



# Forest Home Church

Forest Home Church  
1751 Old Natchez Trace  
Franklin, TN 37069

[www.ForestHomeChurch.org](http://www.ForestHomeChurch.org)

May 15th, 2011

"Sharing, Loving & Exploring Life in Christ"

Send announcements, praises, and prayer requests to: [newsletter@foresthomechurch.org](mailto:newsletter@foresthomechurch.org)



### Sampling of Church Signs

Here are some actual slogans found on some church marquees:

- Don't put a question mark where God puts a period.
- God's yoke will not fit a stiff neck.
- Some minds are like concrete, thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.
- Life is a puzzle. Look here for the missing peace.
- Give God what's right, not what's left.
- God help me be the person my dog thinks I am.
- There are some questions that can't be answered by google.
- Forbidden fruits create many jams.
- God expects spiritual fruits not religious nuts.
- Honk if you love Jesus. Text while driving if you want to meet Him.
- The best vitamin for a Christian is B1.
- Let us help you study for your final exams.
- The Lord grades not on a curve but on the cross.



### PRAYERS AND PRAISES

- Our brothers/sisters in Africa: Jac Agak, Charles Ngoje, Jacob Randiek, and your orphan(s)
- Lisa Grimenstein as Pregnancy comes full term
- Cheyenne's father for healing from cancer
- Praise Esther Mae's heart surgery went well
- Bless our students to finish well in school
- Remember folks with many losses from tornadoes and flood
- Lord's grace on those in job transition
- Bless Lord and Thank You Lord for many in hands-on ministry:
- Elders in Shepherding and Prayer; Teachers & Worship Team;
- Tommy's Next Right Step; Gil & Liz administering orphan work;
- Jim's writing; Frank's Prison Outreach; Azad to Muslims;
- Karen and Ann in counseling; Graceworks Administration;
- Jim in maintenance; cooks on Wednesday night; Website & Recording
- Lord bless our wandering ones to return home to Jesus
- Lead us to love and forgive one another
- Teach us to Think and Walk in the Light of your Resurrection
- We seek Jesus who makes all things New

#### The Word of God Was from the Start

The word of God was from the start.  
The word drove seas and land apart.  
The word made rocks and living things.  
The word raised up and brought down kings.

The word became a child of earth.  
The word arrived through human birth.  
The word like us was blood and bone.  
The word knew life as we have known.

The word of God was human-sized,  
the word by most unrecognized.  
The word by others was received.  
The word gave life when they believed.

The word had first made flesh from sod,  
The word-made-flesh turned flesh toward God.  
The word is working on flesh still.  
The word is spelling out God's will.

The word shall be our life and light.  
The word shall be our power and might.  
The word above all wealth is priced.  
The word by name is Jesus Christ

#### A Prayer of Francis of Assisi (1182 – 1226)

Your kingdom come . . . so that you may rule in us through your grace  
And enable us to come to your kingdom  
Where there is an unclouded vision of you  
A perfect love of you  
A blessed companionship with you  
An eternal enjoyment of you!

"Branded"  
Youth Night Last Wed of each month  
6pm @ the church (may 25<sup>th</sup>)

Youth to the Sounds game June 3<sup>rd</sup>  
"Faith Night" (Chris August)

## Does Religion Unite or Divide us?

Here is a short article John Dickson wrote for the Australian newspaper, The Sydney Morning Herald. Dickson is a Director of the Centre for Public Christianity and teaches the history of early Christianity at Macquarie and Sydney Universities. LH

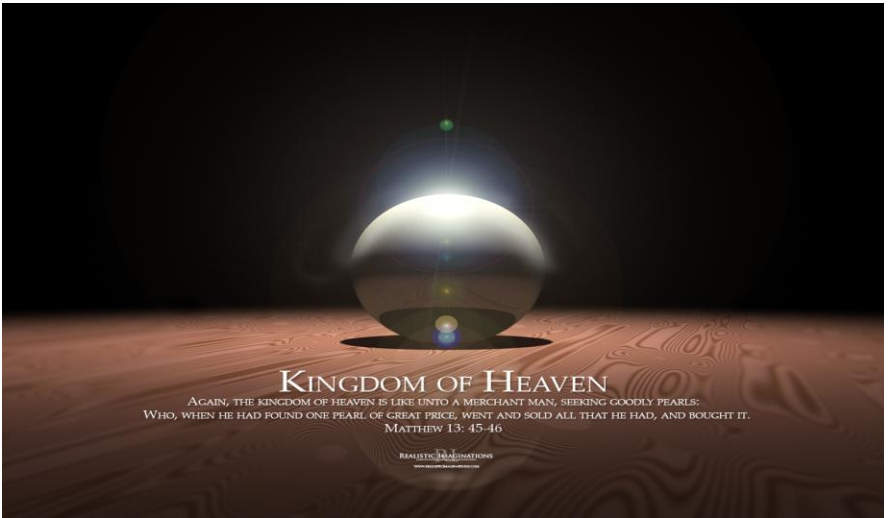
Good and bad religion alike both unite and divide, but they do so in radically different ways. Religion at its worst fosters tribalism, setting the faithful against the infidel. Christian examples are well known: the Crusades, Inquisitions, Northern Ireland and the awful covering up of child sexual abuse. No doubt there are Hindu, Jewish, Islamic and even Buddhist examples. The atheist ideologies of Stalin and Mao remind us that irreligion also has the pernicious power to unite and divide.

