



Knowing Christ, Becoming Like Him...

theParentLink

A Ministry of
Bloomingdale Alliance Church

Spring/Summer 2010

Ch, Ch, Ch, Changing... It's amazing to me how every year, no matter what, the seasons change. In the same sense we, as believers know that change is never that far away. God desires to transform us to His likeness and character (Rom. 12:1-2) and that always requires change. When we refuse to work through change we deal not only with consequences, but missing out on what God has for us.



No matter what type of change you might find yourself in or coming up to, there are a number of encouraging things to remember. One of those things which stands out to me is found in Luke 24:15. Following the resurrection two men were discussing all the change which had transpired in the recent days.

In the midst of their walk, "Jesus came up and walked along with them".

Despite the circumstances which change all around us, including students graduating, the economy, and even in people themselves. Jesus is willing to come up to us, meet us where we are at, and then walk with us. I want to encourage you not to be so wrapped up in the change that you may face or will face that you miss out on walking with Jesus.



ACHIEVEMENT?

With summer vacation looming on the horizon, our teenagers are looking forward to getting out of school. I still remember the amazing feeling of heading off to that last day of school, knowing that in just a few short hours, "freedom" – at least for a dozen weeks – would soon be mine. The bus ride home on that last day was interrupted by an enthusiastic chorus of "No more pencils, no more books," and ended one line later with us slandering our teachers.

While the celebration of the end of the school year has not changed, the volume knob on the academic pressures many kids feel *has* progressively turned up to the point where many kids are caving. I was reminded of this fact on a recent visit to a secondary school where expectations run high. During the day, I moved from classroom to classroom asking kids about their lives, their cares, their concerns, and their stressors. By the end of the day, I was convinced that the overwhelming pressure these teenagers felt was academic in nature. In fact, nobody mentioned anything other than academic pressure in response to my questions. When I probed into the source of those pressures, it became obvious that there was pressure coming from multiple sources including parents, teachers, community, peer group, and even the pressure the students were putting on themselves. One student told me her parents were living vicariously through her. Another said he felt the pressure now – as a 16-year-old – so that he would be able to retire and do all the things that he wanted to do later in his life. By the way, did I mention that the school I visited was a Christian school?

BY WALT MUELLER, PRESIDENT, CPYU

In their wonderful book, *The Outrageous Idea of Academic Faithfulness*, Donald Optiz and Derek Melleby challenge Christian students to avoid the performance trap they label as "grades and accolades." Increasingly, I'm running across students who have allowed academic success and the drive for "grades and accolades" to become an idol. Academic success becomes the end, rather than a means through which to honor and serve God. We sometimes forget that when we pursue societal standards rather than God's standards, we can – as Walker Percy writes – "get all A's and still flunk life."

Let me suggest that you use this end-of-school time of the year to sit with your kids to ponder their view of academics, the pressures you might unknowingly be placing on them, and a Godly perspective on school achievement. As you do so, keep these realities in mind:

First, remember that God has granted all kids a unique mix of gifts and abilities. Consequently, some are more academically gifted than others. Our role is to help our kids work to do *their* best, not to achieve some socially-defined standard of best.

Second, remember that if you are finding your identity through your kids and their achievements, you are placing undo pressure on them. Not only that, you will facilitate resentment on their part. And, you should examine yourself to see how and where you need to find your identity in Christ and Christ alone.

Third, teach your kids that we endeavor to do things well, not to draw attention to ourselves, but to bring God pleasure. It's not about us.

Collide

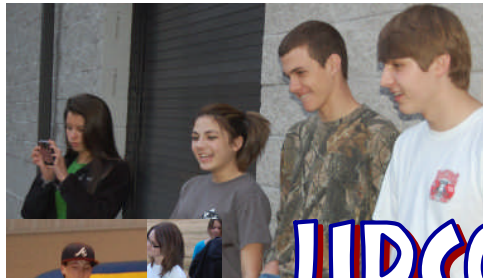
July 6-10
Louisville, KY

life2010

If you are still considering allowing your student to be part of LIFE 2010, it's not too late!!! However, we are coming down to the wire. Any student who'd like to participate in LIFE 2010 must submit their registration no later than Sunday May 23rd.



LIFE will be held July 5th-11th in Louisville, KY. If you have any questions please let Pastor Rick know. Hope to see you there, your student won't want to miss out on this one event every three years, it's going to be fantastic!!! Check out www.life2010.com for more details.



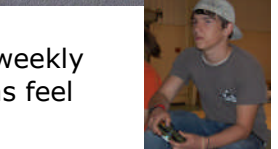
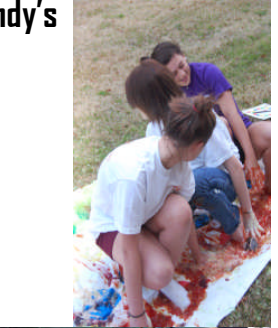
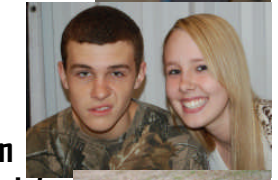
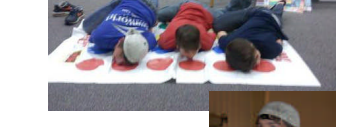
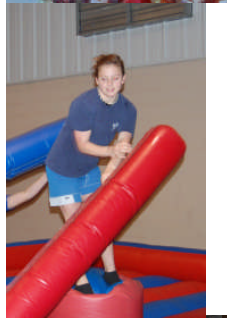
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Phil. 3:10



UPCOMING EVENTS !!

Day and Date	Activity	Info
Sun. May 30th	YG @ Skip and Gena's	6-8pm, <i>If you need a ride please be at the church by 5:30pm. Please bring Food/Drink Item</i>
Sun. June 6th	Graduation Service	11am Service <i>Dinner for Grad's and Family Following Service</i>
Sun. June 6th	YG @ Willy and Cindy's	6-8pm, <i>If you need a ride please be at the church by 5:30pm. Please Bring Food/Drink Item</i>
Wed. June 9th	Beach Night	Leaving church @ 6:15 be back by 10pm Cost \$5, Bring additional \$ for Sonic/Wendy's and Permission Slip
Fri. June 11th	Open Gym	7-9pm in the Gym
Sun. July 4th	YG @ Skip and Gena's	6-8pm, <i>If you need a ride please be at the church by 5:30pm Please bring Food/Drink Item</i>
Mon. July 5th	LIFE 2010	7am Departure From Church



Don't forget to check out the church website for all the latest updates, and weekly lessons @ www.bloominglealliancecma.org If you have any questions feel free to contact me @ 912 247 5280 or rrosati@bellsouth.net