



Tallowood Baptist Church
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MUSIC NOTES

“Revive Us Again”

Nothing speaks to the soul quite like music.

Whether you prefer to worship in the traditional style with the classic hymns of the faith and the unforgettable majesty of choral anthems, or if you prefer the more contemporary sounds of worship, the songs we sing go far beyond the notes and words on a page or on the screen. Many of the great songs we sing have a history, a story which transcends the limitations of time, speaking to generations past, present and future.

In the 19th century, a Scottish medical doctor named W.P. Mackay encountered a man who had fallen off a ladder, severely injuring himself to the point of death. Restoring the man to full health was hopeless; all he could do was ease his pain. The injured man understood his condition, and as the life slowly ebbed out of his body, he made one request: “*Bring me The Book.*” Mackay immediately went to the man’s home, and with the help of his landlady, found The Book that the injured man had requested.

After a week of suffering, the man died, and everything of value he had was now in Mackay’s possession. Mackay took The Book, and scrutinizing it more closely, he realized it was the Bible his mother had given him when he was old enough to leave home, the Bible he had quickly sold for a small amount of money when his finances became painfully tight. His name was still on the front page, with the Scripture verse his mother had selected for him. A non-believer to that point, the re-acquisition of his Bible was the cause of his conversion to Christ. It was this man, W.P. Mackay, who later wrote these famous words we still sing:

*Revive us again; Fill each heart with Thy love.
May each soul be rekindled with fire from above.
Hallelujah! Thine the glory! Hallelujah! Amen!
Hallelujah! Thine the glory! Revive us again.*

Mackay experienced a revival of the soul. All throughout the Scriptures, we witness the people of God experiencing a refreshing, a revival, a renewal of the soul. In February, Tallowood has the opportunity to experience this at our Refresh revival on February 23-25. May God fan the flames of revival and renewal in our hearts as we yearn to become the community of joy that He intends!

Yours in Christ,



John Music
Associate Minister with Young Married Adults
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IN THE APRIL ISSUE

- Motivation for Ministry, Part II – The Love of Christ
- What Being an R.A. Leader Means to Me by Rudy Valdes
- Couples Corner

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Couples Corner

Eddie & Janice Whittenberg

When did you meet?

We met in junior high and started dating in high school. Six years later, we were married.



What's the first thing that comes to mind when you think of God?

When we think of God, we think of His love and forgiveness.

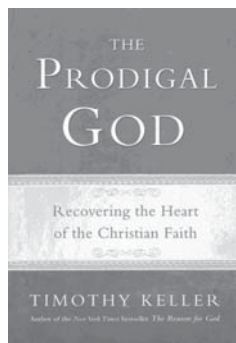
What's your vision for the young adults at Tallowood?

We envision a dynamic group of young adults which results in personal, spiritual, and numeric growth. We envision a group bonded together with a deep desire to serve the Lord and contribute to the growth of God's kingdom here at Tallowood and around the world.

In the Bookshop

The Prodigal God
By Timothy Keller

Using his characteristic intellectual approach to faith issues, Keller uncovers an unexpected message in the familiar—and often misunderstood—New Testament parable of the prodigal son. Within this parable Jesus reveals God's prodigal grace toward both the irreligious and the moralistic. Seekers and believers alike will see Christianity in a whole new light when they learn how Christ's followers are *supposed* to love, so they can recover the heart of the Christian faith.



Pick up your copy today in the Tallowood Bookshop!

Paul's Motivation for Ministry

Part I: The Day of Reckoning

By John Music

In the book *The One-Minute Manager*, Ken Blanchard and Spencer Johnson make the statement that “there are no unmotivated people in the world.” We all have the necessary motivation to do the things we really want to do—we are all motivated people. Wouldn't you like to have the kind of motivation that equates to “gobs of energy and enthusiasm” for the things you do in your life, especially as salt-and-light Christians who are called into Christian ministry? That's exactly the kind of motivation the apostle Paul had in 2 Corinthians 5, and for the next 5 issues of the *Focus*, we'll look at Paul's life and why he was motivated to do what he did and to become what he became.

