



Forest Home Church

Forest Home Church
1751 Old Natchez Trace
Franklin, TN 37069

www.ForestHomeChurch.org

June 12th, 2011

"Sharing, Loving & Exploring Life in Christ"

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

PRAYERS AND PRAISES

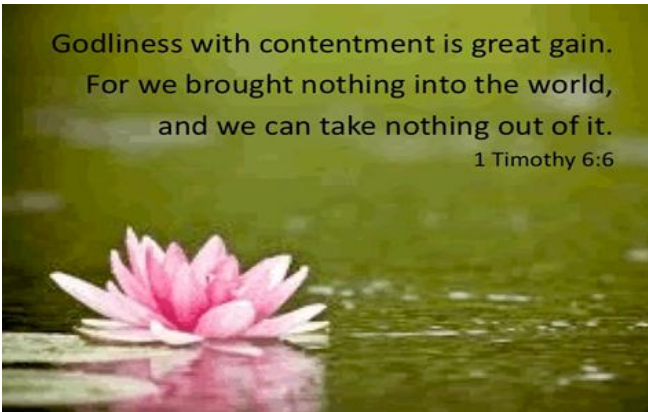
- Our brothers/sisters in Africa: Jac Agak, Charles Ngoje, Jacob Randiek, and your orphan(s)
- Remember Jac Agak in the loss of his brother
- Lord bless with grace & wisdom those in transitions of work or relationship
- Cheyenne's father for healing from cancer
- Shannon's father for healing of nose
- Wisdom from above for parents and elders
- Bless travels and many of our youth abroad in camps
- Remember people of Phil Campbell, Alabama in losses
- Bless Lord ministries of Tommy, Frank, Azad, Adam, Teachers, Worship Team
- Lord lead our wandering ones to return home to Jesus
- Thank You for Your great faithfulness
- Thank You for the sufficiency that is in Christ
- Let us learn the mystery of contentment to your glory
- Please pray for Luke Grimenstein, he has been diagnosed with VSD, a minor heart defect (a small hole in the heart.) The doctors think he'll grow out of it, and the hole will close with age.

They saw what seemed to be Tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.
Acts 2:3



The Freedom of Simplicity

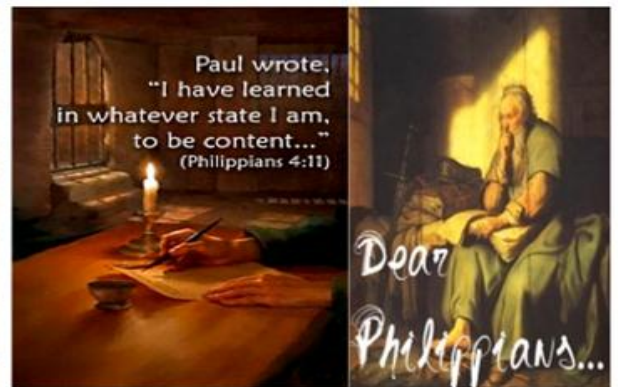
Simplicity is a spiritual discipline which must be brought to my attention periodically, for the blur of life easily robs contentment in Christ. One helpful writer in this regard is Richard Foster, who wrote the now classic *Celebration of Discipline*. In what follows please enjoy several insights from Foster on walking in the grace of simplicity. He gives a specific example of simplicity in his own life of ministry, but his point applies to any type of work. Of simplicity Foster says, "It brings sanity to our compulsive extravagance, and peace to our frantic spirit. It liberates us from what William Penn called 'cumber.'" LH



Around the Word
groups meet on
Sunday June 12th.

YOUTH INFO

June 29th
"Branded"
(Eph. 1:13-14)



Richard Foster's Guidelines for Simplicity

- Buy things for their usefulness rather than their status
- Reject anything that is producing an addiction in you
- Develop a habit of giving things away
- Refuse to be propagandized by the custodians of modern gadgetry
- Learn to enjoy things without owning them
- Develop a deeper appreciation for the creation
- Look with a healthy skepticism at all "buy now, pay later" schemes
- Obey Jesus' instructions about plain, honest speech
- Reject anything that breeds the oppression of others
- Shun anything that distracts you from seeking first the kingdom of God



"May God give you – and me- the courage, the wisdom, the strength always to hold the kingdom of God as the number one priority of our lives. To do so, is to live in simplicity"

–Richard Foster, Celebration of Discipline

Life at the Center

I still remember the rainy February morning inside a Washington, D.C., airport many years ago. Exhausted, I slumped into a chair to wait for my flight. As always, I had brought reading material in order to make good use of free moments. For the first time in my life I opened Thomas Kelly's *Testament of Devotion*.

