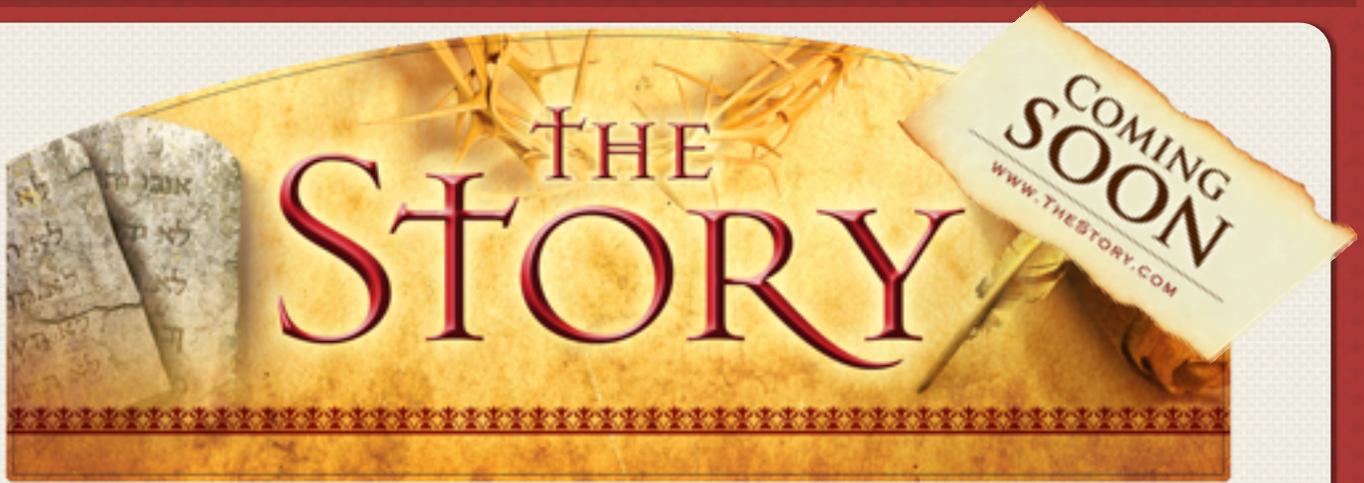


MCA CONNECTION



What would it look like for your family to drive home from church all having studied and heard the same stories? How much growth would occur in our lives if we understood more clearly how the Bible fits together? This fall we are planning to begin a journey together that will provide answers to both of those questions.

I have never looked forward to September here at MCA as much as I am this year. I am not overstating my feelings. This fall, barring the return of

the King, we will be embarking on a church wide, 31-week study of the Bible in a series called The Story. The Story will seek to teach us all the story of scripture, beginning with Genesis and ending in Revelation. At the end of this series, our hope is that MCA will understand the great Story of Scripture more clearly and what our role is within that story.

The other reason I am excited about this series is because the entire church body will be studying the same thing. From Children's Church to

Core Group Sunday School to Children's Sunday School to Youth Group to the Sermon, everyone will be on the same page. While this has great potential to unify the body, it is also a great beginning point for new believers, so invite your seeking friends who may not know Jesus.

For us to maximize this endeavor, I want to invite you to invest yourself in this experience. We will have the opportunity to grow if we are willing to pursue it.

Pastor Jeremy Miller

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UPCOMING EVENTS

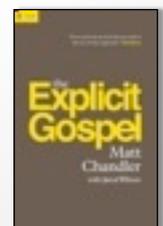
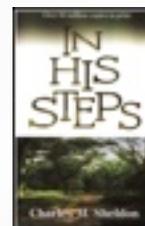
- JULY
- Youth Mission Trip (3rd)
- AUGUST
- CMC Annual Conference (2nd)
- WWTO Festival (11th)
- Church Picnic (12th)
- SEPTEMBER
- Youth Fun Weekend (14th)
- THE STORY (23rd)

PASTOR'S PICKS....

Looking for something to read? Check out Jeremy and Jeff's top picks.

In His Steps
by Charles
Sheldon

The Explicit
Gospel
by Matt Chandler



Family Spotlight

The Marlin and Kathy Troyer Family



Marlin, Kathy, Rachael and Chloe

Marlin and Kathy Troyer and their family have been attending MCA for the past 4 years. Marlin and Kathy were married in 1995 after getting to

know each other through a singles function at the Chapel in Akron. They met by playing “The Mennonite Game”. If you don’t know what “The Mennonite Game” is you will need to ask Marlin or Kathy. Their interest in one another was peaked through the discussion of their Mennonite heritage and that interest continued to develop as they dated and were later married. Marlin is from the Hartville, OH area and Kathy is from Aurora, OH.

Marlin and Kathy live near Dalton where they have lived, nestled in the woods, for the past 12 years. The Troyer family lives right on the Wayne and Stark County line, so their address is Dalton, but they live in Stark County. They have two girls, Rachael (10 years old) and Chloe (8 years old). Both girls attend Central Christian School. They enjoy camping, biking and basically anything to do with nature. Rachael and Chloe are involved in

soccer and swim on a swim team. Marlin hit a milestone this past year as he landed a Buck that met the trophy qualifications of the Boone & Crockett Club. Making a school change to Central Christian for Rachael and Chloe was also a major event in the life of the Troyer family this past year.