Motivation #1: Paul was motivated by his fear of the Lord.

“Therefore, whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may be repaid for what he has done in the body, whether good or bad.” (2 Cor. 5:9-10, HCSB)

In verse 9, Paul notes that his chief aim is to be pleasing to the Lord. Why? Because in verse 10 he says we must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. This is where **all** Christians will one day appear. It will be a place of:

- **Revelation**, as our works, our motives, our ministry, and the very truth of our lives will be revealed;
- **Reward & Recognition**, where we will receive the rewards of our service here on Earth (1 Corinthians 3:14);
- **Rejoicing**, as we give glory to God for His gifts and the joy that awaits us;
- **Reckoning**, as we give a full account of our lives and ministries.

Paul lived each day of his life in light of this day of reckoning. He had encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus and he knew the terror of being in the presence of the living God. Hebrews 10:31 says, *“It is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”* Psalm 33:8 says, *“Let the whole earth tremble before the Lord; let all inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.”* Everyone in the Scripture who experienced the presence of God knew this wonder, this sense of awe and fear. Moses had to take off his shoes because he was on holy ground. Isaiah said, “Woe is me, for I am undone” when he encountered the holiness of God's presence.

What a motivation for ministry, knowing that someday you and I will have to stand and give an account to a God who will not award us according to our *intentions*, but will judge us according to our *actions*. Paul was motivated by the reality that our works are known to God, and that someday we will be held accountable for **all** of them.

In the April issue: **Motivation for Ministry, Part II: Motivated by the Love of Christ.**

2009 Childcare Dates for Adult Socials

<u>February 12</u>	<u>February 19</u>	<u>March 5</u>	<u>April 9</u>
Crosswalk	Faith	Jubilee	Crosswalk
Esther	Foundations	Grace	Esther
Exodus	The Disciples	Saturday Night	Exodus
	New Beginnings		

What Men's Life Means To Me

By Justin Lofts

In my life, I have had the opportunity to meet many people that come from broken homes. In fact, where I grew up, broken homes were much more common than families that actually stayed together. I've seen "troubled children" from all over America, and I noticed a common trend in the majority of the people that I met. The common thread was almost always an absent father. In America, our family units are suffering from an epidemic of indifferent and absentee fathers.



Perhaps it's because the roles have changed so much that dads just don't know how to be dads anymore, or perhaps fathers just stopped caring somewhere along the way. I would submit to you that this is merely a symptom of a bigger problem. The real problem is that families are falling away from God, and as fathers, we are the only ones to blame. The Bible tells us that the man is responsible for the spiritual leadership of his house. In Joshua 24:15, Joshua takes a bold stand for himself and his family when he says *"But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."* I fear that as a whole, men and fathers are afraid to take that stand.

For this reason, when asked to write an article about Men's Life, I could not resist. I started going to Men's Life with the goal of becoming a better husband, father, and man. While I will not claim to be perfect, I would hope that my family has noticed some improvement. I myself grew up in one of those broken homes mentioned earlier, and as statistics go, the major thing missing in my life was a godly father. Having lived this I appreciate the need for men to step up and take their place as the head of the family. Luckily for us though, we don't have to do it alone. Proverbs 27:17 tells us *"As iron sharpeneth iron, so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."* As Christian men, we can stop the epidemic of indifference, and start to lead our families back to God, but we are not going to do it alone.

To me this is what Men's Life is all about. Yes, it is early. Yes, it means making yourself get up and go to church on a Wednesday morning, but the trade-off is well worth it. In return, you will get a chance to hear the Word of God, fellowship with other Christian men, bless, and be blessed. Oh, and did I mention that it comes with breakfast???

For me personally, it is an opportunity to learn from Christian role models, men of God that I did not have growing up. Can I say that Men's Life will solve all of your problems? No, but it is a great place to start learning how to be a godly man, father, and husband, and it's a place to build relationships with other Christian men. I would encourage any man, married or single, young or old, to give Men's Life a try. It is a fail-proof investment into your family, and you have nothing to lose and everything to gain.



