



# **DOMINION WINDOW**

## **First United Methodist Church, Cocoa**

### **AUGUST 2008**

#### **PASTOR GENE YOTKA**

**Excerpts from Chapter Four of Pastor Gene's new book "The Rhythm of Life as We Practice the Presence of God"**

**Inner Healing: Allowing Christ to Heal our Deepest Wounds**

### **The Inner Battle**

The proverbial best way to win a battle is to divide and conquer. In a spiritual sense this means that we must separate ourselves from the lies of the world and attach ourselves (or more accurately define ourselves) based on the Truth of God. Much of the attachment or redefining of ourselves occurs as we practice various spiritual disciplines designed to become holy habits in our day to day lives. These spiritual disciplines are the tools, or weapons that God has made available to us to fight the battle that rages against our attempts to live a life in rhythm with God. We will look into these disciplines in detail in chapter 5 but first it is imperative that we identify the lies of the enemy that distort our view of the Truth and keep us from taking up the weapons of spiritual warfare.

### **Spiritual Warfare (Medic! Medic! Over Here!)**

The "With God Life" is a battle in which victory begins as we redefine our story. Too often we live out life stories that are informed by the lies of the enemy, rather than the Truth of God. As such the spiritual battle is the only battle into which we enter already gravely wounded. Therefore it behooves us to seek deep inner healing from the outset so we can recognize and remove the lies that affect our lives, the lies that keep us out of God's rhythm, and replace them with the Truth of God which clarifies who we are in Christ and in turn makes us much stronger, more powerful, warriors for the kingdom of Heaven<sup>1</sup>.

Basically inner healing is a prayer ministry in which Jesus Christ is invited to address our sins and hurts of the past and to heal us of their negative effects through the guidance and the power of the Holy Spirit. The goal is to respond to the healing presence of God as we apply prayer and Scripture to various aspects of our lives that have effectively given in to the lie. Once the lie is vanquished we are able to appropriate the strength needed by surrendering ourselves to God in a more complete and profound manner, through the power of the Holy Spirit. In a real sense we re-write our spiritual story making the plot hang on the Truth of who we are in Christ and who we are as a people of God. Inner healing in effect ministers the love of the Lord, by educating Christians as to their position of who we are as children of God. By removing the barrier created by the lies we then can effectively begin to live out the process of sanctification, growing into very image of God as the form and character of Jesus becomes the lived out Truth and definition of who we truly are.

Spiritual wounding and brokenness can come in a myriad of ways over one's lifetime. There are however, six sources that can be recognized as primary. They are: 1) We live in a sinful world, 2) Generational Sins, 3) Traumatic experiences, 4) Wounds inflicted by others, 5) Personal sin, and 6) attacks from the evil one. First, is the simple fact that we live in a sinful world. The world can and does so easily

draw us away from the “With God Life”. Why, because we too often believe the lie. Through a relentless bombarding of our senses through TV, movies, music, etc we can take on some decidedly ungodly perspectives and beliefs. Therefore our first order of business is to identify and change the ungodly beliefs that have been insidiously infused into our psyche through this relentless multi-media assault. An ungodly belief is

simply any belief that does not agree with the Word or Nature of God. We develop core beliefs based on what we either consciously or sub-consciously accept as truth. These core beliefs in turn shape virtually every aspect of our lives and ultimately affect our behavior, hopes and expectations for either the good or the bad. The primary question is “From where does our behavior, expectations and hopes flow? Do they flow out of a lie or out of the Truth? It all begins with what we allow to affect our thoughts. It begins with what we think. It begins with the mind. There is a classic word of wisdom that states:

Our thoughts become our words  
Our words become our actions  
Our actions become our identity  
Our identity becomes our character  
And our character becomes our destiny

In the first 11 chapters of Romans, Paul has put forth, in essence, the desperate sinful state in which all humanity finds itself (1:18-3:20). Godlessness reigns and all are culpable as God has been revealed to everyone, in one way or another, and no one has a viable excuse that will save them. God’s wrath is being revealed against all godlessness (1:18-20). The wise are shown to be fools for their rejection of God (1:21-30), by allowing the desires of their heart to turn to the evil things of the world and away from God, *exchanging the truth for a lie*<sup>2</sup> (1:21-32). No one therefore, has the right to judge another person, as all are guilty, both the Gentiles (non-believers) who are called to be obedient to a law of righteousness and the Jews to the Law of Moses. No one is righteous as none have fulfilled the requirement of God, In fact all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (2:1-3:20).

