

CEDAR GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER — JANUARY 2015



We are starting a new year; God has blessed us to allow us to see 2015. There will be many people who will make New Year's resolutions most of which will be forgotten by Valentine's Day. I would like to challenge the church this year to make this a year of faith. The writer of Hebrews tells us, "But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." This verse tells us that faith is more than just trusting God but that it is a person who has sought our God and desires to please Him.

As this New Year starts I challenge you as an individual to seek what God wants in your personal life for your family and for His church here at Cedar Grove. Ask Him to show you; then by faith be obedient and trust Him to help you and in the process we will live a life that pleases our heavenly Father.

In Judges 7, Gideon had followed God's challenge to raise up an army to defend Israel against her enemies, and Gideon had led them out to battle. God told Gideon he had too many people even though they were outnumbered and the number of men with Gideon was lowered to 300. In a dream God showed Gideon what could be possible if he obeyed Him.

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received through personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ plus nothing. His precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. The salvation of the ill-deserving sinner is based on the finished work of Jesus Christ, who became the sinner's substitute before God and died a provisional sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

THE PASTOR'S CORNER

God brought about a great victory using Gideon's obedience. I believe today even though we seem to be losing ground all around us God can still bring a great victory if His people will follow His ways and His word through faith. What is it that God would use you for in 2015?

Pastor Marty

One of the most important entailments of the doctrine of creation is this: it grounds all human responsibility. The theme repeatedly recurs in the Bible, sometimes explicitly, sometimes by implication. To take but one example, John's gospel opens by declaring that everything that was created came into being by the agency of God's "Word," the Word that became flesh in Jesus Christ (John 1:2-3, 14). But this observation sets the stage for a devastating indictment: when this Word came into the world, *and even though the world was made through him*, the world did not recognize him (John 1:10). God made us to "image" himself; he made us for his own glory. For us to imagine ourselves autonomous is, far from being a measure of our maturity, the supreme mark of our rebellion, the flag of our suppression of the truth (Rom. 1)

D. A. Carson, *For the Love of God: A Daily Companion for Discovering the Riches of God's Word.*, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1998).

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My name is Hua Van Tuong. I am a gospel preacher, pastoring for Immanuel Church in Danang city, Vietnam.

Our church with more than 41 members had gathered to worship the Lord at above address from 2009 to the present. And now, we also have service for the Deaf church with more than 40 members.

Pursuant to Directive Instruction #01 of the Vietnam Prime Minister dated 04/02/2005 and the Guidelines of the Central Board of Religious Affairs, our church has applied [multiple times] for registration in order to be recognized as a Christians meeting point.

After five times of applying for our church to be recognized, the local Authorities rejected [our application] and have not licensed our church.

For many years, our church and my family have living in panic and fear of being beaten by local authorities. My house was demolished; dirty things such as dung and animal blood were thrown on our house. I myself was beaten, and some of the children of God also threatened mentally and physically. I have repeatedly sent petitions asking for help to all levels of governments from local to central but my applications are still unresolved and officials are silent.

On Oct. 10, 2014, the chairman of the Thanh Khe Tay Ward asked me to give a list of Christians in our church in order to give a license for our church to be recognized as a meeting point. He also asked me to make a commitment to en-

sure public order.

I did as requested by the chairman. But then, he sent the list of believers to authorities (police). So our brothers and sisters were threatened, and persuaded to have commitment not to worship God at our church any more.

On Nov. 28 2014, the Committee of Religious Affair in Danang city invited me and the pastors of the Vietnam Christian Mission Executive Board to their office to talk. Our pastor leader asked the Committee of Danang Religious Affairs to recognize Immanuel Church as the instructing of #01 directive document of the Prime Minister, but Mr. Ngo Khoi – the Head of City's Religious Affair Committee – disagreed and had a threatening attitude toward us saying that they will take actions to close the church.

After the meeting with Danang's Religious Affair Committee, on Sunday, Nov. 30 2014, a lot of police, militia and civil defense forces from city level to district and ward level departments came and made a raid to forbid our meeting. They seized and confiscated 19 motor bikes of the Deaf Church members. They requested that we have no more worship God in this address here.

Hua Van Tuong—December 24, 2014



ANNIVERSARIES

Andrew & Trish Carter	January 22
Drew & Taylor Danckert	January 22



BIRTHDAYS

Denise Brewer	January 04
Lori Owens	January 04
Lewis Dabbs	January 07
Makayla Wilson	January 17
Bill Heath	January 20
Sharon Grainger	January 25
Leondia Leonard	January 25
Darrell Johnson	January 28
Jerry Leonard	January 31
Sean Carswell	February 02
Doris McHenry	February 05

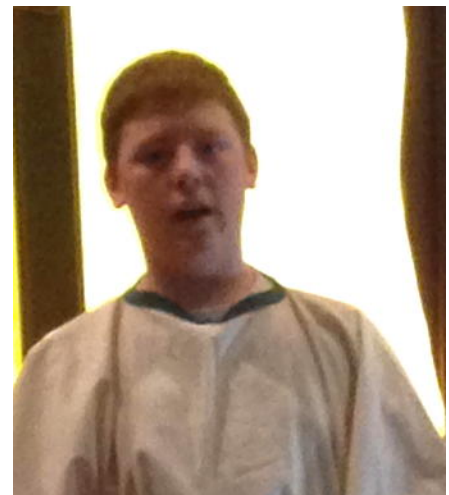
MONTAGNARD CHRISTMAS SERVICE

@ CEDAR GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH




CHRISTMAS PLAY

@ CEDAR GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH




SANCTITY OF LIFE

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday is held on the Sunday in January that falls closest to the day on which the *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* decisions were handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court on January 22, 1973. The next SOHLS will take place on January 18, 2015.




