



LWF

LIVING WATER FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

SECOND QUARTER

APRIL / MAY / JUNE 2008

PO BOX 522 MOON TWP, PA 15108

PH: 724-513-8805 WWW.LWF-CHURCH.ORG

LIVINGWATERFELLOWSHIP@COMCAST.NET

WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD? A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DOUG DRAGAN

Upcoming Events at LWF:

July 12 - LWF's Annual 'Totally Free Car Wash'

July 13 - Morning Service-Mission Emphasis Sunday

Pastor Doug and Pastor Gary will be sharing the vision of missions and the work going on in Bolivia.

Evening Service -Water Baptism at West Hills Community Church at 6:30 P.M. There will be a reception immediately following.

July 20 - FUN Night. FUN stands for Families United Now. This is a way for us to promote unity and fellowship in the body through fun and games. This night is for adults 18 years of age and up. (Sorry, no childcare provided.)

July 27 - Youth Service with special guest speaker, Jacob Pacella.

August 10 - Fellowship dinner

August 24 - Youth Service

September 14 - LWF Church Picnic - 12:30 PM at Hopewell Park

Come join us!

9:00 A. M. Coffee & Fellowship

9:30 A.M. Service time

Meeting at Grace Church

1192 Brodhead Rd.

Crescent Twp, PA 15046

Before we look at what the Kingdom of God is, Let's look at what it is not.

Romans 14 shows us a great illustration of the freedom we have in Christ. Paul talks about "disputable matters" in the church and in the lives of every believer. These disputable matters are differences we all have in our own opinions.

Even in the best churches, not everyone agrees on everything.

Differences should not be feared or avoided, but accepted and handled in love.

Any differences of opinion we have should be shared, accepted, listened to and respected. That way they can become a great source of learning and create richness in our relationships.

Paul talks extensively about eating certain foods and observing certain holidays. As a "Hebrew of Hebrews," he knew all the laws and customs of the Jewish faith. But he was set free from the law when he accepted Christ. But, he says, we shouldn't condemn one another or judge one another, because we eat certain foods or abstain from certain foods, or because we observe certain holidays, or we don't. In verse 12 he says we will all give an account to Christ for ourselves. When we stand

before the judgment seat of Christ, we'll be there alone.

Don't get me wrong. The church, and by the church I mean the people, must be uncompromising in our stand against activities that are expressly forbidden in scripture (adultery, fornication, murder, lying, theft, homosexuality, etc.). We should not create additional rules and regulations and give them equal status with scriptures. It's not about personal opinions or our own likes and dislikes. It's about the Word of God.

Holiness to the Lord is not about the clothes we wear or the food we eat. It's about obeying the Lord.

When we have personal convictions about things not spelled out in the Bible, it's unfair for us to try to put our convictions on others.

My kids never went trick or treating. It was a choice Nathalie and I made. It was between us and the Lord. If other Christian parents didn't see anything wrong with it, that was their prerogative. Paul says in Romans 14 not to judge each other in these "disputable matters".

That's what the Kingdom of God is not. It's not about eating and drinking and certain special days.

It's about righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

If we would concentrate on pursuing these things instead of a bunch of do's and don'ts and quit judging each other so much, the Kingdom of God would grow exponentially.

As long as our purpose is the same (souls saved, disciples made, lives changed and transformed by God) it shouldn't matter how we get to the goal.

God is into love. Love Him first, then your neighbor as yourself and you'll see His Kingdom come!

Bolivia Mission Trip

The Hands of Love board, which Pastor Doug and Pastor Gary are a part of, have decided to cancel the team trip this August. The main reason the team trip was canceled was the lack of funds. There is actually a shortage of a few thousand dollars to finish last year's work. Things still needed to buy are: light bulbs - \$50, sinks - 6 @ \$30, toilets - 6 @ \$50, tiles - 50 boxes @ \$10 per box, fixtures - 6 @ \$20 as well as labor costs.

However, Pastor Doug and Pastor Gary will still be going to Bolivia. While there, they will be doing some minor repairs to the soup kitchen and the dormitory. They will also be ministering to the children. Most importantly, they will be installing a new pastor at Iglesia Agua Viva (Church of The Living Water) in Comarapa.

(Continued on the back)



Radically. Advancing. People. In.
Divine. Service.

From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it. Matthew 11:12

Everything has a purpose.

THIS IS OURS...

...to reach teens in Moon Township and the surrounding areas with the Gospel of Jesus Christ

...to help teens find purpose and direction in life through relevant preaching, praise & worship, and fun, Godly activities

...to provide outlets for teens to use their God-given talents for His glory, as well as to help others.

The Three Fold Cord of Youth Ministry

Recently Pastor Doug shared his vision for LWF's Youth Ministry, RAPIDS. Sharing from Ecc. 4:9-12, He said there are three strands of youth ministry, and all are equally important.

