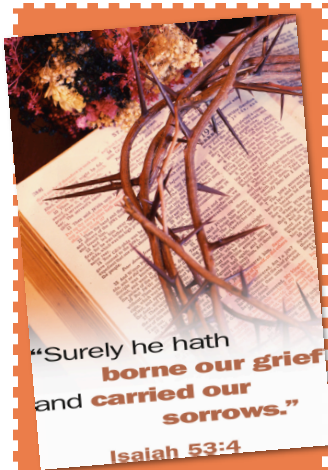


the

MARCH 2008 EDITION

FOCAL Point

CENTERED ON ACTIVITIES OF TOLEDO FIRST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH FAMILY



God forsook his own Son...so that he would never have to forsake you! And because of those dark hours... God can say to you "I will never leave you...I will never forsake you."
Joni Eareckson Tada

✘ Has Your Perspective Ever Changed? ✘

According to a recent Time magazine article highlighting Kevin O'Keefe's new book *The Average American*, we are 36 years old, but in reality we are newborn and toddling, aged and wise. We exercise close to the recommended 20 minutes a day, but that's because 17% of us exercise for well over an hour, while the rest of us scarcely stir at all. A vast majority of Americans believe in God, and more than 90% own a Bible, but only half can name a single Gospel, and 10% think Joan of Arc was Noah's wife. [To read the entire Time article, check your box at church.]



So if any church does any kind of evangelism or ordinary outreach, those are the kinds of people we're going to find. The question is, when we do, will we, like the early church in Acts 15:19, decide to "Not make it difficult" for people turning to God?

For example, will we sit in Christian cliques during church socials and fellowship meals? During communion, will we make guests unfamiliar with John 13 wait in the sanctuary while we participate in foot washing? Will we go out of our way, philosophically and practically, to make the Sabbath a day of miracles for people far from God? In short, what would church look and feel like if we treated every time we gather as if it were the opening night of a 52 week evangelistic series? What do YOU think we should ask of the average American we bring to church? Has your perspective ever changed?—Pastor Mike ##

Sin cannot be undone, only forgiven. —Igor Stravinsky

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One small step for a child...

When the children at Toledo First heard that two-thirds of the children in our world live "at risk," and that at least, 65% of children are born to families that have never heard about Jesus - they did not take the statistic lightly. When asked if they felt there was something they could do to help, they enthusiastically shouted, "YES!" Before reading 1 Timothy 4:12, it was obvious that the verse was already engraved in their hearts! The verse reads, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity" (NIV). God has blessed our church with children who believe that when it comes to the Great Commission set for us by Christ, there is no such thing as limitations! They have a tremendous passion for ministry and are enthusiastic about showing people that "God loves them like crazy!"

Through Compassion International, the children in Kid Connect have immediately seized the opportunity to show their love and compassion to another child who lives overseas. For only \$32 a month a child will be able to partake in church-sponsored activities, receive educational opportunities, health care, supplemental nutrition (if needed) and most importantly the opportunity to hear the name of Christ and grow in faith. Brothers and

sisters, you read it here first! As of February 16, 2008 the children at Toledo First have officially begun to give an offering that requires no more than \$1/month (\$0.25 a week!) in order to sponsor a child. Through Compassion International, the children will sponsor a little brother or sister and give him/her "hope for the future and for all eternity."

According to dictionary.com compassion is, "a feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune, accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering." More than a desire, the kids are being called to action and we need your help. The invitation is open for anyone who wants to give but most important we ask that you please support us by praying with a child for another child and the families that are less fortunate than ours. Every Sabbath for the next four months, the children will come into the sanctuary at noon and all are welcome to join our prayer circle. There is no way that we could repay your kindness but according to Proverbs 19:17, there is someone who is ready to pour out His blessings. As it is written, "He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward him for what he has done." —

Pastor Aly ##



Sign up for Tiffin Glass Museum Trip

The glass museum trip was called off for bad weather in February and has been rescheduled for Tuesday, March 11. Please sign up at the bulletin board or call Dee at the church to sign up for you (419.882.6200).

The trip includes a tour of the glass factory to see how glass is made, and a visit to the museum. Lunch will be at the Pioneer Mill Buffet. The tour is free and the facility is handicap accessible.

Meet at the church at 9 AM. For further information, please call Sharon Crosby @ 419.874.4046. ##

International Food Fest—March 15th

It's that time again! Invite your friends to the International Food Fest where you can find all kinds of delicious foods enjoyed in countries around the world—but on Saturday night, March 15th, they'll be featured in our fellowship room! Mark your calendar and be sure to come! ##

Financial Seminar coming in April

No matter what our age or financial situation, we can all use help in managing our money. And help is on the way!—with the Turbulent Times Financial Seminar on Wednesday evening, April 9th, and Saturday evening, April 12th. Set the time aside

now and watch for further information. ##

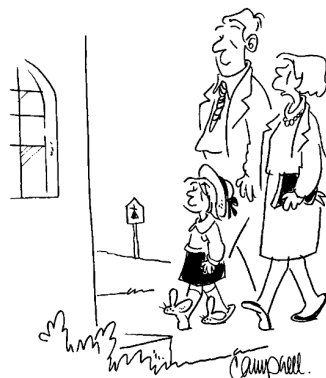
Need help with heat/utilities?

The Area Office on Aging (AOA) wants you to know that there are several programs to assist people who qualify. The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps with winter heating bills. Call the AOA to get a HEAP application mailed to your home (419.382.0624, ext. 1186).

The Winter Crisis Program (WCP) helps people threatened with disconnection of their heating source or have already been disconnected, or have less than a 10-day supply of fuel. Residents of Lucas County should call EOPA @ 419.242.7304, ext. 1453.

There is also help with your phone bill. Call the church office for more details. —DeLaura Caulder ##

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"What could I say? They are her most Easterly shoes."



“Elegant” describes Rwanda Banquet

Kudos to Pastor Nathan for bringing together a great team who combined their talents to create a beautiful evening for those attending “Valentines for Rwanda.” The fundraiser benefited Rwanda Clean Water, which builds wells in that African

country. Each \$10 raised provides clean water for life for two Rwandan children. Contaminated water is to blame for many deaths each year. In the picture at right above is Pastor Nathan with speaker, Norah Bagarinka and her friend, Tatiana.

Norah (middle), whose message was redemption and forgiveness, lived through the genocide of the 1990s which killed thousands of Rwandans. Thanks to everyone who came, to the youth who served, to Ray & July Riley for their food

creations, Mindy Flack for overall planning, Kendra Bills for decorations and many other workers who made the banquet possible.
—DeLaura Caulder
P.S. As always, thanks to Jeff Batchelder for the pictures. ##

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	MAR 1	MAR 11	MAR 15	MAR 31
	<i>HeartSong Community Lunch & Sing</i>	Trip to Tiffin Glass Museum	<i>International Food Fest</i>	Business Meeting

HeartSong Lunch honors Firemen



At the February HeartSong Community Lunch we were pleased to welcome two Toledo firemen (at left with Pastor Mike) who spent some time during lunch telling us about fire safety. Come to the Community lunch March 1 at 1:00 PM when we will honor our policemen and women. The lunch is provided by Cindy Larimore and her team and features vegetarian enchiladas. ##



Enjoy HeartSong Community Sing at 2:30

Also on March 1, come to the Community Sing at 2:30 PM when we welcome residents of local nursing homes, our neighbors in the community, and our church family to hear voices raised in praise to our Saviour and King. At right is Sheila Case who sang at the February concert. ##



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