

The Rec-Connection

May 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. 1 Timothy 4:8

“So, just how is this going to work?”

In February, Recreational Ministries wrapped up our second season of Upward Basketball & Cheerleading. We successfully coordinated 225 children and almost 200 adult volunteers. From day one, it was a scheduling and logistical nightmare full of potential pitfalls and dead ends. Doesn't that sound like your life? Sounds like mine. I rarely encounter any task where the path is laid out perfectly and I am guaranteed success. Looking at that on paper I realize it has never happened! There are always countless options and choices. It makes me wonder how I ever really get anything done.

The answers - Prayer and the Grace of God.

Upward Basketball was a success because of Prayer. Before we began coordinating volunteers, we prayed. Before we found refs, we prayed. This can be very hard to do, especially if you are like me and you just want to get your hands dirty right away! My attitude has always been "Let's get busy and we'll figure it out on the way!" You can easily guess that I have made many wrong turns (both literally and philosophically) in my life. I've headed up projects with the noblest of intentions, the loftiest of goals ...and the most paramount of failures! At the ripe old age of 25 I have at least learned to curb that enthusiasm a bit in the spirit of planning.

Part 2 of the formula is the Grace of God. It is only by that Grace that I have a wife who is the world's best planner and organizer and a staff, which on more than one occasion, has to reel me in before I hit the ground running. My wife and I form a team that can put together a first class plan, and an even better implementation! The same can be said for the staff here at the Christian Life Center. We have a fantastic mix of skills which creates a highly effective team. Thanks be to God! So how can you relate this to your own life? Well, it's very simple - spend time in the Bible and listen to that still, small, quiet voice inside you. You can call it intuition, your gut, or whatever. I like to think it's God nudging you in the right direction. The trick to deciphering the Will of God is listening, really listening. How can you hear the quiet voice of God if you are trying to do ten other things at once, or giving a halfhearted effort. I'd like to share this illustration with you, author unknown.

Back when the telegraph was the fastest method of long-distance communication, a young man applied for a job as a Morse Code operator. Answering an ad in the newspaper, he went to the office address that was listed. When he arrived, he entered a large, busy office filled with noise and clatter, including the sound of the telegraph in the background. A sign on the receptionist's counter instructed job applicants to fill out a form and wait until they were summoned to enter the inner office. The young man filled out his form and sat down with the seven other applicants in the waiting area. After a few minutes, the young man stood up, crossed the room to the door of the inner office, and walked right in. Naturally the other applicants perked up, wondering what was going on. They muttered among themselves that they hadn't heard any summons yet. They assumed that the young man who went into the office made a mistake and would be disqualified. Within a few minutes, however, the employer escorted the young man out of the office and said to the other applicants, "Gentlemen, thank you very much for coming, but the job has just been filled." The other applicants began grumbling to each other, and one spoke up saying, "Wait a minute, I don't understand. He was the last to come in, and we never even got a chance to be interviewed. Yet he got the job. That's not fair!" The employer said, "I'm sorry, but all the time you've been sitting here, the telegraph has been ticking out the following message in Morse Code: 'If you understand this message, then come right in. The job is yours.' None of you heard it or understood it. This young man did. The job is his."

Chances are you won't receive a booming voice from the clouds or a burning bush in the backyard. Sometimes it's only a whisper and if you have the volume turned up on the rest of your life, deciphering the Will of God becomes almost impossible. But if we walk into each day and focus our efforts on weeding out all the distractions and nonsense, we can hear what God is trying to say. The message is there, it just takes some work to get to it.

Chris Jones

Director of Recreational Ministries

Featured Programs

Summer Camps Still Open

Upward Basketball:

K **NEW!** July 5 - 8
4th & 5th July 25 - 29
Only 3 spots left!

Upward Soccer:

Pre-K & K June 27 - July 1 10am - Noon
1st & 2nd June 27 - July 1 1pm - 3pm

Kinder Fit:

May 31 - August 2
Every Tuesday
2 & 3 Years
10:00 - 10:30

4 & 5 Years
10:45 - 11:15

Kid Fit:

June 1 - August 3
Every Wednesday
1st - 3rd Grade
10:00 - 10:45

4th & 5th Grade
11:00 - 11:45

Upcoming Events

Summer Golf League

Ridgeview Ranch
\$170
June 7th - July 26th
Every Tuesday
Shotgun Start at 5:30
9 Holes
Prizes for each flight
Deadline May 15th
See www.cumc.com/clc for more details



Motorcycle Club

Interested in helping organize a Motorcycle Club? Buck Buchanan and the CLC have teamed up to start a Christ Church motorcycle riding club. If you want to be in on the ground floor of this great opportunity, meet Buck at Noon after Full Court Worship on May 15th. Don't miss out!



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