

# ON PURPOSE

## DOVER CHURCH FEBRUARY 2010

### FOCUS ON MARRIAGE

Join thousands of couples all across the country on February 27th as we celebrate God's design for commitment right here at Dover Church. At this marriage strengthening simulcast we will tackle Christianity's biggest challenges—empowering you and your spouse to stay faithful, committed and encouraged in your marriage.

With Focus on Marriage, you will receive wisdom, encouragement and knowledge from leading marriage teachers such as Gary Thomas, Kirk Cameron, Drs. Les & Leslie Parrott, Francis Chan and Dr. Gary Chapman, all of whom have a passion for seeing marriages thrive – specifically yours!

This simulcast begins at 8:30 in the morning and ends at 3:30 in the afternoon. Lunch and snacks will be provided. So mark your calendar on February 27th as a day to focus on your marriage!

Tickets are available through the Dover Church office by e-mail, [office@doverchurch.org](mailto:office@doverchurch.org), or by phone, 737-8442. Tickets are \$50 per couple until February 14th, when ticket prices are then \$60 per couple. Contact the office today to reserve your tickets!



### Questions To Ask To Keep On Track

February was always the month for birthdays in my family. My mom and two of my sisters all have birthdays in February. For my youngest sister, February 14, Valentine's Day, will mark the big 4-0 for her! My oldest sister hits the half century mark one week later on February 21... talk about not wanting to celebrate! Forty and fifty in one week, they can commiserate together. Milestones like that make one want to check the compass, to ask, "Am I heading in the right direction, or are mid course corrections needed?"

Dover Church hit a milestone this past year, we reached age 65 as a church. We are, you might say, starting our first year of retirement. Anyone want to retire? Not me! I believe that 2010-2020 will be very exciting years for us – who knows what will happen!?

Really, who in the world knows what the next 10 years will bring – likely a lot of good and our fair share of bad... humanly speaking. But God gives us great direction for the future, and maybe we need to check our compass again to make sure we're flying straight.

Here are some questions I would like you to ask yourself, to keep yourself on track:

1. Am I a worshipper of God? Do I have times of private worship, just between me and Jesus, the Father, and the Holy Spirit?
2. Am I intentionally building relationships with believers, brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ? Am I living out the commands of Jesus in the New Testament in a close community of Christians?
3. What is my plan for personal spiritual growth? Am I growing as a disciple of Jesus? How am I helping others grow in their walk with God?
4. How has God gifted me to serve Him? Am I using my gifts and abilities, my talents and passions, my time and my treasure, for Him? Jesus came not to be served, but to serve. Do I live to serve God and others?
5. With whom am I sharing the Gospel and the love of Jesus? Am I prepared to encourage somebody with Good News? Am I praying for others to lead to the light of Jesus? Am I passionate about the message of the Gospel, or have I lost my first love?

The beginning of a new decade marks a great time to refocus ourselves as a church on the most important matters at hand: Loving God and loving others; making disciples of all peoples, baptizing and teaching them to obey God's commands. These are the things we must stay focused on and prioritize in our lives and in our church. The most important thing is for us to carry out the mission God has given us, and that is fulfilling the purposes of the Body of Christ – evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, ministry, and worship. These are the purposes of the church and they are our purposes.

Let's prioritize in our church in the following way:

1. Purposes
2. People
3. Programs
4. Property

# DOVER CHURCH

Many churches turn that order right around. Can you see it? They worship their property, their buildings, rooms, altars, and grounds. Then, they must do it the way it's always been done – keep the sacred programs. Thirdly, they please people, and kowtow to those in power and prominence in their church. Fourth, and lastly, the purposes of God bring up the rear.

Let's not do that. Let's hold the purposes of God as the top priority of our church, even before ourselves and each other. If we accomplish His purposes, we will be loving Him and our neighbors as ourselves, already! Let's fix our eyes on the compass and keep to true north! Do you need to make any mid course corrections? Don't wait? Here's an easy way to start:

1. Pray for wisdom and revelation from God.
2. Decide how you need to "correct" and what you want to do.
3. Share this with a spouse or friend for clarification and prayer.
4. Announce your start date/time with that same person and your family.
5. Begin to make that correction in your life, praying daily for help.
6. Have others hold you accountable.

