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MAJOR ADJUSTMENTS

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic we have all had to make some major adjustments. Here at CPYU all of our onsite speaking engagements have been canceled as churches work to adjust to this new normal. We had to cancel our CPYU Celebration Banquet and Auction that was to be held in April, which serves as our largest annual fund-raising event. However, the evidence that God has been doing something great in the midst of these changes has been more than obvious.

Family TableTalk

CHALLENGE ACCEPTED!

Right before we were forced to cancel our banquet, a group of CPYU supporters pooled their resources together and donated \$50,000 and challenged us to raise that same amount through our banquet. We are grateful that our CPYU partners stepped to the plate and generously donated allowing us to meet the challenge and surpass our goal!

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

As a ministry dedicated to equipping parents to nurture their children, our ministry opportunities have never been greater. Parents, youth workers, and churches have been asking us for help. Families have been afforded the gift of time and presence with each other. Add to that the spiritual hunger and questioning that risen to the

surface, and there is a deep need for the kind of resources we provide. We very quickly began working to jump through this window of opportunity. Consequently, our workload here at CPYU over the past few months has increased rather than decreased. . . and we are grateful!

Here are just a few highlights of what we've been doing to meet the unique needs of churches and families during this present pandemic. Be sure to check them all out at cpyu.org.

- We've created a series of Family TableTalk daily devotional guides for families to use around the dinner table during this stay-at-home time. What began as a series of 28 free devotionals written by a team of youth workers has become a new ongoing resource. Churches and individuals are downloading them off our website at a record pace. (See a sample conversation on page 4 of this Partner Update.) They've been translated into Spanish, Korean and Hindi, with distribution in 65,000 churches in India!

continued on next page...

...Major Adjustments Continued

- Thanks to the blessing of a well-equipped recording studio, we are able to record remotely. We've ramped up recording and releasing our *Youth Culture Matters* podcast as we address issues related to youth ministry, families, and the Coronavirus pandemic.
- We've established and are rapidly populating a section on our website dedicated to "Covid-19 Related Resources." If you visit this page you will find a variety of printed, audio, and video resources we've created to help folks navigate the pandemic to God's glory.
- During March through May, Walt offered his services to youth workers and churches free of charge through one-hour long Zoom calls to talk about pandemic ministry and parenting strategies. He completed 30 calls with groups of parents and youth workers.



CONTINUED BLESSING

We are grateful to God for His continued blessing on CPYU during this difficult and confusing time. Along with Joseph, we truly believe that what Satan has meant for evil and harm, God is using for good (Genesis 50:20). We pray that the outcome would be the salvation and spiritual growth of many.

We are also grateful to you, our faithful ministry partners who continue to fuel our efforts through your prayers and financial support. Both of these resources are essential to our continued work for the Lord and His Kingdom. We would not have been able to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic as we have without your partnership in ministry. Thank you!

An Extraordinary Way to Help CPYU

November 20, 2020

This November 20 we ask you to go the EXTRA mile for CPYU. On that day, we are again participating in the Extraordinary Give, Lancaster County's largest day of giving. For 24 hours only, visit www.ExtraGive.org and make a tax deductible donation and designate your gift for CPYU.

Every dollar that you donate on November 20 will be stretched by a portion of at least a half million dollars from the Lancaster County Community Foundation and their presenting sponsors.

Since this online day of giving began in 2012, over \$160,000 has been raised for CPYU in these previous 8 special days of online giving.

Since this event is online only, you can make a safe and secure online contribution from anywhere in the world. You don't need to be from our home base of Lancaster County in Pennsylvania to participate. Many of CPYU's faithful supporters from across the country make a special gift to us that day – and we hope that you will mark your calendar to participate!

Past gifts in previous years have been used for our *Youth Culture Matters* podcast, making our *How To Use Your Head To Guard Your Heart 3(D)* guides available for youth centers and schools, and having our resources translated into Spanish.

Please prayerfully consider making a special contribution to CPYU on this special day!

More details will be forthcoming and can be found at www.cpyu.org.



A Prayer to Change the Spiritual Climate of the World... |

A BLOG POST FROM CPYU PRESIDENT, WALT MUELLER, Posted July 21, 2020

We live in a time marked by generational snobbery that has been shaped in large part by a marketing machine that encourages us to trash the old in favor of embracing only that which is new. Sadly, this commitment extends far beyond the clothing we wear, the cars we drive, and the way we style our hair. It extends to people and ideas. We are encouraged to dismiss the old like bags of embarrassingly out-of-style clothes. . . in favor of the new. But this is a foolishness that can unknowingly grip us.

