

March 2014

Volume VII
Issue 3

Perspective

the journal of mount
vernon baptist church

Perspective is a monthly journal with articles and book reviews. It is part of the “equipping” ministry of Mount Vernon Baptist Church, where we exist to KNOW, EQUIP, and SEND one another for the worship and glory of God.

SERMON SCHEDULE

March 2

The Night Has Come

John 13:21–30

March 9

The Lion, the Lamb, and the World

Revelation 5

Guest Preacher: Danny Akin

March 16

The Command of a Lifetime

John 13:31–38

March 23

The Renewed Mind

Ephesians 4:17–24

Guest Preacher: Doug Young

March 30

Head Over Heels

Song of Songs 1:1–2:17

For a full list of past sermons,
visit www.mvbchurch.org.

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For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Galatians 5:13–14 (ESV)

Making Disciples, One at a Time

Aaron Menikoff

OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, I've devoted several *Perspective* articles to the topic of discipleship. In October of 2013, I argued for the centrality of church membership to our personal discipleship. I wrote about how we are called to know, equip, and send one another in October of 2011. In July of 2010, I warned against the danger of lone-ranger Christianity. I asked the question, "Who will you disciple?" in April of 2010. I explored the topic of friendship in September and October of 2009.

The reason I've devoted so many words to discipleship is because Christians must care about making disciples. Jesus teaches that the Great Commission includes helping others grow in their knowledge of and obedience to Christ: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:19-20). We are to help others submit and live according to the gospel. Like Jesus, the apostle Paul did more than preach, he shared his life with others so that they would live out the gospel: "So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us" (1 Thess. 1:8).

In order to faithfully follow Jesus we must regularly invest in each other's lives. The main way we do this is by gathering together as one church. What we know for certain is that post-resurrection believers met for teaching, fellowship, the Lord's Supper and prayer (Acts 1:42). The early church didn't just model this practice, the Spirit commanded it: "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near" (Heb 10:24-25). In short, by historical example and divine command, our weekly service is the God-ordained and primary way we encourage one another in the faith.

But it's safe to assume that the earliest believers found ways to share life together beyond gathering to hear the preached Word. We need to admit that we don't know exactly what this looked like. We know they didn't hang out at Starbucks. They undoubtedly encouraged one another as they celebrated the Lord's Supper. Some

believers likely worked together. Many would have opened up their homes as places of refuge in a world where persecution was real and violent. In short, Paul and others found ways to share not only the gospel with each other, but their whole lives as well.

Before I move on, ask yourself the question, "How do I encourage other believers?" Gordon Cheng, author of *Encouragement: How Words Change Lives*, explained that encouragement is not flattery; it's lovingly and urgently applying the words of Scripture to another person's life to help them grow in Christ. Cheng put it this way: "Christian encouragement is speaking the truth in love, with the aim of building Christians up in Christ-likeness, as we wait for the day of judgment." So again, how do you encourage other believers? This is God's design for disciple making. Have you prioritized time in your life to give other believers biblical, Christian encouragement? If you haven't, you should.

At Mount Vernon we put a lot of effort into organizing what we call Covenant Groups—small groups for church members. In these meetings of roughly 10-12, individuals study Scripture, pray, and generally hearten one another in Christ. My hope is that because of these intentional, smaller-group gatherings, friendships will form, needs will be met, evangelism will be encouraged, and saints will grow in Christ. The goal is disciple making, and nearly one-third of Mount Vernon is in one of these groups. Praise God!

But small groups are just one tool in our discipleship toolbox. A small group is a really useful way to develop the kind of relationships that God uses to mature us in the faith, but there are other tools. A one-to-one discipling relationship is another tool. Some people call it mentoring. It's when a relatively more mature believer meets regularly with another brother or sister to offer (and receive) Christian encouragement. Whatever you call it, the goal is to push each other to grow in godliness. In this article, I want to talk about one-to-one ministry. What I'm going to say will also apply to groups of three or four, but I'm going to refer to one-to-one meetings throughout.

