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# Living Water Fellowship

Fourth Quarter 2009

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**Happy New Year!**

**We pray 2010 will be a year of  
HARVEST & EXPANSION!**



Pastor Doug & Nathalie Dragan

**We're moving!**

**See back for details!**



## RIGHTLY RELATED A message from Pastor Doug Dragan

Relationships can be a huge blessing in our lives, but like anything else worth while, they take a lot of work. Here are five Biblical steps the Lord showed me that will help you control conflicts and keep your relationships strong and fresh.

They are: **RECOGNIZE, REPENT, RECONCILE, RESTORE, and REJOICE.**

We need to first **recognize** where the attack, argument, or dispute in a conflict is coming from. So many times it seems like we are sailing along in our marriages and friendships and all the sudden a little thing gets blown way out of proportion and a huge fight occurs. Why? The devil doesn't like us being happy and blessed, so he'll attack our relationships.

2 Corinthians 2: 5-11 talks about the devil's schemes and how we should be able to recognize them. One of the devil's main schemes, devices, or ways of getting us off track is unforgiveness. I know too many times people want to blame the devil for everything, when we need to take responsibility for our own actions. However, many times these things occur and even when a person knows they are deliberately doing wrong, the enemy is still at work behind the scenes.

Once we recognize that we are not fighting against flesh and blood, we need to **repent** for our part in the conflict. First repent to God then to the other person. Our relationship with God stays fresh when we stay aware of righteousness instead of being conscious of sin. That means when we are thinking about doing right, we won't do wrong. Too many people are so afraid of making a mistake or are constantly thinking about not sinning, they end up sinning. In sports it called "choking." We need to focus on the righteousness of God, not on worrying about messing up. But when we do sin, ask God to forgive you and He will. Then you need to receive the forgiveness, forgive yourself and forgive others. After we ask and receive forgiveness and we forgive the other person, **reconciliation** can begin. (Matthew 5:23) We are all called to the ministry of reconciliation. (2 Cor. 5:17) That is reconciling people to Christ. But why not reconcile to each other as well? Remember that unforgiveness is a huge tool of the devil. It is one of his greatest evil schemes to create disunity in a family or a church. And unforgiveness usually occurs when one person remains prideful about a situation and is not willing to let it go. When we finally **recognize, repent, reconcile** and let these things go, **restoration** can begin to take place. In Galatians 6:1, 2 the word restore means to fit, frame, or mend, or repair completely. We are exhorted to remember our own weaknesses, faults, and idiosyncrasies. What happens is we forget we make mistakes and that we sin, so we begin to judge the other person, instead of helping them be restored. Restoration is towards each other and God. Sometimes when something is restored it can actually be better than its original state. I've watched enough car shows to know how difficult it can be to restore certain cars. Parts are hard to find, and it takes a lot time, money and effort. I believe a relationship that has been fractured, can be restored, and sometimes it can be better that it was before. It will take a lot of time and effort, but it is worth it. The key to this step is to allow the Holy Spirit and the power and love of God to work in each person's heart. He will give you the power and ability to forgive, so restoration and reconciliation can occur. What an awesome testimony you will have when you get through this broken relationship. If we are willing to be obedient to the Lord and take the proper steps in the midst of conflict, we can have a wonderful testimony for others. God doesn't care who's right and who's wrong, He just cares about reconciliation AND restoration. When we can get over past hurts we can **rejoice** because God repaired and restored a broken relationship. Walking in LOVE and FORGIVENESS is a choice. No one can make you hate and no one can make you with hold forgiveness. It doesn't matter who said what or who did what. All that matters is that what we have freely been given, we freely give away. When we can do that, our relationships will never be allowed to get to the breaking point. As much as it lies within YOU, live at peace with everyone.

## CHURCH NEWS

This past year has been one of preparation. God has given us a plan and steps to follow, which we have done faithfully. Our church attendance has remained stable, and the people have grown spiritually. While reflecting on the last four or five years we have been blessed to be a part of 50 first time decisions for Christ and 50 rededications. We have also baptized 20 people, seen several receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and many other lives changed and transformed by the Lord. Our outreaches remain strong. In a 42 month span we held 30 servant evangelism outreaches which touched nearly 10,000 people with God's love. 2010 is going to be a year of harvest and expansion. Because of that, **the church is moving its Sunday morning meetings to Bon Meade Elementary School at 1595 Brodhead Road in Moon Township. Starting February 28<sup>th</sup> with the Winter VBS program, we will be meeting at the school. The following Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, we will meet there every Sunday. Services start at 10am with coffee and fellowship starting at 9:30am.**



RAPIDS Youth Ministry enjoy some ice cream



Veggie Tales Christmas Party



Friend / Steelers Day...here we go!

## MINISTRY UPDATES

**No Walls Ministry**- We continue to serve the homeless and less fortunate once a month in Pittsburgh. In October we were privileged to provide and serve the meal, as well as do the worship and preach the message for 75 people. God blessed us more than we blessed them. Visit [www.nowallspgh.com](http://www.nowallspgh.com) to check out this amazing ministry.

**Children's Ministry**- Our children continue to grow in God's Word. A Veggie Tales Christmas Party was held in December. (See picture above middle)

**RAPIDS Youth Ministry**- The youth are being challenged to think about what they are thinking about in their latest Bible study using "**Battlefield of the Mind**" by Joyce Meyer. Several of our teens attended the district youth retreat in Youngstown, OH. They were taught by various ministries as they sought to strengthen their walks with the Lord. They also had a skating party at the Ice-oplex, a Thanksgiving feast after Bible study and a game night at the Dragan's. (See picture above left)

**Military Outreach / Servant Evangelism** – Our first two **Servolution** outreaches took place in November. We had the opportunity to make meals for a needy couple who do not attend LWF. Also, a new **Army recruit** was helped with a hotel room and finances to get through a tough time. God encourages us all to help, "whoever, whenever, where ever, and whatever."

**PRAISE REPORTS!** We held our Friend Day/Steelers Day in November. A dozen friends visited the church. Almost everyone wore Steelers related outfits and two fortunate friends received authentic Steelers jerseys just for coming to church. We enjoyed a great time of fellowship, eating lunch, and watching the Steelers game together. But the best thing that happened was one person accepted Christ and another gave their heart back to Him. Even though the Steelers didn't win, the Kingdom of God did! (See picture above right)

*Beginning Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>, with our Winter VBS program, we will be meeting at our new location, Bon Meade Elementary School. The school is located at 1595 Brodhead Rd, Moon Twp!*

*Join us there every Sunday, starting March 7<sup>th</sup> at 10am. Coffee & fellowship start at 9:30am*

## Upcoming Events

Winter Vacation Bible School – Every Saturday in February at Grace Church  
**The program will be held at our new location, Bon Meade Elementary School, on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> at 10 am.**

Outreach to the homeless **No Walls Ministry** – fourth Saturday of every month

Servant Evangelism Outreaches - TBA

## We currently meet at Grace Church

1192 Brodhead Road  
Crescent Twp, PA 15046

Sunday mornings 9:00 AM coffee & fellowship - 9:30 AM service