January 22nd is the annual anniversary when our country remembers the tragic decision made by the Supreme Court of the United States legalizing abortion. The weekend of January 18th, 2015 churches across the country will remember and pray for this tremendous cause.

We hope you will join us in prayer and mourning for the loss of over 55 million babies and the pain suffered by those who are suffering the loss from those decisions.



President Ronald Reagan designated January 22, 1984 as the first National Sanctity of Human Life Day. The date was chosen to coincide with the 11th anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court case that first recognized the constitutionally-protected status of abortion in the United States.

Reagan issued the proclamation annually thereafter, designating Sanctity of Human Life Day to be the third Sunday in January, which represents the closest Sunday to the original January 22 date. His successor, George H. W. Bush, continued the annual proclamation throughout his presidency. Bush's successor, Bill Clinton, discontinued the practice throughout his eight years in office, but Bush's son and Clinton's successor, George W. Bush, resumed the proclamation, and did so every year of his presidency.



In biblical terms, the sanctity of human life is rooted and grounded in creation. Mankind is not viewed as a cosmic accident but as the product of a carefully executed creation by an eternal God. Human dignity is derived from God. Man as a finite, dependent, contingent creature is assigned a high value by his Creator.

The creation account in Genesis provides the framework for human dignity: “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them” (Gen. 1:26–27).

Creation in the image of God is what sets humans apart from all other creatures. The stamp of the image and likeness of God connects God and mankind uniquely. Though there is no biblical warrant for seeing man as godlike, there is a high dignity associated with this unique relationship to the Creator.

It has often been suggested that whatever dignity was given mankind through creation was erased or canceled through the fall. Since evil mars the countenance of human beings, is the original image still intact?

...

Man may no longer be pure, but he is still human. Insofar as we are still human, we retain the image of God in the wider sense. We are still valuable creatures. We may no longer be worthy, but we still have worth. This is the resounding biblical message of redemption. The creatures God created are the same creatures He is moved to redeem.¹

¹ R. C. Sproul, *Abortion: A Rational Look at an Emotional Issue*, 20th anniversary ed. (Lake Mary, FL: Reformation Trust Publishing, 2010), 21–22.

STAND UP FOR JESUS

In the year 1858 a great city-wide revival swept across the city of Philadelphia. It was called The Work of God in Philadelphia. Of the participating ministers none was more powerful than the twenty-nine year old Episcopalian, Dudley Tyng. He was known as a bold, fearless and uncompromising preacher with great influence on the other spiritual leaders around him. His father, the Rev. Stephen H. Tyng, was for many years the pastor of the large Episcopalian Church of the Epiphany in Philadelphia. After serving a short time as his father's assistant, Dudley succeeded his father in this pulpit. However, some of the more fashionable members soon became upset with their young preacher because of his straight-forward doctrinal preaching and his strong stand against slavery. He resigned this pulpit and with a group of faithful followers organized The Church of the Covenant.

In addition to his duties as pastor of the new and growing congregation, Tyng began holding noon-day services at the downtown YMCA. Great crowds were attracted to hear this dynamic young preacher. On Tuesday, March 30, 1858, over 5,000 men gathered for a noon mass meeting to hear young Tyng preach from Exodus 10:11—"Go now ye that are men and serve the Lord." Over 1,000 of these men responded by committing their hearts and lives to Christ and His service; the sermon was often termed one of the most successful of the times.

During the sermon the young preacher remarked, "I must tell my Master's errand, and I would rather that this right arm were amputated at the trunk than that I should come short of my duty

to you in delivering God's message." The next week, while visiting in the country and watching the operation of a corn thrasher in a barn, he accidentally caught his loose sleeve between the cogs; the arm was lacerated severely, the main artery was severed and the median nerve was injured. Four days later infection developed. As a result of shock and a great loss of blood, Dudley Tyng died on April 19, 1858. At his death bed, when asked by a group of sorrowful friends and ministers for a final statement, he whispered, "Let us all stand up for Jesus."

The next Sunday Tyng's close friend and fellow worker, the Rev. George Duffield, pastor of the Temple Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, preached his morning sermon as a tribute to his departed friend, choosing as his text Ephesians 6:14: "Stand, therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness." He closed his sermon by reading a poem of six stanzas that he had written, inspired, as he told his people, by the dying words of his esteemed friend. Rev. Duffield's Sunday School superintendent was so impressed by the verses that he had them printed for distribution throughout the Sunday School. The editor of a Baptist periodical happened to receive one of these pamphlets and promptly gave it a wider circulation. From there it eventually found its way into the hymnals and hearts of God's people across the world.²

² Kenneth W. Osbeck, *101 Hymn Stories* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1982), 237-238.