Even if you are in a small group, I think you'll find this article helpful. Small groups benefit when participants

take an occasional moment to link up for a one-to-one meeting. Orlando Saer, in *Iron Sharpens Iron*, encouraged small group leaders to make time for these kinds of meetings:

As a small group leader, you will likely have both the experience and the credibility to nurture individual members of your group in their personal discipleship through meeting one-to-one with them. The initiative for meeting might come from them or from you. The meeting might be on a *one-off* or *ad hoc* basis – perhaps exploring in more depth an issue they struggled with in the context of the small group but which was impossible or inappropriate to deal with there.

So whether you are in a small group or not, a one-to-one discipling meeting can be really useful. In this article, I want to answer three questions about these one-to-one meetings. I pray that my answers encourage you to find ways to share your life with other believers. First, why enter into a 1-1 discipling relationship? Second, what would it look like? Third, what pitfalls should be avoided?

Why enter into a one-to-one discipling relationship?

1. *It's a convenient way to invest in a brother or sister in Christ.* Obviously, this is a purely pragmatic reason, but let's face it: schedules can be hard to coordinate, and it's easier to sync two people's calendars than twelve. Convenience shouldn't be the motivating factor in ministry. But it's not bad thing to look at your responsibilities (work, family, church-wide ministry, exercise, etc.) and recognize the need to be wise in how you fold others into your life. By the way, it's worth noting that you can fold other people into your life *while* accomplishing something else. Most of my discipling relationships take place over a meal—when I'd be eating anyway.

2. *It's usually more personal, at least immediately.* When it's just two people talking, the conversation tends to get deeper faster. A small group gathering can certainly foster intimacy as well. But that kind of transparency usually takes weeks to build, whereas someone is likely to open up a lot quicker in a one-to-one setting.

3. *It's harder to hide.* Even if someone wants to hide, it's more difficult in a one-to-one meeting. As I'll mention below, it's always possible to keep your guard up. Nonetheless, one of the benefits of a one-to-one discipling relationship is the way you will be directly challenged with specific and personal questions about how you are doing spiritually, how you are growing, and where you are struggling.

4. *It's modeled in Scripture.* There is evidence for one-to-one meetings in the New Testament. You see it in the relationship that Paul had with Timothy and with Titus. Paul called Timothy “my true child in the faith” (1 Tim. 1:2) and Titus, “my true child in a common faith” (Titus 1:4). While they worked and traveled Paul spent individual, quality time with each of them. Paul charged Timothy to pass along the gospel “to faithful men who will be able to teach others also” (2 Tim. 2:2). How did Paul pass along the gospel to Timothy? It seems more than likely that Paul spent one-to-one time with him.

5. *It's a way to attack sin.* Heath Lambert, in his excellent book, *Finally Free*, speaks about the importance of accountability in fighting sin. A good one-to-one relationship is a way to pursue holiness. Lambert writes:

[Y]ou need to find someone who understands that the commitment to accountability is more than simply the commitment to meet regularly. They must be willing to take time through the week to pray for you, call you, answer your calls, and check up on you. The calling to be a spiritual person who restores another caught in sin is a high and holy calling that requires time.

In short, a one-to-one meeting can provide the platform for this kind of personal accountability. We all need people in our lives to challenge us. Remember, that's what biblical encouragement is: “Christian encouragement is speaking the truth in love, with the aim of building Christians up in Christ-likeness, as we wait for the day of judgment.” If you don't have a relationship like this, you should find one.

What would a one-to-one discipling relationship look like?

Part of me doesn't want to answer this question. There's no one-size-fits all policy. The answer is going to depend a lot on how you are wired, your stage in life, and your schedule. Not only that, but if you are a parent, much (or all) of your one-to-one time may be spent with your kids. Still, there are a few factors that I think fit every one-to-one relationship, no matter how it takes shape.