RAPIDS Youth Ministry was started in the fall of 2006 at a coffee shop in Moon. From there we moved to Eat-n-Park in Robinson and eventually moved to Pastor Doug and Nathalie's house. Anywhere from 4 to 8 teens would meet for a Bible study, games, food and fellowship. Last summer Pastor Doug and Nathalie began teaching the youth every other Sunday morning at the Embassy Hotel. The youth were growing spiritually as well as numerically. Currently we have 20 youth attending LWF.

This past April at our new facility, Grace Church, we held our very first youth service. David DeMarco ministered in song and the Word of God. Eight teens accepted Christ and several more rededicated their lives to

Him. That was followed up with another service in June lead by Pastor Mark DiFrancesca.

The Lord began dealing with Pastor Doug about RAPIDS after that service. The Lord gently spoke to his heart to become the youth pastor until he sends the right person to be the youth pastor at LWF. Reluctant at first, Pastor Doug realized that he had been waiting for God to "do something" with the youth ministry, when God had been waiting on him. Pastor Doug began sharing the vision and the plan for the youth ministry.

He first told the teens he's there for them - that he didn't want them to feel neglected and if they ever need him they can call, email or text him.

He encouraged the parents to not only help out, but also get their youth to church and the various functions and activities - that it all starts at home.

Finally, he encouraged the body to be the third strand in the three fold cord. He asked them to prayerfully consider being a part of the youth ministry team. Whether it is simply praying for the youth, chaperoning events, or teaching them on Sunday mornings, everyone's help is needed.

The plan was simple. Re-institute the Sunday morning meetings for grades 6-12, continue the once a month youth services, continue sending teens to The Next Level District Retreat, Church Camp and the national youth retreat, APEX, and to add several fun activities and special community service projects.

Malachi 4:6 says that God will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of their children to their fathers. God is blessing LWF with many youth and it is Pastor Doug's vision to minister to them in such a way that they become world-changers for the Lord, Jesus Christ.

Highlights

The last three months of LWF have been awesome! God is so good! March 30 was our first service in our new location. God continues to send us wonderful people and the church is growing.

The Holy Spirit continues to move in our services as well. Souls are being saved, disciples are being made and lives are being changed and transformed by the Lord. April saw LWF and RAPIDS Youth Ministry hold their first youth service. Seventy-five youth and adults attended an evening of dynamic praise and worship and challenging words from David DeMarco. Eight teens accepted Christ and several more gave their hearts back to the Lord.

May began with a bang. We held our "Don't Miss the Boat" Friend Day. Over 100 people attended with 25 visitors hearing a message about "not missing the boat" by Pastor Doug. Several people got saved and gave their hearts back to the Lord. There was also a word of knowledge about suicide that the Lord gave to Pastor Doug. Three people responded and were delivered from suicidal thoughts. God is awesome!

The following week LWF participated in its annual water distribution at the Wings Over Pittsburgh Air Show. Forty people helped pass out 1,700 bottles of water, doubling last year's total. Over 2,000 people experienced God's free gift of love.

On May 17th, LWF was invited to a "meet and greet" with Grace Lutheran Church. We all had a fun time getting to know one another.

Sunday, May 18, we held our first evening service.

Tuesday, May 20, Pastor Doug had the privilege of being a guest on the John and Stephanie radio program on WORD FM. They discussed what an externally

focused church is and the importance of churches getting out into the community to share and show God's love.

May also was a time that members of LWF helped the members of Grace Church do their annual spring cleaning of the church facility.

By the time June rolled around we had ironed out many of the wrinkles of meeting at the new location.

The evening of June 8 LWF had a fellowship dinner. Afterwards the youth and adults broke out into groups and brainstormed ideas for ministries and activities for our church. Many great things came from that night.

Every Monday at 7 P.M. Pastor Doug has been leading a Bible study at the church. The New Beginnings Bible Study is a detailed, in-depth study of the Christian life. It is for anyone who wants to grow in their faith and have the confidence to share their faith with others.

June 14, Flag Day, members of LWF passed out 200 American flags with cards encouraging people to pray for our troops. God was faithful and held off the rain until just moments after the last flag was handed out.

Sunday, June 22, Pastor Mark DiFrancesca blessed the church with a timely message on hearing God's voice. He then ministered to our teens that evening.

Please continue to pray that LWF is effective in winning the lost, reclaiming the backslidden and encouraging the de-churched.

Bolivia Mission Trip (continued)

Pastor Doug and Pastor Gary are in need of about \$1,700 each for their trip. If you can help in both areas (the project or trip expenses) please send your tax-deductible gift to LWF at PO Box 522; Moon Twp, PA 15108.