

# LAKE ERIE CHURCH OF GOD

3050 ANTIOCH RD

PERRY, OHIO

(440) 259-2310

Bishop Phil Pearson – Senior Pastor

---

LakeErieChurch.com

Connections – Sunday @ 9AM

Morning Worship – Sundays @ 10AM

The Well- Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM



*If you hide your sins, you will not succeed. If you confess and reject them, you will receive mercy ([Proverbs 28:13](#), NIV).*

## Friend to Friend

We will never experience the life God wants us to live until we are ready to honestly face and deal with our sin. I mean the kind of honesty that shines a spotlight in every dark corner of our hearts. Getting real. Getting honest. Going all in with God – like the people of Nineveh did.

God sent [Jonah](#) to Nineveh with a message – and it was a doozy! Jonah told the Ninevites they had 40 days to clean up their act and get their lives in order, or God would destroy their city.

When the King of Nineveh heard Jonah’s message, he took it seriously. The King first addressed the sin in his own heart. He then vacated his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat down in the dust.

He urged the people of Nineveh to listen to Jonah – to give up their violent and evil ways. He warned them to turn from their sins – and they did!

When God saw how the Ninevites repented, He forgave them and He saved them. Now fast-forward a few thousand years ... to present time.

Our daughter has two little boys. Justus is seven years old and truly has a special calling on his life. He is pure in heart, has a sweet spirit, and loves God fiercely.

Justus has a little brother named Hudson. Hudson is a four-year-old charmer and a comedian. He also has a calling on his life – to test Justus’ love for Jesus.

One night, Hudson was exhausted from his day in preschool and was just over life. The result was a full-blown tantrum. Sam, our son-in-law, came home from a tense day at work and was also tired. Our daughter had been running errands all day, and was running on fumes.

It wasn’t long before Hudson’s tantrum caused everyone to fall off the emotional cliff from which they had been hanging – and things got heated.

In the midst of the heat, Justus stepped up to the plate and said, “Now everyone just needs to calm down! Mom and Dad, you need to stop and take a deep breath.” Justus then demonstrated how to breathe deeply and “let all of the bad feelings out.” When a measure of peace had been restored, Justus turned to Hudson with a stern warning, “And Hudson, you need to remember what happened to the Ninevites!”

We *all* need to remember what happened to the Ninevites!

God has the same message for us today. We need to get our lives in order. We need to cry out to God, turn from our wicked ways, and deal with the sin in our lives. But if you are like me, it is easy to become flippant about sin.

The first time we commit a sin it is painful. We are filled with remorse and mourn the fact that we have grieved the heart of God. But regret is not enough when it comes to dealing with sin.

Unless we confess and *turn away* from that sin, we are likely to commit it again. If we allow sin to settle into our life and refuse to confess it, that sin eventually hardens our heart and builds spiritual calluses in our soul. When we become comfortable with our sin, we are walking in enemy territory and setting ourselves up for spiritual failure and discouragement.

The good news is that Jesus understands human frailty. He is well acquainted with temptation and the tactics of Satan. Jesus gave His life as a ransom for our sin – and He paid our sin debt in full.

*But if we confess our sins, He will forgive our sins, because we can trust God to do what is right. He will cleanse us from all the wrongs we have done* ([1 John 1:9](#), NCV).

This verse was written to believers as an encouragement to deal with sin and a promise that when we do so, God is faithful to forgive us and to clean up the mess that sin has caused.

We are not perfect – just forgiven. God is very serious about sin. We should be as well. And we need to remember what happened to the Ninevites.



•

## Words You May Not be Using Enough in Your Marriage

Submitted by: Broken Wings Ministry

I'm not much of a confrontationist. My natural tendency is to walk away and stew over something (and maybe slam a few cabinet doors for emphasis), instead of addressing a specific problem. But all marriages need good, and meaningful, communication. Grunts and sighs don't really count. That means we don't just initiate the conversation when we think our spouses have messed up, but we also need a willingness to admit when we're the one in the wrong – and offering our spouses the benefit of the doubt, can go a long way in overcoming conflicts that come up in our relationships.

The next time you find yourself in a heated made-for-marriage confrontation over who was supposed to empty the dishwasher, or who should have shut the gate *before* the dog made a run for it, and both of you are in your corners readying for another round, take a "time out" and hold up a white flag while you speak these three words to your spouse.

