

The Rec-Connection

December 2005



Physical exercise has some value, but spiritual exercise is much more important, for it promises a reward in both this life and the next. 1Timothy 4:8

Focus

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." Matthew 14:22-33 NIV

Just like almost every other small child in America, Christmas was the best time of year. One of my favorite activities during this sacred time was leafing through the holiday catalogs and checking out all the new toys. I still do this today; the toys are just different! One morning while driving to school my father asked me what I wanted for Christmas. I proceeded to rattle off a whole list of ideas, each one beginning with "I need..." I need this and I need that. My father calmly cut me off and said something that I will never forget. He said "Son, you do not *need* anything. You may *want* certain things, but you do not *need* anything." The message was simple, clear, and powerful. You see, we had food on the table, clean clothes to wear, and warm beds to sleep in. I try to remember this piece of wisdom throughout the year, but it rings true especially during the holidays. With a few simple words, my father redirected my focus. Rick Warren said it perfectly in his book, *The Purpose Driven Life*. "It's not about me." These are difficult words to follow during the "All About Me" revolution which is sweeping our society. This Christmas season, teach your children, or learn it for yourself, that it's not about you. It's not about iPods, cars, trinkets or treasures. It's about Christ. When we take our eyes off of the goal, we sink. Let's face it. The holidays are stressful. There are parties to attend, gifts to buy, and decorations to hang. So many pitfalls vying for our focus. But Christmas is not about any of those. Christmas is about the birth of a Savior. The precious gift of salvation given by God.

I wish you a merry Christmas and the hope you never lose focus on the perfect gift of God, personified by a small child.

Chris Jones

Director of Recreational Ministries

Featured Program

No More Excuses!

Childcare is Coming to the CLC

We are excited to announce that the CLC will now offer a drop-off childcare service for infants through 5th grade. Now you have no more excuses to not keep your New Year's resolution!

Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM to Noon &
6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

This service is available to all Recreational Ministries participants. Including all fitness classes, weight room usage, track usage, and all leagues. A small fee is required and each parent or guardian must remain on the CUMC campus & provide the location of their activity. Limited to 5 drop-offs per hour. First-come-first serve. Guarantee your spot by pre-paying the full amount in advance!

This program will begin January 9th.
Pre-payments will accepted beginning December 19th

Upcoming Events

Celebrations at the CLC

The CLC is now available to rent for birthday parties, end-of-the-season team parties, Sunday School socials, and much more!

Your event will be thoughtfully planned just for you.

Relax, Rejoice, and Let us do the work!

Please call the Christian Life Center for complete details.

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