



Forest Home Church

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1751 Old Natchez Trace
Franklin, TN 37069

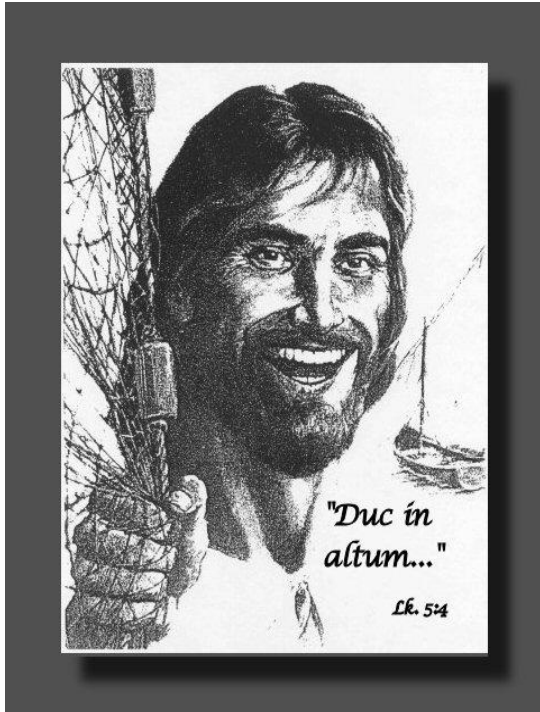
www.ForestHomeChurch.org

March 6th, 2011

"Sharing, Loving & Exploring Life in Christ"

Send announcements, praises, and prayer requests to: newsletter@foresthomchurch.org

Duc in Altum: "Launch Out into the Deep" (Luke 5:4)



To Whom is Jesus saying, "Put out into the deep?"

Over a billion church people connected with the Latin speaking world hear the words of Jesus in Luke 5:4 to Peter: "Duc in Altum," or "Launch out into the deep." Over the years, the phrase has become a motto of families, schools, cities and a new millennium. I believe Jesus' admonition is a good direction for anyone contemplating a new season of spiritual exercise. Winter is soon over which brings for many the time called Spring Cleaning; the habits of spirit that we developed over the winter likewise meet the possibility of a new season? What does Spring Cleaning bring to my soul? I seldom have trouble finding something that needs to be "put out" to make room for things that are good. But Jesus' challenge is more than simply putting out and away things that hinder abundant life. He calls me, "Launch out **into the deep.**" What spiritual direction is Jesus giving?

Of course, Jesus' original words to Peter were not on the surface spiritual, for the Lord was urging Peter to go back out fishing after one of Peter's most strenuous yet failing efforts. Peter commented to the Lord, "We've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." So Jesus sometimes asks us after reason says we should give up, to go out and address again what has sorely eluded us and beaten us. After we're exhausted in our own efforts seems like the time to rest, not try again. Yet Jesus sent Peter right back out—in His timing and at His word. It was a physical act that was a spiritual opportunity for Peter, and the result was an unfathomable result. Their boats were sinking with the catch, and Peter was called to follow Jesus as a fisher of men.

Among the first things in Jesus' call, "duc in altum," is that we can be asked to consider again areas of our life that remain dormant, defeated, or despairing. Jesus beckons, "Try again." Peter's decision to launch out again was because Jesus said to Peter was listening to Jesus, which is foundational to Jesus' call. Famous preacher Karol Wojtyla well said that one primary way to be near and listening to Jesus "is to cultivate a deep spirit of prayer nourished by a daily listening to the Word of God. The authenticity of the Christian life is measured by the depth of one's prayer, an art that must be humbly learnt "from the lips of the Divine Master," almost imploring "like the first disciples: 'Lord, teach us to pray!' (Luke 11:1). In prayer, a conversation with Christ develops and it makes us his intimate friends: 'Abide in me and I in you' (John 15:4)" What spiritual direction is Jesus giving us when he says, "Launch out into the deep?" Ask Him in prayer! LH



Are you an ichthusiast? These images are the meaning of the Greek word for fish: *Ichthus*.

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Prayer and Praises

- Our brothers/sisters in Africa: Jac Agak, Charles Ngoje, Jacob Randiek, and your orphan(s)
- Continuing Comfort of Lord with families suffering recent losses
- Lisa Grimenstein in her time of Pregnancy and the health of the baby
- Lord strengthen many in the body suffering with the flu and allergies
- Lord's next level for Tommy's —Next Right Step Ministry
- Guidance and grace on several in job transitions
- Revive our hearts to Your grace amazing
- May Larry's brother continue to recover well from surgery
- Lord grant perseverance for Jim McAlister's writing
- Lord we pray and work for the good of our city and country
- Lord touch our wandering loved ones with your relentless love
- Awaken us to the ways of your Kingdom
- Bless with wisdom Ann and Karen in counseling ministry
- Healing for Dawn Costello's father
- Travel mercies for Azad's move this month to Detroit for Kurdish ministry
- Lord prepare the hearts for Frank's prison & neighborhood work
- We ask that all our young ones may grow to love You
- Direct us in ways to grow in You this season