Don't delay, begin today. You can't go back and start again, but you can begin today to make a brand new end!

## REFRESH Recap

On January 24-25 we enjoyed messages from Chaplain Rich Goldsmith and Pastor Rick Porter. There are two lessons, one from each man that I would like to recap for us.

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Thanks to Josiah Gilman 01-18-2008  
**TODAY'S SERMON WILL BE ON HOW TO DRESS  
MODESTLY IN AN INCREASINGLY IMMODEST AGE**

Lesson one, Rich Goldsmith: He talked about leaning to repel in the military, and how his instructor told him to lean back off the edge of the cliff and "trust the rope." You have to just trust the rope, he said. Rich was illustrating adding to your faith, virtue. He said you could have faith at the top of the cliff, but virtue comes when you get to the bottom.

Obviously, in the illustration the rope is Jesus Christ. There is fear at the top of the cliff. It's a long fall. Hard surfaces are below. What if the rope snaps? James chapter two says that faith without works is dead. You can believe in God at the top, but it is not until you trust the rope and make it safely to the bottom that you believe God. Rich said he was different at the bottom of the cliff than he was at the top.

My challenge to you is simple: In what area of your life have you been fearful and unwilling to "step off"? In what area of your life do you just need to "trust the rope"? If you will, you will be different at the bottom than you were at the top. I've had opportunities to trust the rope in my life and I can vouch for the accuracy and truthfulness of that statement – "trust the rope."

Lesson two, Rick Porter: Rick talked about encouraging his church in Abbotsford to skip church and go to the mountains to worship God. His point was that the way the people were gather-

*Celebrating God's Design  
for Commitment<sup>SM</sup>*

**FOCUS ON MARRIAGE<sup>TM</sup>**

LIVE VIA SATELLITE **FEB. 27, 2010** SIMULCAST CONFERENCE

## February Dover Church Birthdays & Anniversaries

1	Shelley Clarey	14	Xavion Bruinsma
2	Jason Bruinsma London Wielenga	15	Jean Vogel Rachel McGarvey Sue Taylor
4	Darby Schuiteman John/Doris Vogel	16	Lynette Nystrom
5	Patti Gohman	20	Ruth Hoover
6	Gertrude Baker Stephanie Davis	22	Wyatt Vander Voort
7	Brooke Mansker Dylan Mansker Pat Jongewaard	24	Levi Brossard
8	Doris Vogel	25	Hannah Norton
9	Kristine Fry	26	John/Irene Conway Maria Oolman
11	Alan Laird	27	Nathan White
13	Albert Okine	28	Carol Hulsart Joe Clarey Rod Hop

ing might have actually been hampering their ability to worship. But he also added that the measure of our corporate worship on a Sunday morning is directly affected by the amount and quality of our individual and private worship experiences the rest of the week. In other words, if we are not investing in and enjoying private worship and prayer experiences with the Lord during the week, we will have little to offer to the Lord corporately come Sunday Morning Worship time!

Three words come to mind: Do Your Part, or Do My Part. If Rick is right, and I think he is, then we all bear a burden to contribute our own individual aroma of worship each Sunday morning, and that aroma will come from the simmering worship times we have privately with God during the week. This is a different perspective than our coming to church, with nothing in our hands, desiring to find a place of worship with others, a place we have not experienced all week. Rather, we have been making deposits all week, adding ingredients if you will, making contributions, that bear fruit in our corporate time of worship, prayer, and praise together.

In summary, in our walk of faith we Trust The Rope, building our life of faith and experiencing the work of Jesus in our lives. In our walk of worship we Do Our Part during the week, bringing our cumulative aroma of worship with us on Sunday morning that, when added to all the others', produces a meaningful and pleasing sacrifice of praise to God.

