, accordingly, was appalled.

Asking for forgiveness should be the result of truly repenting. Repentance includes sorrow,

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confession, the willingness to make restitution, asking for forgiveness, and a zeal to make the relationship right again (2 Corinthians 7:8-12).

Expressing regret ("I am sorry."); accepting responsibility ("I was wrong for [name the sin]."); making restitution ("What can I do to make it right?"); genuinely repenting ("I'll plan and try and pray for God's help not to do that again."); and requesting forgiveness ("Will you please

forgive me?") are all required elements in freeing ourselves from sin.

It is difficult to say, "I'm sorry for [name the sin]; will you please forgive me? What can I do to make it right?" The beauty of these phrases, if spoken with a contrite and sincere heart, is that it lets you off the hook. We are commanded to confess and repent, *and* we are commanded to forgive. In fact, we are warned to be on our guard to forgive. We love to harbor ill feelings—it gives us a superior moral ranking to know that the particular sin is something we would never be caught doing! No!

We must forgive. When the offender asks we must give, and then drop the offense into the depth of the sea – being careful not to rehearse the sin or bring it up to them or anyone else. Read carefully Luke 17:3, "Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' forgive him." (NAS)

This brand of repentance, confession and forgiveness never leads to regret or a sorrow—it is wonderfully freeing (2 Corinthians 7:10, c.f. Proverbs 6:1-5).

CO-LABORERS ON THE FIELD

BY BILL PETERSEN

George and Donna Warren thank us for praying for their Member Care Team, ENHANCE, during the week of January 16-21. The team of 13 came from Japan, China, Hong Kong, Minnesota, and California to meet around five basic areas: spiritual refreshment, individual sharing, team training, vision casting and planning, plus seeking to support each other as they individually and corporately desire to serve the Lord with faithfulness and excellence.

The times of spiritual refreshment were the highlight of their week and that the devotions were very special as the Lord spoke to George and Donna's hearts. In addition, the times of sharing were deep and meaningful. Several on the team had passed through some deep struggles this past year as the Lord led them to and used them with others in difficult and emotional situations.

The time together was valuable also as they looked into the future ministry steps that need to be taken in order to meet the ever changing world in which our missionaries serve. George and Donna thank you for your prayer for them and their time together.



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& IMPROVED WEBSITE:

WWW.TAFTAVENUE.ORG

Connect Class (Feb 27-April 3)



God is moving here! Come and find out how! It's not too late!

Why connect?

She wonders in quiet.

Here in this pew, it's so cozy and comfy.

Why move, he ponders,

To a beat unfamiliar?

*Why dive, they cannot fathom,
into the mess of people, community,
churning life?*

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. ~1 Corinthians 12:27 (NIV)

CHARGE TO ACTION

Family Breakfast & Neighborhood Outreach
Saturday, March 5, 9am: Join us!

Want to advertise on the bulletin board?

Email your classifieds to Ingrid at office@taftavenue.org.

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CHARTING OUR MISSION TO ORANGE, INDIA AND THE WORLD

BY STEVE HICKS

Amy Williams had planned to return to Italy and obtain a new visa in January. However, as Amy puts it in her latest newsletter, God's timing was different. A couple of days before her scheduled departure, Amy began feeling poorly. Her hearing, vision and speech were all impaired. She was taken to a local hospital, and ended up spending seven days! After numerous tests, it was discovered that not only did she suffer a minor stroke, but she was also found to have a rare blood disorder, a blood clot and a small opening in the back of her heart. Amy was released from the hospital after a procedure to repair the hole in her heart, and is currently at her

parents' house. Because of Amy's delay in returning to Italy, she must re-apply for her visa.

Amy asks that we pray for her continued healing, for her health insurance coverage, and for God's leading as she works through the visa issue. She also asks that God be glorified as she deals with this time of change in her life.

Amy's latest newsletter is available at the Missions table.

Furthermore...

Interested in going to India? Contact a member of the missions team soon. There will be two trips this year, April 25-

May 7, and again in late September/early October. We need people for both campaigns, so please let us know about your interest as we must prepare for training and travel.

Continue to remember Eunice Castle in your prayers as she recovers from treatment for a blocked artery. Eunice returned to Russia to prepare for her return to the USA in April.

Finally, on Saturday, March 5th, TACC will again be going into our surrounding neighborhoods. Our last effort went well, and we encourage you to be a part of this new and important ministry to Orange.



