

EFree News

"Doin' Life Together!"

February 2012

By: Liz Holbert

True Love



February is a month devoted to all things pink, red, and heart shaped. Hallmark and Hershey will be feeling a significant swelling in their incomes.

But is a heart shaped box and a handful of long-stemmed roses an adequate symbol of our love? Those certainly aren't bad things, but the meaning of love is often thwarted, and even more so during the second month of the year. As followers of Christ and recipients of the love that He has bestowed upon us, we are called upon to offer our dear ones an elevated form of love – and not just to our spouses, but to everyone in our lives we proclaim to love: our close

friends, our siblings, parents, and children. What's the standard by which we love them? How is it supposed to look?

I Corinthians 13: 4-8 says, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

So we're to be patient? Even when they won't listen, won't cooperate? We're not to dishonor others? So we're not supposed to complain to our friends about how our loved

ones have disappointed us? Keep no record of wrongs. How is that possible? What about all the times they've let me down? Love always trusts, and it hopes, instead of expecting to fail. What a revolutionary and challenging concept.

Do you know what's encouraging? This is the standard of love because this is the way God loves us. This perfect, almost too-good-to-be-true love of I Corinthians is the way we are loved. And it's that perfect love through Jesus Christ that gives us the supernatural strength to love others the way we've been called to love them.



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Women's Retreat - Oasis: In the Presence of God and Each Other

When: March 23-24, 7 pm

Friday - 7pm Saturday

Where: Torrey Home, Montrose Bible Conference

Cost: \$84 (includes overnight shared room and three meals)

Deadline to sign up: March 4

Our first annual Women's Retreat in March will be a time for ladies to get away and spend time with God and each other. Join us for a time of retreat and relaxation, food and fellowship, challenge and companionship. We will have our own retreat center at Torrey Home! Kate Ring is our speaker and she will encourage us to spend time with God in reflection and prayer. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to deepen your

relationship with God and with other ladies in the church. Sign up on the back counter.

Our speaker: The Ring family recently started attending our church. **Kate Ring**, after a near failure of her marriage has been married to Andy for over 40 years now. In their work with Wycliffe Bible Translators they lived in West Africa from 1978 to 2001. Kate is the

mother of a large family, with one teenage daughter still at home. She has been involved with Reflection and Prayer and women's retreats for twelve years. Kate likes to read, bake and watch old musicals!



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Youth Events!

XL Events:

Feb 5: Superbowl Party!
At the Harman's home at 5:45!

Feb 11: Valentine's Day
Babysitting 5 pm - 8 pm

Feb 12: Regular Meeting

Feb 18: Ski Trip

Feb 19: Regular Meeting

Feb 26: Regular Meeting

March 2-4: WinterBlast Re-treat at Camp Orchard Hill

March 4: No Meeting!

CSB Events:

Feb 15: Tubing for Stockade and Battalion (weather permitting)

Feb 18: Battalion Ski Night

Snow Camp at MBC

THRIVE: Jeremiah 17:8

February 24-26

Challenging team games, building friendships, awesome food, tubing, indoor climbing wall, indoor Ga-ga, gym sports, paintball target range.

Ministry from "Challenging" praise band and Sean MacPherson. Price is \$87 per person (includes 2 nights, 5 meals and all activities). Groups: 1 Free person for every 7 paying guests, Free t-shirts for all!

Call the Montrose Bible Conference at (570)-278-1001

Church Survey Trip to Liberia

On March 10-19th, a small group from our church will take a survey trip to Liberia. We will meet with pastors and church leaders from the Evangelical Free Churches of West Africa. Our goal is to partner with them in furthering their ministry of evangelism, church planting, and leadership training. We will also be exploring other possible avenues of ministry like vocational training. We want to have a long-term relationship between our churches that is mutually beneficial in forwarding the gospel of Christ.

This involves some research to determine what kinds of help are needed and beneficial in helping the Liberian churches help themselves.