Last evening I was reminded of the need we have to fight this cultural credo and to lean into the “wisdom of the aged.” I read an article on the legacy of my 45-year-friend Dr. Tim Russell. In the article, Rev. Keith Norman, of the First Baptist Church – Broad Street in Memphis, looks back on Tim’s life and ministry impact as a “community father.” Tim’s life on this earth ended on March 30 due to Covid-19. Rev. Norman writes this about Tim and Tim’s friend Fred L. Davis, who both went to be with Christ in the last few months: “Community fathers are the village elders. . . They are important in the life of the village. They are a covering to young people, **and they freely share the wisdom of many years.**”

“The wisdom of many years.” It’s that wisdom that we should so earnestly seek. . . so much so that we can never listen and learn enough from those who have more years under their belts than we ourselves. . . and have perhaps even moved on from this life.

As I thought this morning about Tim Russell’s life and legacy of sharing the wisdom of many years, I pulled a musty-smelling old book off my shelf, *The Prayers of Peter Marshall*. I inherited this book after my mother-in-laws’ passing over four years ago. Marshall died in 1949, but his legacy lives on in these prayers. He has become, in a way, a community father for me.” Filled with “thee’s” and “thou’s”, many would scoff at the idea that someone or something so old could have any relevance in today’s world. But I’ve been reading and praying along with Marshall, learning from his prayers how to pray with greater depth about the issues of the day.

This morning, I was taken by the timely relevance of Marshall’s prayer “To Change the Spiritual Climate of the World”:

Our Father, I think of all the pain and heartache, the tears and sorrow, the greed and cruelty unloosed around the world.

Help me to be an instrument of Thine to alleviate the pain, by this day: returning good for evil, returning soft answers for sharp criticisms, being polite when I receive rudeness, being understanding when I am confronted by ignorance and stupidity.

So may I, in gentleness and love, check the hasty answer, choke back the unkind retort, and thus short-circuit some of the bitterness and unkindness that has overflowed Thy world. I ask this in the name of Jesus, who alone can give me the grace so to act. Amen.



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Family TableTalk

Conversation 17

Birds, Hair, and God's Care

read

Luke 12:4-7

think

What is it that gets you scared? In a conversation with his first disciples, Jesus addressed the reality of their pressing fears. He knew that because they would be facing persecution for their faith. . . even to the point of death. . . that they could be paralyzed by fear. He assured them that those who could kill their physical bodies had

only limited power, since he had already secured the destiny of eternal life for his followers. Because of this, he was able to tell them *"do not fear."*

He also told them that they *should* have a healthy fear of God. In this case, fear is not a paralyzing dread, but a healthy respect, honor, and reverence for the all-powerful God who cares for them.

In order to reassure his disciples of God's love and care for them, he paints an amazing picture of God's love by showing them how God cares for even the simplest details of his creation. God values the sparrows, who were seen at the time as the most common and least-valued of all birds. God cares enough about them that he doesn't forget any of them!

If God cares so deeply about the least of his creatures, then we should not be surprised at the unending depth of God's care and concern for us. Jesus tells us that we are of more value than many sparrows! And to emphasize the depth of God's love for his people, Jesus goes on to add that God's care for us is so extensive and all-encompassing that he even numbers the hairs on our head! In the midst of living in a world ravaged by brokenness, destruction, disease, and death, God is present and holding us in his hands!

apply

- What were the greatest fears you had as a child? What scares you the most now?
- Read Romans 8:28 together. What does this verse tell us about God's care and how his care works in our lives?
- What are some steps we can take to remind us of God's care when we find ourselves dealing with difficult circumstances that cause us to fear?

pray

Loving and caring Father, how easy it is to forget your presence and promises when we find ourselves getting scared. Help us to see the message of your care for us that is woven in and through your Word. And, when we find ourselves in difficult circumstances, bring to mind those truths we've read and re-read regarding your care that will carry us with great confidence through our fears. Amen.

by **Walt Mueller**

Walt Mueller is the President of the Center for Parent/Youth Understanding. To access Walt's blogs, podcasts, and other resources, visit cpyu.org.

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