Marlin has made a career in the construction field for the past 32 years. Kathy is a stay at home mom, teaches swimming lessons at Orrville YMCA and also drives bus for the Mt. Vernon Nazarene University sport teams. She also helps out with the family’s construction business by managing the books. The Troyer’s consider themselves similar to a family of foxes. They are beautiful, quiet, inquisitive and hunt to provide for their families. Their favorite family recipe is Honey Glazed Chicken and Carrots. Make sure you ask Kathy for the recipe.

Right Where You Are

by Jeff Polen

Last year the Area 51 Youth Group set aside one week of the summer for intentional service to the people of Fredericksburg, OH. It was our “mission trip”.

A lot of people were initially confused over the idea of roughly 0.5 miles to our mission trip destination. It was hard to wrap our minds around how it could be a “mission trip” if we were not really traveling anywhere - especially anywhere exotic.

Thankfully, we were able to get past those initial thoughts and see that God was doing something amazing in our midst. He changed our perspective and transformed our minds as we served the community and the local churches in Fredericksburg. We even helped unload all of the new sanctuary chairs at MCA. That was pretty cool.

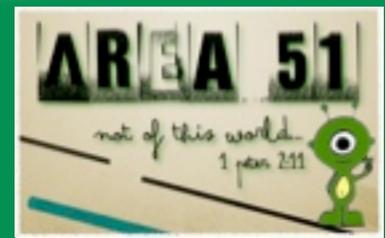
We called our mission trip an

“Acts: 1:8” mission trip because in Acts 1:8 Jesus says, “**you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**” The interesting thing is that Jesus said this to people who were already in Jerusalem! We know this passage as the “Great Commission” and we assume (probably because the whole “ends of the earth” thing) that Jesus is sending us to far away and exotic places.

While this is often true, it is not always true.

The Great Commission starts with this idea of being missionaries right where you are... in Jerusalem for the disciples, and in Fredericksburg (or Apple Creek, or Berlin, or Millersburg, etc) for us.

This year our mission trip will be to Judea... well, not exactly. But we are carrying on our Acts 1:8 mission trip this year by branching out to a



nearby large city. Our mission trip is actually to Columbus, OH.

We will be participating in the Rosedale Mennonite Missions “City Challenge” outreach program. While in Columbus we will have opportunities for evangelism, helping with kid’s club, performing a drama, prayer walking, random service projects, and teaching. As a Youth Group, we will experience an amazing week of serving others and of deepening our relationships with God and with one another. The trip will be July 3 - July 10.

MCA Speaks

Adoption by Marlin Troyer

Adoption can be a difficult thing to live. Persons adopted often wonder who am I, really. Why was I spared? Where is my real family? What are their lives like? Questions like these can run through their minds endlessly, wrecking havoc on their sense of identity and purpose. Some adopted children seek out their biological families and find paths to healing and peace. But others seem to open a Pandora's' box of trouble and grief.

One biblical saint struggled with those same questions and emotions. He discovered his family was suffering under terrible injustices and slavery. Some thing had to be done. That reality nagged at him while he himself lived the life of a prince.

Eventually out of anger and frustration he took matters in his own hands. He waited for the right time and when no one was watching he moved swiftly and killed a member of his adoptive people who was beating a lowly slave, a person of his biological family.

The murder became public and he was exposed as a fraud. He was no prince after all. No amount of proper upbringing could change him; everyone knew his ethnicity declared him a worthless no-good immigrant slave. In an instant he was on the run, a wanted man.

He escaped to another country and began a quiet life on the lam. He married and worked for his father-in-law keeping his identity concealed as much as possible. But questions of who he really was haunted him even more. I believe he tried to forget his biological family. I doubt he ever could. He probably seethed with anger, frustration and then despair.

When God appeared to Moses at the burning bush

and told him "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob," Moses' false identity broke in shards all around him. The game was up. There was no running, God knew everything and had answers to Moses' identity and life purpose. He would be used powerfully by God to deliver his family from the mighty Egyptians.

Moses finally in the center of God's will endures the endless struggles of his fickle family. It took decades to correct the way of thinking slavery had twisted their minds and souls. The Hebrew people proved difficult, rebellious and dying. But there were also a lot of births, and a new generation.

Moses' life, mistakes, personhood and calling reveal a person shaped by the calling on his life even while he mangled it and ran from it. What God ended up doing with his life on earth was probably somewhat beyond him. Even Moses' death could not stop the plan of salvation for all people his obedience help set into motion. He graciously laid down his leadership to the next generation knowing Joshua was gifted in ways he was not. In many ways Moses' identity and calling also revealed a cross that broke him and remade him.

To find identity, ministry and a place to stand in Christ is to also slowly discover a unique cross shaped just for you and me.