I am involved in organizing a sponsorship program where sponsors pay tuition for students to attend Christian schools run by the Evangelical Free Churches of West Africa. There is no public school in Liberia so every student has to pay tuition to get an education. We hope this program will help students to become productive members of society in a country where the unemployment rate is around 84%. Also, they are getting grounded in the Christian faith at the same time.

On this trip I plan to visit the schools and meet the students, teachers, and pastors to build relationships and foster accountability. This is part of our plan to help Liberians help themselves rather than be dependent on foreign aid. They do not take their education for granted and work very hard to take advantage of the opportunity they have to further their education.

Please pray for us as we set out!

By: Peggy Maynard



Be Joyful Always - Pray Continually!

February 2012

As we begin a new year I would like to suggest a couple of questions that we as a church and as individuals could profit from as we ponder them. The beginning of the year is always a good time to measure progress. We often do that on birthdays as we measure our young children to see how much growth has occurred in the past year (we older ones sometimes do that with our weight). We do that in school as we measure progress from one year to the next (wow! Last year you only knew sight words and now you can read a whole book).

Am I more consistent in my prayer life today than I was a year ago? Do I have a clearer understanding of how important prayer is for me and my church? Do I believe that God works as we pray and therefore I pray more and more?

There are many more questions that come to my mind, but if I ponder just these three and then act as the Spirit guides me, great changes will

come about in my life and the life of my church.

“The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.” James 5:16.

Below is a comparison of a church that prays and a church devoted to prayer. My prayer for the new year is that we become known to God first and then to our community as a church devoted to prayer. It will take each one of us alone with God to make it happen.

A Church That Prays:

Prays about what it does.

1. Fits prayer in.
2. Prays when there are problems.
3. Announces a special time of prayer - some in the church show up.
4. Asks God to bless what it is doing.
5. Is frustrated by financial shortfall - backs down from projects.
6. Is tired, weary, stressed out.
7. Does things within its

means.

8. Sees its members as its parish.
9. Is involved in the work of man.

A Church Devoted to Prayer:

1. Does things by prayer.
2. Gives prayer priority.
3. Prays when there are opportunities.
4. Announces a special time of prayer - the entire church shows up.
5. Asks God to enable it to do what He is blessing.
6. Is challenged by financial shortfall - calls for fasting, prayer, and faith.
7. Mounts up with wings like eagles, runs and doesn't grow weary, walks and does not faint.
8. Does things beyond its means.
9. Sees the world as its parish.
10. Is involved in the work of God.

-Fred. A Hartley III

Marge Winkleblech,
Prayer Coordinator



“The effective
prayer of a
righteous man
can accomplish
much.”
James 5:16.

Prison ministry

Continues, the second Sunday of every month, a group from the church visits the jail in Montrose to minister to the men and women there. If you are interested in participating in that ministry, please contact Randy Decker: 965-2210

A Message from Dave and Lucy

Thank you for faithfully supporting us in 2011. Because of your support, we were able to work with ReachGlobal Africa and ReachAfrica to train 1,095 church planters in 8 different countries in Africa

Dave and Lucy are missionaries in Liberia with EFCA ReachGlobal, working hard to launch a dynamic church planting movement.

There were 15 training centers established in parts of Africa. Our trainings are centered on multiplying healthy churches among all people in Africa. There are three levels in this training and in 2011, we focused on equipping church planters using the Level One training which is titled "How to Plant a Reproducing Church in your Country or Region". Here is a brief overview of the content of this level I training:

Session 1: What is the Church?

Session 2: The Biblical Basis for Multiplication Church Planting

Session 3: The Profile of a Church Planter

Session 4: Reach Africa's Strategy for Multiplying Healthy Churches

Session 5: What is a Church Planting Movement?

Session 6 & 7: Disciple Making and Church Planting (Marks of an Effective Disciple Making Church and How to Develop a Plan for Disciple Making, Four Phases of the Disciple-Making Process): part I and II

Session 8: Church planting models: Ways Churches have been Planted in the Past.

Session 9: Steps to Planting a New Church in your Region.

Session 10: Church Structures that Lead to Multiplication.

In 2011, there were 38 new churches planted in Liberia and Sierra Leone alone; nine new churches were planted in Togo.