This is followed by a presentation of God’s compassionate, merciful and loving solution to the human sin problem (3:21-11:36). Christ, the very Son of God, has been presented as a sacrifice of atonement for all who have faith. Christ’s blood was shed for all people that they might have eternal life. Where the law could not justify, the sacrifice made by Jesus Christ does justify for all who believe (3:21-31). Paul then gives us the example of the patriarch Abraham, as a person of faith who lived prior to the law, and was declared righteous by living a life of obedience and faithfulness. Grace therefore comes through faith in Jesus Christ who was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. It is through this faith that we have peace and have gained access to God’s grace and rejoice in the glory of God, as the Holy Spirit is poured into our hearts (4:1-5:11) Death brought about by human disobedience in the Garden of Eden has been transformed into life through Christ’s obedience, therefore we have become dead to sin and alive in Christ, no longer slaves to sin under the law but slaves to righteousness, set free from sin. It is through Christ that our struggle with sin becomes winnable, as we turn away from the old life and serve in the new way of the Spirit and are delivered from sin (8:1-9). Israel is then addressed as God’s chosen people who have stumbled because of their failure to see the truth of grace through Jesus Christ. We are told however that a remnant will remain and Israel’s glorious future will be revealed. For now however God is using a hardened Israel to give time for the Gentiles to receive salvation and to be grafted into the vine through faith in Christ (9:1-11:36). Having laid down this solid foundation Paul is ready to speak of the response required if one is to turn their ungodly beliefs into those that are of God. In essence Paul has stated that you are mired in the inescapable lie, but you wish to be transformed by the truth.

*Continued*

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but *be transformed by the renewing of your mind*. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will. <sup>NIV</sup> **Romans 12:1-2** (*Italics mine*)

Discipleship and spiritual warfare involve the tearing down of any ungodly idea or thought that comes to our minds. In 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 Paul further makes this point when he said though the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and *we take captive every thought* to make it obedient to Christ. <sup>NIV</sup> **2 Corinthians 10:3-5**

In chapter 5 we will look carefully at the weapons of the war, but for now we are still interested in the mind and the ungodly beliefs that our minds harbor, which ultimately effect and control our behavior and witness as Christian believers. THINK ABOUT IT!

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## CIRCLE OF CONCERN

**Home:** Mary Heslop, Kay Bartberger, May Russell, Sharon Bauer, Gladys Williams, Leah Dunn, David Rothermund, Christi Coy, Ernest Lindley, Ann Anderson, , Betty Turner, Peggy Morgan Halper, Tara Pearson, Bill Green, Lou Kotopka, Jim Bishop, Sr.

**Holmes Regional Medical Center:** Fay Mallard

**Death:** Maggie Stansfield passed away July 15th.

Andy McCann passed away July 31 at Wuesthoff Hospital.

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL HAPPENINGS!

**The Adult Fellowship Class** has enjoyed a number of different teachers while their regular teach, Mildred Page, has been away for Family graduation and weddings. Thanks to all of them as they contribute their talent in the teaching of the class. They are *Lou Kotopka, Herman Byrd, Jean Colston, Rev. John Cummins, Bill Dossett, Nancy Glass, Sue Oden, Bernie Simpkins, Pat Spencer*. Two other persons have taught in the past and still continue to contribute to the class. They are *Rev. Ray Sharp and Frank Childers*. This variety of teachers contributes a rich heritage for the class. The class is not all serious. They provided an Ice Cream Social in July for the whole church that was enjoyed by many church members. The class meets in room 316. The committee for the Ice Cream Social was **Elsie Vasilevich, Sharon Smith, Sue Oden, Carol Reid and Lila Slack**.



## PUMPKIN PATCH

For the past few years we have been fortunate enough to have a *pumpkin patch* here on our beautiful campus. This of course, helps to raise funds for our youth and for "Summer Camp Trips"

We have not had any one step up to the plate and head up the one for 2008. If you or anyone you know would like to take on this project we would love to hear from you. Please call the church office at 636-

## A Word of Thanks

The Ingram and Stansfield families would like to express our gratitude for your friendship and prayers for our mom, Maggie Stansfield, over many years. Her church family was a very important part of her life.

For all that helped with her Celebration Service we Thank You



## BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR GENE.

***THIS IS THE MOST ATTENDED BIBLE STUDY  
WE HAVE EVER HAD.***

**DON'T BE LEFT OUT. COME  
AND JOIN US.**

**THIS STUDY IS FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS.**

**STUDY BEGINS AT 4PM EVERY TUESDAY EVENING  
FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 636-4811**

## CHAPEL SERVICE

Come join us for Chapel Service Every Week.