But a fair reading of history won't stop there. Religion at its best unites and divides in a very different way. Like the debates about climate change or asylum seekers, some important and noble causes rally and repel at the same time. In their aim to unite us around truth and goodness, some movements drive people apart. Christianity provides a special case in point.

The first few centuries of the church brought together Jew and Gentile, men and women, rich and poor, slave and free. Our texts and inscriptions from this period reveal the unparalleled success of a movement united in the conviction that all humanity bears the divine image and that God himself bore the image of a man to die for others on a cross. This amounted to a moral revolution, and the slogans of the revolution, "love your enemies" and "do to others as you would have them do to you", were as divisive as they were unifying.

Roman elites despised the bleeding-heart ethic of the crucified Lord, just as Nietzsche would 1800 years later. But the movement gained momentum. By the third century, there were more people on the church's daily food roster than were listed in all other Roman clubs and associations. By the 4th century, a troubled Emperor Julian wrote to his pagan officials warning of the influence of Christian charity: "For it is disgraceful," he wrote to High Priest Arcadius in ad 362, "that the impious Galileans support not only their own poor, but ours too."

Christians have not always lived up to their ideals, ideals that will always unite and divide. But just as we would never judge Bach's sublime Cello Suites on the performance of a novice, so we would do well to pause before judging the glorious original composition of Christ on the sometimes ordinary performance of his followers.

<p style="text-align: center;">Poetry by Thomas Troeger</p> <p>"Swiftly pass the clouds of Glory" Swiftly pass the clouds of glory, heaven's voice, the dazzling light; Moses and Elijah vanish—Christ alone commands the height! Peter, James and John fall silent, turning from the summit's rise, Downward toward the shadowed valley where their Lord has fixed his eyes.</p> <p>Glimpsed and gone the revelation—they shall gain and keep its truth not by building on the mountain any shrine or sacred booth but by following the savior through the valley to the cross and by testing faith's resilience through betrayal, pain and loss.</p> <p>Lord, transfigure our perception with the purest light that shines and recast our life's intentions to the shape of your designs til we seek no other glory than what lies past Calvary's hill and our living and our dying and our rising by your will.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">"A Single Unmatched Stone"</p> <p>A single unmatched stone / the builders hurled aside holds up the church alone / its cornerstone and pride. The symmetry the builders planned / was altered by another's hand.</p> <p>A single faithful act / that healed a man once lame the temple priests attacked / for bearing Jesus' name. The righteous heart, the rigid mind / to God's new work were deaf and blind.</p> <p>A single deed or word / of truth or peace or grace not seen before or heard / is difficult to face. Help us, O God, by faith to see / what seems a threat may set us free.</p>
 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>KINGDOM OF HEAVEN</b> <small>AGAIN, THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE UNTO A MERCHANT MAN, SEEKING GOODLY PEARLS: WHO, WHEN HE HAD FOUND ONE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE, WENT AND SOLD ALL THAT HE HAD, AND BOUGHT IT. MATTHEW 13: 45-46</small></p>	

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CLASSES AND WORSHIP SCHEDULE @ FOREST HOME:</b> <u>Classes begin at 9 am. Worship begins at 10 am.</u> Pre-K – Kindergarten 1<sup>st</sup> grade – 4<sup>th</sup> grade 5<sup>th</sup> grade and up</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DATE</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NURSERY (Infants-2 yrs old)</b> During sermon only</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LORD'S SUPPER PREPARATION</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2011 Calendar</b></p> <p>EACH MON+THURS 5:30-5:50PM @ the church Intercessory prayer for anyone EACH WED 5:00 pm @ the church, Women's Bible Study May 25<sup>th</sup> Youth night at church 6pm "Branded" June 3<sup>rd</sup> Youth Sounds Game "Faith Night"</p>	<p>May 15 May 22 May 29 June 5</p>	<p>Kathleen Stewart Anita Christy Ocie Garner Barbara Jenkins</p>	<p>May Gill June Farmer July Dawn August Costello Sept Garner (Sub-Grimensteins) See Jim Grim with questions.</p>	<p>May 18 Liz/Dawn May 25 Linda/Lois June 1 Ocie/Shannon June 8 Pat/Karen</p>