## Life in Haiti

With the recent tragedy to happen in Haiti, here is a glimmer of the great way God is ever present and working in our lives. This is a portion of a blog from Troy and Tara Livesay who have been serving in Haiti for the last four years. This is one of their

## FEBRUARY 2010

### Coming Up...

February 8	Elder/Deacon Meetings
February 27	Focus on Marriage Simulcast
February 28	Rick Mann from Crown College Speaking
March 1	Elder/Deacon/Governing Board Meetings
March 24	Awana: Family & Friends Puppet Team Night

many experiences they've shared from the earthquake. If you would like to know more current information on how things are progressing with Troy and Tara, you can follow them on their blog: <http://livesayhaiti.blogspot.com>

January 20, 2010

Around noon a lady named Suzanne David came in. She was 75 years old and was so strong and so poised. Anyone who has lived a lot of years in Haiti is a hero to me. She has seen more political unrest, natural disasters, and hardship than I can probably imagine. I loved chatting with her and learned that she has 6 kids and 11 grand kids and lives in Cite Militaire. She has advanced breast cancer and is dying from it. She came to us because the hospital she was going to twice a week for dressing changes collapsed. She had a giant open tumor and was in a lot of pain. At first we thought it was an earthquake injury, but once it was undressed we knew we had something else on our hands. For whatever reason she understood all of my Kreyol (and vice versa) and we communicated beautifully and I enjoyed my hour with her immensely. I won't soon forget the strength of Suzanne David.

She has lived a long hard life and now, not only is she dying of breast cancer but her world has gotten much more challenging as her family has lost homes and jobs and even the hospital that gave her a little help for her cancer. With all of those challenges -- Suzanne was sweet, and smiling, and gracious, and absolutely beautiful. The Docs were able to help her with her pain with a patch that will be replaced every three days. Her strength and peaceful spirit touched me deeply today.

The Doctors were quickly realizing that even though they were doing some pretty big surgeries and risking a lot --- we still had people on our hands that we absolutely could not do enough for.

# On Purpose

Dr. Jen decided to research how close the USNS Navy ship was to arriving and emailed contacts she has from earlier this year when we got to go visit the Navy ship that was here. We did not hear back and did not hear back and the afternoon was getting away from us. We had 11 people that we hoped to take but could not get the 100% go ahead. On a wing and a prayer we decided to load our patients and try to find the spot to get them on the ship. We had like ZERO information. But off four vehicles went in a row to try to find the right spot in a crazy city of millions.

My heart rate must have been off the charts as I wondered what the heck we thought we might accomplish. I felt sick wondering if we had loaded up these poor suffering people with horrible pain only to aimlessly drive them all over the city. We had trouble and stopped and asked and stopped and asked and stopped and asked .... and got pretty discouraged.

Finally we turned down a road that we hoped might lead us out to the water. A man rolled down his window to tell us we were heading towards Americans. We pulled in to find about 30 Americans setting up camp. They were unloading dump trucks and starting to set up their first large tent. The two docs that came with the patients approached and asked if they could possibly help us. They told them that we'd heard the U.S. Navy was sending a ship for serious operations and very high need cases. They shook their head a bit and explained they had JUST arrived about 60

minutes before us and they were not even set up. They said they would try to radio the boat, but it was not really yet set to go either. Gently Dr Jen and Dr McKnight asked about getting a helicopter to take our patients. They seemed sort of non-committal - we knew it could go either way. The last thing we wanted was to return to our little make-shift hospital with 11 people that really need surgery.

We waited for our miracle.

All of a sudden out of nowhere a helicopter circled over a time or two ... then swooped in. It landed right out in front of us. Two studly helicopter military guys walked over and said they could take four people. We chose the four worst. They said "We'll be back in ten minutes for more." We could not believe what was happening. They came back ... and back. Three trips to the ship for the people of Simon Pele. I asked a couple of the patients that I had connected with if they were afraid. They seemed to know that something big was about to happen. How humbling it was to watch the poorest of the poor ... forgotten by most ... be some of the very first patients to arrive by helicopter to a US Navy Hospital floating in the Port. I stood there weeping as they took the last group up.

We left Heartline on Jen's hunch - with almost no location information and no certainty we would be received - and we found the American base, that had only been in place for 60 minutes, that led to the helicopter coming, that led to hurting people getting help.

Hurray for miracles.

Tara Livesay  
Haiti

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