**Tuesday:** 10:30am - Lectia Divina (Divine Reading)

**Wednesday:** 6:00pm (Evenings) A Service of Song

**Thursday:** 10:30am A Service of Solitude

**Friday:** 8:30am A Service of Presence (Holy Communion)



# MISSIONS



**August** is an action month for the Mission Team. The Roast Beef dinner & Silent +Live Auction at 5:30 on Friday, August 22nd, takes a lot of manpower.

The team could use some help with getting the items in baskets, marked, the week before and the set up, trying to expedite paying for the items, and clearing the room for Saturday Night Service the next day. We have some new ideas for checkout, so things should go smoother, but we need more volunteers to make it happen. Please contact a Mission Team member if you can help. Our theme is just Florida and Cuba, so come relax and enjoy.

**November** is fast approaching and another team member from our church to go to Cuba would make it even better. It is a life changing experience for just a week of your life. I never felt unsafe. They have been doing this for more than 10 years and never an incident



Please pray for our sister church as they pray for us. God is doing wonderful things there. The church is the people and the Pastor works and cares for the people and that is so obvious. We will have a new Pastor this year, but it does not change what we are doing for the Lord and the church there.



**October** is the Pumpkin Patch providing we can find someone to head it up, and we (missions) usually help with Baked Goods. Helping the Youth and Children should be a top priority of our church. Donated items are always accepted at the Patch or during the sales. More of that later. Will keep you posted.

**December** is angel Tree and God usually tells us who to help. The Mission Team appreciates all the support and helping us to help with God's children.



**Jackie D.**

# AUGUST 2008

## (Main Happenings)

- August 1                   \*6:30pm Praise Band Practice
- August 5                   \*4:00pm Bible Study Rm. 102  
\*6:00pm Fellowship Dinner with friends (Piccadilly)
- August 6                   9:30am UMW Executive Board Meeting  
5:30pm Rehearsal Dinner for David and Amanda ( H. Hall)  
6:30pm Rehearsal for wedding (David & Amanda)
- August 7                   5:30pm Trustees Meeting Rm. 102  
6:30pm Wedding Rehearsal (Stephanie Mangum & Kyle)
- August 8                   7:00pm Russell/Cooper Wedding, Sanctuary followed  
                                  By Reception in Hughlett Hall
- August 9                   4:00pm Stephanie/Kyle Wedding Sanctuary only  
7:00pm Indian River Via De Cristo (Ultreya) H. Hall
- August 10                  \*Via De Cristo Meeting 2-4 Rm. 102
- August 11                  5:30pm Finance Meeting (church office)  
7:00pm Church Council Meeting (Rm. 102)
- August 13                  10:30am UMW General Meeting Hughlett Hall
- August 14                  6:00pm Boy Scouts Meeting Rm. 102
- August 16                  8:00am UMM Breakfast—Hughlett Hall  
5:30pm Opening of “Awakening Café”
- August 26                  11am Alzheimer’s Counseling Rm. 102
- August 27                  9:30am Ruth Book Group

\* Same time every week.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN  
NEWSLETTER  
AUGUST 2008

**Executive Board**

Will meet **August 6 at 9:30am in Room 102.** This is an important meeting as we think through the Fall Programs and Studies.

**The Unit Meeting**

Will be **Wednesday, August 13 at 10:30am in Hughlett Hall.** The program entitled "Say Welcome: Offering Hospitality to the Sojourner." The program will be presented by **Flo Newhouse.** Rachel Circle will be the Host group and they will be serving you a "delightful Picnic Lunch."

**Circles:**

**Lydia Circle**

Will share a lunch at a local restaurant.

**Rachel Circle**

Will not be meeting. They will be serving as the Host group at the General Meeting.

**Martha Circle**

Will not have a meeting

**Mary Deborah Circle**

Will be called.

**Ruth Book Group**

Will meet **August 27 at 9:30am in the Parlor.** Marion Culpepper will be our hostess. The book is "Among the Hidden" by Margaret Peterson Hoddox. Marcene Jackson will review the book. There are 26 copies in the library.

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**THE JULY MEETING** was enjoyed by all those present. They came away with a better idea of what the Salvation Army does in our community. Thanks to Major Kathy Broome for this informative presentation. The women had a "paper Shower" for the local Salvation Army program. Several Big Boxes were carried out of Hughlett Hall with paper towels, toilet tissue and Kleenex.

## Mission Study for September

“*Israel and Palestine*” will be **September 9th, 9:30am—11:30am in room 102 and Parlor**. This will be taught by **Marcene Jackson**. Everyone please bring a “Snack to Share.” The study will continue the next day at the General Meeting. Look on page 9 of your UMW Program Book.

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**2009 Program Book** is entitled “*Who’s at the Table?*” The program will be very interesting. We’re looking forward to a new year of Mission Work.

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## COMMUNITY B.B.Q.