**Please forgive me.** Sound weird, right? What about those other three words, like, "I love you," or the more obvious word choice when you're in an argument, "I'm sorry"?

Those phrases are useful, but from my experience talking and counseling with other wives over the years, they're not always used sincerely. "I'm so sorry" and "I love you" can quickly deteriorate into "Sorry" sarcasm, and "Love you" scorn, with maybe even an eye-roll thrown in for good measure.

But when we intentionally ask our spouses to forgive us, we do a couple of important things simultaneously. First, we recognize our part in the current argument or conflict. Whether you feel you're in the wrong or not, if you've exchanged harsh words or offered an ugly attitude over whatever you're arguing about, you have a part you can apologize for and ask to be forgiven for. You have something you could have handled better.

Second, we open a door to draw our spouses closer to us instead of pushing them further away. "Please forgive me" creates an invitation, a moment, where defensiveness can soften, and for an opportunity to choose love over resentment to be taken. Suddenly, instead of focusing on winning the argument, we're focusing on each other and how we can both move back to common ground.

If you find yourself frequently looking for and holding onto little things your spouse does that hurts your feelings or causes growing dislike or bitterness, it may be time to do a heart reset.

**Elder Melvin & Jennifer Rankins**



## K's Korner

### There's a shift coming!!!

We know 2017 is here and a New Year brings its own changes, but I'm talking about a change in the Spirit by God. There's a shifting taking place in the Body of Christ and in the personal lives of the Saints. Webster describes a shift as:

- A.) To change the place, position, or direction of: (move)
- B.) To make a change in (place)
- C.) To exchange for or replace by another (change)

This is the time for you as a believer in Christ to get in your closet or continue to be consistent in your closet praying and fellowshiping with the Father, Son and the Holy Ghost. Jesus said, "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly". (Matthew 6:6)

You will not know what to do in this shift if you are not communing with the Father and I'm not talking about your 15 minutes on the way to church, work, etc. I'm talking about bathing in His presence and allowing the Glory of God to Change you.

Even if you don't know what to do for your life in this shift, the news is that it will still take place with or without you preparing yourself for the coming of Christ.

#### **I'm glad you asked how this shift will take place in the Spirit of God.**

For those who make a choice not to move in the direction that the Lord is calling the body of Christ into, or for those who continue to make excuses about the position, or place that they are in will get cut down with the sharp sickle in the hand of Christ. He's riding on a cloud with a crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand. (Rev.14: 14-20)

#### **Beware and prepare yourself for the coming of Christ.**

The sickle represents judgement. For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it begins at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

**(I Peter 4:17)**



## Thirst News

Beginning in January on Tuesdays and Thursdays Jr Talent Practice will be held at the church. If you are interested be sure to see Pastor Dustin for details. Share your talent and make a difference in someone's life.

## Kids On The Lake



Come and join the fun at The Kids on the Lake Skating Party, January 28<sup>th</sup> See Leah Jones for details Save the date

## Warriors Of Worship

WOW Dance Ministry News- January 9 The WOW Practices will resume at 6:00 PM Please come prepared to share your talent.

On January 29, 2017 the WOW Danc Ministry will host a Chilli Fundraiser. Make plans to support our youth. For more information see Sandy Kimble.



## Breaking Free Book Ministry

Join us for a inspiring journey as we begin another powerful book on Monday January 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM

*God's Inspiring Message to Women of Power, Purpose and Destiny.*

40 Days of Fasting & Encouragement begins on January 8<sup>th</sup> Remember to extend some type of encouragment to someone everyday. ***"Together We Can Make a Difference"***

Ladies Morning Book Study will begin at 9:00 AM on Thursday January 12<sup>th</sup> join us you will be glade you did. See Erica Shaw for more details.

Lake Erie Fine Arts has open enrollment throughout the month of January. If you are interested in The Voices of Praise Gospel Choir, The Band, Drama Minstry, or Warriors of Worship you can see Pastor Jerome Barclay.

## **Walking Out**

"I hope you didn't take it personally, Pastor," an embarrassed woman said after a church service, "when my husband walked out during your sermon."

"I did find it rather disconcerting," the preacher replied.

"It's not a reflection on you, sir," insisted the church goer.

"Ralph has been walking in his sleep ever since he was a child."

**\*Thanks to Pastor Tim for this joke!\***