1. *Consistency.* Years ago, someone described (albeit awkwardly) what to look for in a Christian who wants to be disciplined. That man or woman needs to be F.A.T., that is, faithful, available, and teachable. Consistency gets to the issue of being faithful and available. Regardless of how often you meet up—be it once a week, twice a month, or even once a month—those times need to be protected. It's amazing to see how the Lord works through even a few, regular, gospel-centered meetings.

I try to schedule my one-to-one meetings in advance. I value those times. Sometimes things come up, life happens. But my goal is for the brother I'm meeting with to understand that he is important to me. I do all I can to consistently keep the commitment I've made to meet with him.

2. *Honesty.* I had a friend who was in a discipling relationship for many months. They talked together, prayed together, and generally lived life together. That whole time, the man he met with hid the fact that he was struggling with homosexuality. He never spoke about it, and the truth didn't come out until he'd left his wife and children to live in an open, same-sex relationship. There was consistency but little honesty.

A one-to-one discipling relationship without honesty is a like a car without gas—it might look good on the outside, but it's going nowhere. Tim Chester in his book, *You Can Change*, describes the danger of secrecy:

Some sins thrive on secrecy. They include sins of escape—things we do when we're feeling under pressure, such as sexual fantasies, pornography, compulsive eating, and addictions. They include sins of the mind—things such as bitterness, envy, jealousy, and complaining. We can become very adept at hiding them, but hiding them feeds them. You feel bad about yourself, so you eat compulsively. You eat compulsively, so you feel bad about yourself. You feel unable to cope with life, so you become a hero in computer games. But your addiction makes the real world seem even harder. The fear of exposure means you withdraw from the Christian community or learn to pretend.

I trust you can see why honesty is so important. To encourage honesty at MVBC, I try to regularly communicate that the church should be a safe place for sinners and a dangerous place for sin. Sinners should know that God is gracious and merciful—and they should see that grace displayed in the words of God's children. As we bring our sin into the light, sin should be challenged and put to death. All this requires honesty.

3. *Intentionality.* As I mentioned above, most of my "official" one-to-one discipling takes place during my lunch hour. That's valuable time with others that I really look forward to. But I strive to be deliberate beyond the lunch hour as well. I try to fold men into my life throughout the week. This requires intentionality.

This may be the most important lesson I've learned about one-to-one discipling over the years. It requires taking the

relationship beyond a lunch meeting every other week. Sharing life includes, but can't be limited to, sharing a meal.

What does this mean, practically, for the person or people you meet with? You should do your best to keep track of what's going on in their lives. Stay in touch throughout the week via phone, email, or text. Where appropriate, invite them and their families into your home. Have them over for dinner, to play a game, or watch a movie. Because this kind of an imposition affects my whole family, I usually talk with my wife before I commit to meeting with someone regularly. I know that decision may lead to increased hospitality from her, and I want to make sure there's enough of a margin in our lives to allow for it. Not only that, I want to make sure she's comfortable spending time with this person, too.

It might sound like being intentional means spending hours and hours outside of that lunch meeting. But it really doesn't amount to that. It simply means being thoughtful about including this person in your thoughts and in your plans. There may be seasons where you can't do much more than be faithful to your regular meeting. But being intentional includes taking advantage of opportunities to fold that person into your life.

4. *Prayer.* We ought to be praying for our brothers and sisters in Christ, and how much more for those the Lord has called us to uniquely invest in. Paul prayed earnestly for his brothers and sisters in Ephesus, "I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him" (Eph. 1:16-17).

I strive to pray with and pray for the brothers I meet with regularly, and their families. I trust that whatever good I may be in their life, they don't ultimately need me to work for them; they need God. So I want to be on the front lines, praying for the Holy Spirit to encourage and sanctify them.

5. *Love.* Finally, every one-to-one discipling relationship ought to be marked by love. "If I speak in the tongues of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal" (1 Cor. 13:1). We can be dutifully consistent, honest, intentional, and even prayerful—but without love it will do us no good and, eventually, our lack of love will show.