We would like to thank all the good folks who helped with our first Community BBQ. We want to thank, especially Ben and Vivian Scott, and Kurt Ronstrom who did an outstanding job manning the BBQ on a very hot day. Also Ruth Warden who helped direct people and Amanda and David for organizing the games and fun. We hope to have another one before the year is over. Will let you all know when!

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## CHURCH PLANNING SUMMIT

The Canterbury Retreat in Orlando that was taking place September 19-20th has been postponed.

However, we are going to have a

### CHURCH PLANNING SUMMIT

on Saturday, **September 20th from 9am—11:30am**

In Hughlett Hall.

**Your input is very important to us so we are asking you all to participate to help our church grow.**

**A Brunch will be served.**

Please call the church office for reservations

**636-4811**



# THE AWAKENING CAFÉ

**“A Great Good Place”**

A Unique Ministry for  
Our Church

It all begins on

Saturday August 16th.

Coffee House Opens at 5pm

We offer great programs, music and worship in a friendly atmosphere.

We will introduce a tasty menu of soups, cakes, an array of fine desserts, ice cream, etc. and of course the best coffee in town.

We need the wonderful women of our church to help with baked goods to sell. We are counting on our Youth as Coffee House volunteers.

Please pick up our brochure to get all the details of this great new happening.





## AUGUST 2008

8/01 Mary Ramsey, Sheryl Henderson  
8/02 Cheryl Bishop  
8/03 Beau Miller, Wanless Damron  
8/04 Peggy McCann  
8/07 Ruth Warden  
8/08 Skip Blum  
8/09 Vivian Scott  
8/10 Jack Potter  
8/11 Nancy Glass  
8/12 Martha Keck  
8/13 Bill Heslop, Dave McGaffic  
8/15 Hilda Mayo  
8/16 Beatrice Hankins  
8/17 Fay Mallard, Kris Davis  
8/18 Al McKinley  
8/20 Judy Houston  
8/21 Sandy Jeter, Marilyn Donnelly  
8/21 Joan Stephens  
8/22 Elsie Bailey  
8/22 Peggy Odom  
8/23 Howard Russell  
8/24 Al Ashley  
8/25 Scott Gates  
8/26 Charlie Bartberger  
8/27 Todd Conrad  
8/28 Lynn Wilcox

## SEPTEMBER 2008

9/01 Mary Anderson  
9/03 Henry Hobson, Kathy Matern  
9/04 Dan Simpson  
9/06 Jim Bishop Sr.  
9/08 Sali Gier  
9/09 Betty Rosier, Bob Weigel  
9/10 Bob Spencer  
9/11 Lang Houston  
9/12 Scott Russell  
9/13 Richard Grow, Marty Grow  
9/14 Tim Mosebach Jr., Bill Mosebach  
9/15 Carl Russell  
9/17 Leo Cornelison  
9/18 Caitlin Donnelly  
9/19 Sonny Butt, Jr.  
9/20 Daisy Merritt  
9/21 Robert Harmon, Virginia Clendinen,  
Carolyn Erambert, Janie Denny  
9/23 Marianne Wright  
9/24 Diane Click  
9/26 Cheryl Hopkins, Louise Knight  
Ed Winner, Norma Bennett  
Dottie Harrison  
9/27 Todd Anderson  
9/28 Lee Covell, James Brown, Michael  
Bowlby  
9/29 Lucretia Sumerlin, Michael Lindley.



## Youth/Children's Happenings!

The month of June/July has been busy for our Youth with service projects over the last couple of weeks. They have been hard workers helping with Backyard Ministries. Also, have done many jobs at the Church and in the community including; weeding yards, cleaning up the drive-in worship sign, picking up branches from the grounds, cleaned out the cobwebs in the halls, moved 2 of our members, and helping with the pantry. We have also “flocked” a couple of yards. Who knows you might be next!! Keep up the good work, Youth!

The Food Pantry has just completed another year. We were just inspected by the USDA and passed with flying colors. The food pantry has given just over 500,000 pounds of food in just 3 years. Thank you for all your support that has allowed us to serve so many families. With so many pantries closing down we are so thankful to have so many dedicated volunteers of all ages and backgrounds. Lets keep it - y'all!!



David Russell  
Youth and Children's Director  
Food Pantry Director



## JOIN OUR BUS MAINTENANCE TEAM

**Our new bus is available for  
church-wide use.**

**Please help this potentially great  
ministry get off the ground.**

**Financial support should be designated to  
“Bus Fund.”**



**First United Methodist Church, Cocoa**  
**825 Forrest Avenue, Cocoa, Florida 32922**  
**321-636-4811**  
**[www.fumc-cocoa.org](http://www.fumc-cocoa.org)**