

# The Gospel Messenger

February 2012 Akron Church of God Monthly Newsletter [www.akronchurchofgod.org](http://www.akronchurchofgod.org)

*The Pastor Speaks* ..... by Rev. Terry L. Canfield

## **“RUTS”**

A sign on a Georgia road reads, ***“Choose your rut carefully. You’ll be in it for the next 30 miles.”***

I remember growing up in the country where we had to drive about a half-mile from a paved road to our house. Ruts were easily formed on this dirt/gravel road when it rained. Drivers would try to choose a rut that was shallow enough so that the car did not scrape. Ruts have a bad name.

Ruts in our lives can be harmful and cause us to stagnate. We must guard our daily routines and schedules. It is easy to fritter away our time and resources and accomplish very little if anything.

Guard your attitudes. It is easy to go negative during a conversation and become grumpy. We can get caught in the negative rut and not even realize it. People avoid those who are negative.

We can get caught in our ruts for so long that our prayer becomes, ***“Please, let nothing change.”*** We must guard clinging too tightly to the past because of the uncertainty of the future. Maybe the change that brings a new shape is good.

What ruts have you become stuck in that are endless, outdated and useless? They simply need to be tossed. Don’t become reluctant to discard anything. Pull yourself together and get out of those ruts. Pick yourself up and start again.

**Determine to move forward. The year 2011 isn’t coming back again.**

**Don’t get caught in the ruts of self-pity, pain, frustration and feelings of inadequacy. Through prayer develop a list of what needs to be done. Every day determine to take specific action steps that will move you forward in fulfilling God’s plan for your life.**

I like the story behind ***Chicken Soup for the Soul***. Jack Canfield and Victor Hansen were finding it difficult to sell their books. They sought the advice from a wise old man. He told them the following... ***“If you would go every day to a very large tree and take five swings at it with a very sharp axe, eventually, no matter how large the tree, it would have to come down.***

Hansen and Canfield developed “the rule of five.” Every day they did five specific things that would move them closer to their dream of selling books. It was a lot of effort – a minimum of five things a day, every day, day in and day out – for over two years. As a result, ***Chicken Soup for the Soul*** has sold 112 million copies in forty-one languages.

**Your habits create the ruts of your life. Determine to develop good and positive habits in 2012 as you create those ruts.**

**Blessings!**

**Pastor Terry**



The Family of Vonnie J. Barnard acknowledges with deep appreciation your kind expression of sympathy. Thank you so much for the beautiful planter and all the many cards and especially your prayers after the loss of my mother.  
Love, Bonnie Steen

*I thank God for you.* II Timothy 1:3

Dear Church Family,  
I appreciate the Christmas gift of money. I bought a book and pre-ordered the "Courageous" DVD. Thank you for continued gifts of prayers and encouragement.  
Warmly, Diane Wildermuth

Thank you for the celebration of my 10 years in the daycare. It has been a rewarding experience being with little children. Thank you for the gift also. Thank you to the daycare for the lighted picture. It was a very special day.  
In Christian Love, Abby Smith



by Director, Diane Wildermuth

**GOOD NEWS CLUB** for After School Kids will return on Thursdays, beginning February 2<sup>nd</sup> through March 8<sup>th</sup>. Fresh games, prizes and remarkable Bible lessons are in store for School Kids immediately following school until 4:30pm (*Kids, even if you don't come to Wee Care, you are invited to join GOOD NEWS CLUB! It doesn't cost anything, snack is provided, and energetic activities are abundant!*)

Akron-Mentone Kiwanis Club donated \$200. To Wee Care Children's Ministries! What a wonderful gift! The money will be used to purchase monthly Scholastic publications- Clifford The Big Red Dog for daycare children and Let's Find Out for 3's preschoolers.

Special thanks, also, to Devon Smith for his generous donation of multiple book shelves. They have allowed the opportunity to sort and organize what previously was not! The men who moved all the heavy shelving are appreciated, too!

I don't mind washing dishes. There is minimal chance to mess up. The dishes are either dirty or clean. On a daily basis, they are all hand-washed, rinsed in bleach water, then sanitized by the dishwasher's hot



water bath. We practiced team spirit recently by alternating days washing dishes. Because Jeannie was home with the flu, I gladly took my turn at the kitchen sink. As I tackled the Sloppy Joe-smearred stacks of divided plates, the thought occurred to me that I might productively pass time by praying for each child that used each plate. Obviously, I didn't know which child ate from which plate. Again, I was reminded that God knows ALL! He knew which child used fingers to clean every morsel from corners. He knew which child ate the fruit first. HE KNOW ALL!

One of our favorite responses came from Landon recently. Because he is now in kindergarten and big sisters are quite responsible, Landon has not been to daycare since August. (He has told his parents repeatedly that he misses his friends and wants to come to daycare after school.) On the day that the family schedule changed enough that Wee Care After School was considered, Landon offered to use his allowance to pay for it! Oh, what a sweet reunion!



### Little Caesar's Pizza Sale

Wee Care Children's Ministries will be selling Little Caesar product as a fund raiser beginning February 6 - 12. Delivery will be February 22. Please see Diane Wildermuth or any staff member to place your order. Stock up your freezer with these delicious easy

meals and you will not have to worry about unexpected dinner guests or hungry teens!

### Children's Ministries

by Carol Mitterling



Thank you, Thank you, Thank you....to all of you for the many many donations this past month. We have had donations of glue sticks, scissors, pillowcases, cotton balls, glitter glue, treasure chest toys, etc. Wednesdays are so joyful because of your donations. Also to all my helpers....you're the greatest.

We have great news: JAM has grown to such big numbers that we have had to form a new group. BridgeKidz (Bridging to God, to Others, and to the World) is for 1st and 2nd graders. They will join the JAM kids for part of the evening but they will then break away for their own study time. This group of kids is wonderful and they are hungering for more intense study time. I'm so grateful for the helpers who have increased their time serving to make this new group possible. JAM is for ages 3 yrs through Kindergarten, BridgeKidz is for 1st and 2nd graders, and Big Kids Club is for 3rd 4th and 5th graders. We've also added once a quarter "movie and munchies" and once a quarter birthday celebrations as well as celebrations of the holidays. All of these events will share the gospel in different ways! JAM (Jesus and Me), BridgeKidz (Bridging to God, to others, and to the World), and Big Kids Club make Wednesday evenings a joyous, adventurous time in learning about Gods love for us!

## **40 Days of Prayer and Fasting**

February 29<sup>th</sup> begins a time of Prayer and Fasting for hundreds of Church of



God congregations. The Akron Church of God will once again become a part of this effort. This unique time will lead us to Easter. The united focus is 25,000 new believers! You are encouraged to join in this effort of prayer and fasting. There are several ways in which you can participate. A display is in the Hospitality Area with more information, check it often as it will be updated regularly. Among the options to choose from...daily devotional guides, Sunday evening Concert of Prayer, opportunities to fast and pray, Prayer Vigil and many others.

**Good News Club will return  
on Thursdays after school  
until 4:30pm in February.  
Exciting lessons and  
activities are planned!**

**YOUNG LADIES & YOUNG MOMS** The next Young Ladies/Young Moms group will meet on Wednesday February 29<sup>th</sup> at

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