People are wonderful gifts from God to us. We should see them that way. We should long to get to know them better, figure out how to encourage them, and labor to

seem them grow. Gospel love should motivate us. We've seen the Lord be so generous to us in Christ, we should strive to show others the same kind of loving generosity.

If you want to make the kind of investment in others that one-to-one discipling calls for, you really need to love people. You need to see it as your calling in life to encourage others in the faith. The ghost of Jacob Marley was right when he bemoaned neglecting people: "Mankind was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence, were all, my business. The deals of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business!" Love people, and make them your business.

What pitfalls should be avoided in a one-to-one discipling relationship?

No one, except Jesus, is a perfect disciple-maker. We will all make mistakes. As you strive to invest in others, recognize that there are some common pitfalls to avoid. This list is certainly not exhaustive, but it's a start. I pray these warnings are helpful to you in the journey of making disciples.

1. Defining Christianity more by what you get than what you give (or vice versa). Most discipling relationships (and, I think the best ones) include someone who is more spiritually mature. There is always a temptation to pride, "Look what I have to give!" If you are the more mature party in the discipling relationship, you may be prone to forget that you've not arrived, you've a long way to go, and you need to make sure that you are humbling yourself before others, being honest, and getting the encouragement you need to grow in grace.

Maybe you are more on the receiving end of a discipling relationship. That's a good thing. But don't get into the habit of always getting. Look for ways to give back. Offer a word of encouragement and thanks to the person who's agreed to meet with you. Look around yourself and see if there's a younger brother or sister that you can spend time with. Find ways to serve.

2. Focusing so much on the agenda you neglect the person. It's good to have a plan, an outline of what you are going to do when you meet together and what you want to accomplish. But your outline is simply a means to an end—Christian encouragement. Feel free to diverge from the agenda. If the conversation is fruitful, let it flow. And remember, it's okay to get together simply for fun.

3. Becoming overly dependent upon one person. Ultimately, we should look to Christ for guidance. He is our light and our hope and our salvation. But God has given us the

church, too, and we should find encouragement from other brothers and sisters in Christ. But don't limit this encouragement to one person. Pray for a handful of individuals who know you well enough to speak into your life. The person you meet with most regularly may know you the best, but don't let this person be the only one to know you.

4. Allowing a one-to-one meeting to replace your active involvement in the church as a whole. As I already pointed out, by example and command we are called to gather together as one church. If you have to choose between a small group and the church gathering or a one-to-one meeting and the church gathering, always choose to gather as the church. God's Spirit uses these large group gatherings to instruct and encourage, to challenge and comfort. Make them your first discipleship priority.

5. Neglecting your family for a one-to-one meeting. Take to heart the words of Paul to Timothy in 1 Timothy 5:8, "But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." Paul is referring to material provision here. We have a special responsibility to care for our families. But if this is true materially, isn't it true spiritually?

Husbands, don't spend time discipling young men in the church while your wife is withering on the vine. Fathers, give yourself to your children before you invest in others. You need to provide for your immediate family the spiritual instruction and encouragement that they need to understand the gospel and grow in grace. Mothers, it's a wonderful thing to grab a cup of a coffee for a spiritually encouraging conversation with a friend. But are you having intentional, gospel-centered conversations with your children? Pour first into them.