To the glory of God, our training manual was translated into two languages used in Africa: French and Portuguese. Now we train using English, French and Portuguese.

In 2012 we are planning to:

Launch Master Training in Nairobi for up to 25 Trainers

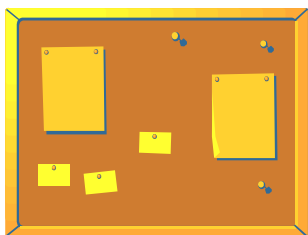
of Church planters from parts of Africa.

Launch church planting training in Mozambique, Angola, Burkina-Faso, Chad, Uganda, Bangui/Central African Republic and Guinea.

To be able to fulfill this call of God on our lives, we would need to raise a monthly support of \$5000 (five thousand dollars) to be used as follows: \$1200 for feeding, clothing and grooming of our family; \$3000 for monthly ministry activities, and \$800 for children school fees per semester. We would need to raise an additional \$5000 for travels, accommodation and feeding every quarter of 2012, (3 quarters in 2012) for international travels to do trainings.

Would you pray for these and our daughter, who is seeking to go to college in the US in September 2012? She is choosing Trinity International University and wants to do the pre-medical study.

Sharing Board



To Share:

Vintage 1973 high chair, soft yellow and natural wood, solid maple. If interested contact the Church Office

Needs:

The Alpha Chi Girls Group is looking for another lightly used couch and lamps for their Sunday School room downstairs in the church. If you are able to help, please contact the Church Office.

Needs:

The Nursery is in need of lightly used toys and children's furniture. If you can help, please contact the Church Office.

February 2012

February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:15pm Clubs	2 6:30pm Broken Pieces Dreyer Lodge	3	4
5 9:30am Worship XL Superbowl Party 5:45pm	6 6:30pm Made to Crave 6:30pm Missions Mtg Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm	7	8 6:15pm Clubs	9	10	11 Valentines Day Babysitting 5 - 8 pm
12 9:30am Worship XL 5:45pm	13 6:30pm Made to Crave Men's Bible Study 6:30pm	14  Happy Valentines Day	15 6:15pm Clubs CSB Tubing	16	17	18 XL and Battalion Ski Trip
19 9:30am Worship XL 5:45pm	20 6:30pm Made to Crave Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm	21	22 6:15pm Clubs	23	24 Snow Camp at MBC	25
26  9:30am Worship XL 5:45pm	27 6:30pm Made to Crave Men's Bible Study 6:30pm	28	29 6:15pm Clubs			



“Doin’ Life Together!”

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Couples Getaways and More!

February 11th - Date Night!

Would you like to get away with your spouse but don't have anyone to watch the kids? On February 11th, the youth group teens will be babysitting at the church from 5pm to 8pm under the supervision of the Harmans.

Couples Weekends at the Montrose Bible Conference

(Three opportunities!)

Each program begins Friday evening (supper is served at 6:30 pm and concludes with Sunday lunch.)

1. January 27-29

Enjoy speaker Craig Peters and musicians Robert and Joyce Hayes.

2. February 3 - 5

The Art of Marriage:

A video series from FamilyLife

3. February 10 - 12

Enjoy speakers Dennis and Lucille Madeira and musicians Gordy and Marie Martin.

Saturday Date Nights!

At the Montrose Bible Conference. Can't come to the whole retreat but still want to get away? Go for the Dinner Concert on either January 28th or February 11th. Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm and will feature a "Tour of Italy" theme followed by a dinner concert and a showing of the movie, "Courageous." Saturday date nights are \$40 per couple.



Want to stay a little longer? Add bed and breakfast to your Saturday Date Night for a total of \$96.

Also coming at MBC...

Scrapbooking and Stamping Weekend, March 30 - April 1st. Enjoy a weekend of relaxation and creativity! Finish a project you've been putting off, or learn the craft for the first time! Speaker will be Linda Brown.

Reservations required at all events. If you're interested, contact the Montrose Bible Conference. (570)-278-1001 or email at mbc@MontroseBible.org www.MontroseBible.org