

Living Water Fellowship

First Quarter 2009

Restore Your Joy A message from Pastor Doug Dragan

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Pastor Doug is introducing Pastor Eugene Demarco, the guest speaker for our 3rd Anniversary Celebration.

In Luke 5 we see the apostles who were accomplished and successful fishermen. They had been fishing all night long and caught nothing. So they did what they always did after a long night of fishing. They began to clean and mend their nets.

Along comes Jesus. Because the people on the shore were pressing in to hear Him, He got into one of the boats and began teaching the people from there. When He stopped speaking, He told the apostles to "launch out into the deep." Well, you can imagine what a group of professional fishermen were thinking when a carpenter tries to tell them how to do their job. But their response is *key*. They said, "Master, we've been at this all night. We're tired; we're hungry; we smell. We just want to clean up, go home, and try again but nevertheless, **'At Thy Word'** we will try again."

The apostles knew Jesus was different, special. So upon hearing his Word, they obeyed him and went back out into the deep. It was an awesome example of acting by faith on a simple word from the Lord.

The outcome changed their lives forever. After catching so many fish that nearly caused two boats to sink, Jesus told them they would become fishers of men. So they forsook all and followed Jesus. There are so many points that can be made about these portions of scripture. I want to focus on *mending our nets*.

God is calling the believer to clean and mend their nets for the great catch. He wants all of us to be prepared for the harvest. I am a firm believer that God will only give us what we are prepared for. As individuals and as the Body of Christ our nets need to be mended.

The biggest hole in the nets of most Christians that needs to be fixed is found in Psalm 51. Many believers have lost their joy. Their joy needs to be restored. Many things can cause us to lose our joy such as hurts, disappointments, lack of direction, lack of vision or purpose, loss, soured relationships, physical or mental pain, financial struggles and so forth

But the number one reason for losing joy is sin. Sin is the great separator. David knew this. He repented for his sin and offered a broken, humble, and contrite heart to God. Because of his humbleness, humility, and repentance, his joy was restored. When we get that joy of salvation restored and sanctify ourselves, God can use us to teach transgressors his ways.

Do you remember the joy you experienced when you first accepted Christ? You can have it back and never let it go. In His presence is fullness of joy and his joy is our strength.

Let's face it. Even though we are the Lord's vessels, we leak. Even though we've been called to catch men, our nets have gaping holes in them. That's why it's important to mend our nets, fill our cracks, and stay filled with God.

Like David did, we can restore our joy by repentance, and offer our bodies as living sacrifices. To keep this joy, we need our daily dose of the Holy Ghost. We need to pray in the spirit, stay in the word, praise him, worship him, and keep ourselves filled with the power and presence of God. By doing this, we'll stay hooked up to the vine and we'll produce lasting fruit.

CHURCH NEWS

January, 2009 started out with a wonderful addition to our church. Jacob Pacella has come to LWF to minister to our teens. He will be overseeing Rapids Youth Ministry; helping with discipleship and whatever else the Lord has for him to do. Jacob brings an excitement and enthusiasm to see not only teenagers find their purpose, but all ages and all people to find the purpose, as well. We're thankful to the Lord for blessing us with a young man so on fire for Him.

We celebrated the third anniversary of our Grand Opening on Sunday, February 15. Pastor Geno Demarco delivered a timely and prophetic message to our church. He used Joshua 3:5 to exhort the members of LWF to sanctify themselves, because God was going to do wonders among us. He encouraged us in that our tomorrows start today, so we need to begin preparing now. Praise God, one person accepted Christ for the first time and is attending our church and being disciplined. After the service, we enjoyed a pizza lunch at the Findlay Township Community Center.

At the end of March we will have been blessed to be in our current facility for one year. God is good. We are excited about the next several months and look forward to finding our own permanent facility.

MINISTRY UPDATES

Children's Ministry – The Splash Zone - The children are walking their way through the Old Testament. They are being introduced to one person in each book as a role model on how to live their lives and how to live for Jesus. In April and May, the Minor Prophets will be taught ending the journey which also included lessons on Psalms and Proverbs.

The children's ministry staff is to be commended for their dedication and preparation each week. The nursery workers are not only loyal, but extremely experienced. Thank you to the Megahan family for the donation of a cupboard and wooden toy box, to the Kaskalavich's for the toys and to Gary Dragan for the TV set.

Youth Ministry – RAPIDS - Jacob Pacella and Pastor Doug took the teens to the SNOZONE in February. They joined Pastor Harry and Miranda Ankrom and their youth group from the I.C.N.A. Church in Washington, Pa. Everyone had a great time, and the youth are looking forward to more outings. Jacob has been doing an in depth Bible study with the teens every Thursday evening at 7 PM at the church. They have been discussing the topic **reputation**. He also meets with the teens every other Sunday morning after worship.

Missions - The building phases of the Hands of Love soup kitchen in Bolivia have slowed down, mostly because of the economy and lack of funds. However, the feeding of the children and the people themselves remain strong. The HOL board is still looking for someone interested in being house parents for the dormitories. If you are bilingual and interested in this position contact Pastor Gary Locy. You can also visit the project's website for more information and updates. There is a trip planned for Bolivia in July to do minor repairs and ministry. Again, contact Pastor Locy if interested in going. Or contact www.handsofloveonline.com.

Servant Evangelism – February 12, the church passed out 80 hand warmers to some cold people at the Robinson Town Center. It was great to see peoples' reactions to a totally free gift.

Upcoming Events

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| Men's retreat - March 27-28 | APEX – National Youth Retreat – May 22-25 |
| Palm Sunday – April 5 | Adult and teen Bible Study every Thursday – 7pm |
| Easter Sunday – April 12 | Servant Evangelism Outreaches - TBA |
| Women's Retreat – May 15-16 | |

We currently meet at Grace Church.

1192 Brodhead Road
Crescent Twp, PA 15046
Sunday mornings 9:00 AM coffee & fellowship - 9:30 AM service

Our **NEW** email address is
livingwaterfellowship@verizon.net

Come join us!