Immediately, he caught my attention by describing perfectly my condition and the condition of so many I knew: "We feel honestly the pull of many obligations and try to fulfill them all. And we are unhappy, uneasy, strained, oppressed, and fearful we shall be shallow." Yes, I had to confess I was in those words. To all who saw me I was confident and in command, but inwardly I was tired and scattered. Then my eyes came upon words of hope and promise, "We have hints that there is a way of life vastly richer and deeper than all this hurried existence, a life of unhurried serenity and peace and power. If only we could slip over into that Center!" Instinctively, I knew that he was speaking of a reality beyond what I had known. Please understand me, I was not ungodly and irreverent, just the opposite. My problem was that I was so serious, so concerned to do what was right, that I felt compelled to respond to every call to service. And, after all, they were wonderful opportunities to minister in Christ's name.

Then came the sentence that was to prompt an inner revolution: "We have seen and known some people who seem to have found this deep Center of living, where the fretful calls of life are integrated, where No as well as Yes can be said with confidence." This ability to say Yes and No out of the divine Center was foreign to me. I had always prayed over decisions, and yet I too often responded on the basis of whether or not the action would put me in a favorable light. To say Yes to pleas for help or opportunities to serve usually carried an aura of spirituality and sacrifice. I could say Yes easily, but I did not have the ability to say No. What would people think of me if I refused?

Alone, I sat in the airport watching the rain splatter against the window. Tears fell on my coat. It was a holy place, an altar, the chair where I sat. I was never to be the same. Quietly, I asked God to give me the ability to say No when it was right and good.

Back home, I was once again caught up into a flurry of activity. But I had made one decision—Friday nights were to be reserved for the family. It was a small decision at the time; nobody but I really knew about it. I had told the family in a casual, off-hand fashion; they did not know it was a covenant commitment, a crossroads decision. Nor did I, really. It just seemed the right thing to do, hardly what one would call a God-given directive.

But then the phone call came. It was a denominational executive. Would I be willing to speak to this group on Friday night? There it was, another wonderful opportunity. My response was casual, almost unconscious, "Oh, no, I can't." The reply was also casual, "Oh, do you have another commitment?" I felt trapped. (In those days I did not know that I could quite legitimately say that I did indeed have a very important commitment.) Cautiously but purposefully, I answered simply, "No," with no attempt to justify or explain my decision. There followed a long period of silence which seemed to last an eternity. I could almost feel the words, "Where is your dedication?" traveling through the telephone wires. I knew I had made a decision that made me seem less spiritual to one for whom I genuinely cared. After a moment we shared a few pleasantries and then hung up; but as the phone hit the receiver, inwardly I shouted, "Hallelujah." I had yielded to the Center. I had touched the margin of simplicity, and the effect was electrifying.

The incident was so small and insignificant that it is almost embarrassing to relate it to you. I'm sure my denominational friend does not even recall the phone conversation. And yet somehow I had turned a corner. Even now I sometimes wish I could say that something terribly important precipitated the change. But there it was, a trivial event, yet it had changed everything. Perhaps it has been that way for you also. At least I know that often the genuinely important issues are decided in the small corners of life.

I mention these little incidents of the airport and the phone conversation only because they were the first opening to me of what it meant to respond to the demands of life from the divine Center. But it is this reality that lies at the heart of all Christian simplicity. As we yield to the Center everything about us becomes focused, synoptic. This yielding is nothing more than the experience of the great commandment to love God with all our being. . . .

(From Foster's *Freedom of Simplicity*, Harper, 1997)

2011 Calendar		DATE	NURSERY (Infants-2 yrs old) During sermon only	LORD'S SUPPER PREPARATION	WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER
EACH MON+THURS 5:30-5:50PM @ the church	Intercessory prayer for anyone	June 12	Lynne Daniel	June	June 15
EACH WED 5:00 pm @ the church,	Women's Bible Study	June 19	Mandy Austin	July	June 22
		June 26	Karen Costello	August	June 29
		July 3	D'Ann McAlister	Sept	July 6
		July 10	Ronna King		July 13
		July 17	Cecile Allen	(Sub-Grimensteins) See Jim Grim with questions.	July 20
					Pizza Sarah/Kathleen Liz/Dawn Linda/Lois Ocie/Shannon Pat/Karen