Men's Life on Wednesdays

January 13 to March 10

AM at the Tallowood Center
5:45 – 7:30 am

PM in the Fireplace Room
6:30 – 8:30 pm

*"Understanding and Sharing
God's Message of Salvation"*
Led by Duane Brooks

Texas Hope 2010



Tallowood is participating in Texas Hope 2010. You should have received your 30 day prayer guide and media CD to share with your neighbors.

Watch for upcoming events supporting this initiative. Leading others to Christ is the greatest challenge to Texas Baptists today. To the 11 million unchurched individuals in our state, we will deliver the Hope of Christ.

Luis Palau, evangelist with the Billy Graham Association for many years penned these words:

"Nothing gets me more excited than sharing the Good News. I know many people who get nervous to tell others about Jesus. It's what I live for! And whenever I'm reminded just how short life is, I get that much more passionate about evangelism. And I'm not slowing down anytime soon!"

These words were written after his son, daughter-in-law, and their children survived the American Airlines Flight 331 crash-landing in Jamaica.

Let me encourage you to compose a list of people whom you would like to see come to Christ. Pray for each one and plan to invite them in a special way to Tallowood in March. Each Sunday, Dr. Brooks will preach an evangelistic message, and people will be confronted with the claims of Christ as Savior and Lord. Let's all live to tell others about Jesus!

A LETTER OF APPRECIATION

by Robert Hruzek

I have to admit, God; there was a time when I was really beginning to wonder about Love. Was there really such a thing as True Love? I mean, other than in the movies, or in books? If it really existed, then how in the world would I ever find it? Even more important, how would I recognize it?

And you know that thing we laughingly call Love At First Sight? Well, it seemed ludicrous that such a thing could be real, you know? I mean, c'mon – something as complicated as love, happening that quickly? Nope; no way! But then one day, a most amazing and profound moment happened. One day, I met *her*.

To me, it seems like only yesterday. We were in a meeting of perhaps thirty people or so. She stood up and said a few words. When I turned to look at her, for a moment it was as if eternity stood still and the universe came to a complete stop.

I'm sorry to say I don't remember what she was wearing (although *she* probably does!), or what I was wearing (ditto), or any of those little details she's so good at. No, what I remember is the absolute perfection of her face, her smile – and well, for want of a better term, her *spirit*. At that moment, nothing else mattered. It was as if the center of the entire universe was suddenly motionless... and close enough to touch!

Needless to say, never having experienced Love At First Sight, I didn't recognize it for what it was. After all, at the time I wasn't even really *looking*, if you know what I mean. To this day I can't even describe exactly *how* I knew. Still, somehow I just *knew*. This was It. This, *this* was the Real Thing.

Oh, I know she acted all aloof and everything. She even tried introducing me to every other girl she knew, just to get me off the track. But I wasn't fooled. I knew; and deep down inside where the heart really lives, I knew that she knew, too. It seemed like everybody else knew, too. Our friends, our acquaintances – heck, the very first time I met him (and without anyone saying a word) even her father knew! Eventually, though, she admitted the truth to herself and to me.

And so we married.

It's been over twenty-seven years since we stepped up in front of friends and families and said those words ("I do!"). A lot of time has passed; a lot of memories created. What an amazing experience it's been, being married to the Love of My Life! Sure, we've had our ups and downs – growing old together just wouldn't be as interesting without the joys and the trials that go along with it, you know? To be honest, I wouldn't change a thing, though. It's like Dean Martin used to sing, *When love hits your eye like a big-a pizza pie – that's amore!* More profound words have rarely been sung, I'll tell ya!

So anyway, God, I just wanted to tell you how much I appreciate your gift of Love. I'll tell ya; life just wouldn't be the same without it!



Robert Hruzek teaches the New Beginnings class and writes on the Internet at *Middle Zone Musings* (middlezonemusings.com)

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. – Colossians 3:12

