

ENCOURAGE

“God is my shield, He saves the upright in heart.” – Psalm 7:10

HAPPINESS IS A CHOICE!

God knows that we have difficulties, struggles, and challenges. But it was never his intention for us to live one day “on cloud nine, and be depressed the next day because we have problems. No, God wants us to live consistently. He wants us to enjoy every single day of our lives. Enjoy your family, your friends, your health, your work. Happiness is a decision you make, not an emotion you feel. (Prov. 15:13,15)

CHRISTIANITY

Christianity is not the religion of sorrow and gloom: it is the religion of the morning, and it carries in its heart the happiness of heaven.

Christianity is not a restraint, but an inspiration; not a weight, but wings; not subtraction, but addition

Christianity brings bloom for faded hearts, rejuvenation for the prematurely old, imagination for the dry, literal mind.

Christianity is not a killjoy at the feast of life, nor a kind of incarnate “don’t.” It encourages with great affirmatives, fires the soul with permanent enthusiasms and durable loyalties.

Christianity leaves a trail of light wherever it goes: it can keep you cool under any confusion, bring you up smiling from any deeps and utterly banish your fret and worry.

Christianity brings zest and sparkle to life; it is sunshine on the flowers rather than moonlight on the snow; it is life more abundant; it is leaving the little narrow life behind and leaving it forever.



A long-term relationship had soured, and I found myself on the outside of a group of people I dearly loved. I needed to get away, so I traveled to sort out my feelings.

In the hotel, I began to read my Bible. I was reading Matthew, chapters 5-7. In Matthew 5:11-12, the Bible reads, “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

After several days, those verses began to sink deep into my heart and my prayers. Over time, I began to see my pain from God’s view. Some of my closest friends began to encourage me, and they lifted my up daily.

I learned to be a cheerleader. I encourage others by saying and doing things that make God more visible to them. Being encouraged daily is not a luxury; it is a necessity (Hebrews 3:13).

CHURCH INFO

MT. DORA CHURCH OF CHRIST

1801 N. Donnelly Street
Mount Dora, FL 32757
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mtdorachurch@gmail.com
www.mtdorachurchofchrist.org

TEN THINGS A DAD CAN DO TO LOOK LIKE A HERO

1. Be around
2. Admit your faults
3. Learn to encourage
4. Make trust a family priority
5. Show a little tenderness
6. Love your wife
7. Respect authority
8. Live your life as a genuine Christian
9. Teach your kids God's Word
10. Be funny

– Randy Medlin

HOLY DISCONTENT

God has a purpose for your life. You need to discover and fulfill that purpose. Think about these Bible characters who were infected with a case of "holy discontent."

1. **Noah** was not content to drown in the flood, so he built a boat.
2. **Moses** was not content to stay in Egypt, so he led a revolution.
3. **Solomon** was not content to worship in a tabernacle, so he built a temple.
4. **Nehemiah** was not content to leave Jerusalem unprotected, so he rebuilt a wall.
5. **Paul** was not content with his spiritual life, so "he pressed on toward the goal."
6. **God** was not content for us to perish in our sins, so He sent us a Savior.

FUNNY SIDE UP

"Wow, son, I sure hope you don't grow another foot," Dad said. "Why?" asked the son. The dad replied, "Because then, we would have to buy you a third shoe."

Kid: "Hey, can I call you later?"

Dad: "No, just call me Dad!"

Where do you learn to make a banana split? Sundae school!"



GOD'S LOVE BEGINS WITH *Family*

If you have been blessed with a family, especially a loving one, you understand this better than anyone. Family is where love is born. It's the soil in which love grows and in which all family members can flourish. A healthy family is the flower of a healthy love, a place where people truly seek each other's better good.

Sadly, many families today are not like this. America's families are under attack and have been for many years. They are fragmented, wounded, and failing. They break apart.

In many that manage to stay together, chaos reigns, and unrighteousness and its influences play havoc with the unfortunate members. Where God is pushed away, darkness rules.

Do you have a family? Is it whole or broken? Would you like to be a member of one that is secure and loving? You can be! Paul tells us so in Romans 8:14-17.

"All who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, 'Abba! Father!' The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him."

Yes! God is the Father of all. He has a family. It's called His church.

We would love to connect you with a church that can tell you all about how you can become one of his children and share in the riches of His inheritance.

For more information, visit www.lovebegins.us, or find your local Church of Christ to learn how you can become part of not only God's family, but a local family of Christians bound by God's love and forgiveness.

OUR CHILDREN

Our children are undeserved gifts from God, gifts with three distinct characteristics.

1. Our children are gifts of real value. Do you treat them with the same care you would a large sum of money?
2. Our children are gifts for which we will be held accountable. The apostle Paul reminds us that one day we are going to give an accounting to God of every gift He has given to us. (2 Corinthians 5:10).
3. Our children are temporary gifts. Successful parents understand that they have a limited amount of time to spend with their children.