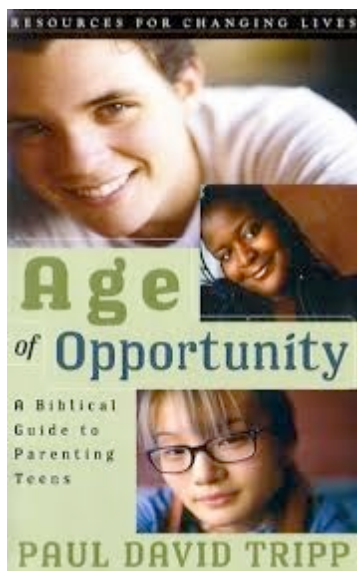
6. Committing with no end in sight. You should agree to meet for a certain period of time and then re-evaluate. Friendship is forever (Prov. 17:17) but a one-to-one discipling relationship is for a season. Because I usually read a book with a brother, I take it one book at a time. Then we decide whether we want to keep meeting, take a break, or simply stop altogether. Sometimes his or my schedule just doesn't allow us to continue. Or we may simply need to devote more attention to our families or to others in the church. Of course, ending a one-to-one discipling relationship doesn't mean the relationship has to end. You may still get together infrequently for prayer and encouragement. It's important to be faithful while you are meeting and willing to stop when the time is right.

Conclusion

I mentioned just a moment ago that friendship is forever but a one-to-one discipling relationship is for a season. However, let's not forget that most every friendship is built on a commitment to get to know, serve, challenge, and love another brother or sister in Christ. Sadly, as Michael Haykin noted, this kind of befriending is too often absent today:

Our culture is not one that provides great encouragement for the nurture and development of deep, long lasting, satisfying friendships. Such friendships take time and sacrifice, and western culture in the early twenty-first century is a busy, busy world that as a rule is far more interested in receiving and possessing than in sacrificing and giving.

My Christian brothers and sisters, please don't give up pouring into the lives of others, even if you feel like you don't get much in return. Just think about how Jesus gave himself up for us even when we rejected him. This same kind of Christ-like love and mercy should mark us. And if this whole idea of discipling others still seems strange to you, pray for wisdom from God how to begin. It's certainly time consuming and even a little messy, but it's a tremendous joy to be used by God to help another brother or sister grow in grace.



Book Review

Age of Opportunity: A Biblical Guide to Parenting Teens

By Paul David Tripp

Reviewed by Larry & Shirley Chandler

PAUL DAVID TRIPP DESCRIBES PARENTING as a high and holy calling. His book, *Age of Opportunity: A Biblical Guide to Parenting Teens*, deals specifically with the years of parenting that many people

unnecessarily dread and fear – the teenaged years. This last phase before launching our children out into the world is a genuinely critical one. To this end, Tripp's book contains great wisdom. It is a tool that will encourage and challenge you along the sometimes arduous parenting journey. We would agree with the author that it is a lofty calling – one for which we must be personally prepared. Tripp offers insight into the spiritual formation of teens and the role that God has designed for their parents.

We both read this book and agreed on what we thought were its strongest points. Two things stood out. First, Tripp consistently brings the reader back to the foundational questions: What about your own heart, mom or dad? How is your own relationship with Christ? What sins are standing in the way of your ability to parent effectively? Any parenting issue or question must first be approached by looking at ourselves before we can lead our children.

The other thing that struck us was Tripp's insistence that the goal of parenting is not the regulation of behavior, but the formation of a heart that is soft and receptive to the saving grace of Christ, ultimately submitting fully to his ownership. After all, what else really matters?

The first section, "Clearing the Debris," is Tripp's introduction into the vast arena of parenting your teen. He calls the reader to look, without fear, beyond just "surviving" the teenaged years to embracing the truth that these years are an "unprecedented opportunity" to both "reap the all the seeds you have sown" in your child's life and to be a minister of the gospel daily (19). The reader is motivated to look for every day, mundane moments to seize wherein God might be generous to use the parent to

draw, love, and teach the teenager. He cautions his reader that no man or woman is adequate to do this job; we simply don't have what it takes. But our hope is in Christ who is our wisdom and strength.

Tripp uses many personal and honest examples from his own family. He writes of an occasion when he was exhausted and one of his sons was in the mood to unload about a seemingly trivial matter. He calls it "an unexpected moment of opportunity, one of those mundane moments ordained by a loving and sovereign God where the heart of [his] teenager was exposed... A dynamic moment of redemption where God was continuing the work of rescue he had begun years ago in [his] son" (21). Tripp adds that God showed him the sin of selfishness in his own heart as he reacted to his son. A poignant picture: both parent and child, entangled in an ordinary moment, have the same need for God's transforming grace.

