
Upcoming Events

Church Retreat at Tulsa, OK, June 26-28

Vacation Bible School (VBS) at Metro July 22 - 25

Weekly Schedule

Tues, Jun 16th Bible Study at Metro Church of God
Wed, Jun 17th **Subject: Theology of the Holy Spirit**
Thurs, Jun 18th Each night, starting at 7 PM

Fri, Jun 19th (Mesquite) Fasting Prayer @ Parsonage (10 AM)

Fri, Jun 19th (Metro) Spiritual Emphasis & Fasting Prayer (7 PM)

Sat, Jun 20th (Metro) Spiritual Emphasis & Fasting Prayer (3 PM)

Condolences

Bro Finny's grandmother Smt Thankamma Cherian (90 years), living in Keara, was promoted to glory last week. Please pray for the comfort of loved ones of the dear departed one.

Congratulations!!

The young ladies of Metro took **1st place** in the 2009 PYCD Women's Volleyball Competition. A heartfelt congratulations to our young men for playing a fantastic basketball game in the PYCD Men's Basketball game and giving it their best effort despite the challenges they faced.

Prayer for the Nations: Guinea (Africa)*

- After gaining independence, Guinea was ruled by a Marxist regime, which proved to be a disaster. Millions fled the country and food aid from abroad was the only thing preventing widespread famine. Since 1984 Guinea has moved through a military style government towards greater democracy.
- Hundreds of thousands of refugees have come to Guinea from conflicts in neighbouring Sierra Leone and Liberia.
- During the Marxist era Christians suffered much persecution. Despite some intolerance from the Muslim majority, there is now greater freedom for Christians and missionaries in Guinea. 50% of the population is under 16.
- Thank God that there has been more stability and freedom in Guinea since 1984.
- There is a growing excitement about mission, with Christians from Kissi and Toma tribes going to work with other tribes.
 - Less than 5% of the population is Christian, and mostly concentrated in a few ethnic groups. Pray that these Christians can make a radical difference in their families and communities.
- Guinea is one of the least evangelised countries in Black Africa. There is still a massive challenge in reaching the Muslim majority. Reaching the Fulbe people is crucial across the whole region of West Africa.
- Pray that missionaries can effectively serve the local churches and build close relationships there.

* http://operationworld.24-7prayer.com/country.php?country_id=77

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metro
Church of God



*Celebrating the Presence of God
Demonstrating the Love of God
Communicating the Word of God
Educating the People of God*

June 14, 2009

They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God. O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer: give ear, O God of Jacob. (Ps 84:7,8)

Welcome

Loosing our childhood

"Unless you are converted and become like little children, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matt 18:3)

Something that is noticeable these days is that childhood or the stages of childhood is fast deteriorating in America and in most westernized nations. Lots of our children, especially, the group in their pre-teen to early teens (tweens as it is also phrased in the media), roughly ages from 11-15, are fast loosing the gradual transition from childhood to adulthood and are part of this new wave where adulthood is thrust upon them right into their faces ('hearts' might be a better word) without the benefit of having maturity or wisdom in place prior to being recipients of this adulthood. Now the previous sentence might be a mouthful, but as you read on, hopefully it will become a bit clearer.

Children are being exposed to a tremendous amount of "information" in this fast paced digital world. The "information" that I am stating here is not necessarily scientific or newsworthy facts but all types of information bombardment from such outlets as music, images, email, movies, television, cell phone technology, internet, etc. Of course, the internet in certain areas is an uncharted territory since we have not yet fully comprehended the good and bad that is yielded and the long term effects to individuals and society from such technology.

Our kids are well versed and immersed in this "information" age. They are fully engaged in this digital world and, in fact, to be successful in their future careers, this growing digital world needs to be understood and applied so that they themselves can participate on what's going on in the world. Let me state it in another way, there was time in our past history when books/libraries were not accessible to individuals in general. Then came the age of the printing press and since then, all of us have had access to school textbooks, libraries, bibles, etc. If our parents ignored this printing press phenomenon with books and said we were going to learn by the old tradition of passing down information orally, then most of us would not have ended up as doctors, nurses, engineers, or theologians. So, we can't ignore or discard this new and fast growing information age, but we do need to be vigilant about its effects on our children.

Since this information age is so easily accessible in so many formats (TV, radio, computers, IPODs, cell phones), our children are more vulnerable to the influences of the various "information" out there. Younger teens are more susceptible to the influences of the "information" out there since they are still growing and they do not have a full understanding of the mental, moral, physical, and spiritual effects that the various "information" can inflict on their lives. An example of something I've seen on TV are the various pre-teen shows on channels such as Disney/Nick that puts a strong emphasis on romantic relationships at the middle-school age.

Children at this age are just entering the initial stage as a young adult and the "information" emphasis on romance at this developmental stage distracts their minds in their transition from childhood to adulthood by bringing something that is of an adult nature right within their grasps without allowing the children to understand the implications, positive as well as negative influences, and the importance of such relationships in a Christian environment. Our children can become so preoccupied by the importance of such things that they lose their focus on what's important at this stage in their lives. Children should not have to worry about such things, since they have so much growing still to do. If pre-occupation with "romance" at this stage is not healthy, now just imagine the "information" that explicit pornography from the internet or other outlets would instill in the hearts of children at this age. With this type of "information" what kind of roots are being planted in their hearts with regards to proper relationships, how the opposite gender is to be viewed, and how love is defined?

This is just a small example of how our kids can lose that wonderful innocence of childhood. There are so much different negative information in this world trying to remove the childlike quality from our children, and like a drug pusher, push adulthood into their lives. Bratz dolls and tween idols pushing the envelope of how children should look, the public media (even some schools) sending the message to our kids that homosexuality is an acceptable form of relationship, and thereby some children now question their own orientation and are misled, a new phenomena with cell phones called "sexting" in which kids expose themselves inappropriately to others, and other forms of "information" all inflict a heavy damage on allowing our children to be actual children.

Now let's get to the conclusion of the matter here. After reading thus far, you may ask, 'so what?' Jesus said, "Unless you are converted and become like little children....". If our children are losing that sense of childhood, then what is the result? We have middle-aged men/women living inside the bodies of kids, hearts hardened by "information" and unreceptive and unresponsive to the love of God, and thereby resulting in "certainly not entering the kingdom of heaven". In other words, they have lost the innocence and simplicity of childhood in their hearts and there is no room for the presence of Jesus.

Parents, be vigilant! Don't allow your children to lose their childhood. This doesn't mean that we are not allowing them to grow, but let them grow gradually in an environment where they can transition to being adults as time passes in years and not in seconds. Let our children be 20 year olds, when they truly have lived for 20 years in this world instead of allowing 20 year old concepts ruling their lives when they are still only 10. Now imagine something completely different and wonderful...if our kids maintain that childlike quality in their lives as Jesus said, then their hearts would be receptive to receive God's promise, "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy..." (Joel 2:28). What wonderful plans does the Lord Almighty have regarding our kids, therefore, let us safeguard our children so that we can see His plans come to fruition!

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In Christ Alone,
Abie