We should be very careful in drawing parallels from Moses' life on what steps adopted children should take. I believe God the father's heart aches deeply for them. The cross they carry is real. Their journey is gut wrenchingly beautiful, precarious, complex and invaluable.

Jeremy's Jots

The Killer by Jeremy Miller

"Not again!" The words flew out of my mouth as we sat parked in front of a garage door that stubbornly refused to open up. I knew it wasn't the garage door's fault; it was a compliant enough door. For what seemed like the 100th time, our door opener's battery refused to muster enough energy to accomplish the only task it had been given in life. Unfortunately, it isn't the first opener to fail with great frequency. The door opener to our previous home died so often the plastic casing barely held together from the frequent battery changes.

Truth be told, it's not just garage door openers. Batteries and me just

don't live together very long. When an electronic device discovers I am its owner, I am convinced it weeps. Somewhere in Internet land, there is a support group for batteries doomed to serve people like me. I do my best to let them live. I don't wear watches because they die...quickly. I keep my cell phone off my body as much as possible because energy from the battery does its best Houdini act when in my presence. I followed the recommended protocol for extending battery life and still every laptop battery I've owned developed an illness and died in less than half the expected life span. What is a person to do?

I have noticed there are people who are as toxic to relationships as I am to batteries. They suck life out of

others at high rates of speed and in their past sit piles of discarded relationships. While I am not certain of why batteries fail around me, understanding what zaps human relationships is less complicated. I Peter 3:10 reminds us, "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit" (ESV). What we say and how we say it to others is tremendously important. The way we use words is often the defining factor in the health of our human relationships. Gossip, a constant drip of negativity, slander, and other kinds of unhealthy communication are killers of relationships. Is there some way, God would have you use your words to promote life today.

Mission Moment

Serving Together by Keith and Kayla Tennefoss

It was early on a Saturday morning and I lay in bed with the following thoughts racing through my mind...
"The week ahead is possibly one of the busiest weeks you will have this year. There are still so many loose ends that need attention; I could probably use the entire day preparing for the next week. Not to mention all of the projects that need to be done at home. The pressure of responsibility was high, so why...why...did I volunteer to help the local outreach team with a service project? I just do not have the time to give!"

Regardless of how I felt at the time I knew that I made a commitment and it needed to be kept. I spent most of the drive to the event lamenting the fact that I had over-committed myself. My daughter Kayla (14 years old) and I were scheduled to help serve food with a new ministry called "Feed His Family". The food we were to serve was being provided in conjunction with the Wooster Hope Center's food distribution. I purposely volunteered in hopes of spending time with Kayla in a way that would give her an opportunity to serve others. It seemed like a good idea at the time, but now I questioned the point and my prioritization skills.

When we arrived at the Wayne County Fairgrounds, Kayla and I spent the first few minutes trying to figure out where we were in regards to the typical fair setup. It was fun to imagine where the rides and our favorite food stands might be. Once we started working, my over-commitment self-pity quickly turned into a spirit of thankfulness for the things that God has provided for my family. There were a couple of times during the day when I caught myself having thoughts that questioned the need of the people that I was serving. At some point during the morning God reminded me that I was not there to judge the people. I was there to serve and show kindness, regardless of what I thought was deserved or underserved.

Kayla had the following comments as she reflected on our time; "As people went through the line for the food bank I realized how rough they have it and how good we have it. I felt so good helping them and seeing their faces when they walked away with a delicious hot dog in their hand, several came back for more. It was a fun experience working with other people from our church. I had a lot of fun and can't wait until we can do it again!"

Through the course of the morning I stood side by side with Kayla working together to serve others. We were put in a position to set aside everything else we had going on that day and do the simple task of making hot dogs and serving them to others. The time that we spent together that morning, working with other people and serving complete strangers will never fade from my memory. If you want to spend quality time with your children (young or old) find a project that allows you to work together while serving others. You may feel like you do not have time, but consider how quickly time passes. I would suggest that you do not have much time to do this type of relationship building with your family. Spend quality time with them while you can. Quality time can come in many different forms. What I experienced, on a day that should have been spent working, was a rich time with my teenage daughter that I will never forget. By the way...the things that I had on my "to-do-list" got done despite the five-hour diversion. Make time and serve, you will not be disappointed.

Congratulations to Mary Ann Miller!
She was the winner of the Books of
the Bible word search in the April
Issue of MCA CONNECTION.



I've heard it once,
I've heard twice,
I've heard it time
and time again.

How Jesus died;
seldom mentioned is the
crucifixion, how He
suffered.

The innocent betrayed to
free the guilty, the beating,
the anguish, the spit,
the slap in the face.

So marred, so disfigured,
ROYALTY betrayed,
He wore my purple robe.

Formed from the dust,
a pilgrim in a barren land,
my wretched soul weighing
in the balance.

He left the splendor of
heaven, to give hope to the
oppressed.

Without charge signed my
pardon, grace unmatched,
love unending, made royalty
in His Kingdom!!

Bless His Name

Written by
Andy Yoder