Tripp continues his look at the parent's heart and asks about the idols in our lives. In the context of our child-centered culture (think sports, good grades, bumper stickers), Tripp reminds us that our identities are not in our talented, good-looking children, but in Christ. We appreciated this warning – the temptation to idolize our children at any age is very real.

Before this introductory section ends, Tripp emphasizes that parents are to "biblically understand" their teens' hearts and struggles and are to respond to their children with "gospel hope" (268). Families must "daily imbed the story of [their] teenager into the larger story of God" (59). This does not mean sprinkling in the occasional Bible verse or rote prayer, but rather knowing the full counsel of Scripture and living it out in practical and instructive ways. Note to dads from Larry: This is primarily *your* job!

The middle section, "Setting Godly Goals," encourages parents to be more like pastors than police officers in their children's lives. Too often the bulk of a parent's time is spent "regulating" their teen's behavior rather than lovingly, gently shepherding their heart (110). Readers see that only God can produce heart change in a teen.

Parents who intentionally and prayerfully “befriend, probe, examine and engage” their teenagers will be “instruments in the restorative hands” of the “great Changer of Hearts” (112).

Ultimately, every parent’s goal is to send a spiritually mature young adult out into the world. Tripp’s advice to understand this goal when children are young and to apply the same principles to ourselves is clear, helpful, and convicting.

The last section of the book presents “Practical Strategies for Parenting Teens.” Tripp’s lists, steps, and strategies are worthwhile but may seem a little overwhelming. For this reason, we commend that he always returns to the core principles from previous chapters. These principles are memorable and resonate in the mind of the parent who desires to honor God. Throughout this last section, we are reminded that godly parents will daily pursue their teenagers, serve as “walls of protection” for them and see themselves as God’s “ambassadors of reconciliation” (226-227). Tripp does not leave us without welcome comfort for the discouraged parent: remember that “God is at work in every situation” because he is sovereign, and that “trial is one of the main tools God uses to mature and complete us” (243).

We would wholeheartedly recommend that Christian parents read *Age of Opportunity* – ideally before their children are teenagers and as a couple or with a believing friend. It reminds us of the power of the gospel to transform not only the lives of our children but our lives too. There is so much at stake during the time we are preparing our kids to leave our homes. Start early, but know that it is never too late. Then trustfully rest. The unspeakable joy of seeing fruit in the life of your child living away from home will be worth everything!

Knowing & Being Known

SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

CHURCH-WIDE

Sunday, March 2 **9:15 am** *Knowing MVBC: Session 1*
 12:00 pm *Knowing MVBC: Sessions 2–4*

Knowing MVBC is a 4-part course introducing you to life at Mount Vernon in which you will learn our commitments and beliefs as stated in our Church Covenant and Statement of Faith in addition to our leadership and how to be involved. This class is a requirement for membership. Childcare is available upon request. Contact Brad Thayer to RSVP.

Sunday, March 2 **5:30 pm** **Specially-called Church in Conference**

This specially-called Church in Conference will be a time to vote on the elder nominations that were made at the January 26 Church in Conference. For any questions or comments about any of the nominations, please speak to any of the elders.

Sunday, March 2 **6:00 pm** **Lord's Supper**

We encourage members to examine their hearts and relationships with one another in preparation for this celebration of Christ's death and resurrection.

Sunday, March 9 **Daylight Savings Begins**

Daylight savings begins Sunday, March 9. Be sure to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night.

Monday, March 10 **9:00 am** **Feed My Sheep**

Feed My Sheep is a one-day conference organized for pastors and church leaders in the greater metro Atlanta area. Speakers include Danny Akin, John Onwuchekwa, and Aaron Menikoff. The cost is \$30 per person which includes a free resource and lunch. For more information or to register, visit www.mvbchurch.org/feed-my-sheep.