A Season of Purposeful Reflection

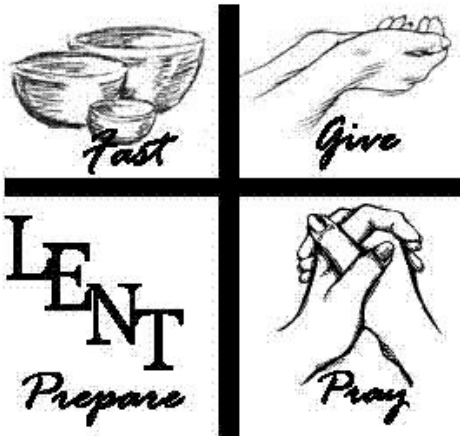
Fast upon us now comes the season of Lent, in which many Christians with renewed concentration turn to and reflect on what Christ's coming means. The season is set up as a 40 day period (like the fast the Lord engaged in before starting His ministry). You take away the Sundays (which are always a celebration to the Lord) and back it up from the Easter weekend starting with the day of the Last Supper and you have Ash Wednesday which this year is this next Wednesday March 9. History clearly shows that this period was not practiced in this manner in the earliest church, nor consistently among believers to this day. And quite frankly it deserves to survive only if it assists the believing community to draw closer to God and each other. We are encouraged to be about some form of denial but only for better good. It has been said:

Fasting is the soul of prayer, mercy is the lifeblood of fasting.

This year I found and wish to share the words of John Chrysostom (349-407) early church leader bishop of Constantinople. He was meditating and instructing on the season and the practice of fasting:



(Tom Hyde Living Open Source)



- I speak not, indeed, of such a fast as most persons keep, but of real fasting; not merely an abstinence from meats; but from sins too.
- Do you fast? Give me proof of it by your works!
- Is it said by what kind of works?
- If you see a poor man, take pity on him!
- If you see an enemy, be reconciled to him!
- If you see a friend gaining honor, envy him not!
- If you see a handsome woman, pass her by!
- For let not the mouth only fast, but also the eye, and ear, and the feet, and the hands, and all the members of our bodies.
- Let the hands fast, by being pure from rapine and avarice.
- Let the feet fast, but ceasing from running to the unlawful spectacles.
- Let the eyes fast, being taught never to fix themselves rudely upon handsome countenances, or to busy themselves with strange beauties.
- For looking is the food of the eyes, but if this be such as is unlawful or forbidden, it mars the fast; and upsets the whole safety of the soul; but if it be lawful and safe, it adorns fasting.
- For it would be among things the most absurd to abstain from lawful food because of the fast, but with the eyes to touch even what is forbidden. Do you not eat flesh? Feed not upon lasciviousness by means of the eyes.
- Let the ear fast also. The fasting of the ear consists in refusing to receive evil speakings and calumnies. "You shall not receive a false report," it says.
- Wise counsel, year round. May we avail ourselves of the season to God's glory and our growth in Him. *-David*

Opportunity to help serve the homeless on Jefferson Avenue Nashville this Tuesday with The Bridge Ministry outreach. This is, interestingly, part of the Vandy student's Alternate Spring Break. For more info contact or see David Boyd.

Lent for 2011 is March 9 – April 23. Ash Wednesday on March 9 starts this 40 week day season of self examination, repentance and reflecting on Jesus in preparation for celebrating Jesus' Resurrection on Easter (April 24). We plan to avail ourselves of Lent this year as a spiritual exercise. Please consider participating. More later...

Prayer is the News! Time of Prayer at FH church Monday and Thursday 5:30 p.m. to 5:50 p.m.

CLASSES AND WORSHIP SCHEDULE @ FOREST HOME:

Classes begin at 9 am. Worship begins at 10 am.

Grades and ages break down as follow:

- Pre-K – Kindergarten
- 1st grade – 4th grade
- 5th grade and up

2011 Calendar

EACH MON+THURS 5:30-5:50PM @ the church Intercessory prayer for anyone
 EACH TUES 6:30 am @ the church, Men's Ministry
 EACH WED 5:00 pm @ the church, Women's Bible Study
 March 10 Bryan & Isaac go to Togo
 Mar 9-Apr 23 Lent

DATE	NURSERY (Infants to 2 yrs old) During sermon only	LORD'S SUPPER PREPARATION	WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER PREP
Mar 6 Mar 13 Mar 20 Mar 27	Kathy Grimenstein Cecile Allen Jane Ann Myers Lois McAlister	Mar Allens Apr/May Grimensteins	Mar 9 Ocie/Shannon Mar 16 Pat/Karen Mar 23 Sarah/Kathleen Mar 30 Lisa/Liz
		(Sub-Grimensteins) See Jim G. with questions.	