CALLED TO MOTHERING

People often say to me, “you can’t keep your children in a bubble.” And I reply, “It’s not a bubble; it’s a greenhouse.”

A bubble stifles growth and blocks out nutrients. A greenhouse provides an environment for cultivation.

Children’s hearts need to be “greenhoused” before they’re ready to be transplanted out into the world. We release when their roots are deep and they are mature enough to withstand the storms, not beforehand.

While they’re still under our protection, we take the responsibility for engaging them in learning about different cultures, ideologies and values. They should only know worldly teachings enough that they will be inoculated against them.

It’s neither parenting out of fear or legalism, nor going to the opposite extreme of being too permissive.

No, our kids shouldn’t group up in a bubble. But they shouldn’t be left exposed to the harsh outside elements either.

The greenhouse of our home has all the right conditions for those young seeds to grow and flourish.

– Marisa Boonstra

Who are you AS A PERSON?

The following was written by an unknown first grade teacher to all parents:

When I look around my classroom, I couldn’t tell you who crawled fist, who walked before one or spoke in sentences by 15 months. I can’t tell you if their parents breastfed or bottle fed. No clue if they still wear pull-ups at night, because I’m sure many do! I don’t know if they potty trained at 18 months or 4 years old. I don’t know if their mom ever left them to cry it out for a few minutes, or if they strapped them to their bodies 24/7.

You know what I can tell when I look at my kids? I can tell when a child feels loved and secure at home (and at school which sadly isn’t always everyone’s school experience!). I know who has pizza and movie Friday nights and which mom reads in different voices for bedtimes. I see how many kids handle scary situations like thunderstorms. I can see who has a solid routine at home and who has chores and responsibilities. I can hear how you speak to your children by how they speak to others. When I look at my little friends, I don’t see their milestones; I see who they are: their heart, their actions, their inner voice, their struggles and triumphs, and I see you; and all the love you pour into them.

We are always supposed to talk about testing and benchmarks and data during parent teacher conferences, and I had a mom last time look at me and say, “I don’t worry about all the reading and math, she will get there. I want to know... how is she, as a person? Is she kind? Does she include others?”

That took my breath away and is something that will always stick with me!



Mount Dora Church of Christ

1801 N. Donnelly Street

Mount Dora, FL 32757

352-383-2048

Hours of Worship

Sunday

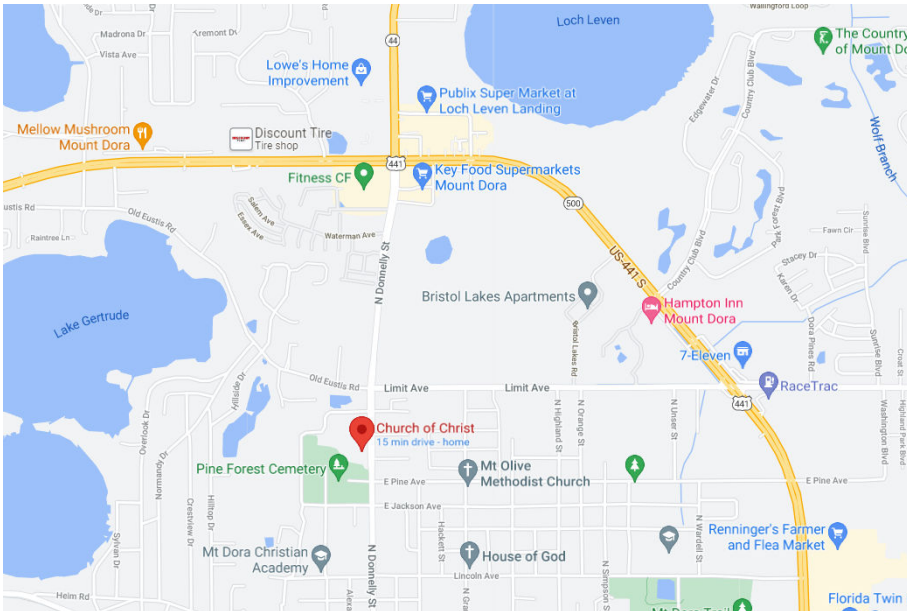
9:30 Adult Class

10:30 Morning Worship

5:00 Evening Worship

Wednesday

7:00 Bible Class



A PIECE OF CLAY

I took a piece of plastic clay
And gently fashioned it one day;
And as my fingers pressed it still,
It moved and yielded to my will.
I came again when days were passed;
The bit of clay was hard at last.
The form I gave it, still it bore,
But I could change that form no more.
I took a piece of living clay
And gently formed it day by day,
And molded with my power and art
A young child's soft and yielding heart,
I came again when days were gone;
It was a man I looked upon.
He still that early impression wore,
And I could change it nevermore.

— unknown



FAMILY

"To us, family means putting your arms around each other and being there." - Barbara Bush

"Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family: Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one."

- Helen Keller