Sunday, March 30 **4:30 pm** **Church in Conference**

All members are invited to our regular Church in Conference as we'll consider many matters related to the life of the church.

ADULTS

Wednesday, March 12 **6:30 pm** **New Equipping Matters Begins**

The two new Equipping Matters classes will be a class on Systematic Theology and Personal Evangelism. All are invited to attend.

Monday, March 17 **12:00 pm** **RW&A Luncheon**

Everyone ages 50 and older are invited to a time of food and fellowship in the fellowship hall. Please bring one side dish.

Tuesday, March 25 **6:30 pm** **Financial Peace University**

As Christians, God has called us to be faithful stewards of all the good things he's given us, including our finances. This 9-week class, open to MVBC members and regular attendees on Tuesday nights, provides hands-on, specific instruction for your financial situation. The cost is \$100 and includes a workbook and budgeting tools. RSVP to Bill Luck by March 21.

continued on next page...

SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED)

FAMILY

Friday, March 14 – Saturday, March 15

Youth Renown Conference

The youth will be attending the Renown Conference in Louisville, KY. Contact Doug Young with questions.

Sunday, March 16 12:15 pm

“So You Want to Teach Kids”

If you have never taught children but think that you may be interested in teaching them, you are invited to this orientation, which will help you understand the vision of our children's ministry, equip you to be involved, and answer any questions. RSVP Doug Young.

Friday, March 21 6:30 pm

Youth Friday Night Fellowship

All youth, family, and friends are invited for a night of fun and fellowship with other youth and family. Contact Doug Young for details about location.

MISSIONS

Wednesday, March 5 7:45 pm

Sandy Springs VBS Orientation

We will hold a short informational meeting in preparation for the Sandy Springs VBS taking place the following weekend for all those interested in being involved.

Saturday, March 8 10:00 am

1-Day Sandy Springs VBS

We are planning a one-day VBS for the community at the Southern Trace Apartments in Sandy Springs. This is modeled after the VBS run by the Dominican Republic Team, using the *Jesus Storybook Bible*. This will be a pilot run in preparation for a three-day VBS this Summer. We would love to have families and individuals join us to be the presence of Christ for these kids, many of whom have never heard the gospel. Contact Bryan Pillsbury if you are interested in participating.

Sunday, March 16 4:30 pm

Good Friday Outreach Info Meeting

There will be an informational meeting in room 232 for all those wanting to be a part of our Good Friday evangelistic service to the Latino community taking place on April 18.

Monday, March 17 – Thursday, March 27

Central Asia Mission Trip

Lord willing, Mount Vernon will be sending a team to the Middle East and parts of central Asia to meet with and encourage some of our missions partnerships.

Saturday, March 29 11:00 am

7 Bridges to Recovery Trip

The family ministry will be sponsoring a trip for any who would like to minister to abused mothers and children at 7 Bridges to Recovery in Smyrna. For more information and to RSVP, contact Doug Young.

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Jocelyn Davis
 Diane Hughes
 Brad Thayer
- 3 Bethany Nguyen
- 4 Steve Chamblee
 Joy Sullivan
 Carol Thurman
- 5 Terry Earl
- 6 Joy Derrer
 Jaime Fulcher
 Johnny Hall
 Mary Turner
- 8 Frank Louthan
 Ferrell Ryan
- 9 Scott Sullivan
- 10 Erin Nable
- 13 Alice Nelson
- 14 Julie Metry
- 16 Anne Goodgame
- 17 Becky Luttrell
- 20 Jesse Brannen
- 21 Lisa Timmons
- 22 Dee Carter
 Keith Cooper
- 23 Dianne Hoover
 John Pattillo
 Mary Robinson
- 25 Bob Linker
- 26 Everett Hodge
 Anne Nable
 Anita Shipley
- 28 Anthony DiPrima
 Donna Reid
 Lois Shank
- 30 Georgiana Branan
- 31 John Anderson



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